



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**George Runner, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Lancaster**

Kristine Cazadd  
Interim Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 15, 2011**

**Contact: NR 110-11-R**  
**Anita Gore**  
**916-327-8988**

## **George Runner Announces Annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings in Sacramento on September 20, 2011**

George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that the annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings will be held Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at the BOE headquarters building in Sacramento. The annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings provide a forum for business and property taxpayers to present ideas for improving the administration of tax programs at the BOE.

"I strongly encourage taxpayers to come and give us their honest feedback on how we can serve them better," said Runner. "As an elected board member, my number one priority is to attract more job creators to our state. To accomplish this goal, we must make California's tax agencies more friendly to taxpayers."

Each year the elected Board Members of the California State Board of Equalization hold public hearings in Sacramento and Culver City. Taxpayers are encouraged to share their ideas and concerns related to the administration and oversight of business taxes and property taxes at the BOE. In addition to safeguarding the rights, privacy, and property of taxpayers, Board Members are interested in discussing ways they can help taxpayers better understand California's state tax laws.

**What:** Property and Business Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing

**When:** Tuesday, September 20, 2011  
Approximately 1:30 P.M.

**Where:** State Board of Equalization Headquarters Building  
450 N Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings in Sacramento will be webcast live at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov). Taxpayers interested in making a presentation at the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings are invited to contact the BOE Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office by calling 888-324-2798, or by email at [www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm). More information about the annual hearings is available online at [www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm). The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings in Culver City were held on June 21, 2011.

Enacted in January 1989, the Harris-Katz California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Law requires that the BOE ensure that the rights of California taxpayers are protected during the assessment and collection of sales and use taxes. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was expanded in 1993 to include special tax programs such as excise, fuel, and alcohol taxes, and the Morgan Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was added in 1994. The BOE is required by law to conduct public Bill of Rights hearings annually.

Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the Second District of the Board of Equalization. Runner was sworn in as Second District Board Member on January 3, 2011. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the

economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization 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).

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office: [www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm)

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's 2009/10 Annual Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra0910.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra0910.pdf)

Publication 70, *Understanding Your Rights as a California Taxpayer*: [www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub70.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub70.pdf)

Taxes and Fees Administered by the California Board of Equalization, 2009-10: [www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub41.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub41.pdf)

###