



California State Board of Equalization



MISSION

The California State Board of Equalization's (BOE) mission is to serve Californians through fair, effective, and efficient tax administration in support of state and local governments.

VISION

To rebuild, revitalize, and modernize the BOE, to enrich its employees and strengthen its organizational capabilities to deliver gold-standard services.

BOARD of EQUALIZATION

Ted Gaines, First District
Sally J. Lieber, Second District
Antonio Vazquez, Third District
Mike Schaefer, Fourth District
Malia M. Cohen, State Controller

Yvette M. Stowers, Executive Director

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OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

In 1879, the BOE was established under the California Constitution to regulate county assessment practices, equalize county assessment ratios, and assess properties of intercounty railroads. In subsequent constitutional and statutory amendments, the Board was directed to administer tax, fee, and appellate programs to support state and local governments. Today, the BOE focuses on its constitutional responsibilities: Property Tax, Alcoholic Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers.

As one of its core duties, the BOE oversees the administration of California's property tax system which protects the tax dollars that schools, local communities, and the State of California depend on every day. While the 58 County Assessors are charged with valuing over 13 million assessments each year, the BOE ensures that

assessment practices are uniform and consistent statewide. In addition, the BOE directly assesses the property of regulated railroads and certain public utilities and collects the Private Railroad Car Tax.

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. The Board hears and decides specified taxpayer appeals related to the Property Tax, Alcoholic Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers Programs, and appoints an Executive Director to head the agency and manage the activities of BOE staff.



Ted Gaines
First District
Sacramento



Sally J. Lieber
Second District
San Francisco



Antonio Vazquez
Third District
Santa Monica



Mike Schaefer
Fourth District
San Diego



Malia M. Cohen
State Controller

CALIFORNIA EQUALIZATION DISTRICTS*

* Board Members each represent approximately 9.5 million constituents.

First District

Counties of: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and a portion of San Bernardino.

Second District

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

Third District

County of Los Angeles

Fourth District

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

TAX PROGRAMS

Property Tax

The BOE is constitutionally and statutorily responsible for the oversight of California's property tax system. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, the net statewide assessed value was \$7.6 trillion, resulting in \$83.1 billion of property tax levies and directly funding schools and local governments.

BOE's main duties include:

- Valuation of state-assessed public utilities and railroad properties. The total value for the state-assessed roll is in excess of \$133.9 billion (2022-23 roll), resulting in the state's 58 counties receiving \$2.2 billion in local property tax revenues.
- Administration of the Private Railroad Car Tax Program and collection of taxes. This is the only property tax administered and collected by the state. The total tax is \$9.8 million (FY 2021-22).

- Mapping and assigning tax rate area numbers to each geographical area in the state with a different distribution of revenues among taxing jurisdictions.
- Co-administration of the Welfare Exemption with County Assessors.
- Administration of the Legal Entity Ownership Program.
- Providing guidance to County Assessors to promote uniformity and consistency in assessment throughout the state; and
- Conducting assessment practices surveys (compliance audits) to ensure County Assessors' practices and procedures comply with all statutory and regulatory provisions, utilizing proper appraisal practices. County Assessors produce an assessment roll for locally assessed property in each of the 58 California counties.

Alcoholic Beverage Tax

The BOE is constitutionally responsible for the Alcoholic Beverage Tax, which is a per-gallon excise tax collected on the sale, distribution, or importation of alcoholic beverages in California. Revenues (\$429 million in FY 2021-22) from the tax are deposited into the Alcohol Beverage Control Fund and are withdrawn for use by the state's General Fund or used to pay refunds under this program. By way of agreement, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) performs billing and audit services for this program. The Board hears all appeals for claims for refund and petitions for redetermination denials.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

\$88.6 Billion in Fiscal Contributions to State and Local Government

\$3.3 Billion
State Government

\$85.3 Billion
Local Government

\$2.9 Billion
Tax on Insurers

\$83.1 Billion
County-Assessed Property Tax

\$429 Million
Alcoholic Beverage Tax

\$2.2 Billion
State-Assessed Property Tax

\$9.8 Million
Private Railroad Car Tax

Fiscal Year 2021-22

Tax on Insurers

The BOE is constitutionally responsible for the Tax on Insurers program (\$2.9 billion in FY 2021-22), which is jointly administered by the BOE, the California Department of Insurance, and the State Controller's Office. All insurance companies are subject to a tax on gross premiums. By way of agreement, CDTFA performs billing and audit services for this program. The Board hears all appeals for claims for refund and petitions for redetermination denials.



PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Board meetings offer taxpayers, stakeholders, 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 in Sacramento.

The Board serves as the appellate body for Property Tax, Alcoholic Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers Programs. For the Property Tax Program, Board Members hear appeals from taxpayers regarding state-assessed property values, Welfare Exemption Organizational and Supplemental Clearance Certificate denials, the Private Railroad Car Tax, and taxable property owned by local governments located outside its boundaries.

TAXPAYERS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE

The BOE has a dedicated Taxpayers' Rights Advocate (TRA) to facilitate the resolution of taxpayers' complaints or problems. The TRA Office can assist taxpayers who are unable to resolve a matter through normal channels, want assistance in resolving a problem they have with a County Assessor or Tax Collector's Office, claim their rights have been violated in the assessment or collection of property taxes or the Alcoholic Beverage Tax, or seek confirmation that they were treated fairly according to the law and existing guidance.

The Board also holds an annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearing, which allows taxpayers an opportunity to provide comments on items discussed in the *Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's Annual Report*, as well as express their ideas, concerns, and input about programs administered by the BOE. The hearing is generally held every August. Contact the TRA Office at 1-916-274-3400 or visit www.boe.ca.gov/tra for more information.

The TRA Office also has an educational role in providing information to taxpayers through the publication of *Information Sheets* to help taxpayers understand property tax laws and increase awareness of property tax savings that may be available to them.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

As an equal opportunity employer, the BOE takes pride in valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. We recognize that our strength is due to our diverse team of talented professionals, which reflect the rich diversity of the State of California. We celebrate the contributions of each individual and strive to create a work environment that is inclusive, collaborative, and equitable.

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