

What's New and Other Important Information for 2013

Differences between California and Federal Law

In general, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, California law conforms to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) as of January 1, 2009. However, there are continuing differences between California and federal law. When California conforms to federal tax law changes, we do not always adopt all of the changes made at the federal level. For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **conformity**. Additional information can be found in FTB Pub. 1001, Supplemental Guidelines to California Adjustments, the instructions for California Schedule CA (540 or 540NR), and the Business Entity tax booklets.

The instructions provided with California tax forms are a summary of California tax law and are only intended to aid taxpayers in preparing their state income tax returns. We include information that is most useful to the greatest number of taxpayers in the limited space available. It is not possible to include all requirements of the California Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) in the tax booklets. Taxpayers should not consider the tax booklets as authoritative law.

Conformity – For updates regarding federal acts, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **conformity**.

2013 Tax Law Changes/What's New

Medical and Dental Expense Deduction – Federal has changed the allowable medical and dental expense deduction amount. For federal purposes, a deduction is allowed for unreimbursed allowable medical and dental expenses that exceeds 10% of federal adjusted gross income (AGI). California allows a deduction for medical and dental expenses that exceed 7.5% of federal AGI. For more information, get Schedule CA (540).

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Tax Rate Decrease – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, the rate of additional tax was reduced from 20% to 5% of any amount deferred under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that is includible in income.

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

- Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund
- Keep Arts in Schools Fund
- American Red Cross, California Chapters Fund

Minimum Wage – On and after July 1, 2014, the minimum wage for all industries shall not be less than nine dollars (\$9) per hour.

Net Operating Loss (NOL) Carryback – NOLs incurred in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, shall be carried back to each of the preceding two taxable years.

The allowable NOL carryback percentage varies. For an NOL incurred in a taxable year beginning on or after:

- January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2014, the carryback amount shall not exceed 50% of the NOL.
- January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, the carryback amount shall not exceed 75% of the NOL.
- January 1, 2015, the carryback amount shall be 100% of the NOL.

Individuals, Estates, and Trusts compute the NOL carryback in Part IV of form FTB 3805V, Net Operating Loss (NOL) Computation and NOL and Disaster Loss Limitations — Individuals, Estates, and Trusts. For more information, get form FTB 3805V.

Election to Waive Carryback – Any taxpayer entitled to a carryback period pursuant to Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 172(b)(3) may elect to relinquish/waive the entire carryback period with respect to an NOL incurred in the 2013 taxable year. By making the election, the taxpayer is electing to carry an NOL forward instead of carrying it back in the previous two years.

To make the election, check the box in Part I under Section C – Election to Waive Carryback, of form FTB 3805V, and attach form FTB 3805V to the tax return. For more information, get form FTB 3805V.

Other Important Information

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 that 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 and search for **mandatory e-pay**. Electronic payments can be made using Web Pay on FTB's website, electronic funds withdrawal (EFW) as part of the e-file return, or your credit card.

Estimated Tax Payments – Taxpayers are required to pay 30% of the required annual payment for the 1st required installment, 40% of the required annual payment for the 2nd required installment, no installment is due for the 3rd required installment, and 30% of the required annual payment for the 4th required installment.

Taxpayers with a tax liability less than \$500 (\$250 for married/RDP filing separately) do not need to make estimated tax payments.

Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief – California law does not conform to federal law regarding the discharge of indebtedness from the disposition of your principal residence occurring on or after January 1, 2013. For more information, get Schedule CA (540).

Backup Withholding – With certain limited exceptions, payers that are required to withhold and remit backup withholding to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are also required to withhold and remit to the FTB on income sourced to California. If the payee has backup withholding, the payee must contact the FTB to provide a valid taxpayer identification number, before filing the tax return. Failure to provide a valid taxpayer identification number may result in a denial of the backup withholding credit. For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **backup withholding**.

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 a California 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.

Direct Deposit Refund – You can request a direct deposit refund on your tax return whether you e-file or file a paper tax return. Be sure to fill in the routing and account numbers carefully and double-check the numbers for accuracy to avoid it being rejected by your bank.

ReadyReturn – If your filing status is single or head of household and your income is only from wages, you may qualify for ReadyReturn. It simplifies the filing process by pre-filing a tax return with information the state already has. For more information and to see if you qualify, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **readyreturn** or call 800.338.0505.

Tax Shelter – If the individual was involved in a reportable transaction, including a listed transaction, the individual may have a disclosure requirement. Attach federal Form 8886, Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement, to the back of the California tax return along with any other supporting schedules. If this is the first time the reportable transaction is disclosed on the tax return, send a duplicate copy of the federal Form 8886 to the address below. The FTB may impose penalties if the individual fails to file federal Form 8886, or fails to provide any other required information. A material advisor is required to provide a reportable transaction number to all taxpayers and material advisors for whom the material advisor acts as a material advisor.

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For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **tax shelters**.