

March 7, 2013



Montana Tax News You Can Use

Form IND needs to be signed and on file

Enrolled tribal members can exempt their income from Montana income tax when their income is derived from reservation sources and they are living and working on the reservation of which they are an enrolled member. If you want to claim this exemption for your client and are filing by paper, please include a signed and completed [Form IND](#) with Montana Form 2.

If you are preparing an e-filed return for a tribal member, Form IND does not have to be submitted at the time you file, but you will need to have a signed, completed copy of it on hand in case we request a copy. This will avoid any unnecessary delay in processing the return or settling of appeals.

From the Call Center: The updated Individual Income Tax Payment Voucher

If you have clients who choose not to pay their individual income tax electronically, please provide them with the newly formatted Montana Individual Income Tax Payment Voucher. You can find this form on our [downloadable forms page](#) under the listing, IT Payment Voucher for 2012. We have updated this form to be compatible with our scanning equipment. It can be used for all types of payments, including current year, estimated, extension and amended.

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. Last week marked the half-way point of the legislative session. Here's where some of the bills covered in recent issues of Tax News You Can Use currently stand:

SB 15, allowing disclosure of information about a taxpayer's returns to the taxpayer's spouse if the spouse filed separately on the same form, passed both chambers of the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Bullock.

SB96, lowering the business tax equipment rate to 1.5 percent on the first \$10 million in equipment, passed the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

SB108, extending for six years the tax credit on planned gifts to a permanent endowment fund of a nonprofit organization, passed the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB19, making Montana's interest charges and penalties on late tax payments and on most late filings the same as the IRS's, passed the House and was transmitted to the Senate.

SB4, reducing the revaluation cycle of property from six to two years in 2015 and then again to one year, is still in the Senate. Transmittal was on February 28, but revenue bills have a later transmittal date of April 5.

HB332, eliminating property tax on business equipment for any business that has less than \$100,000 in business equipment, was tabled in committee.

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

New POA form for taxpayers

Did you know we have an updated Power of Attorney (POA) form that is now similar to the IRS form? You can access it [here](#).

As with the IRS, we no longer allow spouses to file a joint POA. Each spouse now has to complete his or her own form.

Vendor update

Every year tax software vendors seek approval to participate in the Montana federal/state electronic filing program. You can view the current list of 2012 approved tax software products [here](#). Software vendors periodically update their software to help tax preparers avoid known filing errors and problems. Please remember to configure your tax software to automatically accept these updates.

For more information, email dore-services@mt.gov.

Target tax dates

- The deadline for the annual filing of Form **CLT-4S** is March 15.
- The deadline for real property owners and mobile home owners to apply for the **Property Tax Assistance Program** is April 15.
- The first **estimated individual income tax payment** is due on April 15.
- The deadline for the annual filing of Forms **PR-1, FID-3, 2, 2M, 2EZ** and **2EC** is April 15.
- The deadline for the annual filing of Form **CLT-4** is May 15.

Tax facts

As of March 1...

- Number of individual tax returns we've received electronically: 159,679
- Number of business returns we've received electronically: 9,946
- Number of refunds we've issued: 145,661
- Average amount of refunds: \$386.05
- Average number of days it's taken us to issue a refund after receiving an electronic return: 4.34

Contact us

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

Follow us on 

Montana Department of Revenue | Tax News You Can Use

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.