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# Editorial: Let's hope Beth Gaines proves us doubters wrong

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Beth Gaines is scheduled to be sworn in this week as Assembly member for the district that includes parts of Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties.

Many wonder if she is fit for state office. We hope she surprises us.

She succeeds her husband, Sen. Ted Gaines, who was elected to the upper house in a special election. Gaines won a rather lackluster victory, besting a Democrat who barely campaigned by 10 percent in a district that is heavily weighted to favor Republicans.

Gaines should understand that it's a privilege to serve, not a right. She ought to turn down the perquisites of public office, avoid constant fundraising, and devote full-time to representing her constituents.

Although her children attend private school, we hope she understands that the vast majority of parents in this state send their children to public schools and correctly fret that next school year could be cut short because of the budget crisis.

We hope she supplies a needed vote in support of Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to abolish and reform redevelopment; the plan stalled one vote short of passage.

Gaines won the Republican primary thanks to \$75,000 worth of mailers from conservative Orange County savings and loan heir Howard Ahmanson Jr. He is driven by a desire to end abusive redevelopment practices, and sent out fliers saying Gaines would vote to abolish it.

Mostly, we hope Assemblywoman Gaines shows she understands that politics entails compromise, and that she is independent. The people of the 4th Assembly District deserve nothing less.

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