



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

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BOE Chairman Horton Reaches Out to Low Income Tax Filers **Free Assistance: Qualified Taxpayers May Receive Large Tax Credit**

Los Angeles - Board of Equalization Chairman Jerome Horton offers free income tax preparation assistance to working individuals and families who earned less than \$50,000 in 2011. Chairman Horton aims to help low to moderate income working individuals and families qualify for as much as \$12,000 in federal tax credit, including \$5,751 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Celebrating Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day tomorrow, Horton encourages anyone interested to attend the Income Tax Preparation and Family Service Assistance Event at California State University, Long Beach on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Once again, we are committed to offering free income tax preparation services to ensure that every eligible Los Angeles resident claims their EITC," said Chairman Horton. "By doing so, we lift families and individuals across our state out of poverty while simultaneously stimulating our local economy. I am also pleased to announce that through the Board of Equalization's 2012 Free Tax Preparation and Workforce and Family Services events we will also provide critically needed services to arm deserving people with important information."

Originally approved by Congress in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and provide an incentive to work, the EITC is widely recognized as the federal government's most effective antipoverty program, lifting millions of low-income families and children out of poverty every year.

Horton has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service, the Franchise Tax Board, Korean Youth and Community Center, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, and other local non-profit and for-profit entities to offer the Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites will provide a secure and accessible location for taxpayers to get assistance from certified preparers to file their 2011 state and federal income tax returns. There is no charge to have returns completed and e-filed.

For more information on five scheduled Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services events, visit Chairman Horton's web site at www.boe.ca.gov/members/horton/vita.htm. or the BOE website at: www.boe.ca.gov.

- more -

Listen to Chairman Horton's public service announcement at:
www.boe.ca.gov/members/horton/2012/vita_video.htm

To determine if you qualify for free income tax preparation visit:
www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the BOE Legislative Committee chairman. Horton 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 an assemblymember from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$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 serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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