



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

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Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Military Thrift Store Tax Exemption Extended Through 2023

Sacramento – Purchases of used items from thrift stores located on California military bases will continue to be exempt from sales and use tax until January 1, 2024. [Legislation](#) supported by the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) extended this exemption that was set to expire on January 1, 2014.

Vice Chair Michelle Steel who, along with State Controller John Chiang, brought the original exemption to the Board for support in 2009 said, “This extension demonstrates our continued commitment to veterans, to the men and women of our armed services, and to their families.”

This sales and use tax exemption will apply to thrift stores operated by the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society on bases in San Diego, Twentynine Palms, Miramar, Camp Pendleton, Port Imperial Beach, Port Hueneme, and Lemoore. These thrift stores sell nominally-priced used clothing, uniforms, and household goods to military families and Department of Defense employees, including retirees and civilian contractors. The stores are closed to the general public.

The income from sales at these stores supports relief services to Navy and Marine Corps communities on and near their respective bases. Board Members [unanimously supported](#) the legislation extending the sales and use tax exemption to provide tax relief for military customers at these stores.

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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. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 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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