

CALIFORNIA

# 540 2EZ

Forms & Instructions

**2024**

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 2024

### 2024 Tax Law Changes/What's New

**Postponement of Certain Tax-Related Deadlines** – Beginning on or after June 27, 2024, the Director of Finance shall determine when Internal Revenue Code Section 7508A, related to postponement of certain federal tax-related deadlines, applies for California purposes to a taxpayer affected by a state of emergency declared by the Governor or a federally declared disaster. Impacted taxpayers can request an additional relief period if the state postponement period expires before the federal postponement period by filing form FTB 3872, California Disaster Relief Request for Postponement of Tax Deadlines. For more information, get form FTB 3872 and see California Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) Section 18572.

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

- Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund
- California ALS Research Network Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund

### Other Important Information

**Young Child Tax Credit Expansion** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, California expanded the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) eligibility to include an eligible individual with a qualifying child who would otherwise have been allowed the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) but the individual has earned income of zero dollars or less, does not have net losses in excess of \$34,602 in the current taxable year, and does not have wages, salaries, tips, and other employee compensation in excess of \$34,602 in the current taxable year. For more information, get form FTB 3514, California Earned Income Tax Credit, or go to [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov) and search for **yctc**.

**Foster Youth Tax Credit** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, the refundable Foster Youth Tax Credit (FYTC) is available to an individual and/or spouse/registered domestic partner (RDP) age 18 to 25, who is allowed the California EITC for the taxable year, was in foster care while 13 years of age or older and placed through the California foster care system. For the current taxable year, the maximum amount of credit allowable for each eligible taxpayer is \$1,154 and the credit amount phases out as earned income exceeds the threshold amount of \$26,626, and completely phases out at \$31,951. For more information, see specific line instructions for Form 540 2EZ, California Resident Income Tax Return, line 23c, and get form FTB 3514, see R&TC Section 17052.2, or go to [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov) and search for **fytc**.

**California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program** – The California HOPE for Children Trust Account Act created the California HOPE for Children Trust Account Program for the purpose of providing an eligible child with a HOPE trust account. For purposes of eligibility for the California EITC and YCTC, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, any funds deposited, any investment returns accrued, and any accrued interest in a HOPE trust account and any funds from a HOPE trust account that is withdrawn or transferred by an eligible youth are not considered earned income. For more information, see R&TC Section 17141.5.

### Federal Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act (VAEIA) of 2022

– The VAEIA was enacted on January 5, 2023, and made amendments to the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). California conforms to the following VAEIA provisions:

- A spouse of a servicemember shall neither lose nor acquire a residence or domicile for purposes of taxation with respect to the person, personal property, or income of the spouse by reason of being absent or present in any tax jurisdiction of the United States solely to be with the servicemember in compliance with the servicemember's military orders.
- For any taxable year of the marriage, a servicemember and the spouse of such servicemember may elect to use for purposes of taxation, regardless of the date on which the marriage of the servicemember and the spouse occurred, any of the following:
  - The residence or domicile of the servicemember.
  - The residence or domicile of the spouse.
  - The permanent duty station of the servicemember.

For more information, get FTB Pub. 1032, Tax Information for Military Personnel.

**Use Tax** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2029, you may not report business purchases subject to use tax on your income tax return if you make more than \$10,000 in purchases subject to use tax (excluding vehicles, vessels, and aircraft) per calendar year and have not paid use tax on those purchases to a retailer engaged in business in California or to a retailer authorized by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to collect the tax. For other use tax requirements, see specific line instructions for Form 540 2EZ, line 26 and R&TC Section 6225.

**Voter Registration Information** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, we added a Voter Registration Information checkbox on the tax return. For more information, see specific line instructions for Form 540 2EZ, Voter Information section.

**Timeliness Penalty Abatement** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, an individual taxpayer may elect to request a one-time abatement of a failure-to-file or failure-to-pay timeliness penalty either orally or in writing, if certain conditions are met. For more information, see ~~R&TC Section 19132.5~~, and specific line instructions for Form 540 2EZ, Paying Your Taxes section.

**Dependent Exemption Credit with No ID** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, taxpayers claiming a dependent exemption credit for a dependent who is ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) and a federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) may provide alternative information to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to identify the dependent. For more information, get form FTB 3568, Alternative Identifying Information for the Dependent Exemption Credit.

Taxpayers may amend their tax return beginning with taxable year 2018 to claim the dependent exemption credit. If claiming a refund, taxpayers must amend their returns within the statute of limitations. For more information on how to amend your tax returns, see "Instructions for Filing a 2024 Amended Return."

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**No-cost or Low-cost Health Care Coverage Information** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, we added a health care coverage information question on the tax return. If you are interested in no-cost or low-cost health care coverage information, check the “Yes” box on Form 540 2EZ, Side 4. See [Health Care Coverage Information in the instructions](#).

**Minimum Essential Coverage Individual Mandate** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, California law requires residents and their dependents to obtain and maintain minimum essential coverage, also referred to as qualifying health care coverage. Individuals who fail to maintain qualifying health care coverage for any month during the taxable year will be subject to a penalty unless they qualify for an exemption. For more information, see specific line instructions for Form 540 2EZ, line 27, or get form FTB 3853, Health Coverage Exemptions and Individual Shared Responsibility Penalty.

**Federal Earned Income Credit (EIC)** – Go to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at [irs.gov/taxtopics](https://irs.gov/taxtopics) and choose topic **601**, get the federal income tax booklet, or go to [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) and search for **eitc assistant**.

**Improper Withholding on Severance Paid to Veterans** – The federal 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.

**Registered Domestic Partners (RDPs)** – 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.

*(continued on next page)*

# Qualifying to Use Form 540 2EZ

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

<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California resident entire year</li> <li>Not blind</li> </ul>
<b>Filing Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single</li> <li>Head of household</li> <li>Married/RDP filing jointly</li> <li>Qualifying surviving spouse/RDP</li> </ul>
<b>You May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer (see Note below)</li> <li>Be 65 years of age or older and claim the senior exemption. If your (or your spouse's/RDP's) 65th birthday is on January 1, 2025, you are considered to be age 65 on December 31, 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Dependents</b>	0 – 3 allowed
<b>Types of Income</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wages, salaries, and tips</li> <li>Taxable interest, dividends, and pensions</li> <li>Taxable scholarship and fellowship grants (only if reported on federal Form(s) W-2)</li> <li>Unemployment compensation (reported on federal Form 1099-G)</li> <li>Capital gains from mutual funds (reported on federal Form 1099-DIV, box 2a only)</li> <li>Paid Family Leave Insurance</li> <li>U.S. social security benefits</li> <li>Tier 1 and Tier 2 railroad retirement payments</li> </ul>
<b>Total Income</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$100,000 or less (single or head of household)</li> <li>\$200,000 or less (married/RDP filing jointly or qualifying surviving spouse/RDP)</li> </ul> <p>Total income includes wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarship or fellowship grants, interest, dividends, pensions, and capital gains from mutual funds.</p>
<b>Adjustments to Income</b>	No adjustments to total income, such as student loan interest deduction, IRA deduction, etc.
<b>Deduction</b>	Standard deduction only. If you use the modified standard deduction for dependents, see Note below.
<b>Payments</b>	Only withholding shown on federal Form(s) W-2 and 1099-R
<b>Exemptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal exemption (see Note below)</li> <li>Senior exemption</li> <li>Up to three dependent exemptions</li> </ul>
<b>Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonrefundable Renter's Credit</li> <li>Refundable California Earned Income Tax Credit</li> <li>Refundable Young Child Tax Credit</li> <li>Refundable Foster Youth Tax Credit</li> </ul>

**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 \$18,390.
- You are married/RDP filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse/RDP and your total income is less than or equal to \$36,730.
- You are head of household and your total income is less than or equal to \$26,030.
- 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](http://ftb.ca.gov) for information about **CalFile** and **e-file** or download and print Form 540, California Resident Income Tax Return, at [ftb.ca.gov/forms](http://ftb.ca.gov/forms).

If you are a nonresident or part-year resident, get Form 540NR, California Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Income Tax Return. See "Automated Phone Service", or go to [ftb.ca.gov/forms](http://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 Credit; for more information, see Other Important Information section.

On 12/31/24, my filing status was:	and on 12/31/24, my age was: (If your 65th birthday is on January 1, 2025, you are considered to be age 65 on December 31, 2024.)	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, Tax Information for Head of Household Filing Status.)	Under 65	22,273	37,640	49,165	17,818	33,185	44,710
	65 or older	29,723	41,248	50,468	25,268	36,793	46,013
Married/RDP filing jointly (The income of both spouses/RDPs must be combined.)	Under 65 (both spouses/RDPs)	44,550	59,917	71,442	35,642	51,009	62,534
	65 or older (one spouse/RDP)	52,000	63,525	72,745	43,092	54,617	63,837
	65 or older (both spouses/RDPs)	59,450	70,975	80,195	50,542	62,067	71,287
Qualifying surviving spouse/RDP	Under 65		37,640	49,165		33,185	44,710
	65 or older		41,248	50,468		36,793	46,013
<b>Dependent of another person – Any filing status</b>	Any age	More than your standard deduction, see Frequently Asked Questions, question 1.					

# Nonrefundable Renter's Credit Qualification Record



e-file and skip this page! The tax 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. For purposes of California income tax, references to a spouse, husband, or wife also refer to a California Registered Domestic Partnership (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. **Do not mail this record. Keep with your tax records.**

<p><b>1. Were you a resident of California for the entire year in 2024?</b></p> <p>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 2024 and is otherwise qualified.</p> <p><b>YES.</b> Go to question 2. <span style="float: right;"><b>NO.</b> Stop here. File Form 540NR. Go to <a href="https://ftb.ca.gov/forms">ftb.ca.gov/forms</a> for more information regarding this form.</span></p>
<p><b>2. Is your California adjusted gross income, the amount on Form 540 2EZ, line 16:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$52,421 or less if single; or</li> <li>• \$104,842 or less if married/RDP filing jointly, head of household, or qualifying surviving spouse/RDP?</li> </ul> <p><b>YES.</b> Go to question 3. <span style="float: right;"><b>NO.</b> Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</span></p>
<p><b>3. Did you pay rent, for at least half of 2024, on property (including a mobile home that you owned on rented land) in California, which was your principal residence?</b></p> <p><b>YES.</b> Go to question 4. <span style="float: right;"><b>NO.</b> Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</span></p>
<p><b>4. Can you be claimed as a dependent by a parent, foster parent, legal guardian, or any other person in 2024?</b></p> <p><b>NO.</b> Go to question 6. <span style="float: right;"><b>YES.</b> Go to question 5.</span></p>
<p><b>5. For more than half the year in 2024, did you live in the home of the person who can claim you as a dependent?</b></p> <p><b>NO.</b> Go to question 6. <span style="float: right;"><b>YES.</b> Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</span></p>
<p><b>6. Was the property you rented exempt from property tax in 2024?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>NO.</b> Go to question 7. <span style="float: right;"><b>YES.</b> Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</span></p>
<p><b>7. Did you claim the homeowner's property tax exemption anytime during 2024?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>NO.</b> Go to question 8. <span style="float: right;"><b>YES.</b> 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.</span></p>
<p><b>8. Were you single in 2024?</b></p> <p><b>YES.</b> Go to question 11. <span style="float: right;"><b>NO.</b> Go to question 9.</span></p>
<p><b>9. Did your spouse/RDP claim the homeowner's property tax exemption anytime during 2024?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>NO.</b> Go to question 11. <span style="float: right;"><b>YES.</b> 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.</span></p>
<p><b>10. Did you and your spouse/RDP maintain separate residences for the entire year in 2024?</b></p> <p><b>YES.</b> Go to question 11. <span style="float: right;"><b>NO.</b> Stop here. You do not qualify for this credit.</span></p>
<p><b>11. If you are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single, enter \$60 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19.</li> <li>• Head of household or qualifying surviving spouse/RDP, enter \$120 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19.</li> <li>• Married/RDP filing jointly, enter \$120 on Form 540 2EZ, line 19. (<b>Exception:</b> 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.)</li> </ul>

Fill in the street address(es) and landlord information below for the residence(s) you rented in California during 2024, which qualified you for this credit.

**Street Address** **City, State, and ZIP Code** **Dates Rented in 2024 (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 \_\_\_\_\_

# 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](https://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, 2025, and claim the Senior Exemption Credit, you may make a combined total contribution of up to \$298 or \$149 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](https://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 information about the research your contributions support, go to [cbrcp.org](https://cbrcp.org). Your contribution can help make breast cancer a disease of the past.

**Code 406, California Firefighters' Memorial Voluntary Tax Contribution 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 Voluntary Tax Contribution 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 Voluntary Tax Contribution 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 Voluntary Tax Contribution 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/](https://parks.ca.gov/annualpass/) or email [info@parks.ca.gov](mailto: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 431, Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund** – Contributions will be used to fund programs designed to prevent and eliminate cat and dog homelessness, including spay and neuter programs.

**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 rehabilitation of injured, sick, or orphaned native wildlife and for wildlife conservation education.

**Code 445, Mental Health Crisis Prevention 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 447, California ALS Research Network Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund** – Contributions will be used to support the collaboration of clinicians, scientists, and academic and industry research organizations relating to the cure, screening, and treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

# Additional Information

## 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. For more information, get FTB 4058, California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights - Information for Taxpayers.

## 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 form FTB 705, Innocent Joint Filer Relief Request, at [ftb.ca.gov/forms](http://ftb.ca.gov/forms), or by calling 916.845.7072, Monday through 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 26 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: Tax Expenditures, on the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's website at [cdtfa.ca.gov](http://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](http://cdtfa.ca.gov) and type "Find Information About Use Tax" in the search bar.

Complete the "Use Tax Worksheet" or use the "Estimated Use Tax Lookup Table", in the instructions for Line 26, Use Tax, in this booklet, 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](http://cdtfa.ca.gov) or call their Customer Service Center at 800.400.7115 (TTY:711) (for hearing and speech disabilities). For California income tax information, contact the Franchise Tax Board at [ftb.ca.gov](http://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](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov). For more information about how and when to register to vote, visit [sos.ca.gov/elections](http://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 your daytime and evening telephone numbers. 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.

# Instructions for Filing a 2024 Amended Return

## Important Information

**Protective Claim** – If you are filing a claim for refund for a taxable year where an audit is being conducted by another state's taxing agency, 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 (CDTFA) administers this tax. Refer all questions or requests relating to use tax to the CDTFA at [cdtfa.ca.gov](http://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.

When filing an amended return, only complete the amended Form 540 2EZ through line 36. Next, complete Schedule X. The amount from Schedule X, line 11 is your additional refund amount. This amount will be carried over to your amended Form 540 2EZ and will be entered on line 37 and line 38. The total of the amended Form 540 2EZ, line 37 and line 38 must equal the total amount of your refund on Schedule X, line 11. If the total of the amended Form 540 2EZ, line 37 and line 38 does not equal Schedule X, line 11, the FTB will issue a paper check.

**Dependent Exemption Credit with No ID** – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, taxpayers claiming a dependent exemption credit for a dependent who is ineligible for an SSN and a federal ITIN may provide alternative information to the FTB to identify the dependent. To claim the dependent exemption credit, taxpayers complete form FTB 3568, attach the form and required documentation to their tax return, and write “no id” in the SSN field of line 8, Dependents, on Form 540 2EZ. For each dependent being claimed that does not have an SSN and an ITIN, a form FTB 3568 must be provided along with supporting documentation.

If you are amending a return beginning with taxable year 2018 to claim dependent exemption credit, complete an amended Form 540 2EZ, and write “no id” in the SSN field on the Dependents line, and attach Schedule X. To complete Schedule X, check box m for “Other” on Part II, line 1, and write the explanation “Claim dependent exemption credit with no id and form FTB 3568 is attached” on Part II, line 2. Make sure to attach form FTB 3568 and the required supporting documents in addition to the amended return and Schedule X. If you do not claim the dependent exemption credit on the original 2024 tax return, you may amend the 2024 tax return following the same procedure used to amend your previous year amended tax returns beginning with taxable year 2018. If claiming a refund, taxpayers must amend their returns within the statute of limitations. For more information, get FTB Notice 2021-01.

## Purpose

Use Form 540 2EZ to amend your original or previously filed 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 1040-X, 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 Office of Tax Appeals at [ota.ca.gov](http://ota.ca.gov) 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 and Schedule X 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 at the end of this booklet.

## 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 in an RDP. If you are 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, 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:** A married couple who meets the exception for filing a separate tax return may change from joint to separate tax returns after the due date of the tax return. Get the instructions for Form 540 for more information.

**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 in an RDP on the last day of the taxable year.

To amend from separate tax returns to a joint tax return, follow 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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Advance Draft  
as of 10/30/24

Visit our website:  
[fth.ca.gov](http://fth.ca.gov)

# Frequently Asked Questions

(Go to [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov) for more 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 \$22,273
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$17,818

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

- Gross income is more than \$44,550
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$35,642

**Qualifying surviving spouse/RDP and either of the following apply:**

- Gross income is more than \$37,640
- California adjusted gross income is more than \$33,185

**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	\$ 5,090
Married/RDP filing jointly, head of household, or qualifying surviving spouse/RDP	\$10,630

The amounts above represent the standard deduction minus \$450.

Get Form 540 at [ftb.ca.gov/forms](http://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](http://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, 2025, but if you cannot file by that date, you get an automatic paperless extension to file by October 15, 2025. Any tax due must be paid by April 15, 2025, to avoid penalties and interest. Get form FTB 3519, Payment for Automatic Extension for Individuals. 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 Form 540NR when you file your tax return. Also, see “Paying Your Taxes” for information regarding a one-time timeliness penalty abatement.

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

## 4. I don't have my federal Forms W-2. What do I do?

If all your federal Forms W-2 were not received by January 31, 2025, 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](http://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 37 and line 38. 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](http://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. Also, see “Paying Your Taxes,” for information on Web Pay, Credit Card, and Request Monthly Installments.

## 8. How can I check on the status of my refund?

Go to [ftb.ca.gov](http://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](http://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](http://ftb.ca.gov/forms). If you change your address online or by phone, you do not need to file form FTB 3533.

## 11. The 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. File an amended Form 540 2EZ and Schedule X to correct your previously filed income tax return and mail them to the following address, as applicable:

Without payment

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD  
PO BOX 942840  
SACRAMENTO CA 94240-0001

With payment

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD  
PO BOX 942867  
SACRAMENTO CA 94267-0001

Or send a copy of 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.”

# 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](http://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.

## Franchise Tax Board Privacy Notice on Collection

The privacy and security of your personal information is of the utmost importance to us. We want you to have the highest confidence in the integrity, efficiency, and fairness of our state tax system.

### Your Rights and Responsibilities

You have a right to know what types of information we gather, how we use it, and to whom we may provide it. Information collected is subject to the California Information Practices Act, Civil Code Sections 1798-1798.78, except as provided in R&TC Section 19570.

If you meet certain requirements, you must file a valid tax return and related documents. You must provide your social security number or other identifying number on your tax return and related documents for identification. (R&TC Sections 18501, 18621, and 18624)

### Reasons for Information Requests

We may request additional information to verify and collect the correct amount of tax. (R&TC Section 19504) You must provide all requested information, unless indicated as "optional."

### Consequences of Noncompliance

We charge penalties and interest, if you:

- Meet income requirements but do not file a valid tax return.
- Do not provide the information we request.
- Provide false information.

We may also disallow your claimed exemptions, exclusions, credits, deductions, or adjustments. If you provide false information, you may be subject to civil penalties and criminal prosecution. Noncompliance can increase your tax liability or delay or reduce any tax refund.

### Disclosure of Information

We will not disclose your personal information, unless authorized by law. We may disclose your tax information to:

- The Internal Revenue Service.
- Other states' income tax officials.
- California government agencies and officials.
- Third parties to determine or collect your tax liabilities.
- Your authorized representative(s).

If you owe taxes, we may disclose your balance due as part of our collection process to: employers, financial institutions, county recorders, process agents, or other asset holders.

### Responsibility for the Records

The director of the Processing Services Bureau maintains FTB's records. You may review your records and bring any inaccuracies to our attention. You can obtain information about your records by:

#### Phone

800.852.5711 (within the United States)  
916.845.6500 (outside of the United States)

#### Mail

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

To learn more about our Privacy Policy Statement, go to [ftb.ca.gov/privacy](http://ftb.ca.gov/privacy).



## 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 federal Form W-2, what do I do?
- 215 Who qualifies me to use the head of household filing status?
- 506 How do I get information about my Form 1099-G?
- 619 How do I report a change of address?

### Code California Tax Forms and Publications:

- 900 California Resident Income Tax Booklet (includes Form 540)
- 965 California Resident Income Tax Booklet (includes Form 540 2EZ)
- 903 Schedule CA (540), California Adjustments – Residents
- 907 Form 540-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals
- 908 Schedule X, California Explanation of Amended Return Changes
- 914 California Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Booklet (includes Form 540NR)
- 948 FTB 1131 EN-SP, Franchise Tax Board Privacy Notice on Collection - Aviso de Privacidad del Franchise Tax Board sobre la Recaudación
- 932 FTB 3506, Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit
- 938 FTB 3514, California Earned Income Tax Credit Booklet (includes form FTB 3514)
- 921 FTB 3519, Payment for Automatic Extension for Individuals
- 922 FTB 3525, Substitute for Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, or Form 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.
- 939 FTB 3532, Head of Household Filing Status Schedule
- 949 FTB 3567, Installment Agreement Request
- 943 FTB 4058, California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights - Information for Taxpayers
- 946 FTB Pub. 1008, Federal Tax Adjustments and Your Notification Responsibilities to California
- 934 FTB Pub. 1540, Tax Information for Head of Household Filing Status

### General Phone Service

Telephone assistance is available year-round from 8 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

California  
Relay  
Service:

711 or 800.735.2929 for persons with hearing or speaking limitations

### Asistencia En Español

Asistencia telefónica está disponible durante todo el año desde las 8 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

Servicio de  
Retransmisión

de California: 711 o 800.735.2929 para personas con limitaciones auditivas o del habla

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