

CALIFORNIA

540 2EZ

Forms & Instructions

2018

Personal Income Tax Booklet

Members of the Franchise Tax Board

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Franchise Tax Board

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What's New and Other Important Information for 2018

Voluntary Contributions – You may contribute to the following new funds:

- Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund
- National Alliance on Mental Illness California Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund
- Schools Not Prisons Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund

Federal Tax Reform – The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) signed into law on December 22, 2017 made changes to the IRC. In general, California R&TC **does not** conform to the changes. California taxpayers continue to follow the IRC as of the specified date of January 1, 2015, with modifications.

California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, the age limit for an eligible individual without a qualifying child is revised to 18 years or older. For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **EITC** or get form FTB 3514, California Earned Income Tax Credit.

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, California conforms to federal law to include in the definition of earned income net earnings from self employment. If you have self-employment income, you cannot use Form 540 2EZ. Get Form 540 at ftb.ca.gov/forms or **e-file**.

Earned income thresholds have also increased. You may now qualify for the refundable EITC if you have earned income of less than \$24,951.

Schedule X, California Explanation of Amended Return Changes – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, use Schedule X to determine any additional amount you owe or refund due to you, and to provide reason(s) for amending your previous filed income tax return. For additional information, see "Instructions for Filing a 2018 Amended Return" on page 15.

Improper Withholding on Severance Paid to Veterans – The Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 gives veterans who retired from the Armed Forces for medical reasons additional time to claim a refund if they had taxes improperly withheld from their severance pay. If you filed an amended return with the IRS on this issue, you have two years to file your amended California return.

Electronic Funds Withdrawal (EFW) – Make extension payments using tax preparation software. Check with your software provider to determine if they support EFW for extension payments.

Payments and Credits Applied to Use Tax – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, if a taxpayer includes use tax on their personal income tax return, payments and credits will be applied to use tax first, then towards income tax, interest, and penalties. Additional information can be found in the Form 540 2EZ instructions for line 25.

MyFTB

Make tax time less taxing! Check MyFTB for information about your FTB-issued 1099-Gs, 1099-INTs, California wage and withholding data, and more! Go to ftb.ca.gov and login or register for MyFTB.

Direct Deposit Refund

You can request a direct deposit refund on your tax return whether you

e-file or file a paper return. Be sure to fill in the routing and account numbers carefully and double-check the numbers for accuracy.

Direct Deposit for ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plans

If you have a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan account maintained by the ScholarShare Investment Board, you may have your refund directly deposited to your ScholarShare account.

Mandatory Electronic Payments

You are required to remit all your payments electronically once you make an estimate or extension payment exceeding \$20,000 or you file an original tax return with a total tax liability over \$80,000. Once you meet this threshold, all subsequent payments regardless of amount, tax type, or taxable year must be remitted electronically. The first payment that would trigger the mandatory e-pay requirement does not have to be made electronically. Individuals who do not send the payment electronically will be subject to a 1% noncompliance penalty.

You can request a waiver from mandatory e-pay if one or more of the following is true:

- You have not made an estimated tax or extension payment in excess of \$20,000 during the current or previous taxable year.
- Your total tax liability reported for the previous taxable year did not exceed \$80,000.
- The amount you paid is not representative of your total tax liability.

For more information or to obtain the waiver form, go to ftb.ca.gov/e-pay. Electronic payments can be made using Web Pay on Franchise Tax Board's (FTB's) website, EFW as part of the e-file tax return, or your credit card.

Registered Domestic Partners (RDP)

Under California law, RDPs must file their California income tax return using either the married/RDP filing jointly or married/RDP filing separately filing status. RDPs have the same legal benefits, protections, and responsibilities as married couples unless otherwise specified.

If you entered into a same-sex legal union in another state, other than a marriage, and that union has been determined to be substantially equivalent to a California registered domestic partnership, you are required to file a California income tax return using either the married/RDP filing jointly or married/RDP filing separately filing status.

For purposes of California income tax, references to a spouse, husband, or wife also refer to an RDP, unless otherwise specified. When we use the initials RDP they refer to both a California registered domestic "partner" and a California registered domestic "partnership," as applicable. For more information on RDPs, get FTB Pub. 737, Tax Information for Registered Domestic Partners.

Head of Household – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, California requires taxpayers who use head of household (HOH) filing status to file form FTB 3532, Head of Household Filing Status Schedule, to report how the HOH filing status was determined.

Beginning in tax year 2018, if you do not attach a completed form FTB 3532 to your tax return, we will deny your Head of Household filing status. For more information about the Head of Household filing requirements, go to ftb.ca.gov/HOH.

Qualifying to Use Form 540 2EZ

Check the table below to make sure you qualify to use Form 540 2EZ.

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California resident entire year Not blind
Filing Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single Head of household Married/RDP filing jointly Qualifying widow(er)
You May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer (see Note below) Be 65 or older and claim the senior exemption. If your (or your spouse's/RDP's) 65th birthday is on January 1, 2019, you are considered to be age 65 on December 31, 2018.
Dependents	0 – 3 allowed
Types of Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages, salaries, and tips Taxable scholarship and fellowship compensation grants (only if reported on federal Form W-2) Capital gains from mutual funds (reported on Form 1099-DIV, box 2a only) Interest and Dividends Pension Unemployment Paid Family Leave U.S. Social Security Tier 1 and Tier 2 Railroad Retirement
Total Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100,000 or less (single or head of household) \$200,000 or less (married/RDP filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)) <p>Total income includes wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarship or fellowship grants, interest, dividends, pensions, and capital gains from mutual funds.</p>
Adjustments to Income	No adjustments to total income, such as student loan interest deduction, IRA deduction, etc.
Deduction	Standard deduction only. If you use the modified standard deduction for dependents, see Note below.
Payments	Only withholding shown on federal Form(s) W-2 and 1099-R
Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal exemption (see Note below) Up to three dependent exemptions Senior exemption
Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonrefundable renter's credit Refundable California Earned Income Tax Credit

Note: You cannot use Form 540 2EZ if you can be claimed as a dependent and **any** of the following are true:

- You have a dependent of your own.
- You are single and your total income is less than or equal to \$14,551.
- You are married/RDP filing jointly or a qualifying widow(er) and your total income is less than or equal to \$29,152.
- You are head of household and your total income is less than or equal to \$20,652.
- You are required to use a modified standard deduction for dependents. See Frequently Asked Questions, question 1, Do I have to file?

If you do not qualify, go to ftb.ca.gov for information about **CalFile** and **e-file** or download and print Form 540 at ftb.ca.gov/forms.

If you are a nonresident or part-year resident, get the Long or Short Form 540NR. See "Automated Phone Service", or go to ftb.ca.gov/forms.

Steps to Determine Filing Requirements

Step 1: Is your gross income (all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services from all sources that are not exempt from tax) more than the amount shown in the California Gross Income chart below for your filing status, age, and number of dependents? If yes, you have a filing requirement. If no, go to Step 2.

Step 2: Is your adjusted gross income (federal adjusted gross income from all sources reduced or increased by all California income adjustments) more than the amount shown in the California Adjusted Gross Income chart below for your filing status, age, and number of dependents? If yes, you have a filing requirement. If no, you do not have a filing requirement. If you do not have a filing requirement, you must file a tax return to claim your withholding. You may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit; see page 63 for more information.

On 12/31/18, my filing status was:	and on 12/31/18, my age was: (If your 65th birthday is on January 1, 2019, you are considered to be age 65 on December 31, 2018.)	California Gross Income			California Adjusted Gross Income		
		Dependents			Dependents		
		0	1	2 or more	0	1	2 or more
Single or Head of Household (Get FTB Pub. 1540, California Head of Household Filing Status.)	Under 65 65 or older	17,693	29,926	39,101	14,154	26,387	35,562
		23,593	32,768	40,108	20,054	29,229	36,569
Married/RDP filing jointly (The income of both spouses/RDPs must be combined.)	Under 65 (both spouses/RDPs)	35,388	47,621	56,796	28,312	40,545	49,720
	65 or older (one spouse/RDP)	41,288	50,463	57,803	34,212	43,387	50,727
	65 or older (both spouses/RDPs)	47,188	56,363	63,703	40,112	49,287	56,627
Qualifying widow(er)	Under 65		29,926	39,101		26,387	35,562
	65 or older		32,768	40,108		29,229	36,569
Dependent of another person – Any filing status	Any age	More than your standard deduction, see Frequently Asked Questions, question 1.					

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to file?

In general, you must file a California tax return if you are:

Single, or head of household, and either of the following apply:

- Gross income is more than \$17,693
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$14,154

Married/RDP filing jointly and either of the following apply:

- Gross income is more than \$35,388
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$28,312

Qualifying widow(er) and either of the following apply:

- Gross income is more than \$29,926
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$26,387

Able to be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer and either your gross income or adjusted gross income is more than your standard deduction.

You cannot use Form 540 2EZ if your total wages, salaries, and tips are less than the following amounts based on your filing status:

Single	\$4,051
Married/RDP filing jointly, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)	\$8,482

The amounts above represent the standard deduction minus \$350.

Get Form 540 at ftb.ca.gov/forms or file online through **CalFile** or **e-file**.

See "Steps to Determine Filing Requirements."

2. How can I get help?

Throughout California, more than 1,200 sites provide trained volunteers offering free help during the tax filing season to persons who need to file simple federal and state income tax returns. Many military bases also provide this service for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **vita** to find a list of participating locations or call the FTB at 800.852.5711 to find a location near you.

3. When do I have to file?

File and pay by April 15, 2019, but if you can't file by that date, you get an automatic paperless extension to file by October 15, 2019. Any tax due must be paid by April 15, 2019, to avoid penalties and interest. See form FTB 3519. You cannot use Form 540 2EZ if you make an extension payment with form FTB 3519. You can CalFile, e-file, or use Form 540, or the Long Form 540NR when you file your tax return.

If you are in the military, you may be entitled to certain extensions. For more information, get FTB Pub. 1032, Tax Information for Military Personnel.

4. I don't have my W-2 s. What do I do?

If all your federal Forms W-2 were not received by January 31, 2019, contact your employer. Only an employer issues or corrects federal Form W-2. California wage and withholding information is available on MyFTB at ftb.ca.gov. For more information, call 800.338.0505, follow the recorded instructions and enter code **204** when instructed.

5. Is direct deposit safe?

Direct deposit is safe and convenient. To have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, fill in the account information on Form 540 2EZ, Side 4, line 33 and line 34. Fill in the routing and account numbers and indicate the account type.

6. I discovered an error on my tax return. What should I do?

If you discover an error on your California income tax return after you filed it (paper or e-file), file an amended Form 540 2EZ and attach Schedule X, to correct your previously filed tax return. Get Schedule X at ftb.ca.gov/forms or call 800.338.0505, follow the recorded instructions, and enter code **908** when instructed.

7. I owe tax, but don't have the money. What can I do?

If you cannot pay on or before the due date, you may request approval to make monthly installments. You may pay using Web Pay or a credit card. See "Paying Your Taxes," for information on Web Pay, Credit Card, and Request Monthly Installments.

8. How can I find out about the status of my refund?

Go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **refund status** or call 800.338.0505.

9. How long do I keep my tax records?

Generally, keep your California income tax records for at least four years from the due date of the tax return or four years from the date the tax return is filed, whichever is later. However, an extended period may apply for California or federal tax returns related or subject to federal audit.

10. I will be moving after I file my tax return. How do I notify the FTB of my new address?

Go to ftb.ca.gov and login or register for MyFTB or call 800.852.5711 and follow the recorded instructions to report a change of address. You may also use form FTB 3533, Change of Address for Individuals. This form is available at ftb.ca.gov/forms. If you change your address online or by phone, you do not need to file form FTB 3533.

11. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) made changes to my federal tax return. What should I do?

If your federal income tax return is examined and changed by the IRS and you owe additional tax, report these changes to the FTB within six months of the date of the final federal determination. If the changes the IRS made result in a refund due for California, claim a refund within two years of the date of the final federal determination. Either file an amended Form 540 2EZ to correct your previously filed income tax return or send a copy of the federal changes to:

ATTN RAR/VOL MS F310
FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 1998
RANCHO CORDOVA CA 95741-1998

or Fax the information to 916.843.2269.

If you have a question **relating to the IRS audit adjustment** call 916.845.4028.

For general tax information or questions, please call 800.852.5711.

Regardless of which method you use to notify the FTB, you must include a copy of the final federal determination along with all data and schedules on which the federal adjustment was based. Get FTB Pub. 1008, Federal Tax Adjustments and Your Notification Responsibilities to California, for more information. See "Automated Phone Service."

Nonrefundable Renter's Credit Qualification Record



e-file and skip this page! The software you use to e-file will help you find out if you qualify for this credit and will figure the correct amount of the credit automatically. You can claim the nonrefundable Renter's Credit using CalFile.

If you were a resident of California and paid rent on property in California, which was your principal residence, you may qualify for a credit that you can use to reduce your tax. Answer the questions below to see if you qualify. **Do Not Mail This Record. Keep With Your Tax Records.**

<p>1. Were you a resident of California for the entire year in 2018? Military personnel: If you are not a legal resident of California, you do not qualify for this credit. However, your spouse/RDP may claim this credit if he or she was a resident, during 2018, and is otherwise qualified. YES. Go to question 2. NO. Stop. File the Long or Short Form 540NR, California Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Income Tax Return. Go to ftb.ca.gov/forms for more information regarding these forms.</p>
<p>2. Is your California adjusted gross income, the amount on Form 540 2EZ, line 16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$41,641 or less if single; or • \$83,282 or less if married/RDP filing jointly, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)? YES. Go to question 3. NO. Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</p>
<p>3. Did you pay rent, for at least half of 2018, on property (including a mobile home that you owned on rented land) in California, which was your principal residence? YES. Go to question 4. NO. Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</p>
<p>4. Can you be claimed as a dependent by a parent, foster parent, legal guardian, or any other person in 2018? NO. Go to question 6. YES. Go to question 5.</p>
<p>5. For more than half the year in 2018, did you live in the home of the person who can claim you as a dependent? NO. Go to question 6. YES. Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</p>
<p>6. Was the property you rented exempt from property tax in 2018? You do not qualify for this credit if, for more than half of the year, you rented property that was exempt from property taxes. Exempt property includes most government-owned buildings, church-owned parsonages, college dormitories, and military barracks. However, if you or your landlord paid possessory interest taxes for the property you rented, then you may claim this credit. NO. Go to question 7. YES. Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</p>
<p>7. Did you claim the homeowner's property tax exemption anytime during 2018? You do not qualify for this credit if you or your spouse/RDP received a homeowner's property tax exemption at any time during the year. However, if you lived apart from your spouse/RDP for the entire year and your spouse/RDP received a homeowner's property tax exemption for a separate residence, then you may claim this credit if you are otherwise qualified. NO. Go to question 8. YES. If your filing status is single, stop here, you do not qualify for this credit. If your filing status is married/RDP filing jointly, go to question 9.</p>
<p>8. Were you single in 2018? YES. Go to question 11. NO. Go to question 9.</p>
<p>9. Did your spouse/RDP claim the homeowner's property tax exemption anytime during 2018? You do not qualify for this credit if you or your spouse/RDP received a homeowner's property tax exemption at any time during the year. However, if you lived apart from your spouse/RDP for the entire year and your spouse/RDP received a homeowner's property tax exemption for a separate residence, then you may claim this credit if you are otherwise qualified. NO. Go to question 11. YES. If both you and your spouse/RDP claimed the homeowner's property tax exemption, stop here, you do not qualify for this credit. Otherwise, go to question 10.</p>
<p>10. Did you and your spouse/RDP maintain separate residences for the entire year in 2018? YES. Go to question 11. NO. Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</p>
<p>11. If you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single, enter \$60 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19. • Head of household or qualifying widow(er), enter \$120 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19. • Married/RDP filing jointly, enter \$120 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19. (Exception: If one spouse/RDP claimed the homeowner's tax exemption and you lived apart from your spouse/RDP for the entire year, enter \$60 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19.) Fill in the street address(es) and landlord information below for the residence(s) you rented in California during 2018, which qualified you for this credit.</p>

Street Address	City, State, and ZIP Code	Dates Rented in 2018 (From _____ to _____)
-----------------------	----------------------------------	---

a _____
 b _____

Enter the name, address, and telephone number of your landlord(s) or the person(s) to whom you paid rent for the residence(s) listed above.

Name	Street Address	City, State, ZIP Code, and Telephone Number
-------------	-----------------------	--

a _____
 b _____

Additional Information

Privacy Notice

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) considers the privacy of your tax information to be of the utmost importance.

Reasons for Information Requests:

We ask for tax return information so that we can administer the tax law fairly and correctly.

Rights and Responsibility:

You have the right to see our records that contain your personal information. To obtain information about our records, you may write to:

DISCLOSURE OFFICER MS A181
FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 1468
SACRAMENTO CA 95812-1468

or call: 800.852.5711 within the United States, or 916.845.6500 outside of the United States.

Your Responsibility:

California Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 18501 and 18621 require you to file a tax return on the forms we prescribe if you meet certain requirements. It is mandatory that you furnish all requested information. You may be charged penalties and interest, and in certain cases, you may be criminally prosecuted, if you do not provide the information we ask for or you provide fraudulent information.

Information Disclosures:

As provided by law, we may give your tax information to other tax officials to determine your tax liability or collect tax amounts you owe. If you owe the FTB money, we may also give your information to employers, financial institutions, county recorders, or others who hold assets belonging to you. For the full text of the FTB's Privacy Notice, get FTB 1131 ENG/SP.

Your Rights As A Taxpayer

The FTB's goals include making certain that your rights are protected so that you have the highest confidence in the integrity, efficiency, and fairness of our state tax system. FTB 4058, California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, includes information on your rights as a California taxpayer, the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Program, and how to request written advice from the FTB on whether a particular transaction is taxable.

Innocent Joint Filer Relief

You may qualify for relief from liability for tax on a joint tax return if (1) there is an understatement of tax because your spouse/RDP omitted income or claimed false deductions or credits, (2) you are divorced, legally separated, terminated your registered domestic partnership, or are no longer living with your spouse/RDP, and (3) given all the facts and circumstances, it would be unfair to hold you liable for the tax. For more information, get FTB Pub-705, Innocent Joint Filer – Relief From Paying California Income Taxes, at ftb.ca.gov/forms, or by calling 916.845.7072, Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. except holidays.

California Use Tax General Information

The use tax has been in effect in California since July 1, 1935. It applies to purchases of merchandise for use in California from out-of-state sellers and is similar to the sales tax paid on purchases you make in California. If you have not already paid all use tax due to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, you may be able to report and pay the use tax due on your state income tax return. See the information below and the instructions for Line 25 of your income tax return.

In general, you must pay California use tax on purchases of merchandise for use in California made from out-of-state sellers, for example, by telephone, over the Internet, by mail, or in person.

You must pay California use tax on taxable items if:

- The seller does not collect California sales or use tax, and
- You use, gift, store, or consume the item in this state.

Example: You live in California and purchase a dining table from a company in North Carolina. The company ships the table from North Carolina to your home for your use and does not charge California sales or use tax. You owe use tax on the purchase.

However, not all purchases require you to pay use tax. For example, you would include purchases of clothing, but not exempt purchases of food products or prescription medicine.

For more information on nontaxable and exempt purchases, you may refer to Publication 61, Sales and Use Taxes: Exemptions and Exclusions, on the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's website at cdtfa.ca.gov.

For information about California use tax, please refer to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's website at cdtfa.ca.gov and type "Find Information About Use Tax" in the search bar.

Complete the Use Tax Worksheet or use the Use Tax Lookup Table on page 8, to calculate the amount due.

Extensions to File. If you request an extension to file your income tax return, wait until you file your tax return to report your purchases subject to use tax and make your use tax payment.

Interest, Penalties and Fees. Failure to timely report and pay the use tax due may result in the assessment of interest, penalties, and fees.

Application of Payments. For purchases made during taxable years starting on or after January 1, 2015, payments and credits reported on an income tax return will be applied first to the use tax liability, instead of income tax liabilities, penalties, and interest.

Changes in Use Tax Reported. Do not file an Amended Income Tax Return to revise the use tax previously reported. If you have changes to the amount of use tax previously reported on the original return, contact the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

For assistance with your use tax questions, go to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's website at cdtfa.ca.gov or call their Customer Service Center at 800.400.7115 or (TTY) 711 (for hearing and speech disabilities). For California income tax information, contact the Franchise Tax Board at ftb.ca.gov.

Voting Is Everybody's Business

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- Not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

Pre-register at 16. Vote at 18. Voter pre-registration is now available for 16 and 17 year olds who otherwise meet the voter registration eligibility requirements. California youth who pre-register to vote will have their registration become active once they turn 18 years old.

If you wish to receive a paper Voter Registration or Pre-Registration Application, call the California Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at **800-345-VOTE** or simply register online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov. For more information about how and when to register to vote, visit sos.ca.gov/elections.

It's Your Right . . . Register and Vote.

Write To Us

If you write to us, be sure your letter includes your social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and preferred phone number. If you have a question about a notice that we sent to you, be sure to include a copy of the notice. Send your letter to:

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942840
SACRAMENTO CA 94240-0040

We will respond within 10 weeks. In some cases, we may call you to respond to your inquiry, or to ask you for additional information. **Do not** attach correspondence to your tax return unless the correspondence relates to an item on your return.

Voluntary Contribution Fund Descriptions

Make voluntary contributions of \$1 or more in whole dollar amounts to the funds listed below. To contribute to the California Seniors Special Fund, use the instructions for code 400 below. The amount you contribute either reduces your overpaid tax or increases your tax due. You may contribute only to the funds listed and cannot change the amount you contribute after you file your tax return. For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **voluntary contributions**.

Code 400, California Seniors Special Fund – If you and/or your spouse/RDP are 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2019, and claim the Senior Exemption Credit, you may make a combined total contribution of up to \$236 or \$118 per spouse/RDP. Contributions made to this fund will be distributed to the Area Agency on Aging Councils (TACC) to provide advice on and sponsorship of Senior Citizens issues. Any excess contributions not required by TACC will be distributed to senior citizen service organizations throughout California for meals, adult day care, and transportation.

Code 401, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to provide grants to California scientists to study Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. This research includes basic science, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, behavioral problems, and caregiving. With almost 600,000 Californians living with the disease and another 2 million providing care to a loved one with Alzheimer's, our state is in the early stages of a major public health crisis. Your contribution will ensure that Alzheimer's disease receives the attention, research, and resources it deserves. For more information go to cdph.ca.gov and search for **Alzheimer**.

Code 403, Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Voluntary Tax Contribution Program – Contributions will be used to help protect and conserve California's many threatened and endangered species and the wild lands that they need to survive, for the enjoyment and benefit of you and future generations of Californians.

Code 405, California Breast Cancer Research Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will fund research toward preventing and curing breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer to strike women in California. It kills 4,000 California women each year. Contributions also fund research on prevention and better treatment, and keep doctors up-to-date on research progress. For more about the research your contributions support, go to cbcrp.org. Your contribution can help make breast cancer a disease of the past.

Code 406, California Firefighters' Memorial Fund – Contributions will be used for the repair and maintenance of the California Firefighters' Memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol, ceremonies to honor the memory of fallen firefighters and to assist surviving loved ones, and for an informational guide detailing survivor benefits to assist the spouses/RDPs and children of fallen firefighters.

Code 407, Emergency Food for Families Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to help local food banks feed California's hungry. Your contribution will fund the purchase of much-needed food for delivery to food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens throughout the state. The State Department of Social Services will monitor its distribution to ensure the food is given to those most in need.

Code 408, California Peace Officer Memorial Foundation Fund – Contributions will be used to preserve the memory of California's fallen peace officers and assist the families they left behind. Since statehood, over 1,300 courageous California peace officers have made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting law-abiding citizens. The non-profit charitable organization, California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation, has accepted the privilege and responsibility of maintaining a memorial for fallen officers on the State Capitol grounds. Each May, the Memorial Foundation conducts a dignified ceremony honoring fallen officers and their surviving families by offering moral support, crisis counseling, and financial support that includes academic scholarships for the children of those officers who have made the supreme sacrifice. On behalf of all of us and the law-abiding citizens of California, thank you for your participation.

Code 410, California Sea Otter Fund – The California Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will each be allocated 50% of the contributions. Contributions allocated to the California Coastal Conservancy will be used for research, science, protection, projects, or programs related to the Federal Sea Otter Recovery Plan or improving the nearshore ocean ecosystem, including, program activities to reduce sea otter mortality. Contributions allocated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife will be used to establish a sea otter fund within the department's index coding system for increased investigation, prevention, and enforcement action.

Code 413, California Cancer Research Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to conduct research relating to the causes, detection, and prevention of cancer and to expand community-based education on cancer, and to provide prevention and awareness activities for communities that are disproportionately at risk or afflicted by cancer.

Code 422, School Supplies for Homeless Children Fund – Contributions will be used to provide school supplies and health-related products to homeless children.

Code 423, State Parks Protection Fund/Parks Pass Purchase – Contributions will be used for the protection and preservation of California's state parks and for the cost of a Vehicle Day Use Annual Pass valid at most park units where day use fees are collected. The pass is not valid at off-highway vehicle units, or for camping, oversized vehicle, extra vehicle, per-person, or supplemental fees. If a taxpayer's contribution equals or exceeds \$195 the taxpayer will receive a single Vehicle Day Use Annual Pass. Amounts contributed in excess of the parks pass cost may be deducted as a charitable contribution for the year in which the voluntary contribution is made. Any contribution less than \$195 will be treated as a voluntary contribution and may be deducted as a charitable contribution. For more information go to parks.ca.gov/annualpass/ or email info@parks.ca.gov.

Code 424, Protect Our Coast and Oceans Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to provide grants to community organizations working to protect, restore, and enhance the California coast and ocean. Contributions will support shoreline cleanups, habitat restoration, coastal access improvements, and ocean education programs.

Code 425, Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used by the Arts Council for the allocation of grants to individuals or organizations administering arts programs for children in preschool through 12th grade.

Code 430, State Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse – Contributions will be used to support child abuse prevention programs with demonstrated success, public education efforts to change adult behaviors and educate parents, innovative research to identify best practices, and the replication of those practices to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Code 431, Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Fund – Contributions will be used to provide funding to programs designed to prevent and eliminate animal homelessness and cruelty, research that explores novel approaches to preventing and eliminating pet homelessness and the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of animal cruelty and neglect.

Code 432, Revive the Salton Sea Fund – Contributions will be used for the restoration and maintenance of the Salton Sea and to develop a mechanism to provide ongoing public awareness.

Code 433, California Domestic Violence Victims Fund – Contributions will be used for the distribution of funds to active grant recipients under the Comprehensive Statewide Domestic Violence Program within the Office of Emergency Services.

Code 434, Special Olympics Fund – Contributions will be used for disbursement to the Special Olympics Northern California and the Special Olympics Southern California for the purpose of funding activities of the Special Olympics in support of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Code 435, Type 1 Diabetes Research Fund – Contributions will be used for the University of California for distribution of grants to authorized diabetes research organizations.

Code 436, California YMCA Youth and Government Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to support civic education programs operated by the YMCA Youth and Government Program, the African American Leaders for Tomorrow Program, the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, and the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project.

Code 437, Habitat for Humanity Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used for disbursement to the Habitat for Humanity of California, Inc. to build affordable housing in California.

Code 438, California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to conduct the sessions of the California Senior Legislature and to support its ongoing activities on behalf of older persons.

Code 439, Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to support the recovery and rehabilitation of injured, sick, or orphaned native wildlife, and conservation education.

Code 440, Rape Backlog Kit Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used for DNA testing in the processing of rape kits.

Code 441, Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used for the distribution of funds to the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Registrar for its ongoing activities to maintain the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

Code 442, National Alliance on Mental Illness California Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to fund the Crisis Intervention Team program that trains peace officers to assist, and engage safely with, persons living with mental illness.

Code 443, Schools Not Prisons Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund – Contributions will be used to fund academic and career readiness programs that seek to break the school-to-prison pipeline.

Instructions for Filing a 2018 Amended Return

Important Information

Protective Claim – If you are filing a claim for refund for a taxable year where litigation is pending or where a final determination by the IRS is pending, check box a for “Protective claim for refund” on Schedule X, Part II, line 1. Specify the pending litigation or reference to the federal determination on Part II, line 2 so we can properly process your claim.

Do not attach your previously filed return to your amended return.

Do not file an amended return to correct your SSN, name, or address, instead, call or write us. See “Contacting the Franchise Tax Board” for more information.

Use Tax – Do not amend your return to correct a “use tax” error reported on your original tax return. Enter the amount from your original return. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration’s (CDTFA) (formerly known as the Board of Equalization) administers this tax. Refer all questions or requests relating to use tax to the CDTFA at cdtfa.ca.gov or call **800.400.7115**.

Voluntary Contributions – You cannot amend voluntary contributions. Enter the amount from your original return.

Direct Deposit – You can now use direct deposit on your amended return.

Purpose

Use Form 540 2EZ to amend your original California resident income tax return. Check the box at the top of Form 540 2EZ indicating AMENDED return. Submit the completed amended Form 540 2EZ and Schedule X along with all required schedules and supporting forms.

When to File

Generally, if you filed federal Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, file an amended California tax return within six months unless the changes do not affect your California tax liability. File an amended return only after you have filed your original or previously filed California tax return.

California Statute of Limitations

Original tax return was filed on or before April 15th:

If you are making a claim for refund, file an amended tax return within four years from the original due date of the tax return or within one year from the date of overpayment, whichever period expires later.

Original tax return was filed within the extension period (April 15th – October 15th):

If you are making a claim for refund, file an amended tax return within four years from the date the original tax return was filed or within one year from the date of overpayment, whichever period expires later.

Original tax return was filed after October 15th:

If you are making a claim for refund, file an amended tax return within four years from the original due date of the tax return (April 15th) or within one year from the date of overpayment, whichever period expires later.

If you are filing your amended tax return after the normal statute of limitation period (four years after the due date of the original tax return), attach a statement explaining why the normal statute of limitations does not apply.

If you are filing your amended return in response to a billing notice you received, you will continue to receive billing notices until your amended tax return is accepted. You may file an informal claim for refund even though the full amount due including tax, penalty, and interest has not yet been paid. After the full amount due has been paid, you have the right to appeal to the CDTFA or to file suit in court if your claim for refund is disallowed.

To file an informal claim for refund, check box I for “Informal claim” on Schedule X, Part II, line 1 and mail the claim to:

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942840
SACRAMENTO CA 94240-0040

Financially Disabled Taxpayers

The statute of limitations for filing claims for refunds is suspended during periods when a taxpayer is “financially disabled.” You are considered “financially disabled” when you are unable to manage your financial affairs due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that is deemed to be either a terminal impairment or is expected to last for a

continuous period of not less than 12 months. You **are not** considered “financially disabled” during any period that your spouse/RDP or any other person is legally authorized to act on your behalf on financial matters. For more information, get form FTB 1564, Financially Disabled – Suspension of the Statute of Limitations.

Federal Notices

If you were notified of an error on your federal income tax return that changed your AGI, you may need to amend your California income tax return for that year.

If the IRS examines and changes your federal income tax return, and you owe additional tax, report these changes to the FTB within six months. You do not need to inform the FTB if the changes do not increase your California tax liability. If the changes made by the IRS result in a refund due, you must file a claim for refund within two years. Use an amended Form 540 2EZ to make any changes to your California income tax returns previously filed.

Include a copy of the final federal determination, along with all underlying data and schedules that explain or support the federal adjustment. Note: Most penalties assessed by the IRS also apply under California law. If you are including penalties in a payment with your amended tax return, see Schedule X, line 8a instructions.

Children With Investment Income

If your child was required to file form FTB 3800, Tax Computation for Certain Children with Unearned Income, and your taxable income has changed, review your child’s tax return to see if you need to file an amended tax return. Get form FTB 3800 for more information.

Contacting the Franchise Tax Board

If you have not received a refund within six months of filing your amended return, **do not** file a duplicate amended return for the same year. For information on the status of your refund, you may write to:

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942840
SACRAMENTO CA 94240-0040

For telephone assistance see General Phone Service on page 63.

Filing Status

Your filing status for California must be the same as the filing status you used on your federal income tax return, unless you are a same-sex married individual or RDP. If you are a same-sex married individual or an RDP and file single for federal, you must file married/RDP filing jointly or married/RDP filing separately for California. If you entered into a same-sex marriage for taxable year 2013 and going forward, your filing status for California would generally be the same as the filing status that was used for federal. If you are a same-sex married individual or an RDP and file head of household for federal, you may file head of household for California only if you meet the requirements to be considered unmarried or considered not in a registered domestic partnership.

Changing Your Filing Status – If you changed your filing status on your federal amended tax return, also change your filing status for California.

Married/RDP Filing Jointly to Married/RDP Filing Separately – You cannot change from married/RDP filing jointly to married/RDP filing separately after the due date of the tax return.

Exception: For taxable years 2000 and after, a married couple who meets the “Exception for filing a separate tax return” shown above may change from joint to separate tax returns after the due date of the tax return.

Filing Separate Tax Returns to Married/RDP Filing Jointly – If you or your spouse/RDP (or both of you) filed a separate tax return, you generally can change to a joint tax return any time within four years from the original due date of the separate tax return(s). To change to a joint tax return, you and your spouse/RDP must have been legally married or an RDP on the last day of the taxable year.

To amend from separate tax returns to a joint tax return, follow the Form 540 2EZ instructions to complete only one amended tax return. Both you and your spouse/RDP must sign the amended joint tax return.

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Need Assistance? We're Here To Help!

Want to e-file?

Have a question?

Want to check on your refund?

Need a tax form?



Online Services

Go to ftb.ca.gov for:

- **MyFTB** – view payments, balance due, and withholding information.
- **Web Pay** to pay income taxes. Choose your payment date up to one year in advance.
- **CalFile** – e-file your personal income tax return.
- **Refund Status** – find out when we authorize your refund.
- **Installment Agreement** – request to make monthly payments.
- **Subscription Services** – sign up to receive emails on a variety of tax topics.
- Tax forms and publications.
- FTB legal notices, rulings, and regulations.
- FTB's analysis of pending legislation.
- Internal procedure manuals to learn how we administer law.



Automated Phone Service

Order tax forms and get recorded answers to your tax questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at no charge to you. Call us at 800.338.0505, follow the recorded instructions, and enter the 3-digit code, listed below, when prompted.

Code Frequently Asked Questions:

- 100 Do I need to file a tax return?
- 111 Which form should I use?
- 201 How can I get an extension to file?
- 203 What is the nonrefundable renter's credit and how do I qualify?
- 204 I never received a Form W-2, what do I do?
- 215 Who qualifies me to use the head of household filing status?
- 619 How do I report a change of address?
- 506 How do I get information about my Form 1099-G?

Code California Forms and Publications:

- 900 California Resident Income Tax Booklet (includes Form 540)
- 965 Form 540 2EZ Tax Booklet
- 903 Schedule CA (540), California Adjustments – Residents
- 932 FTB 3506, Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit
- 907 Form 540-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals
- 908 Schedule X, California Explanation of Amended Return Changes
- 914 California Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Income Tax Booklet (includes Long and Short Form 540NR)
- 938 FTB 3514, California Earned Income Tax Credit
- 921 FTB 3519, Payment for Automatic Extension for Individuals
- 922 FTB 3525, Substitute for Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement
- 939 FTB 3532, Head of Household Filing Status Schedule
- 949 FTB 3567, Installment Agreement Request
- 946 FTB Pub. 1008, Federal Tax Adjustments and Your Notification Responsibilities to California
- 934 FTB Pub. 1540, California Head of Household Filing Status
- 943 FTB 4058, California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights

General Phone Service

Telephone assistance is available year-round from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Hours subject to change.

Telephone: 800.852.5711 from within the United States
916.845.6500 from outside the United States
800.829.1040 for federal tax questions, call the IRS

TTY/TDD: 800.822.6268 for persons with hearing or speech disability
711 or 800.735.2929 California relay service

Asistencia en español

Asistencia telefónica está disponible durante todo el año desde las 7 a.m. hasta las 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes, excepto días feriados. Las horas están sujetas a cambios.

Teléfono: 800.852.5711 dentro de los Estados Unidos
916.845.6500 fuera de los Estados Unidos
800.829.1040 para preguntas sobre impuestos federales, llame al IRS

TTY/TDD: 800.822.6268 para personas con discapacidades auditivas o del habla
711 ó 800.735.2929 servicio de relevo de California

\$\$
For
You

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

If you earned less than \$54,884 (less than \$20,950 if you do not have any qualifying children), you may be eligible to get the EITC to reduce the federal tax you owe, or get a refund if you do not owe any federal tax. Call the IRS at 800.829.4477 and enter topic 601 when instructed, visit irs.gov and search for **eitc**, or get your federal tax booklet for more information.

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