

Governor Jerry Brown to speak at Rancho Mirage Writers Festival in January

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Gov. Jerry Brown talks about election results and a variety of other subjects during a news conference in his office at the Capitol in Sacramento on Wednesday. AP PHOTO

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd will interview outgoing California Governor Jerry Brown on stage at the Rancho Mirage Public Library on Jan. 31, 2019, as part of the city's annual Writers Festival.

Jamie Kabler, the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Founder, said the appearance would be Brown's first after leaving office. Brown and Dowd have known each other for decades, Kabler said, and the chemistry between the politician and journalist should bring about an engaging conversation.

"He's a big fan of Maureen Dowd and said he'd love to do a conversation with her. So I called Maureen Dowd and she said, I quote, 'I love Jerry Brown and, in fact, I'll try to get him to announce he's running for president at the Writers Festival,'" Kabler said jokingly.

Brown will finish his fourth term as governor on Jan. 7, when Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom is sworn into office. After being elected governor in 1974 and serving two terms, Brown pursued other political opportunities. He ran for U.S. Senate and President twice and served as the state Democratic Party Chair, Mayor of Oakland and Attorney General before returning to the governor's office in 2010 for an additional two terms.

Early in his career, Brown cultivated a reputation for championing progressive policies regarding campaign finance laws and the environment, but later developed more moderate policies while serving as the mayor of Oakland and governor, embracing economic development and fiscal prudence. When he entered office in 2011, California had a projected budget deficit of \$27 billion. As he leaves office, the state has more than \$29 billion in reserves.

Republican strategist and President George W. Bush's Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove will also speak at the festival. Rove will discuss his 2016 book *The Triumph of William McKinley*, which chronicles his 1896 presidential campaign and eventual victory over William Jennings Bryan.