



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOHN CHIANG NAMED CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) today unanimously voted to name Member John Chiang as Chair, replacing Carole Migden who vacated her Board position after being elected to the California State Senate. Member Claude Parrish was re-elected to serve as Vice-Chair.

“The issues facing the Board this year affect all Californians,” said Chiang. “The implementation of the Tax Amnesty Program, the expanded investigation effort to crack down on the sale of counterfeit cigarettes in the underground economy, and the fees collected on television and computer monitors to fund the new E-waste recycling program will bring millions of previously uncollected dollars to California. These critical dollars will fund programs to support our schools, police and fire protection, health care and our environment. I am honored to serve as Chair.”

John Chiang was elected to his first term as 4th District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE) in 1998, and re-elected in 2002. In 2002, John also presided as Chair of the Board. He represents more than 8 million persons living in 73 cities throughout most of Los Angeles County.

During Chiang’s seven-year tenure on the Board, he has had more legislative proposals signed into law than any other Member in the Board of Equalization’s 125-year history. Chiang also organized the first Board of Equalization, Franchise Tax Board, and Internal Revenue Service seminar for nonprofit organizations and joined with the Los Angeles County Assessor’s Office to hold a tax seminar for religious organizations. He also organized business and labor forums on fighting tax evasion in the “underground economy.”

Claude Parrish, who has served as Vice-Chairman of the State Board of Equalization for the past two years, represents the Third Equalization District, serving more than eight million residents in Riverside, Orange, San Diego and Imperial counties as well as a portion of Los Angeles County. Prior to serving as a Board Member, Mr. Parrish served as a Los Angeles County Insurance Commissioner.

The BOE administers tax programs in four general areas: sales and use taxes, property taxes, special taxes and fee programs, and the tax appellate programs.

The five-member Board is the only publicly elected tax commission in the nation, and is comprised of Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District, Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District, Claude Parrish of Rancho Palos Verdes, Third District, and John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District. State Controller Steve Westly serves the Board in an ex-officio capacity.

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