

# Montana Tax News You Can Use

Montana Department of Revenue

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## In This Issue

Reminder About Extended Due Dates (Oct. 15)

DOR Employees to Offer Tax Updates & Training

Preview Drafts of 2015 Individual and Business Tax Forms

Form 2M: Discontinued for Tax Year 2015

2016 Individual Income Tax Filing Deadline: April 18

Tax Facts

An e-newsletter for tax preparers and those interested in the state's tax system.

## Reminder About Extended Due Dates (Oct. 15)

Fiduciary and individual income tax returns with a valid filing extension are due by Thursday, October 15. These filers will have a filing extension if their withholding and the estimated and extension payments made by April 15 totaled at least 90% of their 2014 tax liability or 100% of their 2013 liability.

Returns without an extension and those submitted after October 15 may be assessed a penalty for late filing of up to \$50.

The 2014 Extension Payment Worksheet can be used to help determine if a valid filing extension exists for a taxpayer. **Please note:** Interest and a late payment penalty may still apply to taxes not paid by April 15 even if the taxpayer has a valid extension to file. If you have a Power of Attorney on file with the Department of Revenue for your client, you can contact us to determine if your client has paid enough on time to be eligible for an extension.

## DOR Employees to Offer Tax Updates & Training

Department of Revenue employees will be giving presentations at various programs around the state and talking about changes in state tax laws and rules, changes to forms, and changes in federal taxes and what impact they might have on Montana.

They will also be talking about current and future filing requirements for pass-through entities.

DOR Income Tax Specialist Brian Olsen will be in Billings at the GearUp program sponsored by the Montana Society of Public Accountants held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. The seminars and workshops run from Monday, October 19 through Thursday, October 22 and Brian will present the Montana update Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information visit: <http://www.mspamt.org/events>.

Brian will present at the University of Montana School of Extended & Lifelong Learning's Tax Practitioner Institute on October 26 in Missoula and again on October 29 in Great Falls. For more information about the institute, visit <http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/tax/>.

## **Preview Drafts of 2015 Individual and Business Tax Forms**

Go to [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov), Forms tab, to preview the 2015 draft individual and business tax forms. Keep in mind that these are drafts only and are therefore subject to change.

These forms should not be used for software development. This page also has a link to the 2015 tax rates.

If you are interested in the list of approved tax software products, go to [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov), Online Services tab for Tax Software.

## **Form 2M: Discontinued for Tax Year 2015**

We are discontinuing Form 2M for Montana individual income tax returns beginning with the 2015 tax year. Form 2 and Form 2EZ will still be available. Taxpayers who file electronically should not see a significant difference because the software will guide them through the process.

The number of taxpayers filing Form 2M has steadily declined over the last few years. Discontinuing Form 2M makes it easier for taxpayers to decide which form to use to file their taxes. It's also more efficient and effective for us in terms of processing and developing the tax returns.

For taxpayers that requested Form 2M be sent to them for tax year 2015, our plan is to send a postcard notifying them of the change, as well as a Form 2 booklet.

## **2016 Individual Income Tax Filing Deadline: April 18**

The filing deadline will be extended in 2016 because of the District of Columbia's observation of Emancipation Day.

In most years, the filing deadline is April 15. In some years, the District of Columbia's observation of Emancipation Day can affect the nation's filing deadline (District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do), as well as Montana's. Because Emancipation Day falls on Saturday, April 16, in 2016 it will be observed on Friday, April 15. In turn, this pushes the federal and Montana tax filing deadlines to the next business day - Monday, April 18, 2016. The additional time also applies to any payments normally due on April 15.

## Tax Facts

For 2015, as of September 30:

- Total number of individual income tax returns we've processed: 506,919
- Number of individual tax returns we've received electronically: 443,170
- Number of individual income tax refunds we've issued: 391,298
- Average amount of refunds: \$450

As of September 30:

- Number of fraudulent tax returns we've intercepted: 1,706
- Amount of fraudulent refunds we've prevented: \$1,860,290

## Contact Us

**Web:** [Revenue.mt.gov](http://Revenue.mt.gov)

**Email:** [DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov](mailto:DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov)

**Toll Free:** 1-866-859-2254

**Helena:** (406) 444-6900

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*Montana Tax News You Can Use* is published weekly during tax season and periodically at other times. It is for anyone who helps people file taxes and meet their tax responsibility and for anyone interested in the state's tax system. 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**, visit the [Newsroom](#) page on [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov) and click on the "Tax News You Can Use" tab.

We welcome your suggestions for articles, as well as your questions and comments.

Send them to [DORWritingProject@mt.gov](mailto:DORWritingProject@mt.gov).



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Edited by [Molly A. Petersen](#)

Montana Department of Revenue | PO Box 5805 | Helena | MT | 59604