

On February 3 a team of LWVDV members spent half an hour interviewing Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan as requested by the LWVC. Bill Speier, Cindy Matarosa, Jan Tomsic, Izzy Martinez, Erin Yi (intern) and Sue Brandy met with the assemblywoman and two of her staff members via Zoom. RBK was generous with her time and open responses to the questions.

The California League had three prescribed questions which we were to ask, followed by a more general question regarding Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan's priorities for the state and the district. An important question for the Diablo League was RBK's response to how to assure an equitable health and economic recovery from COVID-19. Ms. Bauer-Kahan let us know that she feels an economic recovery cannot happen without a successful and equitable health recovery, including a fair and rapid distribution of vaccine. She said that our economic recovery needs to be focused on small businesses and people with low income.

We learned that while RBK had little to say about the specific question of land use, she is passionate about working to reverse the impact of Climate Change. Equitable climate recovery through action on air and energy legislation is a top priority for her.

As a supporter of the eviction moratorium, RBK hopes to avoid people falling into homelessness during COVID recovery. She is in favor of state support for low-income families, acknowledging that affordable housing in her district is really not affordable for most low-income people.

Finally, Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan listed her own priorities for her term in office. In addition to the areas of Equitable COVID Recovery and Climate Change that she addressed in our questioning, RBK used the short time left in our interview to list Education, Racial and Criminal Justice, Mental Health Issues, Gender Equity and Wildfire Protection as top priorities for her.

The team was grateful for the time and thought that Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan put into the interview. We look forward to returning again to strengthen the relationship with RBK and her staff.