

WRITE ON!

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**HUNTINGTON HARBOUR
REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FEDERATED**

Cordially invite you to

A TASTE OF ITALY

Fundraiser

**Sunday, April 29th at 1:00 pm
Old World - Festival Hall
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Imagine an afternoon of dancing to the fabulous voices of Enzo Selvaggi and Carlo Sevaggi as you experience the music of romantic Italy. As you listen to classic selections from the songbooks of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, laugh with new friends and enjoy a delicious Italian meal prepared especially for you by Chef Donato from Renato's Restaurant. Experience Italian culture, here in the heart of Huntington Beach...because you deserve it.

In addition, you will have a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes while supporting our youth and educational programs!

Questions?

Contact Gina Selvaggi at (714) 897-6208

DONATION: \$40.00 per person, no-host bar

For tickets, enclose \$40.00 per person and include names of the attendees.

Make checks payable to HHRWF and mail to:

Gina Selvaggi
12202 Tunstall Street
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The First Signs of Spring Signal...Tax Season

By Michelle Steel, California Board of Equalization Member

"April is the cruellest month," wrote the great American poet, T.S. Eliot. "Breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain." Ask any small business owner about the month of April, and they are likely to share T.S. Eliot's observations on April, albeit for different reasons.

With the triple threat of property taxes, income taxes and quarterly sales tax payments all due in the same month, there are plenty of reasons to dread April's arrival. But, by using these simple tax tips, taxpayers won't necessarily feel April's cruelty.

Itemize, Itemize, Itemize

According to the IRS, most homeowners and small business owners are far better off itemizing their deductions instead of simply taking the standard deduction. Although it can take some extra time preparing your tax return and requires better recordkeeping, it can pay off big time.

Most taxpayers know that mortgage interest and charitable donations are tax deductible, but they might forget about other tax deductible expenses like tax-preparation fees, job-hunting expenses, business car expenses, and professional dues.

For your federal income tax returns, taxpayers who itemize also have the ability to deduct either state income or sales taxes. Because Congress was slow in adding the state sales tax deduction, you won't find a section on your IRS documents, but taxpayers still have that option. The sales tax option can be especially valuable for retirees or anyone who may have made large purchases this year without major taxable income.

Capitalize on the Telephone Tax Credit

This year, taxpayers also have the unique opportunity to claim the Telephone Tax Credit Refund on federal income tax returns. If you used long distance telephone service on a normal landline telephone or even a cell phone over the past three years, you might be eligible for the tax credit.

For most taxpayers, the telephone tax refund will be anywhere from \$30 to \$60. If you're not sure whether you paid the tax, check the portion of your telephone bill that relates to long-distance or bundled service. Look for the phrase Federal Excise Tax or FET 3%.

Of the taxpayers marking the telephone tax credit, close to 99% are requesting the IRS's standard \$30 tax credit. Taxpayers choosing to itemize beyond the \$30 standard credit should be cautious. As an elected taxpayer representative, I know that this type of tax statistic makes for an easy red flag for IRS auditors.

Already, the IRS has raised red flags on the telephone tax credit because scam artists are misleading taxpayers. Many tax charlatans are promising a major tax credit of hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Anyone claiming to save you thousands of dollars from this telephone tax credit is most likely a scam artist. If you take more than the standard telephone tax credit, make sure you have complete and accurate records to support your claims.

Get help

Finally, just as the Beatles sang, sometimes "you know you need someone to, Help!" Several non-profit organizations and the IRS offer volunteer tax assistance programs for low income taxpayers and seniors. There are more than 12,000 neighborhood tax assistance sites nationwide filled with trained volunteer tax professionals. You can contact the IRS for more information. Just call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Small business owners can also seek the Board of Equalization's assistance through the Educational Consultation Program. Under the program, taxpayers receive free, one-on-one assistance with an experienced tax auditor who reviews their business operations, record-keeping and tax preparation system. For more information or to participate in this program, please contact my office at (310) 377-8016.

T.S. Eliot may have accurately described April's cruel aura. Hopefully, with these tax tips, you and your family can avoid the tax season blues.

Michelle Steel is California's highest ranking Republican woman as an elected member of the California State Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization collects over \$53 billion in state taxes and fees and adjudicates all tax disputes.



"Taxation without representation is tyranny." – James Otis

"Taxation WITH representation ain't so hot either." – Gerald Barzan

"What we should have fought for was representation without taxation." –Sam Levenson

From the FlashReport...

Should the Republican Party Stay Republican?

By Shawn Steel, Former Chairman of the California Republican Party

"I'm concerned about not building into the general election a whole block of voters, that by that rule, we've isolated."

—Tim Morgan, National Committeeman in the San Jose Mercury News, March 14, 2007



Currently our rules provide that only the votes of registered Republicans will be used to determine the outcome of the Republican Presidential Primary in California. A change to this rule may be debated and voted on this September 9th at the CRP Fall Convention in Palm Desert. The Party may be asked to permit some 3,000,000 Decline-To-State [DTS]

voters to be able to vote in the Republican primary to select the GOP nominee for President.

While it's true we permit DTS to vote in our legislative primaries presently, changing our current rule would erode the very function of our national Republican identity. Essentially, we would be following Arnold's mistaken and hilarious vision of "post-partisan politics" by moving away from ideas and policies that help create political parties in the first place.

The California Republican Party was officially created in early 1856, with Cornelius Cole serving as the first Chairman. Most voters were not then aligned to political parties, with the choices between the democrats, know-nothings and whigs. Cole and six associates planned the formation of the California Republican Party because they opposed the pro-slavery extension of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act. In fact, the Democrat Party had elected two pro-slavery Governors. Something had to be done.

The CRP's formation key point was, "The principles we advocate are the complete withdrawal of all support to slavery..." That was a minority view and remarkable and controversial position at the time. Because the CRP was not trying attract just "a whole block of voters" our State Republican Party began with a fundamental no-compromise value toward human liberty.

Why 152 years later should our fundamental principles toward human liberty, free markets, value for life be compromised by allowing those who do not identify with our party? And if the DTS is interested, nothing prevents any from joining our Party. While we have kept our market share for the last 10 years, the Democrats have lost more than 20% of their registrations.

National Committeewoman Barbara Alby is quite correct [referencing an article also penned for the Flash Report which can be

found at <http://www.flashreport.org>] – there is no point in having a Republican Party if it does not stand for anything.

There are three compelling reasons to oppose changing our existing system...

Republicans will inevitably lose a controlling interest.

Adding 3,000,000 potential voters to the 5,500,000 registered Republicans will not just impact but could control the outcome of any Presidential contest. Our delegates are allotted by 53 Congressional Districts [CD]. Some 21 districts are poised for DTS interference. That is some 63 delegates, or 40% of California's delegates [not counting party and bonus delegates].

DTS votes outnumber GOP voters in 8 CD or 24 delegates. DTS registration is within 5% of GOP registration in 9 CD's or 27 delegates. DTS reg is within 8% of GOP registration in 4 CD's or 12 delegates.

A good example is radical Rep. Barbara Lee's 9th CD, in Oakland. Fewer than 10% of voters are Republican. More than 21% are DTS. Non-Republicans clearly would determine the outcome. Influence is one thing, a controlling interest is another.

The Presidential Primary election decides delegates, not the nominee.

Delegates also vote on the Party Platform. A delegate's vote isn't only for a candidate. Imagine if our party in 1856 was permitting non Republicans to help choose our platform. Before the CRP began, California (under the Democrats) was a pro-slavery state. The emergence of the CRP helped elect Lincoln and make California into a "free" state.

The CRP will become a Third Party

Parties don't last forever in America. By permitting DTS voters to vote in our Presidential Primary it removes incentive to join. We've seen in the past major efforts to get DTS to join either party. By removing the purpose of joining a political party, we remove the underlying reason for having them in the first place.

Our 200-year political history shows that our democracy works best with parties that have specific messages from which voters can choose. Democracy is not based on personalities, but the ideas articulated by the personalities. Our republican form of government depends on healthy political competition from a two-party system. Undermining the value of joining the CRP is destructive, and it devalues the ideas and principles which separate political parties.

Our republican form of government needs Republicans to decide who the republican nominee ought to be.

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