The pandemic has turned all of our lives upside down.  Just this week, the governor announced that over 1.6 million Californians have filed for unemployment because of the pandemic.  Many more will file in the weeks to come.

If you or your loved ones are experiencing financial difficulty, our office is doing everything we can to get you the resources you need.

**Tax Extensions**

Action has already been taken to delay the date for filing and payment of income taxes to the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board.  The traditional Tax Day deadline of April 15 has been extended to July 15.  Individual taxpayers seeking information about their own filing requirements can call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 and businesses can call 1-800-829-4933.  For the California Franchise Tax Board, taxpayers can call 1-800-852-5711.

**Relief Payments**

Congress also approved payments of up to $1,200 for individuals and $2,400 for married couples, and $500 for each qualifying child.  These funds will be deposited directly in the bank accounts of everyone who filed federal income taxes for either 2018 or 2019 and has an income under $75,000 for individuals and up to $150,000 for married couples. For more information go to [IRS.gov](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=HaBMBy702tQbVCt0gEnyR92tgBjoztA3086cM_Yrhx0&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=1) and click on "Get Coronavirus Tax Relief".

**Small Businesses**

Congress just passed a $349 billion paycheck protection program which INCLUDES loans to small businesses to help them keep their workers on payroll.  This is one way to help businesses so that they do not have to lay off their employees.  Every eligible small business should consider taking advantage of this program. Go to the website [treasury.gov/cares](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=TaC6aHIuAdMuEohm-zop7awsOdSQ3WDHdYOMj8TYIVA&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=2) and click on “Assistance for Small Business.”

**Businesses Requesting Sales and Use Tax Extensions**

Businesses that file Sales and Use Taxes, and are affected by the Coronavirus, can find information about filing and payment extensions, payment plans, and requests for relief of interest or penalties by going to the California Department of Tax and Fee's website: [CDTFA.ca.gov](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=X95eW_Z5vNP1wgJs_kkmjaIy5bXdkieBX4IgOhnp99s&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=3). Go to the "Alert!" banner at the top of the page to learn more. Or, taxpayers can call: 1-800-400-7115.

**Earned Income Tax Credit**

Please remember to file for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Young Child Tax Credit if you or your family are eligible.  Here’s how to file.  If you have taxable earned income under $30,000, you can file and receive up to $240 if you have no children.  If you have one child, the credit could be as high as $1,605.  If you have three or more children, the credit rises to $2,982.  In California, a taxpayer files Franchise Tax Board Form 3514 California Earned Income Tax Credit along with your state income tax return.  To get a copy of Form 3514, go to the Franchise Tax Board website, [ftb.ca.gov](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=9R98WgjUv1NXdlRbJItP2dbZ_QOGoYNkrZvVdAOlclA&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=4).  Click on “Forms” in the top right of the website. Then, under “Get forms, instructions, and publications” click “Online.”  On the next page, where it says “Form Number and/or Keywords” type in 3514.  That will take you to the form for filing the California Earned Income Tax Credit.

Also, you may qualify for the federal IRS Earned Income Tax Credit. To qualify, you must file an income tax return with the IRS (Form 1040), and also be within income guidelines.   If you have children, you attached “Schedule EIC” to your Form 1040.  To get more information, go the IRS website, [irs.gov](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=CVNOx09MJDSYaF_E7nEzmJKu4Hj9Fu6VG4Row3JJbQw&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=5), click on “Credits and Deductions” at the top of the page. Then click on “Earned Income Credit (EITC).”

**Is assistance available to people who haven’t filed tax returns in the past?**

The IRS has published information about receiving economic impact payments for persons who have not filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019. Go to the IRS website [irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=HaBMBy702tQbVCt0gEnyRyf89ko3rvt1NZa5i5QbPzVC3i2Ky8Zy4hqT8qyFZ3rpf7zGxaL9IAfEejdrX-SzsexFANwJyPejiYKfhgGbsSM&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=6), click on "Economic Impact Payments -- What you need to know about payments." Then go to "Non-filers: Enter your payment info here".

And as always, my office is eager to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please call and leave me a message at 1-415-557-3000 or email me at MaliaCohen@boe.ca.gov and we will get back to you as soon as we can.  My website at [www.boe.ca.gov/Cohen](https://www.electmalia.com/r?u=nI_w_Cqe5fH4Jmxdr0YZcCAXW7vpYGDq6SvZDewVt0o&e=09968e12c6ed8f6d75dee19d16d2f543&utm_source=maliacohenforboe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus_update_3&n=7) has many helpful resources or you can follow me on Facebook or sign up for my newsletter to receive updates.

Please remember, this information may not address every situation; and, policies and programs providing economic relief to persons impacted by the Coronavirus are evolving. If you have any questions, please reach out to me so that I may be of assistance.