

## **INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX DEADLINE IS APRIL 17 THIS YEAR**

If you're among the 20% of Montanans who file their state income tax returns last-minute, the Montana Department of Revenue has some important news for you.

Because of a federal tax filing deadline change, the Department of Revenue will accept tax returns for tax year 2006 as on-time returns if filed by Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

The Internal Revenue Service announced last month that they were changing this year's federal income tax deadline to April 17. By law, federal filing and payment deadlines that fall on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday are timely satisfied if met on the next business day. This year the traditional "Tax Day" of April 15 falls on a Sunday. The next day, April 16, is Emancipation Day, a new legal holiday in the District of Columbia, which has a nationwide impact that the IRS must consider by law when determining the tax filing deadline.

"Keeping the federal and state tax filing dates the same will prevent some confusion and frustration for those taxpayers who file last-minute this year," said revenue director Dan Bucks. "We want to make filing returns as convenient for Montana taxpayers as we can."

Both the IRS and the Montana Department of Revenue had already printed their tax forms and publications before the IRS became aware of the intersection of the national filing day and the local observance of the Emancipation Day holiday.

In Montana, the April 17 deadline will apply to any tax return, tax payment, or other required action. This includes 2006 state individual income tax returns, whether filed electronically or by paper, as well as requests for an automatic six-month tax-filing extension.

The good news, the Department of Revenue says, is that most taxpayers will not have to change their plans in response to this announcement. Last year, about 80% of state taxpayers filed their tax returns before the filing deadline. Typically, taxpayers who are claiming refunds tend to file early in the season.

"We thank Montana's taxpayers, who do a fantastic job of filing their tax returns on time and paying their taxes in the right amount. The great majority of them are doing the right thing," said Bucks. He noted that Montana wage-earners comply at a 97% rate and retirees at a 99% rate.

"We only wish out-of-state taxpayers performed as well paying state taxes as Montanans do," he added.

The department encourages all taxpayers to file early, and to file electronically, for the best possible experience during tax season. Those taxpayers who owe taxes are encouraged to file early and defer their tax payment by choosing the option of direct debit when filing electronically.

"Basically, we're encouraging taxpayers who owe taxes to 'file now and pay later'," said Bucks. "We're better able to process tax returns that are filed early, so it saves agency costs and allows taxpayers to keep the money in their own pockets until the last minute."

Using direct debit, a taxpayer who files electronically can authorize the department to withdraw the amount of tax due from a checking or savings account on a later date that the taxpayer chooses, up to the April 17 deadline.

# # #

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Bucks, Director, Montana Department of Revenue, (406) 444-1900 or  
Cynthia Pierson, Public Information Officer, Montana Department of Revenue, (406) 444-6700