



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

Kristine Cazadd
Interim Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Contact: NR 28-11-H
Anita Gore
916-327-8988

Chairman Horton, Rep. Richardson, Asm. Furutani, Carson Councilman Gipson Help Qualified Individuals File for \$5,600 Earned Income Tax Credit

Free Income Tax Preparation at California State University Dominguez Hills on Saturday, February 26

Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), announced today that he will join Rep. Laura Richardson (CA-37), Assemblyman Warren T. Furutani (D-South Los Angeles County), and Carson City Councilman Mike Gipson, for a free income tax preparation assistance event on Saturday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at California State University Dominguez Hills (Welch Hall, 1000 East Victoria Street, Carson, California 90747). The assistance provides low and moderate income individuals and families who earned less than \$49,000 in 2010, help to qualify for up to \$12,000 in federal tax credits, including a \$5,600 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

"We are committed to ensuring that every eligible Los Angeles resident claims their \$5,600 tax credit," said Chairman Horton. "The Earned Income Tax Credit helps reduce poverty, create jobs, and increase small business revenue; by doing so, we help lift families and individuals across our state out of poverty while stimulating local economies. The EITC provides our community with tangible tax credits to individuals and families who will benefit most from reduced federal income taxes."

This VITA event will provide a secure and accessible location for taxpayers to get assistance from certified tax preparers to complete and file their 2010 state and federal income tax returns. All family services will be provided free of charge and will be available throughout the day. Horton has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service, the Franchise Tax Board, United Way, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, and other, local non-profit and commercial entities to offer the Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is not claimed by about 20 percent of eligible taxpayers. Often the credit is not claimed by people who have not earned enough income to owe taxes however, by filing a tax return; those low-income wage earners may still receive an income tax refund.

Appointments may be made in advance for the free tax preparation service by calling 323-980-1221 or to schedule a future appointment for an upcoming tax preparation event. More complete information on the Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events, as well as information about how to receive free income tax preparation assistance from certified tax preparers is available online, visit Chairman Horton's web site at www.boe.ca.gov/members/horton/vita.htm

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 BOE Legislative Committee chairman. He is the first African American to serve on the BOE since its inception in 1879 and the third African American constitutional officer in California's history. Horton previously served as a Member of the California Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 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 California taxes and fees, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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