



Montana Tax News You Can Use

Greetings from Revenue Director Mike Kadas

On January 7, I began serving the people of Montana as Director of the Department of Revenue. I'm honored and humbled to work in this capacity for the great state of Montana.

As you know, the legislative session is in full swing and will be consuming much of my time for the next couple of months as we work to assure continued sound tax policy in Montana. While I'd like to meet all of you, it may have to wait until the session winds down in April.

Just as I made a point of engaging with the public during my 10 years as Mayor of Missoula, and then later as a business leader, I look forward to working with you in the future and developing good professional relations. I will rely on and value your expertise as tax preparers and welcome your suggestions, comments and engagement.

Thank you.



Reminder from the Call Center: Contact us for unclaimed property

Do you have an un-cashed check, a stock, a safe-deposit box or some other piece of property you might have forgotten about or lost? The Department of Revenue is here to help. We're the agency that handles the state's unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property includes such items as:

- un-cashed checks (including payroll checks)
- state refunds
- utility deposits
- interest or dividend income
- savings and checking accounts
- safe deposit box contents
- credit balances
- customer overpayments
- gift certificates
- unidentified remittances
- stocks and bonds

If you think the state might be holding your unclaimed property, you can search for your property at missingmoney.com, a user-friendly website that lists unclaimed property in Montana (in addition to 36 other states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Alberta, Canada).

If you would like us to do a search for you, phone the Call Center toll-free at 1-866-859-2254 (in Helena at 444-6900) or email our specialists at unclaimedproperty@mt.gov. If you do find that the state is holding your unclaimed property, the department will send you a claim form and checklist of documents needed to process the claim.

If you claim and receive a stock liquidation, you will receive a 1099-MISC form. If you claim and receive dividends from stock, you will receive a 1099-DIV form.

Legislative update

During every legislative session in Montana, legislators sponsor bills that would have an impact on Montana's tax system. This regular section of Tax News You Can Use keeps you up-to-date on some of those bills currently making their way through the 2013 legislative session.

SB108 would extend for six years the tax credit, which sunsets this year, on planned gifts to a permanent endowment fund of a nonprofit organization (such as a university alumni foundation). It allows individuals, estates, C corporations, S corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies to qualify for a tax credit, of up to \$10,000, on 40 percent of the current value of their planned gift.

For more information on SB108, click [here](#).

HB19 would make Montana's interest charges and penalties on late tax payments and on most late filings the same as the IRS's. The interest rate the IRS currently charges on late payments is based on the interest rate of short-term U.S. government bonds, plus three percentage points. Montana currently charges the IRS interest rate or eight percent, whichever is higher. HB19 would eliminate the eight-percent interest rate floor and have Montana charge the same interest rate as the IRS does.

For more information on HB19, click [here](#).

To track the progress of any 2013 bill, click [here](#).

Items on TAP

Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) - our online service that allows you to electronically submit returns, manage accounts and make payments - is now up and running for the 2012 tax season.

There are several good reasons why tax preparers in Montana are using TAP. One of those reasons is that preparers have access to all sorts of taxpayer data right at their finger tips. Have a look at this [flyer](#) to see all of the advantages that TAP users have.

Keep in mind that TAP also allows you to look up your client's individual returns from the previous two years, no matter how you or your client filed those returns.

The Montana Annual Withholding Tax Reconciliation form (MW3) is also now available on TAP.

Vendor update

Every year tax software vendors, such as Turbo Tax, seek approval to participate in the Montana federal/state electronic filing program. The software of each vendor is currently being tested to ensure that it's compatible with the Montana Department of Revenue's electronic filing system. You can find the latest approval status of each product [here](#).

Please note the new "INFO" button, which gives you a summary of approved vendors.


The department updates this page every Friday showing vendor approval status. For more information, email dore-services@mt.gov.

Target tax dates

- Forms 1099-G for income tax refunds have been mailed.
- Forms 1099-DIV for dividends paid on a claim for unclaimed property have been mailed.
- Forms 1099-MISC for stock proceeds paid on a claim for unclaimed property have been mailed.
- Fourth quarter lodging facility tax is due on January 31.
- Fourth quarter 911 emergency telephone service fee is due on January 31.
- Fourth quarter nursing facility utilization fee is due on January 31.
- The annual hospital facility utilization fee is due on January 31.
- Fourth quarter rental vehicle sales tax is due on January 31.
- Fourth quarter telecommunications relay service fee (TDD) is due on January 31.
- The deadline for returning a livestock reporting form is February 15.
- The deadline for reporting business equipment is February 15.
- The deadline for associations and organizations to apply for a property tax exemption is March 1.
- Fourth quarter retail telecommunications excise tax is due on March 1.
- The deadline for real property and mobile home owners to apply for the Property Tax Assistance Program is April 15.

Contact us

Visit us online at revenue.mt.gov or call us toll-free at (866) 859-2254 (in Helena, 444-6900).

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edited by [Ted Brewer](#)

Montana Tax News You Can Use is published weekly during tax season and is for anyone who helps people file taxes and meet their tax responsibility. It keeps you posted on what's happening at the department, lets you know about new ways of preparing and filing taxes and brings you up-to-date on some of the issues and trends popping up during tax season in Montana. To subscribe, please visit www.revenue.mt.gov and click on "sign me up."

We welcome your suggestions and ideas for articles, as well as your questions and comments. Please send them to DORWritingProject@mt.gov.