

**For Immediate Release**  
**January 8, 2007**

**NR 2-G**  
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### **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEMBERS ASSUME OFFICE**

Today the newly sworn-in Members of the Board of Equalization officially took their constitutional offices on the nation's only elected state tax commission.

[Betty T. Yee](#), First District Member and interim Chairwoman, was sworn in at a January 4 ceremony in San Francisco. She has served as an Acting Member of the Board since 2004 and was elected to the position in November. Prior to joining the Board, Yee served as the Chief Deputy Director for Budget with the California Department of Finance.

[Bill Leonard](#), Second District Member, was sworn in at a Sacramento ceremony this afternoon. Prior to his first election to the Board in 2002, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

[Michelle Steel](#), Third District Member, was sworn in at a Sacramento ceremony on January 5. Steel serves as the country's highest ranking Korean-American officeholder and California's highest ranking Republican woman. Previously, she served as Deputy Board of Equalization Member to Claude Parrish and as a member of several commissions, including the White House Conference on Aging.

[Judy Chu](#), Fourth District Member, was sworn in earlier today in Sacramento. Chu spent the last six years in the State Assembly, where she recently chaired the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

And [John Chiang](#), who served on the Board of Equalization for the past 10 years, was sworn in as the State Controller in Sacramento today.

The Board of Equalization collects nearly \$53 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 plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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