

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Michelle Steel Named Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization**

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) today unanimously voted to name Michelle Steel as Vice Chair of the publicly elected tax board.

“I am honored to have been elected by my colleagues today,” Steel said. “California faces tough times ahead, and as *Southern California’s elected taxpayer advocate*, I look forward to continuing my work to protect the taxpayers of California and bring jobs back to this state, by educating taxpayers on their rights, and opposing any new taxes that come before the Board. I will use common sense when adjudicating tax appeals, and will always presume taxpayers correct, until proven wrong.”

Vice Chair Steel represents the Third Equalization District with more than eight million people in the counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino.

The Vice Chair position was decided today at the first 2011 meeting of the California State Board of Equalization. The five-member Board includes Chairman Jerome E. Horton (Fourth District), Vice Chair Michelle Steel (Third District), Board Member Betty T. Yee (First District), Board Member Senator George Runner (Second District), and California State Controller John Chiang.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California’s elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses.

Procedures were changed due to Steel’s decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

The California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 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. It has offices in New York, Texas, Chicago, and is based in California with over 4,400 employees.

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