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| March 14, 2021 |

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| Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members (and Allies), Thank you to all who joined our Zoom meeting on Presidents Day and thank you **Rusty Hicks** and **Delaine Eastin** for participating in our Candidates Forum. The table was brilliantly set by Northern Regional Chair **Elizabeth Betancourt** who, based on her experiences running for office in Assembly District 1, laid out a clear, three-point strategy to build our base in our rural communities, starting yesterday. Here is a [**link**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6LEg5UUvhXyXXTQtGtEGcnIZ4R34kUhJzuZIwZzVnLhrIjUpp-a28i-f6zgy2D1w7Gux00c6k_WTgIAL3sM-Fcg==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) to an edited version of the Zoom recording for the “meat and potatoes” of the discussion. Each election we do better, which we can take as a “win” as we continue to narrow the built-in lead of incumbent Republicans. An excellent reference is a must-read op-ed piece by Stacy Abrams in the New York Times that defines progress as “losing better.” Please [**click here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6f4NUZjyNNDwKclKHbnKryu26gr9twogyOmw889ps2R0u9VypfwPmwuUzQY8ENtnt6AW2jVDXW3RDlZNW9U_hijJDJWqUQ6AM_x-dqgOUn1_NXRsXgGFPawL_EjHraZ89oZYoXsQYiGCT9xRreepgzcpY9k_tqVg8nMvYniHQpBg=&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==)to read Elizabeth's incisive follow up on rural electoral advocacy and our path forward. It was great to hear from the candidates for California Democratic Party Chair on five questions compiled by the Rural Caucus Officers:1. What is your proposed path to victory in 2022, specifically in rural districts? What investments will the party make in our rural communities to build, inspire, and broaden our base?
2. What is the CDP’s role in the anti-Recall campaign?
3. What is your strategy to hold contributors accountable and, if necessary, divest from those who do not align with the party platform? How will you replace those resources?
4. How will you fix the problems with the ADEM elections?
5. How will you lead the party to address key rural issues i.e., broadband, wildfire insurance and healthcare, especially now with the pandemic?

Importantly, the questions signaled to the candidates our top issues and concerns. Their answers are on [**this clip**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6LEg5UUvhXyXXTQtGtEGcnIZ4R34kUhJzuZIwZzVnLhrIjUpp-a28i-f6zgy2D1w7Gux00c6k_WTgIAL3sM-Fcg==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) that begins with Elizabeth's talk. (The same link as above.)As always, my favorite part of our Rural Caucus meetings comes in that last 30 minutes dedicated to the Good of the Order. Case in point was hearing from **Mike Smith** about his efforts targeting the Doug LaMalfa as one of the **“Seditious Seven”** with a letter writing campaign urging donors to withdraw their support and most importantly their dollars. [**Please click here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6JjOGgsArwBDIiyZPXY0drv56OHjKx8Dayr6HV1oAhtJ7h38-guCuYl-Ereq4CwIHpxdgGegX8vP5YCKokmN37p4SwYzcui7pZXdRKdWAojb5HVDqSo6muitdydH-YLVjYwwKdSe6sSXSSWK8Rkj_5pA_3fVUoQsMWMVI0iaB-3A=&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) to find out more and how to become involved in your district. **Southern Regional Chair Michael Duran** raised the issue of voter protection, which is so important. Read[**his take**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6vIl0smPIuz8k9Nl14Q-CS8TAxAL3t-zRbuxo3iwGcK1lFVYSl_gj13JAKGPjzg0g75NfB6Won_mPZTzf311IVwBEfD94Hk8qtuuMCV3Na4pCxiM0Ukdlr15u_kS0niV2kuLZK8Bei9sQUV9OhM3pnp-RPGBHmXHsshszrfFA69A=&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) on how even the most subtle restrictions can impact and decide the outcomes of elections, especially where the margins are razor thin. We are all hoping for a “March miracle” to alleviate an unfortunately dry winter, which makes the issues regarding **wildfire insurance** all the more pressing. El Dorado County's **Lauren Hernandez** provides a very informative and [**timely update**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6etMyWLVH2Icmj48aV9So3tKZX1ksjrt-jli45xs638iykAhvxmUY5KmPbXS_i8YT8qDiNDb1dePj-RAsb_hM72xjDInqYgveuzmXXkYGACPTbSa7l2ipztJ3GOZGoCmFwZi8zYDaW8nULt4Dcz0e2wG1lgQOokr-AYKK7r_LVKc=&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==). We need to continue to push on expanding **rural broadband** to keep it a priority in Sacramento. The ball seems to be in the Assembly's court. Speaker Rendon has said it is a top priority. There are more than a dozen Assembly bills and a handful of Senate bills related to broadband infrastructure, internet access and related financing.  **Please talk to your legislators and remind them of the urgency of now.**The needs are more glaring than ever - as essential as being able to get a vaccination appointment on-line. On the federal level, the **American Rescue Plan** will pump more than $150B into California, including about $26B with few limits on how those dollars are spent. According to the Speaker's Budget Director Jason Sisney, those monies can help fund:* Direct relief to families and small businesses
* Access to high-speed internet
* Climate-related programs, including wildfire prevention and drinking water

**Our eyes need to be on the state budget process to see where those dollars will flow.** I also urge you to become engaged in the **anti-recall campaign** on your county level. Our job will be to deliver 80% of California’s registered Democrats for the Governor, if an election is called. Our next meeting is during the CDP State Convention April 29 - May 2. [**Registration**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6xF1Ad_HkbiUh4EKphsDIpb5c8l63doTwgWI8kTnq3LlHjwYn8HnZJChrNR4Ebx1Ub42d2j_Tgvv7TzAKeuUPhA==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) for the Convention is now open. This will be a big meeting as the **elections for statewide Party office and our Rural Caucus officers are being held -** virtually, of course. We have four statewide officers and ten regional officers. The list is on our [**website**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6QEgWdNL7biuDtiTbvG8OayiVBulRZj2GAZZiUWptU3_i7nh769-Lvg02n-lmdM0ak4Lgl7eNiqDcgBOuQGEYWA==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==). You must be a Caucus member in good standing to vote in our election. Please be sure you are current on your dues. It is extremely gratifying that many of the incumbents have confirmed they are running for re-election: ﻿Secretary/Parliamentarian: **Victor Costa**Treasurer: **Lise Talbot****t** Northern Regional Chair: **Elizabeth Betancourt**North Central Regional Chair: **Dean Rewerts**Bay Area Regional Chair: **Renee Zeimer**[Gold Country](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6k7lYYfCnrWne-bpk-FSrwOk3iVd1OYgJ99DGf_aIbtAC8jZKq_stIFHUEhY-LOxq6IAcGN57-Rbzd5gHPfHcGwLwnH0gbtxFlagVN2EcmKFckQVPAc8ieQ==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) Regional Chair: **Amy Champ**Central Coast Regional Chair: **Glenn Glazer**[South Central](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za67kciz7IuKZiFiIT3_ChT9DFH7J6QD5jCL0mJ3PcngM6L_e2TUer0_uTyDI2s0NHuEFwurGaW5-n0F9Avx3ZJN8RWGF3ttKwLpyAAg2APMFXMBpHEoOAsDXEgY-kiFeY4nXamIYJJpw4=&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) Regional Chair: **Susan Rowe**[Southern Coastal](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6b95GHI2LSvF0hcNbZMYiqva-Su4BuowBP8p2xz_FUouiFb7EcCndUE9vM4s5A6wx-YwqvhXdvZPkuDHPV0FvhpLszX0uI-z08W_pT6W3a8aBr4WNebduna7rFXwwy-TBbt_zbbFojIWBfX6mbw7uDg==&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) Regional Chair: **Michael Duran** I am both pleased and proud to endorse each of them as they are a great team and tremendous assets to the Caucus. I too am running for re-election. To throw your hat in the ring, [**please click**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001iwNIB0Agu_3sgESs_C_leq53Gs__FWQyrnfkrdPFM0HMIgbLeS_p89TphevR1Za6pl8DRGCC_X4I0WnCs4EGU56_69bSubP7PyPubVmvr46P8YGDI-04VdsZkl2rK6JkI13rEhTMPRMor8H_EI9LQJBXR_jMSyEs&c=6etHJMob3jde33Lq2ITHwnxeIHcyXBYH9rjgnR71MFlFUZs0W2qbcg==&ch=wggkfHXzQC-wU5qkg_WoLE7xcLBe7yj1x2w0ovQsyZQd_QAqNy907Q==) here to submit your **Notification of Intent to Run.** More details will follow as we get closer to the Convention and the day/time for our Caucus meeting is set.Until then, please stay safe.With all my very best, Joy  |

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| Joy Sterling | Rural Caucus Chair | 707 484 0013 | joy@ironhorsevineyards.com[www.cdpruralcaucus.org](http://www.cdpruralcaucus.org) |

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| STAY CONNECTED |

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