

Late Renewals Due January 15

CTEC Registered Tax Preparers (CRTPs) who missed the October 31, 2025 renewal deadline have until **midnight, Thursday, January 15, 2026** to complete a late renewal. In addition to completing all renewal registration requirements, CRTPs submitting after the deadline must also pay a \$55 late fee, a \$33 registration fee, and a \$2 processing fee.

[RENEW LATE HERE](#)

Important Change: Multi-Factor Authentication Now In Effect

To better protect your account from phishing attacks, CTEC has added multi-factor authentication to the system. You'll be able to choose from several authentication methods to generate or receive security codes. Setting up at least one authentication method will be required, but we strongly recommend CRTPs add a second method as a backup. This extra layer of security ensures you can still access your account if you ever lose access to your primary method, such as your phone.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are having issues receiving your authentication code, please check the **spam or junk folder** of the email address associated with your account.

If you are still unable to access your account, you may submit your renewal application **by mail**. The renewal application form is [AVAILABLE HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#). Please include all required documents listed on the form, along with your **late** payment to CTEC, and ensure it is postmarked by **January 15, 2026**.

Missed the Late Renewal Deadline? What to Know...

If you miss the **January 15th** deadline, you'll be required to start over as a new preparer. This process includes:

- Passing a criminal background check and submitting fingerprint images
- Retaking an approved 60-hour qualifying education course
- Obtaining a \$5,000 surety bond
- Providing proof of a PTIN from the IRS
- Completing the new preparer application
- Paying CTEC's application and registration fees

PLEASE NOTE: This process can take several weeks to complete. New applicants **may not prepare state or federal tax returns for clients** until their CTEC registration has been fully processed and approved.

RENEW LATE HERE



Maximizing Awareness: CTEC's Approach to Reaching Communities Statewide

As CTEC looks ahead to 2026, the priority is to connect with Californians wherever they are—online, on mobile, and throughout their communities. Building on last year's momentum, CTEC is expanding its multi-channel strategy to boost public awareness and trust.

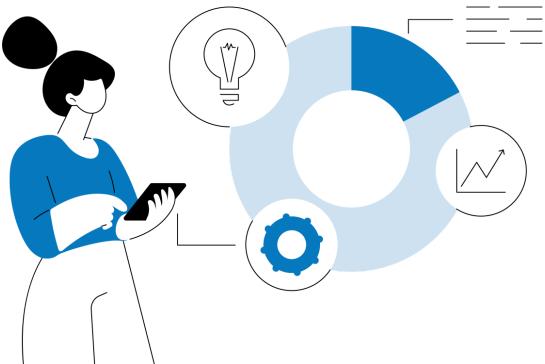
This year, CTEC will roll out its first billboard and bus sign campaign in Los Angeles since 2020, featuring messaging tailored to the city's diverse neighborhoods. Los Angeles remains a top priority due to ongoing concerns

about questionable tax preparers, as identified by the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB).

Streaming video will continue to play a major role, with high-performing Connected TV (CTV) and Over-The-Top (OTT) campaigns—which deliver content directly via the internet to viewers' devices—reaching households across California. Digital efforts, including Google Ads, mobile targeting, and YouTube, will expand to connect with English- and Spanish-speaking audiences using advanced targeting and optimization.

CTEC will also deepen its audio outreach with a new podcast series featuring guests from organizations such as the Better Business Bureau and FTB.

By combining outdoor, digital, video, audio, and mobile tactics, CTEC's 2026 strategy is designed for maximum impact—delivering measurable results and meaningful value for communities statewide.



Coming Soon

White Papers and Biennial Impact Report

For the first time, CTEC will be publishing white papers and a biennial impact report, scheduled for release later in 2026. These new publications will provide valuable insights, highlight key findings, and showcase the impact of our ongoing initiatives. More details will be shared soon as we prepare to release these important resources.

Want to Serve on the CTEC Board?

Would you like to be part of CTEC's efforts to support tax preparers and protect the public? We're always looking for dedicated CRTPs to serve on the Council as positions become available. To learn more and submit your application, please watch our video.

Did you know as a **CTEC Registered Tax Preparer (CRTP)** you have the opportunity to serve on the **Board of Directors?**



[Apply Here](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings

Sacramento, CA

May 19 - 21, 2026

*The Curriculum Provider Task Force Meeting will be held virtually May 19, 2026

Orange County, CA

November 4 - 5, 2026

[CTEC Board](#)

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