



Issue 1

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Dear Monika,

The Labhart Miles team is excited to share with you our redesigned States of Affair E-Newsletter that will be coming out monthly. Our goal is to provide you with the latest happenings here at Labhart Miles as well as in the tax world.

This month learn how we advocated for the EZ program in a recent trip to the State Capitol, as part of the National Association of Women Business Owners. And find out which California counties are being hit with a sales tax increase.

Labhart Miles is also sponsoring the Pacific Coast Bankers' Bank Executive Management Conference. Continue reading

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to find out why this is a great venue to share ideas.

If you want to know more about any of the items in this month's e-newsletter or what we do at Labhart Miles, please contact us at 408.266.2259 or email us.

All the best,  
Monika Miles & Bill Labhart  
Labhart Miles Consulting Group, Inc.

**Hot News****Labhart Miles Goes To Sacramento!**

As business owners, executives at companies, and anyone unhappy about "the government," we should all consider getting involved in public policy matters. By our vote (or non-vote), we have placed legislators into office to represent us in our cities, counties, states and the federal government. By doing so, we are asking them to make informed decisions on our behalf and in our best interests. Of course, constituencies are so diverse that no elected representative can make policy decisions that will satisfy everyone in his or her jurisdiction. It is our responsibility as constituents, however, to voice our concerns to our elected officials so that they have a clear understanding of how we want important issues addressed. Enter public policy debate.



Labhart Miles had the opportunity to voice our opinion at the State Capitol in late March. As part of the National Association of Women Business Owners - California (NAWBO - CA), a group of business owners, made appointments with and visited Assemblymember (and Speaker Pro Tempore) Nora Campos and Cris Forsyth, Senator Jim Beall's Chief of Staff - both representing areas of the Silicon Valley. As expected, each business owner had specific areas of concern to our businesses, our clients, or even personally. California's high tax rate, level of fees, and perceived unfriendly business environment were a common theme across the board. On behalf of Labhart Miles and our clients, Monika Miles advocated for the enterprise zone program. She asked both representatives to consider the many benefits of the program and the fact that it is effectively California's only tax incentive geared towards job growth and

retention. Additionally, she shared with them that our firm belongs to organizations that advocated for reasonable changes in order to enhance the EZ program, but that the Governor's current proposed regulations would significantly hamper the EZ Hiring Credit program to the point where it would greatly diminish its effectiveness.

One example of the proposed changes includes severely limiting the ability to retroactively voucher employees. Under current law, a company can go back several years to obtain a voucher and can file amended tax returns to claim benefits. Under the proposed regulations, an employee would have to be vouchered within 12 months of the date of hire. Further, the proposed regulations would make changes to boundaries of the targeted employment areas ("TEAs") currently used as a vouchering category in most enterprise zones. The regulations spell out a complicated annual review process that would reduce the qualified TEA addresses in many zones, thus reducing the number of people qualifying under the category.

Looking back on the conversation with the legislators, there was no confirmation of specific support from either legislator. However, Monika was able to effectively advocate for the issue - not just because many of our clients are eligible for the EZ benefits, but because the program DOES promote jobs in California, and because it gives us at least one good example of leaning toward a more "business friendly" climate in our state. To hamper this program with the current proposed regulations, or worse, to eliminate it completely (as was done with funding to local redevelopment agencies two years ago) would be a VERY bad decision for California. And we want to make sure that we remain a vocal base of support for our clients, as legislators need to hear from their constituents.

Stay tuned to Labhart Miles for other upcoming briefs and please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) with questions!

Photo Credit: [Loco Steve](#)

## Sales Tax Rates Increase

Leave it to California to raise tax rates on April Fool's Day - no joke! Voters in 19 California cities and 3 counties voted in November to increase local sales taxes that took effect April 1, 2013. Among those increasing rates were Santa Clara County (from 8.625% to 8.75%) and Sacramento (from 8% to 8.5%).

The largest increase was Southern California's La Mirada, with a 1% increase (from 9% to 10%). For the latest rates, check the State Board of Equalization [website](#) for your specific jurisdiction.



Photo Credit: [Grey Wolf1](#)

## What's Up at Labhart Miles?

### Labhart Miles Sponsors Bank Conference

Labhart Miles will be sponsoring and attending the Pacific Coast Bankers' Bank Executive Management Conference, April 7 - 10, 2013 in San Francisco. The conference, attended by community bank executives from across California and the United States is a great venue to meet and share ideas with leaders in community banking. Labhart Miles is proud to be affiliated with the conference for over 7 years. For more information visit, [Pacific Cost Bankers' Bank](#).

### Labhart Miles Officially Celebrated its 11th Anniversary!

In March, Labhart Miles officially celebrated our 11th anniversary. During 2012 we were proud to celebrate our 10th year in business by supporting 10 local charities with donations. We made our 10th donation in March 2013 to Good Karma Bikes in San Jose to round out our "year of giving back." Thank you to all



of our clients, friends and families for your support over the years. Stay tuned for the next 10! For more information about the charities we donated to please visit, [Labhart Miles Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary page](#).

### About Labhart Miles

*Labhart Miles Consulting Group is a professional services firm specializing in multi-state tax solutions. We address state and local tax issues for our clients, including general state tax consulting, nexus reviews, credits and incentives maximization, income tax and sales/use tax planning, and other special projects. We also specialize in California Enterprise Zone projects, including the EZ Hiring and Sales/Use Tax Credits, and the EZ Net Interest Deduction for Lenders. For more information visit, [www.LabhartMiles.com](http://www.LabhartMiles.com).*

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