

Proposition 16: Public Contracting & Women-Owned Businesses Networking & Panel Discussion

On September 22, 2020, WTS-LA hosted a networking and informational panel discussion on Proposition 16: Public Contracting and Women-Owned Businesses. California is home to over 1.5 million womenowned firms; however, participation by women-owned firms in public contracting is declining. If approved, Proposition 16 will repeal a ban on preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. Panelists shared information on Proposition 16 and the potential effect it would have on LA Metro's locally-funded procurements.

Panelists

Mike A. Gipson, California State Assembly Member, Transportation Committee Member **Tashai Smith**, Deputy Executive Officer for Diversity and Economic Opportunity, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority