

January 23, 2014



## Montana Tax News You Can Use

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

### New DOR website launched, now totally compatible with mobile devices

You probably noticed a new look to our website if you logged on recently. On January 13, the department launched its new website at [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov), which is 100% compatible with mobile devices. At present, parts of the site are still under construction, and we are in the process of working out a few kinks that accompanied the launch. If you or your clients have trouble viewing the site properly using your PC, you may find you'll need to update your browser. We hope this new website will be easier to navigate and meet your and your clients' needs through tax season and during the rest of the year.

We'd like your feedback. Simply click on the website survey located on the [homepage](#) located under "what's new" to tell us what you think.

### Family education savings account

Beginning in 2013, contributions to another state's 529 college savings plan may now qualify for the Montana income tax deduction.

A 529 plan is a college savings plan sponsored by a state or state agency. Many investment companies (e.g. Vanguard, Fidelity and American Funds) are now marketing 529 plans they manage for an array of sponsoring states or state agencies. With the expansion of the allowable deduction to other state's plans, many of the 529 plans marketed by investment companies may now be acceptable and qualify for the deduction.

The rules for which contributions to the Montana Family Education Savings Program qualify for the deduction apply to these contributions as well. Please note that contributions to a Coverdale (ESA) or state's prepaid tuition plan does not qualify. The department may ask for a copy of any statement(s) from the plan administrator after you file your return.

## DOR tax specialist appearing at MSCPA events across the state

Chapters of the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants in Bozeman, Great Falls and Kalispell will be hosting DOR tax specialist Brian Olsen. He will discuss changes in state tax laws and rules, changes to forms, and changes in federal taxes and what impact they might have on Montana.

Here's the schedule:

**January 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holliday Inn on Baxter Lane in Bozeman.** For more information, contact Troy Watling at 587-1277 or at [troyw@jccscpa.com](mailto:troyw@jccscpa.com).

**January 24, noon to 2 p.m. at Good Eats in Great Falls.** Contact Tyler Bryant at 761-2820 or [tbryant@jccscpa.com](mailto:tbryant@jccscpa.com).

**February 4, 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Red Lion in Kalispell.** Tamara Williams from the IRS will also be presenting. Contact Marija Berney at 862-2597 or at [mberney@jccscpa.com](mailto:mberney@jccscpa.com). You must **RSVP** for this event by January 31.

## Approved tax software for 2013

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 [here](#) (please note this is a new link that was updated with our new website).

For more information, email [dore-services@mt.gov](mailto:dore-services@mt.gov).

## Target tax dates

**January 31:** While January 21 was the start date for accepting e-filed Montana individual income tax returns on Taxpayer Access Point (TAP), the IRS announced it will open the 2014 individual income tax filing season on January 31. Tax

software companies whose products have been approved for Montana e-filing may begin accepting federal/state tax returns earlier in January and hold those returns until the IRS systems open on January 31. That means that if you e-filed your federal and state individual income tax returns in early January using IRS software or a third-party software provider, the state won't receive your return until January 31 or later.

**February 18:** We begin processing Montana individual income tax returns submitted via paper. Keep in mind that no matter how soon in the tax season you or your client submits a paper tax return, you'll receive your refund faster if you e-file because of the extended time required to process paper.

**March 1:** The deadline for...

- completing and returning a livestock reporting form
- reporting business equipment
- associations and organizations to apply for property tax exemption

## Contact us

Visit us online at [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov) or call us toll-free at (866) 859-2254 or in Helena at 444-6900.

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### Montana Department of Revenue | Tax News You Can Use

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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 simply 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, please visit [www.revenue.mt.gov](http://www.revenue.mt.gov) and click on "sign me up."

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