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Preface

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Preface

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once wrote, “Everything is simpler than you think and at the same time more complex than you imagine.” The 2004 edition of *California Policy Options* paints the picture of a state starting to turn things around politically and economically, but constrained by structural flaws and demographic demands, particularly poverty, affecting education, law enforcement, and labor markets. This edition of *California Policy Options* also includes articles on policy topics as diverse as the challenges facing ex-offenders looking for work, human resources policy and morale issues at the Los Angeles Police department, urban design for public safety, and incentives for school reform.

The purpose of the *California Policy Options* report of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, built on the UCLA Anderson Forecast, and now produced in conjunction with the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, is to provide thoughtful research and analysis of policy issues affecting the state of California. The Forecast provides expert appraisal of how the California economy can be expected to perform over the next year. *California Policy Options* articles offer academic research and analyses of a wide range of issues affecting the state.

This broad scope reflects not only California’s complexity, but also the interdisciplinary mission and expertise of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. Founded in 1994, the School is a leader in convening academic and policy leaders to solve policy problems across boundaries. In this light, we are pleased to present the 2004 edition of *California Policy Options*.

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