California Tax Courses Reminds Tax Preparers the Late Window Closes January 15, 2027

November 27, 2026

LOS ANGELES, CA - November 27, 2026 -
California Tax Courses, a CTEC and IRS approved tax education provider, is reminding California tax preparers who missed this year?s renewal deadline that they still have time to keep their registration, but not much. The California Tax Education Council?s 2026 renewal deadline fell on Monday, November 2, because October 31 landed on a Saturday. Preparers who did not finish their continuing education and renew by that date can still renew late through January 15, 2027, with a $55 late fee.

Anyone who prepares tax returns for a fee in California, and is not a CPA, enrolled agent, attorney or other exempt professional, must be registered with CTEC, and that registration has to be renewed every year. The steps are laid out in California Tax Courses? guide to renewing CTEC registration. Preparers must complete 20 hours of continuing education from a CTEC approved provider, made up of 15 hours of federal tax law and 5 hours of California tax law. They must renew their Preparer Tax Identification Number with the IRS, which is free, and maintain a $5,000 tax preparer bond, which the company notes typically costs between $25 and $40. Only then can they renew with CTEC and pay the $33 annual registration fee. ?You cannot renew your registration until the first three steps have been completed,? the guide says.

The late window is the last chance in the cycle. The company states the consequence plainly: ?If you fail to renew by January 15th, your CTEC Registration will be revoked.? For a preparer who plans to work the 2027 filing season, that date arrives just as clients begin calling about their returns.

Most preparers who miss the October deadline are not short on fees; they are short on hours. The CTEC 20 hour continuing education course from California Tax Courses is built for preparers in exactly that position. It is an online, self-paced video course with a downloadable PDF, accessible around the clock from a computer, tablet or smartphone, and it counts for both CTEC continuing education and IRS Annual Filing Season Program credit. Enrollment is instant, exams are graded immediately, and students can retake exams as many times as needed. ?Don?t worry if you don?t pass your exam first try, you can re-take it as many times as needed,? the company says. The online course is $69.95, and a package with a printed book is $149.95.

Finishing the course is only half of the job, because CTEC has to receive the hours before a preparer can renew. California Tax Courses reports completed hours to CTEC and the IRS, typically within 24 hours and no later than three days, and students can ask its support team to speed that up by email, phone or live chat. The company also makes a point of staying open on the two nights that matter most. ?We also stay up late on October 31st and the January late deadline, till midnight to make sure everyone who completes their course last minute has their hours reported before the Midnight deadline,? it says on its frequently asked questions page, followed by a reminder that catches some preparers every year: ?Be sure to pay your fees owed to CTEC in order to complete your registration!?

For preparers working through the late window, the order of operations is simple. Finish the 20 hour course, confirm that the hours have been reported to CTEC, check that the PTIN is renewed and the $5,000 bond is current, and then renew at CTEC.org and pay the registration and late fees before January 15. Leaving the course for the final week leaves little room for a reporting delay or a missing bond.

The company also serves people entering the profession. Its 60 hour qualifying education course, the first requirement for becoming a CTEC registered tax preparer, is self-paced and has no completion deadline, though course access for CTEC credit is valid for one year from purchase because courses are updated each year with new tax law. California Tax Courses? CTEC provider number is 6280 and its IRS provider number is HPKCW, and preparers can confirm both on the CTEC and IRS provider listings.

About California Tax Courses

California Tax Courses is a CTEC and IRS approved tax education provider based in Los Angeles. It offers

online CTEC 60 hour qualifying education, CTEC 20 hour continuing education, a 15 hour in lieu of experience course and a 5 hour California tax law course, all delivered as self-paced video courses with downloadable PDFs and optional printed books. The company is a member of the Business Consumer Alliance and Trustpilot.

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For more information about California Tax Courses, contact the company here:California Tax CoursesMichael Heisenberg(888) 229-1994help@cataxcourses.com4859 W Slauson AveLos Angeles, CA 90056

California Tax Courses

California Tax Courses (Cataxcourses.com) is providing online tax education for California preparers, such as a 20-hour CTEC Tax Preparer License renewal program.

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