

Montana *Tax News You Can Use*

Montana Department of Revenue

February 16, 2017

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

DOR Closed on Monday, February 20

The Department of Revenue call center and other offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents Day.

Our online services will still be available. Please visit [TransAction Portal](#) and revenue.mt.gov for all your filing and form needs.

Submitting Forms W-2 and 1099

Individuals, partnerships, fiduciaries, and corporations doing business in Montana must file wage statements (W-2s) and information returns (1099s) with the Department of Revenue for certain payments made in 2016.

- File copies of all Forms W-2 and 1099 (with withholding) issued to employees and payees with your Form MW-3 "Montana Annual Withholding Tax Reconciliation". The Form MW-3 and these supporting forms are due February 28.
- File copies of Forms 1099 (without withholding) by the federal due date for the respective form.

For more information about your W-2s and 1099 filing requirements, click [here](#). We encourage you to electronically file W-2s, 1099s and MW-3s using the [TransAction Portal \(TAP\)](#). More information can be found at [File Upload W-2s/1099s/MW3s](#).

IRS Releases "Avoid the Rush" Series of Commonly Asked Questions

The IRS is mindful that one of its challenges is the spike in demand for tax return help around the Presidents' Day Weekend. This year the Service has created an "[Avoid the Rush](#)" series of news releases that highlight the answers to the most commonly asked questions. The IRS toll free service will be open Saturday from 9 to 5 local time and on Monday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The IRS is also pushing taxpayers to IRS.gov and has created an [IRS Services Guide](#) to help taxpayers recognize what help is available on the website.

Approved Tax Software for Tax Year 2016

Every year, tax software vendors seek approval to participate in the Montana federal/state electronic filing program. We test the software of each vendor to ensure that it's compatible with our electronic filing system.

You can find the latest approval status of each product on the department's website under [Online Services > Tax Software](#).

Administrative Rule Activity

Go to revenue.mt.gov/rules for information about the department's current rulemaking activity, public hearing dates, and to sign up to receive future notices by email.

Tax Facts

For 2017, as of February 10:

- Total number of individual income tax returns we've processed: 89,923
- Number of individual tax returns we've received electronically: 87,809
- Number of individual income tax refunds we've issued: 25,153
- Average amount of refunds: \$432.51

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

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Go to the [Newsroom](#) page on revenue.mt.gov and click the "Tax News You Can Use" tab.

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.

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