John Chiang California State Treasurer

The son of immigrant parents from Taiwan, John Chiang graduated with honors from the University of South Florida with a degree in finance. He then received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law School.

Mr. Chiang was first elected to the Board of Equalization in 1998 where he served two terms, including three years as chair. He began his career as a tax law specialist with the Internal Revenue Service and previously served as an attorney in the State Controller's Office.

Mr. Chiang was elected the California State Controller in 2007 and served from 2007 to 2014. During this time, he took steps during the recession to preserve cash in order to meet obligations to education and bond holders. His cash management decisions, which included delaying payments and issuing IOU's, were cited as instrumental in keeping the State's credit rating from plunging into junk status and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. To ensure fiscal solvency of the States' pension plans and corporate governance reform; he proposed a plan to address the unfunded liability of providing health and dental benefits for state retirees and successfully sponsored legislation requiring all state pension systems to adopt disclosure policies regarding board members and placement agents. Lastly, Mr. Chiang ensured that $3.1 billion in unclaimed property was returned to the rightful owners and led an effort to reform the State's "Unclaimed Property Program", which currently holds about $7.1 billion in bank accounts, utility deposits, and other property that businesses have deemed abandoned by their owners.

Mr. Chiang was elected as California's 33rd State Treasurer on Nov. 4, 2014. He oversees trillions of dollars in transactions every year. One of his top priorities is to conduct the state's business in the most transparent manner possible. Mr. Chiang believes that sharing information with taxpayers enables them to hold government officials accountable. In November 2015, he unveiled DebtWatch, a website that provides the public with easy access to three decades worth of data related to debt issued by State and local governments.