



For Immediate Release
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Jerome Horton, Chairman of the State Board of Equalization released the following statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Same-Sex Marriage.

“With the U.S. Supreme Court's strike down of DOMA and its ruling that Proposition 8 proponents have no standing in appealing the lower court's ruling, California's tax code becomes more equitable to same-sex couples. Last year I met with the LGBT community to educate same-sex couples on filing Protective Claims for refunds. Protecting property tax rights was also a priority and now those efforts have paid off.

“California has treated registered domestic partners as married couples for state tax purposes since 2007. And, following invalidation of Proposition 22, same-sex married couples were treated the same as other married couples for California tax purposes. As a result of this morning's Supreme Court decision, all federal spousal benefits are now extended to same-sex couples legally married in states that recognize such marriages.

“Yesterday's second Supreme Court decision also affirms a lower court's decision that Proposition 8 violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. This allows the lower court decision to stand, which effectively allows same-sex couples to marry in California. Governor Brown has announced that same-sex couples should be able to marry as soon as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals confirms the stay of the injunction is lifted.”

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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's Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. 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 \$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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