

For Immediate Release
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Contact: NR 6-11-G
Anita Gore
916-327-8988

Board of Equalization Sponsors Long Beach Small Business Fair on January 20, 2011

Board of Equalization Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton, Third District Board of Equalization Member Michelle Steel, the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Long Beach City College today announced that they are sponsoring a free small business fair in Long Beach on January 20, 2011.

Representatives from the Board of Equalization, Franchise Tax Board, Internal Revenue Service, Employment Development Department, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Lead Center – Los Angeles Regional Network will be available at the fair to assist attendees. This free fair is geared towards new business owners, entrepreneurs considering starting a business, and business owners that have questions about state or federal tax laws. Presentations include Basic Sales and Use Tax, Better Business through Better Records, State Income Tax and Small Business, Employee or Independent Contractor, U.S. Small Business Administration Loan Programs and Services, Developing Business Plans, and Business Marketing.

Event: Long Beach Small Business Fair
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (check-in at 8:30 a.m.)
Place: Long Beach City College
4901 East Carson Street, Building T
Long Beach, CA 90808
(Free Parking)
Register: Call 888-847-9652 or go online to: www.boe.ca.gov/cgi-bin/seminar.cgi?FLAG=127

For more information on this seminar, visit: www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm. Additional information regarding other helpful in-person classes offered by BOE is available online at: www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_inperson.htm. The BOE also offers easy to use, convenient, 24-hour accessible online seminars on a variety of tax and fee topics at: www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_online.htm.

Elected in 2010, Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton is the 4th District Member of the BOE, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the BOE Legislative Committee chairperson. 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 Assembly member from 2000-2006.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, 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 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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