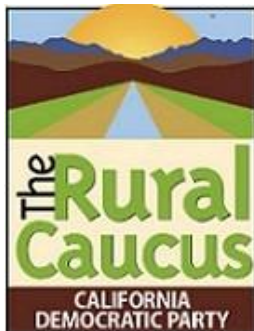


June 24, 2019



## Announcements and Accolades

Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members, We had our first executive team meeting Saturday evening and I am excited to announce **Susan Rowe** was unanimously re-elected Rural Caucus Vice Chair. She provides deep and extremely valuable institutional knowledge of how the Party and the Rural Caucus have operated in the past ... and what to think about going forward.

Also very exciting, Regional Chair **Elizabeth Betancourt** has announced her candidacy for AD 1. She is the sole Democrat running and, for all the right reasons, deserves and needs our support. AD 1 covers nine counties, making this a classic example of the exorbitant costs of candidate statements for our rural candidates. The deadline to file and pay for the candidate statements is **July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Here is her [ActBlue link](#).

For checks or to call in a donation:

FPPC #: #1419169

Address: Deane & Company

1787 Tribute Road, Suite K

Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: 916-285-5733

Her campaign e-mail is [betancourt4ad1@gmail.com](mailto:betancourt4ad1@gmail.com); cell phone is 415-378-6709.

Thanks to the Secretary of State's Office, we are working on fixing the issue of the candidate statements. Deputy Secretary Tiffany Mok is conducting a survey of all of the county registrars to get a complete picture of the varying fees. But we won't have a bill to run through the Legislature until next year. In the meantime, Elizabeth's race is a perfect opportunity to show what we can do!

I also want to make sure you know that the deadline to apply for a CDP Standing Committee has been extended to **July 1**. Rusty Hicks has formed a committee to oversee the selection process including, I am proud to say, a number of Rural Caucus members including as co-chairs, Kimberly Ellis and Michael Evans, plus Debra Broner, Heidi Hall, Hene Kelly and Tiffany Wood.

## Call to Action

On **July 2**, AB 1366 (Gonzalez) re: the future of regulating telecommunications goes before the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee. As you know, we passed a resolution in our consent calendar during Convention to support, "**if amended** to ensure enforceable, reliable and resilient access to 911, minimum standards for the reliability and quality of the State's communications grid - especially in times of emergency, consumer protection and maintain the State's universal service programs that support communities across the state, such as the deaf, disabled, poor, rural, schools and nonprofit entities - in the Public Utilities Code." Unfortunately, the bill, as it now reads, falls short of having any real teeth.

The Committee Members are:

Senator Ben Hueso (Chair)  
Senator John M. W. Moorlach (Vice Chair)  
Senator Steven Bradford  
Senator Ling Ling Chang  
Senator Bill Dodd  
Senator Robert M. Hertzberg  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Senator Mike McGuire  
Senator Susan Rubio  
Senator Nancy Skinner  
Senator Henry I. Stern  
Senator Jeff Stone  
Senator Scott D. Wiener

This bill is an extension of a bill passed seven years ago when VoIP services were nascent. But now the telcoms' are embracing VoIP technology as a path to decommissioning rural copper networks, potentially escaping regulatory oversight. By 2021, nearly all wire-line telephones will be VoIP-based. As customers are transitioned to VoIP, this legislation would result in existing state requirements for service quality and universal service disappearing along with the last traditional telephone subscribers. I hope you will join me in contacting your State Senator to express our position.

## Thinking Ahead

As an FYI, The Platform Committee will be meeting at the Summer Executive Board Meeting in San Jose **August 23-25** to begin consideration of the 2020 California Democratic Platform. This gives us the opportunity to re-assess the [Rural Plank](#). I ask that everyone re-read it and consider what changes we want to propose.

Please let me know if you are interested in working with a Rural Plank Committee. Among the officers, Resa Barillas and Lise Tallbott have expressed their interest.

Remember, 2018 was the first time a Rural Plank was added to the State Party Platform. And, let me add, that working on it was one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. It made me feel like I was Alexander Hamilton.

Also for your consideration: Mike Smith has written an excellent postmortem on our San Francisco elections, recommending some very practical changes. As Chair of the Caucus Bylaws Committee, Susan Rowe will be putting together a group to review our nominations and elections procedures and re-write as needed. Please let us know if you want to be involved in that.

Lastly, a special thank you to our new leadership team. Our first meeting was really great – productive and fun! We have much to accomplish and the timing feels so compacted because of the primary moving up. One of the great suggestions to come out of Saturday's Officers' meeting was the idea of putting together a calendar of events and deadlines. So, please know that is now in the works.

I hope you are enjoying a great start of summer.



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