

# Opinion: Cooley should be elected to state Senate

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Voters in the Senate district that stretches from Fair Oaks and Roseville to Lake Tahoe and Susanville have unfinished business, selecting a replacement for the late Sen. Dave Cox of Fair Oaks.

The choice on Jan. 4 is between Assemblyman Ted Gaines, the Roseville Republican, and Rancho Cordova Mayor Ken Cooley, the Democrat.

Gaines is the clear front-runner in the heavily Republican district. But Cooley would be a worthy and appropriate replacement for Cox, a politician who had served his district well by understanding the wisdom of compromise.

Gaines is a decent man, but has few accomplishments as an assemblyman. As a backbench senator, he would have little clout.

Because he says he would not vote for a budget that earmarks money for family planning clinics that provide abortion services for poor women, Gaines never would vote for a California state budget. That alone guarantees he will never be a significant player on behalf of the residents of Senate District 1.

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