



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

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Board of Equalization Receives 2011 Best of California Green IT Award

Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that the BOE received the 2011 Best of California Green IT Award.

The BOE received the award from the Center for Digital Government's 'Best of California' for the eFile Transition Project that successfully motivated 80 percent of the state's 900,000 sales and use taxpayers to efile within an 18-month period. The project transitioned thousands of taxpayers from filing paper returns to filing electronically, saving the state budget operating costs of more than \$3 million.

"While the efile transition project successfully moved thousands of taxpayers from filing paper returns to filing electronically, it also saved the state millions in operating costs," said Chairman Horton. "This effort is a testimony to BOE staff's dedication, hard work and contributions in information technology – while helping Californians efile tax returns, saving the state money, and conserving the environment."

The Green IT Award was announced on May 9 in Sacramento at the Government Technology-West 2011 Conference. One of 16 awards, the Green IT Award recognizes sustainability in government operations and public service delivery by using information technology and conservation.

Prior to the introduction of the eFile Transition Project, only about three percent or 100,000 of the state's sales and use taxpayers were using efile. The goal was for 25 to 50 percent of the taxpayers to efile. The efile transition exceeded all expectations when more than 80 percent of the 900,000 taxpayers began to efile more than 3.5 million returns.

The efile transition resulted in more than \$3 million in operating cost savings, including \$800,000 in savings for the reduction in paper and postage costs. Budget savings were also accomplished as a result of efficiencies achieved with the elimination of processing of paper returns.

With advanced notification that '[BOE is going paperless](#)' and discontinuing paper tax returns, taxpayers were encouraged to efile returns. Efile outreach and education efforts were integrated into all BOE training classes, videos were produced and posted online for [eFile Introduction & Registration](#) and [eFile Demonstration](#), district [field offices](#) held efile clinics, and the [Call Center](#) provided efile assistance by phone. The BOE [efile](#) website has simple to follow links, and navigation tools and provides taxpayers a no-cost, easy and well-organized way to file sales and use tax returns.

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

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