

GAINES GAZETTE

April 2019



SWEARING IN

On January 7, I was sworn in as your elected Member on the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) and I am excited to continue serving Californians as your taxpayer advocate.

My new role as a Board Member comes with different challenges and opportunities, but my continuing number one priority is to ensure hardworking Californians are provided fair tax policies that create jobs and grow our economy.

I represent nearly ten million California residents living in the 1st Equalization District, which spans inland California from San Bernardino County to the Oregon border. The five-member Board is publicly elected and responsible for the administration of Property Tax, Alcoholic Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers.

Taxpayers should be treated with respect and fairness when it comes to tax administration. I believe Californians are over-taxed and over-regulated and I pledge to fight on your behalf.

Prior to the BOE, I served 12 years in the State Legislature as an advocate for California's taxpayers, ratepayers, businesses and families. I fought to protect citizen privacy and led major efforts to bring thousands of new jobs to the state, as well as supported critical legislation to strengthen and expand California's infrastructure.

In addition to my life in public service, I am a successful small business owner, having owned Gaines Insurance for more than 30 years. I have been married to former State Assemblywoman Beth Gaines since 1985. We live in El Dorado County and are blessed with six children and two grandchildren.

MEETING WITH COUNTY ASSESSORS



From top left: El Dorado County Assessor Karl Weiland; Amador County Assessor Jim Rooney; Kings County Assessor Kristine Lee; Kern County Assessor Jon Lifquist; Placer County Assessor Kristen Spears; Yuba County Assessor Steve Duckels; Nevada County Assessor Sue Horne; Sacramento County Assessor Christina Wynn

Each of California's 58 counties has an elected [County Assessor](#) who is responsible for determining the value of taxable property, upon which annual property taxes are based. It's an important job that requires fair and equal implementation of California property tax laws so taxpayers receive accurate property assessments.

I've begun meeting with the County Assessors in my district to discuss their needs and how I can assist them as their BOE representative. I look forward to working with them to better serve California taxpayers!

RAISING AWARENESS TO SAVE LIVES



I recently joined musician [Bret Michaels](#) at the State Capitol to support [Senate Bill 138](#) by Senator Richard Roth. The bill would require schools to provide parents and guardians with information about type 1 diabetes. Bret has lived with type 1 diabetes since he was six years old and my youngest child has had the disease since she was eight. I was happy to see the bill pass the Senate Health Committee with unanimous support! The bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

REAL ID REQUIREMENTS

Beginning October 1, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security will require your California driver license or identification card be [REAL ID](#) compliant if you wish to use it as identification to travel by airplane or enter military bases and most other federal facilities.

Only three million of the 27 million eligible Californians have received a REAL ID. Don't wait until the last minute only to find yourself stuck in a long line at DMV.

To obtain a REAL ID driver license or identification card, you must visit a DMV field office and present documents proving your identity, Social Security number and California residency.

To prepare customers, DMV has created an interactive [checklist](#) to give you information about the documents you will need to submit with your application.



Do I need a REAL ID driver license or identification card?



Do you travel by airplane or visit federal facilities?

YES

NO



Do you have a valid passport, military ID or other federally approved document?

NO

YES

You **DO NOT** need a REAL ID card.

However, you will need to use your federally approved document to board a domestic flight or enter secure facilities.

You **WILL NEED** a REAL ID card

You need to visit a DMV office with the required documents.

SAVE TIME: Fill out your driver license application online before you visit!

A identifies a federal compliant REAL ID driver license and identification card.



You will receive a Federal Non-Compliant card

- **NOT** allowed for boarding a plane starting October 1, 2020.
- **NOT** allowed to enter a secure federal facility starting October 1, 2020.
- May require showing further evidence of legal presence to purchase a firearm.



For more information visit REALID.dmv.ca.gov

CITY OF LINCOLN AUDIT FINDINGS

The California State Auditor recently released a [report](#) on the City of Lincoln that found the City’s “mismanagement of public funds, insufficient accountability, and inadequate oversight threatens its financial stability.”

Last spring, I was made aware of information showing a pattern of mismanagement among senior officials in city government. Through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, I requested the California State Auditor to conduct a review of the City of Lincoln’s administration of public funds and assets over the past five years.

Now that the report has been released, I hope serious policy and procedural changes will be instituted to ensure the City of Lincoln operates with greater transparency and taxpayers are charged fairly for city services.

FOLLOW ME!



Don’t forget to follow me on social media! It’s a great way to stay up-to-date on activities at BOE and around the First District.

AT YOUR SERVICE



As a Board Member, my number one priority is to advocate for taxpayers. I believe hardworking Californians deserve to have someone working on their behalf in support of fair tax policies that will help grow our economy and jobs.

Should you need assistance with tax-related problems or have questions, please don't hesitate to [email](#) or call one of my offices directly.

Sacramento Office
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 1750
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: 916-445-2181

Lancaster Office
44441 16th Street West, Suite 101
Lancaster, CA 93534
Telephone: 661-723-8469

TAX DAY COMES TWICE FOR CALIFORNIANS

Californians who filed tax returns on April 15 had to wait a little longer until they collectively earned enough money to pay off their total tax bill for the year.

Calculated annually by the Tax Foundation, [Tax Freedom Day](#) is the day when Americans have earned enough money to pay their taxes at the federal, state and local levels.

According to the [Tax Foundation](#), Americans' total tax bill comes to nearly \$5 trillion, or about 29 percent of national income. That amounts to Americans handing over more money to the government than they will collectively spend on food, clothing and housing combined.

California's Tax Freedom Day landed on April 20 this year, four days after the national mark of April 16, ranking us 38 out of 50. As bad as California's rank is this year, state lawmakers seem intent on making it worse by introducing so many new taxes and fees it's been hard for tax experts to keep up, let alone the average taxpayer!

This year, each California taxpayer had to work 109 days for the government. Despite this burden, lawmakers continue to push for new taxes and fees that will take even more money out of our pockets and add more days of working for the government instead of ourselves. Where do we draw the line? You can be sure I will continue to oppose efforts by the Governor and Legislature to endlessly increase your taxes.