



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Chairman Jerome E. Horton's Statement on Black History Month**

**Sacramento** – California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Jerome E. Horton issued the following statement regarding African American History Month.

"Americans of African descent have made monumental contributions to the well-being of the human race and we have much to celebrate during Black History Month. I am thankful for the legions who came before us, fighting their way through slavery and segregation, prejudice, and discrimination to make significant breakthroughs in the areas of health, mathematics, engineering, innovation, and every discipline known to man. I am appreciative of their sacrifices for our freedoms and equalities. They are the parents who prepared the next generation for an ever-changing world in the face of racial and economic challenges, and taught us to love our enemies and fight for our equality. They are our ancestors who were bound together by the pressure of hate, and in their unity, taught the world to love again. It is that same strength and unity that will enable us to meet the present challenges and prepare the next generation to protect the progress of our past as they push forward into the present.

“As the first African American to serve on the Board of Equalization since its inception in 1873, I am a beneficiary of their courageous accomplishments and sacrifices and thankful for the privilege to give back by providing educational, employment, and contracting opportunities for our community.”

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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 \$56 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](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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