



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

## George Runner, Member

### 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Lancaster

Cynthia Bridges  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BOE to Consider Adjusting Gasoline Excise Tax Downward by \$0.035**

**Sacramento** – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) will vote on a staff proposal to adjust the Fiscal Year 2014-15 excise tax rate on gasoline downward by \$0.035 during its scheduled monthly meeting on February 25, 2014 at 5901 Green Valley Circle in Culver City. This item is expected to be among the first discussed.

“This proposed gas tax cut will give Californians a much-deserved tax break and help lower travel costs this summer. It has my full support,” said Board Member George Runner.

State law mandates that the Board set the excise tax rates for gasoline before March 1 of each year. If the Board adopts the staff recommendation, the new excise tax rate of \$0.36 will take effect on July 1, 2014 and remain at that rate until June 30, 2015. Motorists currently pay \$0.395 in excise tax for each gallon of gasoline they purchase.

Laws enacted in 2010 known as the “fuel tax swap” require revenue neutrality, meaning motorists pay no more or less state tax on gasoline purchases than they would have prior to the swap. The new laws lowered the sales tax on gasoline to 2.25 percent and raised the excise tax by an amount projected to equal the sales tax that otherwise would have been collected under the old tax structure.

Every year, the BOE sets the rate based on the projected price and number of gallons drivers will purchase in the upcoming fiscal year. The upcoming annual rate also accounts for the difference in the actual and estimated sales tax revenue in the prior fiscal year that would have been collected under the former tax system.

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Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California’s tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

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The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 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](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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