



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

Kristine Cazadd
Interim Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Contact: NR 18-11-H
Sandra Alvarez
323-980-1221

Horton Helps Qualified Individuals file for \$5,600 in Earned Income Tax Credit

Board of Equalization Chairman Jerome Horton offers free income tax preparation assistance to working individuals and families who earned less than \$49,000 in 2010. Horton aims to help low to moderate income working individuals and families qualify for up to \$12,000 in federal tax credit, including \$5,600 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

"During these challenging economic times, I am committed to ensuring that every eligible Los Angeles resident claims their Earned Income Tax Credit," said Horton. "By doing so, we lift families and individuals across our state out of poverty while simultaneously stimulating local economies."

Originally approved by Congress in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and provide an incentive to work, the EITC is widely recognized as the federal government's most effective antipoverty program, lifting millions of low-income families and children out of poverty every year.

A 2010 report, *Left on the Table*, published by the New America Foundation and the California State University, Fresno estimated that eligible California residents would claim over \$5 billion in EITC during the last tax season, resulting in great benefits to Californians and our economy. However, the report went on to say that approximately 800,000 residents will fail to claim more than \$1.2 billion. It also pointed out that if these funds were claimed, they would:

- Spur \$1.2 billion in business sales
- Pay \$311 million in wages
- Add nearly 7,500 jobs to the State economy
- Return \$88 million dollars back to state and local government (and \$1,400 to the average family claiming the credit)

Horton has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service, the Franchise Tax Board, United Way, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, and other local non-profit and for-profit entities to offer the Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites will provide a secure and accessible location for taxpayers to get assistance from certified preparers to file their 2010 state and federal income tax returns. There is no charge to have returns completed and e-filed.

For information on the Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events and to receive free income tax preparation assistance from certified tax preparers, visit Horton's web site at www.boe.ca.gov/members/horton/vita.htm or the BOE website at: www.boe.ca.gov.

You can listen to Chairman Horton's public service announcement on free income tax preparation assistance by visiting: www.boe.ca.gov/news/Tax_Help_30Sec_PSA.mp3. To determine if you qualify for free income tax preparation visit: www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96406,00.html

Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the BOE Legislative Committee chairman. Horton is the first African American to serve on the BOE since its inception in 1879, and the third African American constitutional officer in California's history. Horton previously served as an assemblymember from 2000-2006.

The five-member 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. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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