



State Board of Equalization

News Release

George Runner, Member

2nd District – Lancaster

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Runner Responds to Governor's State of the State Address

Board of Equalization Member Senator George Runner issued the following statement in response to Governor Jerry Brown's State of the State Address tonight:

"I'm glad Governor Brown is planning to make government more efficient and attempt to put California's financial house in order.

"But the Governor has it backwards. He thinks balancing the budget will solve our jobs problem. We actually need to solve our jobs problem to solve our budget problem. The Governor's proposed tax hikes will only kill jobs and make our budget problems worse.

"When I served in the Legislature, I warned that the last round of massive tax increases would damage California's economy. Unfortunately, I was right. Since the February 2009 tax increase, California has lost half a million jobs, unemployment has grown 20%, and we're still in a budget crisis.

"Instead of raising taxes, the Governor should issue an executive order immediately freezing all new taxes, fees and regulations that hurt jobs. That would do more to solve California's problems than a thousand speeches.

"The Governor can talk about jobs all he wants, but it's the private sector—not the government—that actually creates jobs. And right now California's job creators have a severe hernia from trying to lift a mountain of new taxes, fees and regulations imposed on them during this economic downturn."

Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the 2nd 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 family preservation 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 (BOE) 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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