

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Board of Equalization Employees Step Up for 2011 Sacramento Heart Walk**

Employees of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) are among several state government employee groups within the Sacramento area to sponsor the American Heart Association's (AHA) 2011 Sacramento Heart Walk, which kicks off on Thursday, September 15th at the State Capitol and continues Saturday September 17th at William Land Park.

This year, more than 340 BOE employees are participating in the walk, and contributing more than \$15,000 in donations to support education and research that will aid in continuing the fight against cardiovascular disease and stroke.

"Once again, the employees at the Board of Equalization have demonstrated true generosity of spirit", said Kristine Cazadd, BOE's Interim Executive Director. "I am proud to lead an organization whose employees display such commitment to improving themselves and their communities."

The Sacramento Heart Walk is part of the AHA's mission to help Americans build healthier lives. Research funded in part by events like the Sacramento Heart Walk has led to important innovations such as CPR, pacemakers, bypass surgery, the heart-lung machine, surgical techniques to repair heart defects, and life-extending drugs like clot-busters.

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease is the nation's number one killer, claiming a life every 38 seconds. Congenital cardiovascular defects are the most common cause of infant death from birth defects, and heart disease kills more women than all forms of cancer combined.

"By 2020, the American Heart Association wants to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by at least 20 percent. The 2011 Heart Walk is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and start taking the steps necessary to improve their lives. Through the support of organizations like the Board of Equalization we are able to impact more people and save more lives," said Celia Cortez, Heart Walk Business Development Director at the American Heart Association.

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association (AHA) is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives free of heart disease and stroke. The AHA funds cutting-edge research, conducts public and professional educational programs, and advocates to protect public health. To learn more, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org). For information on participating in the Sacramento Heart Walk, call the American Heart Association's Sacramento branch at 916-446-6505 or visit them on the web at [www.sacramentoheartwalk.org](http://www.sacramentoheartwalk.org).

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 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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