

Soitec Factory Dedication Speaker Bio

Governor Jerry Brown



Edmund G. Brown, Jr., known as Jerry, completed freshman year at the University of Santa Clara before entering Sacred Heart Novitiate, a Jesuit seminary in August 1956. In 1960, he left the Society of Jesus and enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley. He received his B.A. degree in Classics the next year and then entered Yale Law School, where he graduated in 1964.

In 1970, he was elected California Secretary of State. Brown was elected Governor in 1974 and reelected in 1978, by a margin of 21%.

During his eight years in office, Brown marshaled both Democrats and Republicans in the legislature to adopt the nation's first energy efficiency standards and make California the leader in co-generation, solar and wind energy.

After his governorship, Brown lectured widely, led delegations to China and the Soviet Union, studied Spanish in Mexico, spent six months in Japan studying Japanese culture and Buddhist practice, worked with Mother Teresa in India at the Home for the Dying, and traveled to Bangladesh as a CARE ambassador of good will during the devastating floods of 1987.

Brown again practiced law in Los Angeles and in 1989 became chairman of the state Democratic Party. He resigned that position in 1991 and sought the 1992 Democratic Presidential nomination.

Brown was Mayor of Oakland from 1998-2006. Jerry Brown was elected California's 31st Attorney General on November 6, 2006. On January 3, 2007, Jerry Brown was elected Governor of California.