

EQUALIZATION DISTRICTS

DISTRICT ONE

Counties of: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba, and portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

DISTRICT TWO

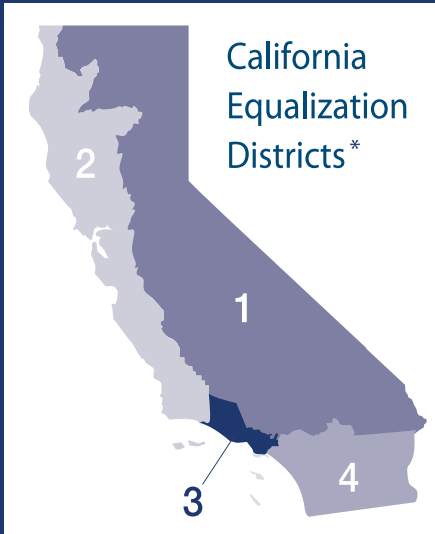
Counties of: Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, and Yolo.

DISTRICT THREE

County of Ventura and portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

DISTRICT FOUR

Counties of: Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and a portion of San Bernardino County.



* Board Members each represent approximately 9.5 million constituents.

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD of EQUALIZATION

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Board of Equalization

Sen. George Runner (Ret.), 1st District
Fiona Ma, CPA, 2nd District
Jerome E. Horton, 3rd District
Diane L. Harkey, 4th District
Betty T. Yee, State Controller

David J. Gau, Executive Director



Overview of the Board of Equalization

Created in 1879 by a constitutional amendment, the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) was initially responsible for ensuring county property tax assessment practices were equal and uniform throughout California.

Today, the BOE administers 39 tax and fee programs that generate more than \$60 billion in revenue for our state, including the state's sales and use tax, as well as fuel, alcohol, tobacco, and other special taxes and fees that fund specific state programs. BOE-administered revenues support hundreds of state and local government programs and services, including public safety programs, hospitals, and health care services, transportation and housing, social service programs, and natural resource management.

The BOE also plays a critical role with regard to California property taxes and it acts as the appellate body for franchise and income tax appeals.



Sen. George Runner (Ret.)
Lancaster
1st District



Fiona Ma, CPA
San Francisco
2nd District



Jerome E. Horton
Los Angeles County
3rd District



Diane L. Harkey
Orange County
4th District



Betty T. Yee
State Controller

The BOE's five Board Members, who serve concurrent four-year terms, comprise the only elected tax board in the United States. One Member is elected from each of the BOE's four Equalization Districts, each representing approximately 9.5 million constituents. The State Controller, elected at large, serves as the BOE's fifth member.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Board meetings offer taxpayers, fee payers, and other interested parties the opportunity to participate in the formulation of rules and regulations adopted by the Board and to interact with the Members as they carry out their official duties. The Board meets monthly, generally in Sacramento or Culver City.

The Board also holds annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings which allow taxpayers and fee payers an opportunity to express their ideas, concerns, and recommendations about programs and laws administered by the BOE. Board Members are interested in suggestions that will help taxpayers and fee payers better understand California tax laws or improve BOE services or procedures.

APPEALS PROCESS

The BOE plays a significant role as the appellate body for the review of property, business, and income tax determinations. Board Members hear appeals from taxpayers and fee payers regarding:

- Sales and Use Taxes, Corporation and Personal Income Taxes, Special Taxes and Fees, Timber Tax, State-Assessed Property Values, and Welfare Exemption Claim Denials (on Organizational and Supplemental Clearance Certificate Denials).

TAXPAYER RIGHTS

The Board has appointed a Taxpayers' Rights Advocate to help resolve taxpayers' problems fairly and equitably. Reporting directly to the Executive Director, the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate can investigate complaints and delay certain BOE actions until an investigation is completed. The telephone number of the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate is 1-916-324-2798, toll-free 1-888-324-2798.

TAX PROGRAMS

The tax programs administered by the BOE are concentrated in three general areas—sales and use taxes, property taxes, and special taxes and fees. In FY 2015–16, the BOE collected \$64.3 billion in state and local revenue.

Sales and Use Tax

Generally, sales tax applies to retail sales of tangible personal property sold in California. As of January 1, 2017, the statewide sales and use tax rate is 7.25 percent. However, the tax rate is higher in locations where voters approved one or more district taxes. District taxes range from one-tenth to one percent, and may be used for special services, such as mass transit programs, streets and roads, and other governmental services. The use tax, a complement to the sales tax, generally applies at the same rate for purchases made from businesses located outside the state where tax was not paid. Revenues collected for sales and use tax totaled \$54.0 billion in FY 2015–16. To find the sales and use tax rate for your city, visit the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov/taxrate.

Property Taxes

Property taxes, which make up the major source of revenue for California's 58 counties, accounted for nearly \$58.7 billion in revenue in FY 2015–16. Although the BOE does not assess local properties, it oversees the assessment standards and practices of each county assessor. The BOE directly assesses properties belonging to over 400 privately-owned public utilities. In turn, those assessed values are used by counties to collect local property taxes. Two tax programs, the Timber Yield Tax and the Private Railroad Car Tax, are directly administered by the BOE.

Special Taxes and Fees

The BOE is the sole administrative agency for the following special tax and fee programs:

Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Program, Diesel Fuel Tax, Use Fuel Tax, and Interstate User Tax.

The BOE is one of several agencies charged with administration of the following special tax and fee programs:

Aircraft Jet Fuel Tax; Alcoholic Beverage Tax; California Tire Fee; Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee; Electronic Waste Recycling Fee; Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge; Energy Resources Surcharge; Fire Prevention Fee; Hazardous Waste Activity, Disposal, Environmental, Facility, and Generator Fees; Insurance Tax; Integrated Waste Management Fee; Lead-Acid Battery Fees; Lumber Products Assessment; Marine Invasive Species Fee; Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax; Natural Gas Surcharge; Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee; Oil Spill Prevention, Response, and Administration Fees; Prepaid Mobile Telephony Services Surcharge; Underground Storage Tank Maintenance Fee; and Water Rights Fee.

Revenues collected for all special tax and fee programs totaled \$10.3 billion in FY 2015–16.

SERVICES FOR TAXPAYERS AND FEEPAYERS

The BOE prides itself in being a leader in providing service-oriented programs and efficient tax administration. The BOE has developed many services designed to help taxpayers and fee payers understand and comply with tax laws and to ensure that they are treated fairly and courteously.



In FY 2015–16, the BOE:

- Answered over 575,000 calls at our Customer Service Center.
- Provided over 274 classes, seminars, and presentations statewide.
- Employed nearly 586 bilingual staff, fluent in 47 languages and dialects, including American Sign Language.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Customer service representatives are available to answer general tax questions. Call 1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711) Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), excluding state holidays.

Documents may also be obtained through the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov.

