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**Tax revenue fuels Montana's quality of life**

Helena – The Montana Department of Revenue (DOR) reminds people that today's the deadline to file state income taxes and thanks taxpayers for filing.

"We understand that doing taxes is not always the most pleasant experience people can have," says Mike Kadas, Director of Revenue. "The department has tried to make it as easy as possible to file and we genuinely appreciate and thank those who are filing this year."

State tax revenue helps to fund a number of the services that Montanans enjoy, including public education, clean water and air, parks and recreation, public health and safety, road construction and maintenance, higher education, and so on.

"Taxes help fund our quality of life, they're what we pay to support our wonderful communities and in our great state," Kadas says. "Next time you see a child board a school bus or see a young man or woman walk down the aisle to receive a diploma, you can be proud that you, as a taxpayer, helped to make that happen."

Director Kadas adds that we encourage and appreciate public comments and suggestions so we're able to continue improving our service to Montanans.

So far, the department has processed more than 377,300 individual income tax returns for the 2012 tax year. This year, DOR has issued more than 295,480 refunds averaging \$418 for a total of more than \$123.5 million. If taxpayers need updates about their refunds, they can use a service on the DOR website called "Where's My Refund." This feature allows taxpayers to track their refunds and gauge when they might appear in their bank accounts or mailbox.

Taxpayers who need assistance filing today can call the department's call center toll free at (866) 859-2254, or in Helena at 444-6900. Staff will be available today from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. This tax season the call center has answered about 50,000 calls.

Taxpayers can file electronically using the department's e-filing service, Taxpayer Access Point (TAP), or one of the many commercial e-filing products. For electronic filing options, visit [www.revenue.mt.gov](http://www.revenue.mt.gov).

Currently, taxpayers who file electronically are receiving their state refunds on average in about 5 to 7 days. Those who file by paper are receiving their refunds in about 22 to 25 days on average. DOR employees have been working extended hours and on weekends to process the paper-filed returns as quickly as possible.

In addition to contacting the DOR call center, taxpayers can also receive assistance by visiting the Mitchell Building in Helena, 126 North Sanders, until 4 p.m. Assistance is also available at the department's offices in Missoula at 2681 Palmer Street. There are also more than 100 volunteer tax preparation sites around the state through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide Montana. To find out if you qualify and to see a comprehensive listing of locations, visit [www.montanafreefile.org](http://www.montanafreefile.org). For more information, visit [www.revenue.mt.gov](http://www.revenue.mt.gov).

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