



# NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street  
Sacramento  
California 95814

**JOHN CHIANG**  
Chairman, BOE

**RAMON J. HIRSIG**  
Executive Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NR# 6-C  
Date: February 6, 2006  
Contact: Anita Gore  
Communications Office  
(916) 327-8988  
Website: <http://www.boe.ca.gov>

## **CHIANG ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE & INTERNET OUTREACH**

John Chiang, Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced two new outreach efforts to serve internet-using taxpayers and BOE customers. A “one stop” web page is now available on California Use Tax – educating taxpayers when use tax is due, how to report and pay it, and at what local tax rate. The BOE also gave its main website a new look and feel, complete with a bright color-scheme and improved site navigation.

“More and more, Californians rely on the connectivity of the internet for aide in their everyday lives. Availability of taxpayer information is no different, and it has been my goal to expand and improve the electronic services provided through the Board’s website,” said Chair John Chiang.

The “one stop” use tax page is available here: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/ads/news06.htm>. The main BOE webpage is <http://www.boe.ca.gov>.

Use tax is collected on the use, storage, or consumption of personal property in the State of California. It is often generated by internet or mail-order purchases from out-of-state vendors who are not required to collect California sales tax. Over one billion dollars in use tax goes unreported in California each year. Like sales tax, use tax goes to fund state and local services throughout California.

To help educate taxpayers on their use tax responsibilities, the BOE will place advertisements on the websites of major California daily newspapers directing web-users to the new use tax page.

The Board’s responsibilities cover 25 different tax and fee programs, including sales and use tax, and its website is regularly packed with useful information for every type of taxpayer. The new site prominently displays the most-often viewed items, and allows taxpayers to easily link to more detailed program information.

Chairman John Chiang, of Los Angeles, was elected to his first term as Fourth District Member on the State Board of Equalization in 1998, and re-elected in 2002. He was named Chair of the Board in December 2004. He also presided as Chair in 2002.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects almost \$50 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.

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; and State Controller Steve Westly.

###