



**For Immediate Release
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Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization, released the following statement regarding the Supreme Court striking down a core provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“I am outraged by the failure of the highest court in the land to protect the rights of every American to vote without the challenges caused by inconsistency which opens the door to discrimination and suppression of a basic American right.

“Removing federal approval of any state to make changes in election laws affecting African Americans and minorities is anathema to the very essences of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Freedom does not become obsolete, nor does any part of a law that guarantees justice. I join President Obama in fighting to restore this 48-year-old protection.

“We must not betray the memory of Dr. King and the valiant struggle of the modern civil rights movement.”

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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