

## **Michael Wilkening**

Michael Wilkening has been appointed to senior level positions by three Governors. In 2018, he was an inaugural recipient of the highest state honor for exemplary state employees who have committed their lives to the service of Californians. He is a frequent speaker at national health care, innovation and technology conferences.

Wilkening was appointed by Governor Newsom in April 2019 as California's first Special Advisor on Innovation and Digital Services. In this role, he advanced initiatives to modernize and improve the delivery of public services in California—the fifth largest economy in the world. Wilkening collaborated with the California Legislature to establish a permanent agency—the Office of Digital Innovation—focused on modernizing the relationship between California's residents and their government.

Working directly with the highest ranking officials in government, Wilkening chairs the Innovation & Technology Task Force, to connect the public and private sectors, designing and utilizing innovative approaches to shape California's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wilkening served as Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency prior to this appointment. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, he led 12 state departments of 30,000 employees with an annual budget of approximately \$160 billion, providing critical healthcare and social services to nearly one-third of all California residents. He served as Chair of Covered California, the independent health benefits exchange in California, and served as chair or member of numerous other boards and commissions.

Previously, Wilkening served as Undersecretary of CHHS for nearly a decade. As Undersecretary, Wilkening led policy development and implementation and oversaw the daily operation of the Agency. During this time, he worked to protect services for the state's residents during the Great Recession. He is known for advancing initiatives streamlining government programs and services, improving operational efficiency, expanding healthcare coverage, integrating health, behavioral health and social services to promote whole-person care, and improving the delivery of services for people with developmental disabilities.

Wilkening led efforts to better utilize data to improve the delivery of services to clients, while making programs more client-centered by fostering stronger partnerships across government, academics and the non-profit sector. Under his leadership, the Agency became the first California Agency to establish an Open Data Portal—changing how state agencies interact with the public. Wilkening also led the shift to a new agile procurement process of the Child Welfare System that has become a model for other state departments. He created the CHHS Governance Council and Office of Innovation to accelerate the adoption of alternative ways of solving problems and to foster Agency-wide buy-in to these efforts.

While Undersecretary, he was asked to step in and serve as Acting Director of several large Departments during leadership gaps, including the Department of Public Health, the Department of Developmental Services, and the Department of Child Support Services.

Wilkening received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of California, Davis.

## Michael Wilkening

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### Education

University of California, Davis, MA Political Science, 6/95.

University of California, Davis, BA Political Science and History (double major), 12/92.

### Work Experience

#### **Office of Governor Newsom**

*Special Advisor on Innovation and Digital Services*

4/19 – 12/20

- Key advisor to Governor on approaches to reform government utilizing person-centered approaches.
- Liaison between public and private sectors to facilitate adoption of innovative approaches to solving government's challenges.
- Responsible for securing funding and establishing the Office of Digital Innovation.
- Chair of COVID-19 Innovation and Technology Task Force.

#### **California Health & Human Services Agency**

*Secretary*

6/18 – 4/19

- Key advisor to Governor and Executive Secretary on Health & Human Services issues.
- Provide policy leadership and guidance for CHHS Agency and its departments.
- Chair of Covered California Board.
- Executive Sponsor of CHHS Agency Innovation and Data Initiatives.

*Undersecretary*

9/08 – 6/18

- Key advisor to the CHHS Agency Secretary
- Provide policy and operational leadership for CHHS Agency and its departments.
- Provide guidance on policy, legislative, fiscal and other issues that have implications beyond the immediate scope of responsibility of the individual Deputy or Assistant Secretaries.
- Primary liaison between CHHS Agency and members of the Governor's Office, Department of Finance, and other Agencies or departments outside of CHHS Agency.
- Executive Sponsor of CHHS Agency Innovation and Data Initiatives.
- Inaugural winner of the Cliff Allenby award for excellence in public service.

#### **California Department of Finance**

*Program Budget Manager*

*(Health and Human Services Unit)*

7/06 – 9/08

- Provide policy direction for Health and Human Services Unit.
- Oversee managers, supervisors and staff in preparation of bill analyses, policy and budgetary documents.
- Represent the Department of Finance in meetings with Governor's Office, Agency, departmental, and legislative staff and constituent groups.
- Negotiate on behalf of Finance on Health and Human Services issues.
- Testify before legislative Budget Conference Committee.

*Assistant Program Budget Manager  
(Health and Human Services Unit)*

9/04 – 7/06

- Provide policy direction to supervisors and staff on Human Services assignments.
- Manage day-to-day operations of Health and Human Services Unit.
- Oversee supervisors and staff in preparation of bill analyses, policy and budgetary documents.
- Represent the Department of Finance in meetings with Governor's Office, Agency, departmental, and legislative staff and constituent groups.
- Coordinate efforts of Finance and the Health and Human Services Agency.
- Testify before legislative Budget Conference Committee.

*Principal Program Budget Analyst  
(Employee Compensation/Retirement Systems and Education Units)*

11/98 – 9/04

- Supervised staff in preparation of bill analyses, policy and budgetary documents.
- Represented the Department of Finance in meetings with legislative and departmental staff and constituent groups.
- Served as fiscal policy advisor to management of the Department of Personnel Administration during collective bargaining.
- Advised Department of Finance management on retirement and health benefit issues.
- Provided expertise in budgetary matters during collective bargaining meetings with union representatives.
- Prepared, as well as supervised the preparation of, recommendations on legislative, policy and budgetary matters.
- Developed strategy for and coordinate implementation of state-wide information collection related to employment compensation and retirement system issues.
- Testified before legislative Budget Conference Committee and budget subcommittees.

*Finance Budget Analyst  
(Local Government and Health and Welfare Units)*

7/95 - 10/98

- Represented the Department of Finance in meetings with legislative and departmental staff and constituent groups.
- Prepared, analyzed and reviewed technical and policy documents used to develop budget proposals.
- Testified before legislative budget subcommittees.
- Analyzed and provided recommendations on legislation, budgetary and policy issues.

## **University of California, Davis, Department of Political Science**

Graduate Research Assistant

7/94 - 7/95

- Collected and analyzed data for research projects using various statistical and spreadsheet programs.
- Drafted and edited documents and research papers.
- Co-authored a research paper published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

9/93 - 6/94

- Prepared and led discussion sections for political science courses.
- Graded and provided comments on research papers and exams.
- Assisted students in understanding material presented in lectures and in textbooks.

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School Health Systems Initiative**

Advisory Board Member

2018 - present