December 1, 2018

Re: 2019 Accountants' Memorandum

Greetings from Miller Kaplan Arase LLP!

Enclosed is our annual information brief, which is primarily intended to address payroll tax matters and information reporting requirements. We also mention various tax laws and items that we believe will be of particular interest to our clients.

The tax reform legislation signed into law on December 22, 2017, commonly known as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" ("TCJA"), created significant tax changes for individuals as well as entities. While most individual changes are effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, many of the business changes are permanent. A detailed analysis of TCJA is beyond the scope of this Accountants' Memorandum.

We have listed below some of the most significant changes. There are also substantial changes in the information return reporting rules as a result of TCJA and other laws, which are effective for 2018. If you have any questions about your specific situation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

- Pass-Through Income Deduction: For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, generally a taxpayer can deduct 20% of its qualified business income ("QBI") from a partnership, S corporation, or sole proprietorship. The deduction for taxpayers in service related businesses, such as health, law, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, and brokerage services, is phased out if the taxpayer's taxable income exceeds the threshold amount of \$157,500 (or \$315,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly). Taxpayers whose taxable income exceeds the threshold amounts mentioned above, but who are not in a service related business, may still be subject to limitations based on the W-2 wages and the adjusted basis in acquired qualified property. The deduction expires for tax years beginning after December 31, 2025. This is a very abridged explanation on a very complicated change so please contact us for more details.
- **Corporate Tax**: For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, there is a 21% flat corporate tax rate and the corporate alternative minimum tax has been repealed. There are also limitations on the deductibility of interest expenses.

Entertainment Expenses Deduction: For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, generally no deduction is allowed for entertainment, amusement, or recreation; membership dues for a club organized for business, pleasure, recreation, or other social purposes; or a facility used in connection with any of the above. The IRS, however, clarified that taxpayers may generally continue to deduct 50% of meal expenses as long as they are not extravagant and the taxpayers comply with certain other rules.

- Net-Operating Losses (" NOLs"): Except for certain farming NOLs and NOLs of property and casualty insurance companies, NOLs cannot be carried back, but unused NOLs can be carried forward indefinitely. For NOLs arising in tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, the limit on the NOL deduction is 80% of the taxpayer's taxable income and the amounts carried forward to later tax years are to be adjusted to account for the limitation.
- Assets Used in Trade or Business Section 179: For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, the limit on current-year expense treatment of assets placed in service in a trade or business is increased to \$1M and the phase-out limit is increased to \$2.5M.
- **Bonus Depreciation:** For property acquired and placed in service after September 27, 2017, the bonus depreciation percentage is 100% (up from 50%). Additionally, qualified property includes used property that was not used by the taxpayer before the taxpayer purchased it. This provision has a phase down beginning in 2023 (2024 for longer production period property) and will be eliminated in 2027. There is, however, a substantial negative impact to retail and restaurant operations as a result of what commentators see as a mistake in the drafting of the bill.
- Accounting Methods: Generally, the gross receipts thresholds that trigger the required use of the
 accrual method of accounting will be increased to \$25M or less. Qualified personal service businesses
 are generally allowed to use the cash basis method of accounting without regard to the gross receipts
 test.
- Unrelated Business Taxable Income ("UBTI"): Tax exempt organizations must include in UBTI the amount of certain fringe benefits provided to their employees, including on-site athletic facilities and qualified transportation fringe benefits. Additionally, tax exempt organizations that carry on more than one unrelated trade or business must compute UBTI separately for each trade or business, effectively prohibiting using deductions relating to one trade or business to offset income from a separate trade or business. Because there is no clear definition, it is best at this point to keep adequate records to demonstrate UBTI tax liability on a line of business basis.
- Excise Tax on Tax Exempt Organization Executive Compensation: Tax exempt organizations will be subject to a 21% excise tax on compensation paid to a covered employee in excess of \$1M. The excise tax also applies to excess parachute payments paid to a covered employee.
- Overall Loss Limitation for Taxpayers Other than Corporations: For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, the TCJA limits business losses that a taxpayer other than a corporation may take in a given year. An "excess business loss" is the amount exceeding total trade or business losses over trade or business income or gain plus a threshold amount. For 2018, the threshold amount will be \$500,000 for married filing jointly taxpayers and \$250,000 for all others. The excess business loss will become an NOL carry forward. The limitation expires after December 31, 2025.

With all the changes in the new tax law, taxpayers may want to adjust their paycheck withholding to avoid having too much or too little taxes withheld. If this is the case, the taxpayer should submit a new

Form W-4 to his/her employer. The fewer withholding allowances a taxpayer enters on Form W-4, the higher his/her tax withholding will be.

We need to emphasize that any business operating as an S-Corporation should pay shareholders a fair salary. Distributing profits in the absence of salaries and payroll taxes, could subject the company to penalties. Also, it may be beneficial for businesses to make an annual safe harbor election for amounts paid to acquire tangible property. This allows certain asset acquisitions to be expensed.

As we note each year, please take steps to have all payroll and information filings completed on a timely basis. Employers must file wage statements and Forms 1099-MISC with the IRS, state agencies, and recipients by January 31 to report salaries and non-employee compensation paid to independent contractors. If you are required to file or pay electronically, please do so; otherwise penalties will result.

This memorandum is intended to provide general information. If you have questions or need more detail, please feel free to contact us.

Finally, we want to extend our condolences to the families affected by the senseless shooting in Thousand Oaks and everyone impacted by the forest fires in California.

We look forward to serving you in 2019.

Willer Kaplan Arase LLP



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I. EARNINGS REPORTS DUE IN 2019

A. <u>Payroll Taxes</u>

1. IRS Form 941 - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return

	2019	2018
	Applicable	Applicable
FICA:	During 2019	During 2018
Social Security Wage Limit	\$132,900	\$128,400
Withholding Tax Rate ("OASDI" Portion Only)	6.2%	6.2%
Maximum Withholding	\$8,239.80	\$7,960.80
Employer Tax Rate ("OASDI" Only)	6.2%	6.2%
Maximum Employer Portion	\$8,239.80	\$7,960.80
Medicare Wage Limit	Unlimited	Unlimited
Tax Rate ("HI" Portion Only)	1.45%	1.45%
Maximum Withholding	Unlimited	Unlimited
Employer Matching Tax Rate ("HI" Only)	1.45%	1.45%
Maximum Employer Matching	Unlimited	Unlimited

There is an additional 0.9% Medicare surtax for certain high-income taxpayers (single individuals with income exceeding \$200,000 and married filing jointly taxpayers with income over \$250,000). The surtax does not apply to the employer's share.

Quarter Ending Date_	Form 941 Due Date		
December 31, 2018	January 31, 2019		
March 31, 2019	April 30, 2019		
June 30, 2019	July 31, 2019		
September 30, 2019	October 31, 2019		

2. IRS Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return

	2018	2017
Federal Unemployment Tax - On Annual Wage Limit		
to Each Employee of	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Federal Unemployment Tax Rate - Employer Only	6.0%	6.0%
Allowable California Credit	<u>5.4%</u>	<u>3.3%</u>
Net Federal Tax Rate	<u>0.6%</u>	<u>2.7%</u>

File the Form 940 for the year ended December 31, 2018 no later than January 31, 2019. Note: Deposits for 2018 were required for any quarter when the cumulative liability for the quarter was \$500.00 or more.

Note: During 2018 California repaid its federal unemployment insurance ("UI") loan balance, therefore employers should see their Federal Unemployment Tax Act ("FUTA") taxes reduced for the 2018 year filing, which is due in January 2019.

A. <u>Payroll Taxes</u> (Continued)

2. IRS Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return (Continued)

In general, payments for services of a spouse or a child under age 21 are exempt from FUTA tax. Payments for the services of a child under age 18 who works for his or her parent are exempt from social security and Medicare taxes if the trade or business is a sole proprietorship or a partnership in which each partner is a parent of the child. Federal income taxes are, however, required to be withheld. These special rules generally do not apply to family owned partnerships or corporations or to an estate, even if the estate is of a deceased parent. For California purposes, family employees are generally exempt from Unemployment Insurance ("UI"), Employment Training Tax ("ETT"), and State Disability Insurance ("SDI"). However, they are subject to California personal income tax withholding.

All employers conducting business in California are subject to the employment tax laws of the California Unemployment Insurance Code ("CUIC"). Once a business hires an employee, the business is considered an employer subject to state payroll taxes and must register with the Employment Development Department ("EDD") within 15 days after paying wages in excess of \$100 in a calendar quarter.

3. California Form DE 9

The following is from the California Employment Development Department:

State law mandates electronic submission of tax returns, wage reports, and payroll tax deposits for all employers.

All employers are subject to this requirement beginning January 1, 2018. Any employer required under existing law to electronically submit wage reports and/or electronic funds transfer to the EDD will remain subject to those requirements.

Required Forms

The following forms must be submitted electronically under the e-file and e-pay mandate:

- Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages (DE 9).
- Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages (Continuation) (DE 9C)
- Employer of Household Worker(s) Quarterly Report of Wages and Withholdings (DE 3BHW)
- Employer of Household Worker(s) Annual Payroll Tax Return (DE 3HW)
- Quarterly Contribution Return (DE 3D)
- Payroll Tax Deposit (DE 88)

NOTE: The e-file and e-pay mandate does not apply to employment tax returns, wage reports, or payroll tax deposits submitted for periods prior to the effective date of the mandate.

Employers can use e-Services for Business to comply with the e-file and e-pay mandate. The e-Services for Business function is a fast, easy, and secure way to manage your employer payroll tax accounts online. With e-Services for Business, you can do the following:

A. Payroll Taxes (Continued)

3. California Form DE 9 (Continued)

- Register for an employer payroll tax account number.
- File, adjust, and print returns/reports.
- Make payments.
- View and update account information.
- View notices and letters regarding registration, payments, returns, and more.

Employers may request a waiver from the mandate due to lack of automation, severe economic hardship, current federal exemption from filing electronically, or other good cause. To obtain an E-file and E-pay Mandate Waiver Request (DE 1245W):

- Download the DE 1245W from the EDD website. Visit <u>www.edd.ca.gov/EfileMandate</u> for more information.
- Visit the nearest Employment Tax Office listed in the California Employer's Guide (DE 44) or on the EDD website at www.edd.ca.gov/Office Locator/.
- Contact the Taxpayer Assistance Center at 888-745-3886.

A summary table is as follows:

	2019	2018
	Applicable	Applicable
	During 2019	During 2018
SUI Tax - Annual Wage Limit	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
(Tax Rate Assigned to Employers Based on Experience)	*	*
ETT - Annual Wage Limit	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Tax Rate	0.1%	0.1%
SDI Tax - Annual Wage Limit	\$118,371.00	\$114,967.00
Tax Rate	1.0%	1.0%
Maximum Amounts to be Withheld	\$1,183.71	\$1,149.67

^{*} See Form DE 2088, Notice of Contribution Rates and Statement of UI Reserve Account mailed to all employers in December. If you need rate information, call the Tax Rate information at (916) 653-7795. Or do an online rate search at eddservices.edd.ca/gov/tap/open/rateinquiry// #1. Employers have 60 days from the date of notification to dispute their UI contribution rate. The General EDD Telephone Assistance Line is (888) 745-3886. To simplify matters, the state encourages use of their e-services for business function. Log onto www.edd.ca.gov/ for details.

4. Washington State Requirements

Washington State requires businesses to register with the state's Department of Revenue ("DOR") if the business meets any of the following conditions:

- The business is required to collect sales tax.
- Gross income is \$12,000 a year or more.

A. **Payroll Taxes** (Continued)

- **Washington Requirements (Continued)**
 - The business is a buyer or processor of specialty wood products.
 - The business is required to pay taxes or fees to the DOR.

Washington State does not have an income tax, but it does have a Business & Occupation tax based on gross receipts. The tax rate varies by which classification the business fits into. There are a few credits available. Go to dor.wa.gov for more details.

В. Wage and Tax Statement - 2018 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2019)

55555	a Employee's social security number	OMB No. 154	5-0008			
b Employer identification number (EIN)		1 Wa	ges, tips, other compensation	2 Federal income	tax withheld
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code		3 So	cial security wages	4 Social security tax withheld		
			5 Me	dicare wages and tips	6 Medicare tax w	ithheld
			7 So	cial security tips	8 Allocated tips	
d Control number			9 Vei	rification code	10 Dependent care	e benefits
e Employee's first name and initial		Suff.	13 State emp		12a	
15 State Employer's state ID num	16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State incom	e tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local Income tax	20 Locality name
W-2 Wage an		, , , , ,		Department o	f the Treasury—Interne	l Revenue Service

Copy 1 - For State, City, or Local Tax Department

Notes Per Form Instructions:

Military Differential Pay – Payments made to employees while they are on active duty for more than 30 days in the Armed Forces or other uniformed services are treated as wages. Report these payments in box 1 of Form W-2.

- I. EARNINGS REPORTS DUE IN 2019 (Continued)
- B. Wage and Tax Statement 2018 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2018) (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions: (Continued)

2. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans – Section 409A, added by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, provides that all amounts deferred under a nonqualified deferred compensation ("NQDC") plan for all taxable years are includible in gross income unless certain requirements are satisfied.

Additional Note:

- **S Corporation Fringe Benefits** An S corporation treats taxable fringe benefits paid on behalf of its 2% shareholder-employees as additional compensation to them. The corporation deducts the additional compensation on page 1, line 7 ("Compensation of officers") or line 8 ("Salaries and wages") of its Form 1120S. The corporation reports the additional compensation to the shareholder-employees on Forms W-2. The additional compensation is subject to federal tax withholding and is generally subject to employment taxes (FICA and FUTA). However, payments made pursuant to a plan providing accident and health coverage are only subject to income tax withholding; they are <u>not</u> subject to any other employment taxes.
- 3. Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefits The TCJA changed the laws with regards to qualified transportation fringe benefits. Employers may still provide tax-free qualified transportation fringe benefits to employees for transit and parking of \$260 each per month. However, employers cannot deduct the expenses if the employees receive the tax-free benefits. If an employer treats the transportation fringe benefits as taxable W-2 wages to the employee, the employer can deduct the expenses. Qualified bicycle commuting reimbursements can no longer be provided tax free.
- **4. Employer Provided Educational Assistance** Employers can exclude from an employee's wage up to \$5,250 of educational assistance provided to an employee under an educational assistance program.
- **5. Deceased Employee's Wages** The IRS has special instructions for reporting wages if an employee dies during the year. Consult the instructions to the 2018 Form W-2.
- **6. Group-Term Life Insurance** You must include in your employees' wages subject to social security and Medicare taxes, the cost of group-term life insurance that is greater than the cost of \$50,000 of coverage, reduced by the amount the employee paid toward the insurance. Report this as wages in boxes 1, 3, and 5 of the employee's 2018 Form W-2. Also report the amount in box 12 with code "C."

Figure the monthly cost of the insurance includible in the employee's wages by multiplying the number of thousands of dollars of all insurance coverage over \$50,000 (figured to the nearest \$100) by the cost shown in the following table from Treas. Reg. section 1.79-3, Table I. For all coverage provided within the calendar year, use the employee's age on the last day of the employee's tax year. You must prorate the cost from the table if less than a full month of coverage is involved.

B. Wage and Tax Statement - 2018 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2018) (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions: (Continued)

COST PER \$1,000 OF PROTECTION FOR ONE MONTH

Age	Cost
Under 25	\$.05
25 through 29	.06
30 through 34	.08
35 through 39	.09
40 through 44	.10
45 through 49	.15
50 through 54	.23
55 through 59	.43
60 through 64	.66
65 through 69	1.27
70 and older	2.06

You figure the total cost to include in the employee's wages by multiplying the monthly cost by the number of full months coverage at that cost. For example, for a 50-year old employee with \$500,000 of group-term coverage, the total cost to include is \$1,242, as follows:

\$450 (insurance coverage over \$50,000 in thousands of dollars) x .23 (cost per table) x 12 months = \$1,242

7. Selected notes for particular boxes follow:

Box b – Provide the Federal Employer Identification Number ("FEIN") assigned by the IRS. Do not use a prior FEIN once a FEIN is changed.

Box d – Control Number: This is optional. Employers may use this box to identify individual Forms W-2.

Box 3 – Social Security Wages: Cannot exceed \$128,400 for 2018.

Box 4 – Social Security Tax Withheld: Cannot exceed \$7,960.80 for 2018.

Box 5 – Medicare wages and tips: Unlimited for 2018.

Box 6 - Medicare tax withheld: Unlimited for 2018.

Box 11 – Show total distributions to the employee from a non-qualified deferred compensation plan or a Sec. 457(b) plan during 2018, here and in Box 1 (but not if reported in Boxes 3 or 5). Also include in Box 11 amounts under a nonqualified plan or a Sec. 457 plan that became taxable during the year for social security and Medicare tax purposes but were for services performed in a prior year. Payments to beneficiaries of deceased employees are reportable on Form 1099-R.

B. Wage and Tax Statement - 2018 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2018) (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions: (Continued)

Box 12 – Enter a code (A through EE) for items such as cost of group term life insurance over \$50,000 (Code C), elective deferrals to a section 401(k) arrangement (Code D), etc. Do not enter more than four items in box 12. If more than four items are needed, use a separate W-2.

The Affordable Care Act requires employers with 250 or more employees to disclose on Forms W-2 the value of the employee's health insurance coverage. As it stands for now this is merely a reporting requirement and does not impact taxable income. However, at some point in the future a 40% excise tax (dubbed the "Cadillac tax") is scheduled to kick in on the cost of health plans in excess of \$10,200 for self-only coverage and \$27,450 for families. In January 2018, President Trump signed legislation pushing the start date back to 2022.

Box 13 – Checkboxes. Statutory Employees. Mark this checkbox for statutory employees whose earnings are subject to social security and Medicare taxes but not subject to federal income tax withholding. Statutory employees are workers who are independent contractors under common-law rules but are treated by statute as employees.

Box 14 – Other. The lease value of a vehicle provided to your employee and reported in box 1 must be reported here or in a separate statement to your employee. You may also use this box for any other information you want to give your employee.

Boxes 15 through 20 – State and local income tax information. Enter in Box 19 the amount of SDI actually withheld, and in Box 20 the letters "CASDI". The 2018 SDI maximum was \$1,149.67.

In a new regulation issued in an effort to combat identity theft, the IRS eliminated the automatic 30-day extension for Forms W-2 or 1099-MISC reporting nonemployee compensation that had been available with the filing of Form 8809. Thus, extensions will only be granted due to extraordinary circumstances.

The TCJA suspended the exclusion for qualified moving expenses. However, the exclusion will still apply to certain employees in the military.

C. <u>Transmittal Form Addresses</u>

The Following Form is Due by January 31, 2019:

1. 2018 Form W-3 (Federal)

The IRS no longer mails paper tax packages. If you file 250 or more Forms W-2, then you must file them electronically. The IRS encourages you to file electronically even if you are filing fewer than 250 Forms W-2. Electronic filing of Forms W-2 and W-3 is free at <u>socialsecurity.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm</u>.

C. Transmittal Form Addresses (Continued)

The Following Form is Due by January 31, 2019: (Continued)

1. 2018 Form W-3 (Federal) (Continued)

File Copy A of Form W-2 with the entire first page of Form W-3 at the following address:

If Using United States Postal Service:

Social Security Administration **Data Operations Center** Wilkes-Barre, PA 18769-0001 (For certified mail use Zip

Code 18769-0002)

For Other IRS Approved Private Delivery Services:

Social Security Administration Data Operations Center Attn: W-2 Process 1150 E. Mountain Dr.

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7997

2. 2018 Form DE 9 (California)

Visit The Quarterly Return and Report of Wages must be e-filed to the EDD. www.edd.ca.gov/payroll taxes/e-services for business.htm.

D. **Information Forms**

- Taxpayer Identification Number Solicitation. Forms W-8 and W-9 series. 1.
 - a. All US payers of reportable payments are required to solicit taxpayer identification numbers on a Form W-9 or a substitute W-9; or in the case of nonresident aliens ("NRAs") one of the W-8 series Forms. Solicitation is the only safe harbor method of collection authorized by the IRS Regulations.
 - **b.** TIN Matching. The IRS has established an on-line TIN matching program that allows payors of reportable payments and their agents to verify the payee TINs required to be reported on information returns and payee statements. The IRS maintains a name/TIN data base specifically for the matching program. Before a program participant files an information return, it may check the TIN furnished by the payee against the name/TIN combination in the data base. The IRS will inform the payor whether there is a match. A name/TIN match may serve as reasonable cause that will avoid a penalty for failure to file correct information returns or furnish correct payee statements. The IRS will waive the penalty if the payor documents the match as set forth in IRS Pub No. 2108-A, On-Line Taxpayer Identification Number ("TIN") Matching Program.

c. New Forms W-9 and W-8 series.

The IRS issued a revised version of Form W-9 in October 2018. i.

D. <u>Information Forms</u> (Continued)

1. Taxpayer Identification Number Solicitation. Forms W-8 and W-9 series. (Continued)

c. New Forms W-9 and W-8 series. (Continued)

Purpose of Form:

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number ("TIN") which may be your social security number ("SSN"), individual taxpayer identification number ("ITIN"), adoption taxpayer identification number ("EIN"), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return.

ii. Forms W-8 are used to certify foreign status. The IRS also issued revised W-8 forms in 2017, splitting the single W-8 into W-8BEN for individuals and W-8BEN-E for entities. The revised W-8 BEN is dated July 2017. https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8ben.pdf. The Instructions for the W-8 series forms were revised in July 2017.

The forms have been revised to conform to the new FATCA rules, and all new solicitations should be made using these new forms.

2. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Requirements

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") requires U.S. withholding agents paying FATCA withholdable income to withhold 30% on certain U.S. source payments made to foreign entities, if the agent is unable to document the entities for purposes of FATCA. Current FATCA regulations, and the regulations that coordinate FATCA withholding (Chapter 4 withholding) with the regulations addressing withholding on nonresident aliens (Chapter 3 withholding), require the withholding agent to presume that certain payees (apart from certain pre-existing obligations) are foreign, unless there is documentation establishing the entity to be a U.S. person.

3. Eyeball Test

The "eyeball test" is no longer available. The fact that an entity name includes "Incorporated," "Inc.," "Corporation," or "Corp." is no longer sufficient to establish U.S. exempt status. Form W-9 is the only documentation that will suffice to prove U.S. status and to avoid applicable Chapter 3 or Chapter 4 withholding and penalties.

4. IRS Form 1099 Series - U.S. Information Returns

Generally, file Form 1099 for any individual, partnership, or trust (non-corporate entity) to whom you paid rents, dividends, interest, commissions, fees, payments for services (not wages), etc. See the instructions to determine what type and amount of payments must be reported in the boxes and the correct type of Form

D. <u>Information Forms</u> (Continued)

4. IRS Form 1099 Series - U.S. Information Returns (Continued)

1099 to use. Note: Businesses paying limited liability companies have to issue 1099 forms if annual payments total \$600 or more. There is an exception if the LLC has filed Form 8832 with the IRS to elect to be taxed as a corporation. (Most LLCs choose to be taxed as partnerships or sole proprietorships.) The only safe harbor method for determining this election is with a Form W-9 or a substitute W-9.

Prepare in triplicate (no photocopies allowed); Copy A to be transmitted to IRS with Form 1096, a copy for the recipient, and a copy for the employer's files. Give recipient their copy <u>no later than</u> January 31, 2019. Forms 1099 should be typed or machine printed, although for 2018 most Forms 1099 may now be furnished electronically to taxpayers with their consent. Please remember to include a telephone number below the address in the payer's section. If you have questions concerning filing requirements and procedures for information returns (any Form 1099) or Form W-2, contact the Martinsburg Computing Center toll-free at (866) 455-7438.

5. When to File the IRS Copies

File the 2018 Form 1098 and the 1099 series forms by February 28, if filing on paper, or March 31, if filing electronically. But if there is nonemployee compensation reported in Form 1099-MISC Box 7, the due date is January 31 for both paper and electronic returns. If you are filing 250 or more returns of the same type, you must file electronically. See IRS Publication 1220 for specifications in that regard. Form 1096 must accompany all paper submissions. We are including the complete IRS due date list on the following pages.

Where to File

The mailing address for California paper filers is:

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Center Ogden, UT 84201

Payments made with a credit card or through third party network transactions such as Paypal, should be reported on Form 1099-K by the payment settlement entity. They are not subject to reporting on Form 1099-MISC, even if the total exceeds \$600.

Also note that for most reportable payments there will not be any extension beyond the January 31 due date for mailing forms to recipients. (Previously an automatic extension was available providing an additional 30 days for both mailing to recipients and filing with the IRS for all Forms 1099). There are strict qualification requirements for those extensions that are available. See IRS Form 8809 and instructions for details.

D. **Information Forms** (Continued)

6. **Guide to More Common Information Returns**

Guide to Information Returns (If any date shown falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.)

	<u>.</u>			Di	ie Date
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)
1042-S	Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding	Income such as interest, dividends, royalties, pensions and annuities, etc., and amounts withheld under Chapter 3. Also, distributions of effectively connected income by publicly traded partnerships or nominees.	See form instructions	March 15	March 15
1097-BTC	Bond Tax Credit	Tax credit bond credits to shareholders.	All amounts	February 28*	On or before the 15th day of the 2nd calendar month after the close of the calendar month in which the credit is allowed
1098	Mortgage Interest Statement	Mortgage interest (including points) and certain mortgage insurance premiums you received in the course of your trade or business from individuals and reimbursements of overpaid interest.	\$600 or more	February 28*	(To Payer/Borrower) January 31
1098-C	Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes	Information regarding a donated motor vehicle, boat, or airplane.	Gross proceeds of more than \$500	February 28*	(To Donor) 30 days from date of sale or contribution
1098-E	Student Loan Interest Statement	Student loan interest received in the course of your trade or business.	\$600 or more	February 28*	January 31
1098-MA	Mortgage Assistance Payments	Assistance payments paid to homeowners from funds allocated from the Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets (HFA Hardest Hit Fund) or the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program.	All amounts	February 28	January 31
1098-Q	Qualifying Longevity Annuity Contract Information	Status of a contract that is intended to be a qualifying longevity annuity contract (OLAC), defined in section A-17 of 1.401(a)(9)-6, that is purchased or held under any plan, annuity, or account described in section 401(a), 403(a), 403(b), or 408 (other than a Roth IRA) or eligible governmental plan under section 457(b).	All amounts	February 28	January 31
1098-T	Tuition Statement	Oualified tuition and related expenses, reimbursements or refunds, and scholarships or grants (optional).	See instructions	February 28*	January 31
1099-A	Acquisition or Abandonment of Secured Property	Information about the acquisition or abandonment of property that is security for a debt for which you are the lender.	All amounts	February 28*	(To Borrower) January 31
1099-B	Proceeds From Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions	Sales or redemptions of securities, futures transactions, commodities, and barter exchange transactions (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section $1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A)$ or reported as described in Regulations section $1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)$).	All amounts	February 28*	February 15 [™]
1099-C	Cancellation of Debt	Cancellation of a debt owed to a financial institution, the Federal Government, a credit union, RTC, FDIC, NCUA, a military department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Rate Commission, or any organization having a significant trade or business of lending money.	\$600 or more	February 28*	January 31
1099-CAP	Changes in Corporate Control and Capital Structure	Information about cash, stock, or other property from an acquisition of control or the substantial change in capital structure of a corporation.	Over \$1,000	February 28*	(To Shareholders) January 31, (To Clearing Organization) January 5
1099-DIV	Dividends and Distributions	Distributions, such as dividends, capital gain distributions, or nontaxable distributions, that were paid on stock and liquidation distributions (including distributions reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(ii)(A)).	\$10 or more, except \$600 or more for liquidations	February 28*	January 31**
1099-G	Certain Government Payments	Unemployment compensation, state and local income tax refunds, agricultural payments, and taxable grants.	\$10 or more for refunds and unemployment	February 28*	January 31
1099-H	Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) Advance Payments	Health insurance premiums paid on behalf of certain individuals.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-INT	Interest Income	Interest income (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)); market discount subject to an election under section 1278(b).	\$10 or more (\$600 or more in some cases)	February 28*	January 31**

^{*}The due date is March 31 if filed electronically.

**The due date is March 15 for reporting by trustees and middlemen of WHFITs.

Information Forms (Continued)

Guide to More Common Information Returns (Continued)

Guide to Information Returns (Continued)

				Due Date	
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)
1099-K	Payment Card and	Payment card transactions.	All amounts		
	Third Party Network Transactions	Third party network transactions.	\$20,000 or more and 200 or more transactions	February 28*	January 31
1099-LS	Reportable Life Insurance Sale	Proceeds from a reportable life insurance sale.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-LTC	Long-Term Care and Accelerated Death Benefits	Payments under a long-term care insurance contract and accelerated death benefits paid under a life insurance contract or by a viatical settlement provider.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-MISC	Miscellaneous Income	Rent or royalty payments; prizes and awards that are not for services, such as winnings on TV or radio shows (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i) (A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii) (A)).	\$600 or more, except \$10 or more for royalties		
	(Also, use to report direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer goods for resale.)	Payments to crew members by owners or operators of fishing boats including payments of proceeds from sale of catch.	All amounts		
		Section 409A income from nonqualified deferred compensation plans (NO DCs).	All amounts		
		Payments to a physician, physicians' corporation, or other supplier of health and medical services. Issued mainly by medical assistance programs or health and accident insurance plans.	\$600 or more	February 28* Note:	January 31**
		Payments for services performed for a trade or business by people not treated as its employees (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)). Examples: fees to subcontractors or directors and golden parachute payments.	\$600 or more	nonemployee compensation are reported in box 7, the due date is January 31 for both paper and electronic retums.	
	3	Fish purchases paid in cash for resale.	\$600 or more	Totaliis.	
	9	Crop insurance proceeds.	\$600 or more		
	*	Substitute dividends and tax-exempt interest payments reportable by brokers.	\$10 or more		February 15**
	8	Gross proceeds paid to attorneys.	\$600 or more		February 15**
		A U.S. account for chapter 4 purposes to which you made no payments during the year that are reportable on any applicable Form 1099 (or a U.S. account to which you made payments during the year that do not reach the applicable reporting threshold for any applicable Form 1099) reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-44(1)(5)(1)(A).	All amounts (including \$0)		January 31**
1099-OID	Original Issue Discount	Original issue discount (including amounts reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)); market discount subject to an election under section 1278 (b).	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31**
1099-PATR	Taxable Distributions Received From Cooperatives	Distributions from cooperatives passed through to their patrons including any domestic production activities deduction and certain pass-through credits.	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31
1099-Q	Payments From Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530)	Earnings from qualified tuition programs and Coverdell ESAs.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-QA	Distributions from ABLE Accounts	Distributions from ABLE accounts.	All amounts	February 28	January 31
1099-R	Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.	Distributions from retirement or profit-sharing plans, any IRA, insurance contracts, and IRA recharacterizations (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i) (B) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii) (A)).	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31

^{**}The due date is March 15 for reporting by trustees and middlemen of WHFITs.

D. <u>Information Forms</u> (Continued)

6. <u>Guide to More Common Information Returns</u> (Continued)

Guide to Information Returns (Continued)

				Due Date	
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)
1099-S	Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions	Gross proceeds from the sale or exchange of real estate and certain royalty payments.	Generally, \$600 or more	February 28*	February 15
1099-SA	Distributions From an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA	Distributions from an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-SB	Seller's Investment in Life Insurance Contract	Seller's investment in a life insurance contract as determined by the issuer.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
3921	Exercise of an Incentive Stock Option Under Section 422(b)	Transfer of stock pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option under section 422(b).	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
3922	Transfer of Stock Acquired Through an Employee Stock Purchase Plan Under Section 423(c)	Transfer of stock acquired through an employee stock purchase plan under section 423(c).	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
5498	IRA Contribution Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to any individual retirement arrangement (IRA), including a SEP, SIMPLE, and Roth IRA; Roth conversions; IRA recharacterizations; and the fair market value (FMV) of the account.	All amounts	May 31	(To Participant) For FMV/RMD, Jan 31; For contributions May 31
5498-ESA	Coverdell ESA Contribution Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to a Coverdell ESA.	All amounts	May 31	April 30
5498-QA	ABLE Account Contributions Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to an ABLE account.	All amounts	May 31	March 15
5498-SA	HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA Information	Contributions to an HSA (including transfers and rollovers) or Archer MSA and the FMV of an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA.	All amounts	May 31	(To Participant) May 31
W-2G	Certain Gambling Winnings	Gambling winnings from horse racing, dog racing, jai alai, lotteries, keno, bingo, slot machines, sweepstakes, wagering pools, poker tournaments, etc.	Generally, \$600 or more; \$1,200 or more from bingo or slot machines; \$1,500 or more from keno	February 28*	January 31

E. Rules on 2018 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments

1. <u>General Requirements</u> (Note: Rate Changes from 2017)

The following discussion provides guidance on the proper way to withhold federal income tax from supplemental wage payments made in addition to regular wages:

Supplemental wages are compensation paid to an employee in addition to regular wages. Supplemental wage payments include bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, accumulated sick leave, severance pay, awards, prizes, back pay, retroactive wage increases for current employees, and payments for nondeductible moving expenses.

E. Rules on 2018 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments (Continued)

1. <u>General Requirements</u> (Continued)

The payments may be made at a different time from regular wage payments or may be based on a different wage rate or a different payroll period from regular wages, or on no particular payroll period at all. The federal supplemental withholding rate is generally 22%. However, supplemental wage payments exceeding \$1M are subject to withholding at the highest federal tax rate, currently 37%. See 2018 IRS Publication 15 (Circular E) for more details.

You must decide whether to treat supplemental wage payments as regular wages or to separate them from regular wages before you withhold. The IRS provides computation rules that explain when supplemental wages must be included with regular wage payments and when they must be reported separately. The rules apply to supplemental payments made in the same calendar year that regular wages are paid.

The State of California classifies supplemental and bonus payments into three categories for tax purposes as follows:

- a. Regular Pay All wages in the regular pay category are taxed based on the employee's W-4 in effect at the time the payment is made.
- b. Supplemental Wages (such as overtime, severance pay, and housing allowance) The supplemental flat tax rate will be used if the payments are <u>not</u> paid with the employee's regular wages. If the payment is made with regular pay, the payment is taxed based on the employee's W-4; otherwise, the payment is taxed at the supplemental flat tax rate in effect at the time the payment is made, currently 6.6%.
- c. Bonuses and Stock Options The bonus and stock options flat tax rate will be used if the payments are <u>not</u> paid with the employee's regular wages. If the payment is made with regular pay, the payment is taxed based on the employee's W-4; otherwise, the payment is taxed at the bonus flat rate in effect at the time the payment is made, currently 10.23%.

A payer is required to withhold on reportable payments, such as interest and dividends, under the following circumstances:

- a. The payee fails to furnish his TIN to the payor in the manner required;
- b. The IRS notifies the payor that the TIN furnished by the payee was incorrect;
- c. The IRS notifies the payor that backup withholding is required because the payee failed to properly report interest or dividends; or
- d. The payee fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that the payee is not subject to backup withholding when such certification is required.

E. Rules on 2018 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments (Continued)

2. IRS Form 945 - Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax

Use this Form to report nonpayroll income tax withholding. These nonpayroll items include backup withholding and withholding on pensions, annuities, IRAs, and gambling winnings. Semi-weekly depositors are required to file Form 945-A, a summary of the tax liability, with their Forms 945.

Federal tax deposits must be made by electronic funds transfer. Generally, electronic funds transfers are made using the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System ("EFTPS"). However, if a taxpayer's total taxes for the year are less than \$2,500, the taxpayer is not required to make deposits, and can pay the taxes with the Form 945.

3. California Form 592 - Return for Tax Withheld at Source

Withholding agents must remit payments of tax withheld at source to the Franchise Tax Board ("FTB") by the required due dates in order to avoid interest assessments. Additionally, if the FTB issued Form 594, *Notice to Withhold Tax at Source*, complete the form as indicated in the instructions and send the voucher with payment of tax withheld to the FTB.

F. Affordable Care Act Reporting

The following IRS instructions for Forms 1094-C and 1095-C apply:

Employers with 50 or more full-time employees (including full-time equivalent employees) in the previous year use Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to report the information required under sections 6055 and 6056 about offers of health coverage and enrollment in health coverage for their employees. Form 1094-C must be used to report to the IRS summary information for each Applicable Large Employer ("ALE") Member and to transmit Forms 1095-C to the IRS. Form 1095-C is used to report information about each employee to the IRS and to the employee. Forms 1094-C and 1095-C are used in determining whether an ALE Member owes a payment under the employer shared responsibility provisions under section 4980H. Form 1095-C is also used in determining the eligibility of the employee for the premium tax credit.

ALE Members that offer employer-sponsored self-insured coverage also use Form 1095-C to report information to the IRS and to employees about individuals who have minimum essential coverage under the employer plan and, therefore, are not liable for the individual shared responsibility payment for the months that they are covered under the plan.

An ALE Member must file one or more Forms 1094-C (including a Form 1094-C designated as the Authoritative Transmittal, whether or not filing multiple Forms 1094-C) and must file a Form 1095-C for each employee who was a full-time employee of the ALE Member for any month of the calendar year. Generally, the ALE Member is required to furnish a copy of the Form 1095-C (or a substitute form) to the employee.

F. Affordable Care Act Reporting (Continued)

An ALE Member is, generally, a single person or entity that is an Applicable Large Employer, or if applicable, each person or entity that is a member of an Aggregated ALE Group. An Applicable Large Employer, generally, is an employer with 50 or more full-time employees (including full-time equivalent employees) in the preceding calendar year.

Generally, you must file Forms 1094-C and 1095-C by February 28 if filing on paper (or March 31 if filing electronically) of the year following the calendar year to which the return relates.

100	5-C	En	olan	ver-Pro	vided	Health I	nsurance	e Offe	er aı	nd (Cove	rage			/OID			OMB No	. 1545-22	51
Department of the Treasury			► Do not attach to your tax return. Keep t ► Go to www.irs.gov/Form1095C for instructions a					for your records.					CORRECTED				2018			
Part I Em	nployee								Aı	pplic	cable L	.arge	Emplo	yer M	ember	(Emp	loyer)			-
1 Name of employee (first name, middle initial, last name) 2 Social security number (SSN)					Applicable Large Employer Member (Employer) 7 Name of employer 8 Employer							yer identification number (EIN)								
3 Street address (including apartment no.)					9 Stree	9 Street address (including room or suite no.) 10 Contact telephone number														
4 City or town 5 State or province			6 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code				11 City or town 12 State or pr				rovince			13 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code						
Part II Em	ployee Off	er of Cov	erage	e				Plan	Start	Moi	nth (ent	er 2-di	ait num	ber):						
	All 12 Months			Feb	Mar	Apr	May		une		July		Aug	Se	pt	Oct		Nov	1	Dec
14 Offer of Coverage (enter required code)																				
15 Employee Required																				
Contribution (see instructions)	\$	\$	\$	\$	5	\$	\$	\$		\$		\$		\$	\$		\$		\$	
16 Section 4980H Safe Harbor and Other Relief (enter code, if applicable																				
17.55	vered Indiv		nsured	d coverage,	check th	ne box and er	nter the inform	nation f	or eac	h inc	dividual	enrolle	NO. 1104 BOX BOX		11.77 13.77 3.13 1.1	-	employ	ee.		
	ne of covered inc ne, middle initial			(b) SSN or	other TIN	(c) DOB (if SSN TIN is not avai			ın l	Feb	Mar	Apr	(e May) Months June	of Cover	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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22																				
For Privacy Act	and Paperwo	ork Reduction	on Act	Notice, see	separate	instructions.					Cat	No. 607	05M					Form	1095-	C (2018)

G. Household Employee Taxes

If you pay a household employee cash wages of \$2,100 or more in 2018 (this threshold is the same in 2019), you must withhold 6.2% of social security and 1.45% of Medicare taxes from all cash wages you pay to that employee. Unless you prefer to pay your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds, you should withhold 7.65% from each payment of cash wages. The specified dollar amount and

G. <u>Household Employee Taxes</u> (Continued)

percentages can be found under the topic "Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?" in IRS Publication 926, Household Employer's Tax Guide. Instead of paying this amount to your employee, pay it to the IRS with a matching amount for your share of the taxes. If you pay your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds, these amounts must be included in the employee's wage for income tax purposes. However, they are not counted as social security and Medicare wages or as federal unemployment wages.

You are not required to withhold federal income tax from wages you pay to a household employee. However, if your employee asks you to withhold federal income tax and you agree, you will need Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate* from your employee. See IRS Publication 15, (*Circular E*), *Employer's Tax Guide*, which has tax withholding tables that are updated each year.

If you withhold or pay social security and Medicare taxes, or if you withhold federal income tax, you will need to file Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, for each employee. You will also need a Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statement. To complete Form W-2 you will need both an employer identification number and your employee's social security number. If you do not already have an employer identification number ("EIN"), you can request one by submitting a Form SS-4 Application for Employer Identification Number.

If you paid cash wages to household employees totaling more than \$1,000 in any calendar quarter of the current or prior year, you generally must pay FUTA tax on the first \$7,000 of cash wages you pay to each household employee. For updated dollar amounts and wages not counted, look under the heading "Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?" in IRS Publication 926.

If you must file Form W-2 or pay federal unemployment tax, you will also need to file a Form 1040, Schedule H, Household Employment Taxes, after the end of the year with your individual income tax return.

In California, a household employer must report when he/she employs one or more individuals to perform work and pays cash wages of \$750 or more in a calendar quarter. You must register with the Employment Development Department ("EDD") by submitting an *Employers of Household Workers Registration and Update* Form (DE1 HW) within 15 days after you pay \$750 in total cash wages. Register online using e-Services for Business.

For more information on withholding, call the FTB's Withhold at Source Unit at (916) 845-4900.

H. Penalties

1. Trust Fund Recovery Penalty

Federal income taxes, social security, and Medicare taxes along with certain excise taxes withheld by an employer and held in trust until paid to the U.S. Treasury are called trust fund taxes. If trust fund taxes are willfully not collected, not truthfully accounted for, and not paid, the IRS may charge a trust fund recovery penalty. The penalty is equal to 100% of the trust fund taxes evaded and may apply to a person or persons the IRS determines is responsible.

H. <u>Penalties</u> (Continued)

2. Failure to File Correct Information Returns by Due Date:

This penalty applies to the failure to file timely returns and the failure to include all required or correct information (including missing or incorrect taxpayer identification numbers). The penalty also applies for filing on paper when required to file on electronic media or for failing to file forms that allows them to be processed.

3. <u>Information Return Penalties:</u>

P. L. 114-27 increased the penalties for failure to file correct information returns and provide correct payee statements for information returns required to be filed after December 31, 2015.

Penalties are discussed under Section O in the IRS *General Instructions for Certain Information Returns*. The penalties in the bulleted list under "Failure To File Correct Information Returns by the Due Date (Section 6721)" are revised as follows:

- \$50 per information return if you correctly file within 30 days (by March 30 if the due date is February 28); maximum penalty \$547,000 per year (\$191,000 for small businesses).
- \$100 per information return if you correctly file more than 30 days after the due date but by August 1; maximum penalty \$1,641,000 per year (\$547,000 for small businesses).
- \$250 per information return if you file after August 1 or you do not file required information returns; maximum penalty \$3,282,500 per year (\$1,094,000 for small businesses).

Also, in the "Caution" that comes after the bulleted list, the penalty is increased to \$270 per information return if you do not file corrections and you do not meet any of the exceptions to the penalty.

Under "Failure To Furnish Correct Payee Statements (Section 6722)", the penalty due to intentional disregard of the requirements to furnish a correct payee statement is at least \$540 per payee statement with no maximum penalty.

Generally, no information return is required to be filed with the FTB unless the California amounts are different from the federal amounts.

California has its own unique provision that provides that the FTB may disallow a deduction to a taxpayer for amounts paid as remuneration for personal services if that business fails to report the payments on a Form W-2 or Form 1099.

H. <u>Penalties</u> (Continued)

4. Failure to Furnish Correct Payee Statements:

IRC 6721 and IRC 6722 Penalty for Small Businesses with Gross Receipts Less Than or Equal to \$5 Million

Time of Filing	Penalty Rate	Returns Due Between 01-01-2011 Through 12- 31-2015	Returns Due on or After 01-01-2016 (Base Rates, indexed for annual inflation)*	Inflationary Adjusted Amounts for Tax Year 2015*	Inflationary Adjusted Amounts for Tax Year 2016*	Inflationary Adjusted Amounts for Tax Year 2017*	Inflationary Adjusted Amounts for Tax Year 2018*
Not more than 30 days late	Per return	\$30	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
	Maximum	\$75,000	\$175,000	\$185,000	\$186,000	\$187,500	\$191,000
31 days late - August 1	Per return	\$60	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
	Maximum	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$529,500	\$532,000	\$536,000	\$547,000
After August 1	Per return	\$100	\$250	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$270
	Maximum	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,059,500	\$1,064,000	\$1,072,500	\$1,094,000
Intentional	Per return**	\$250	\$500	\$520	\$530	\$530	\$540
Disregard	Maximum	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation

^{*} P.L. 114-27 (H.R. 1295, Section 806) increases the penalty amounts for returns required to be filed after December 31, 2015. P.L. 113-295 (H.R. 5771, Section 208) provides that penalty amounts be annually adjusted for inflation for returns required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014. Inflationary adjusted amounts for tax years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 were published in Revenue Procedures 2016-11, 2015-53, 2016-55, and 2017-58, respectively. See subsequent annual Revenue Procedure guidance for inflationary adjustments for tax year 2019 and after.

I. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System ("EFTPS")

EFTPS is a free, secure payment system provided by the U.S. Treasury Department. The following is from the irs.gov website:

Every user must have a secure Internet browser with 128-bit encryption in order to access the site. To log on to the system, an enrolled user must be authenticated with three pieces of unique information: Taxpayer Identification Number, EFTPS Personal Identification Number, and an internet password.

Businesses and Individuals can schedule payments up to 365 days in advance. Scheduled payments can be changed or cancelled up to two business days in advance of the scheduled payment date.

You can use EFTPS® to make all your federal tax payments, including income, employment, estimated and excise taxes.

^{**} Increased penalty amounts may apply in the case of certain failures in the case of intentional disregard. See IRC 6721(e)(2).

I. <u>Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)</u> (Continued)

You can check up to 16 months of your EFTPS® payment history online or by calling EFTPS® Customer Service.

By 8 p.m. ET at least one calendar day in advance of the due date, submit your payment instructions to EFTPS® to move the funds from your account to the Treasury's account for payment of your federal taxes. Funds will not move from your account until the date you indicate. You will receive an immediate acknowledgement of your payment instructions, and your bank statement will confirm the payment was made.

To enroll, or for more information on enrollment, visit EFTPS® or call EFTPS® Customer Service to request an enrollment form: 1-800-555-4477

II. AUTO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

A. Employer Reimbursement Plan Rules

Unreimbursed expenses, or expenses paid under a "nonaccountable" expense reimbursement arrangement must be reported as salary or wages on Form W-2. An employee is eligible to deduct the related expenses as miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2% adjusted gross income and standard deduction limitations. Reimbursements paid under an "accountable" plan will generally not be reported on Form W-2. Under an "accountable" plan the employee may deduct otherwise allowable expenses which are in excess of the reimbursement as miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the limitations previously stated. The TCJA made miscellaneous itemized deductions unavailable for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026. During those years, employees cannot deduct unreimbursed employee expenses or expenses paid under "nonaccountable" expense reimbursement arrangements.

B. Accountable Plan Defined

A reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement constitutes an accountable plan if it has the following three elements:

- 1. The related expense has a business connection;
- 2. the employer requires the employee to substantiate the expenses; and
- 3. the employer requires the employee to return any amount paid in excess of the substantiated expenses.

We strongly recommend that the plan be in writing. If an arrangement meets the three main requirements of an accountable plan, but the employee fails to return the excess amount, only the amount that has been substantiated is treated as paid under an accountable plan. Special deemed substantiation rules apply to mileage allowances and meal and incidental per-diem expense allowances.

II. AUTO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

B. Accountable Plan Defined (Continued)

The requirements stated above are applied on an employee-by-employee basis. Failure by one employee to fulfill one of the criteria does not cause amounts paid to other employees under the arrangement to be treated as paid under a non-accountable plan. A payer may have more than one arrangement with a particular employee without running afoul of the accountable plan requirements.

Expenses subject to these rules include business meals, travel expenses, auto expenses, and other similar expenses of the employee which are ordinary and necessary to the business of the employer and reimbursed to employees. Further, so called "expense allowances" are also covered. Expenses should clearly indicate what they are, the amount of each expense, date incurred, persons for whom the expense was incurred, place where expense was incurred, and the business purpose of the expense. Certain expenses such as meals and entertainment require more information than automobile expenses.

Although advances remain a problem under the accountable plan rules, the Treasury Regulations provide a safe harbor method. The requirements are treated as met within a reasonable time if an advance is made within 30 days of when an expense is paid or incurred, an expense is substantiated within 60 days after it is paid or incurred, and any excess amount is returned within 120 days after the expense is paid or incurred. If the first two parts of the safe harbor are met, but the excess monies are not returned within the 120-day period, only the excess must be treated as taxable compensation. If either of the first two parts is not met, the entire amount advanced is taxable compensation.

One major exception relates to per-diem type allowances. Here, only the amounts received in excess of government allowances are treated as compensation and are subject to employment taxes and withholding. Other than not being required to verify actual costs incurred, employees using the per-diem method must still meet the same substantiation tests as with other reimbursement plans in order to avoid inclusion of the entire allowance as compensation subject to employment taxes and withholding.

C. IRS Automobile Reimbursement Mileage Rates

- 1. For 2018, you may elect to reimburse employees for substantiated business mileage at 54.5 cents for every business mile driven. This rate is used to calculate the tax deduction for business travel as an alternative to deducting actual costs of maintaining an automobile. The rate is also used by many companies to reimburse workers who use their own cars on company business.
- 2. Beginning January 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be:
 - 58 cents for every mile of business travel driven.
 - 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.
 - 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.
- 3. Accountable plan. These reimbursements may only be made free of a wage characterization if the reimbursement is made under an accountable plan. The accountable plan rules are addressed above and also in IRS Publication 463, *Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses*.

II. AUTO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

D. Changes to Fringe Benefits for 2018

- 1. Employer payment or reimbursement of an employee's business expenses (so-called working condition fringe benefits) will continue to be tax-free to the employee and tax deductible by the employer. But certain fringe benefits that still can be provided tax-free to an employee will no longer be tax deductible by the employer. On the other hand, if an employer chooses to provide the affected fringe benefits on a taxable basis to the employee (i.e., as W-2 wages), the employer will be able claim a tax deduction for the taxable benefits.
- 2. Employees Can No Longer Deduct Unreimbursed Business Expenses. Prior to the TCJA, an employee who itemized tax deductions could deduct unreimbursed employee business expenses as a miscellaneous itemized deduction (to the extent that the aggregate miscellaneous itemized deductions exceeded 2% of the employee's adjusted gross income). However, beginning January 1, 2018 miscellaneous itemized deductions are no longer allowed. That means that if an employer reimburses an employee for a business expense, the reimbursement is tax-free to the employee. However, if the employer does not reimburse the employee's business expense, the employee will no longer be able to claim a tax deduction for the expense.
- 3. Moving Expenses. Under prior law, an individual could claim an above-the-line deduction (a non-itemized deduction) for moving expenses paid in connection with commencement of work at a new principal place of work. Alternatively, an employer could pay or reimburse an employee for moving expenses as a tax-free fringe benefit. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, an employee cannot deduct moving expenses nor can an employer pay or reimburse an employee's moving expenses on a tax-free basis. On the other hand, if an employer treats the payment or reimbursement of an employee's moving expenses as W-2 wages, the employer can deduct the payment as a compensation expense.
- 4. Qualified Transportation Benefit. Prior to the TCJA, the value of a "qualified transportation fringe" benefit provided by an employer to an employee was treated as tax-free, subject to monthly limits. A "qualified transportation fringe" is defined as:
 - transportation in a commuter highway vehicle for travel between the employee's residence and place of employment;
 - transit passes;
 - qualified parking; and
 - qualified bicycle commuting reimbursement.

Employers can still provide tax-free qualified transportation fringe benefits to employees (although qualified bicycle commuting reimbursements cannot be provided tax-free). However, an employer cannot deduct the expenses for providing tax-free qualified transportation fringe benefits.

5. Commuting Benefits. The TCJA provides that an employer cannot deduct any expense incurred for providing any transportation, or any payment or reimbursement, to an employee of the taxpayer for travel between the employee's residence and place of employment, except as necessary for ensuring the employee's safety.

A. <u>Taxation of Value of Automobile</u>

Fringe Benefit Received in 2018

For 2018, vehicle use must be supported by the general substantiation rules that require a taxpayer to prove eligibility for, and the amount of, any deduction claimed for business use. Also, the taxable personal portion of vehicle use must be included in the "Employee Wage and Tax Statement" (Form W-2) with all applicable income and payroll taxes withheld from 2018 wages. In order to compute the taxable portion of vehicle use, the following should be done:

- 1. The employee should complete a "Summary Statement" (see sample copy attached) and submit this to the employer at the end of each calendar year.
- 2. The personal portion of vehicle use must be valued and included in fourth quarter 2018 payroll tax returns.
- 3. The employee's 2018 Form W-2 must include the taxable portion of vehicle use and related withholdings.

B. <u>Employer Provided Vehicle</u>

1. Safe Harbor for Commuting Use Only

There is a limited safe harbor for the benefit of an employee who is required by the employer to use a company vehicle for commuting purposes. Under the safe harbor, the employee can exclude the availability of the vehicle (other than for commuting) as a working condition fringe benefit, provided the employee is entitled to value the commuting benefit in the amount of \$1.50 per one-way commute. The commuting safe harbor may be used if all of the following five criteria are met:

- a. The vehicle is owned or leased by the employer and is provided to one or more employees for use in connection with the employer's trade or business and is actually used in that trade or business.
- b. For bona fide noncompensatory business reasons, the employer requires the employee to commute to and/or from work in the vehicle.
- c. The employer has established a policy that the vehicle may not be used for personal purposes other than commuting. Such policy must be in writing (an example of such written policy is attached) and be given to applicable employees (or posted).
- d. The employer reasonably believes that the employee does not use the vehicle for any purpose other than commuting except for de minimis personal use.
- e. The employee required to use the vehicle for commuting is not a highly compensated "control employee" of the employer.

A "control employee" is an employee who meets any of the following:

- An appointed or elected government official whose compensation equals or exceeds the compensation paid to a federal government employee holding a position at Executive Level V, currently \$150,200.
- A director, officer, or employee whose annual compensation equals or exceeds specified inflation-adjusted amounts.

B. Employer Provided Vehicle (Continued)

1. Safe Harbor for Commuting Use Only (Continued)

• A 1% or more owner of equity, capital or profits interest in the employer.

Example A - Commuting Valuation Rule

Employee Y works for employer X. X provides a company vehicle to Y for the performance of Y's duties and requires Y to commute to and from work in the vehicle for noncompensatory but valid employer business purposes. X does not allow Y to use vehicle for any purpose other than that described and X reasonably believes that Y does not use the vehicle for other purposes. X provided Y a written policy statement and Y acknowledged receipt of the policy in writing. Y is not a "control" employee.

Based on the information presented above, the five criteria necessary for the commuting only use exception are met. The taxable fringe benefit received would be calculated by multiplying \$3 times the total commuting days used by the employee. (A one-way commute would be valued at \$1.50) Additionally:

- a. The employer must deduct all applicable payroll taxes and withhold income taxes from wages paid in the year that the benefit is received. (The withholding of income taxes, but not payroll taxes, can be waived at the employee's discretion.)
- b. The computed amount must be added to compensation records for that employee and included on Form W-2.
- c. The employee can reimburse the employer in January 2019 for all Social Security (FICA) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) required to be withheld if the employer was unable to timely withhold as stated in a.

2. Sample Notice to Employees When Using Commuting Use Only Safe Harbor

TO: (Employee)
FROM: (Employer)
DATE:
RE: Employer-Provided Vehicle

We have elected to use a special valuation rule for 2017 in computing the value of personal use of the vehicle which has been assigned to you. The special rule will value personal use by an automobile lease valuation rule, vehicle cents-per-mile rule, or a commuting valuation rule. We will attempt to use the method (which is available to you) that results in the least amount of additional taxable income.

In order to use the above special valuation rule, you must provide us with a written statement substantiating your personal use of the vehicle. This statement must include your total mileage for the year, broken down between business, commuting, and other personal miles. Attached is a statement which should be used in substantiating the information to us.

B. <u>Employer Provided Vehicle</u> (Continued)

2. Sample Notice to Employees When Using Commuting Use Only Safe Harbor (Continued)

In general, if you do not submit a written statement to us, the value of other personal use will be computed as if no portion of your driving was for business purposes.

Instructions to Employer

The above sample notice should state which of the three methods applies to the specific employee to which the notice is written. Any one of the methods may apply to any employee; thus, an employer could utilize all three methods during the same calendar year.

3. Other Than Commuting Use Only

If one or more of the five criteria listed previously are not met, the following valuation methods, as described in examples B and C, may be used.

Example B - Vehicle Cents Per Mile

The value of any personal use by an employee of your vehicle may be calculated by multiplying the standard mileage rate (54.5¢ in 2018 and to be determined in 2019), by the number of miles driven by an employee for personal purposes, if you provide your employee with the use of a vehicle that either:

- you reasonably expect will be "regularly used" in your business throughout the calendar year (or a shorter period that the vehicle is owned or leased by you); or
- is driven primarily by employees for at least 10,000 miles in a calendar year.

A vehicle is considered "regularly used" in an employer's business if either: (i) at least 50 percent of the vehicle's total mileage for the year is for the employer's business; or (ii) it is generally used each workday in an employer-sponsored car pool to transport at least three employees to and from work. You may not use the cents-per-mile rate if the vehicle's value when you first make it available to any employee for personal use is more than an amount determined by the IRS as the maximum automobile value for the year. For example, you cannot use the cents-per-mile rule for an automobile that you first made available to an employee in 2018 if its value at that time exceeded \$15,900 for a passenger automobile or \$17,800 for a truck or van. Once the cents-per-mile rate has been adopted for a vehicle, you must continue to use that valuation method until the vehicle no longer qualifies.

Maintenance and insurance are included in the standard mileage rate. However, no reduction in the rate is allowed if you do not provide these services. The rate includes the fair market value of employer-provided fuel for miles driven in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. If fuel is not provided by you as the employer, the rate may be reduced by no more than 5.5 cents per mile.

Example C - Automobile "Lease" Valuation Rule

Generally, you figure the annual lease value of an automobile as follows:

B. <u>Employer Provided Vehicle</u> (Continued)

3. Other Than Commuting Use Only (Continued)

Example C - Automobile "Lease" Valuation Rule (Continued)

- 1. Determine the fair market value ("FMV") of the automobile as of the first date the automobile is available for personal use.
- 2. Using the IRS Annual Lease Value Table, read down column 1 until you come to the dollar range within which the FMV of the automobile falls. Then read across to column 2 to find the corresponding annual lease value.

To obtain the ALV, the FMV of the vehicle must be determined as of the first day it was made available to the employee. The value remains applicable for a four-year period. In the fifth year that the auto is used, the FMV is redetermined and a new annual lease value is calculated from the table. That redetermined value is then used for the second four-year period.

Also, if the employer provides gas and oil, an additional taxable amount of 5.5¢ per mile of personal use may be added. The value of insurance, maintenance, and repairs is included in the annual lease value table amount. If, however, the employer does not supply maintenance or insurance, the ALV table figure cannot be reduced by reason of such omission.

Given an annual lease value of \$6,600 for a vehicle available all 365 days of the year and driven 5,000 personal and commuting miles out of 20,000 total miles, the taxable fringe benefit to be included as employee compensation would be calculated as follows:

(1) Vehicle usage

$$\frac{365}{365}$$
 $\frac{5,000}{20,000}$ = \$1,650
(2) Gas and oil
 $5,000$ miles X 5.5¢ = $\frac{275}{1000}$

C. Employee Uses Own Vehicle

In this circumstance, the submission of the "Summary Statement" is crucial as will be explained in the following example.

If an employer elects to use the special valuation rules shown in Examples A through C, the employer must notify the employee of the election by the later of January 31 of the calendar year for which the election is to apply or 30 days after the employer first provides the benefit to the employee.

Example D

Employee D works for employer X. D drives a personal vehicle for the performance of D's duties on behalf of X. X provides 100% of the upkeep and maintenance (\$4,000) and D's Summary Statement indicates 25% personal use.

C. <u>Employee Uses Own Vehicle</u> (Continued)

Example D (Continued)

The taxable fringe benefit received would be calculated as follows:

- 1. The amount X has paid (\$4,000) times D's personal usage (25%).
 - (a) In this example, $$4,000 \times 25\% = $1,000$.
 - (b) Only the personal portion is included as additional income.
- 2. Follow procedures a through e as outlined in Example A.

The above examples present the application of the special vehicle valuation regulations in a few generalized situations. It is not possible to cover all situations as the regulations covering valuation of employee fringe benefits are long and detailed. If you feel the above examples do not cover your specific situation, please contact the partner at Miller Kaplan Arase LLP in charge of your account for further guidance.

D. <u>Summary Statement</u>

Employee Name:								
Social Security Number:								
Employer:								
Vehicle:								
Make Model	Year	I	D Number					
Period of Usage: From	to	(incl	ude month, date	e and year)				
- Total miles driven fo	r the period	d:						
- Total business miles	driven for t	the period	d:					
- Total commuting mi	- Total commuting miles driven for the period:							
-	- Total other personal miles (but not commuting miles) driven during the period:							
- Have you maintaine business use?*			to support the No					
- Is the evidence writ	ten? Y	'es	No					
- Do you have anothe	r car availal	ble for pe	rsonal use? Yes	No				
If yes, year, make ar	ıd model							

D. <u>Summary Statement</u> (Continued)

тнегеву	attest that the init	offilation listed above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
-	Employee	Date
*Note:	Your records are	not to be submitted with this statement to us; however, you are required to retain the

E. Policy Statement "Commuting Only Use" - Special Rule

have any questions.

If an employer and employee elect to adopt the special rule ("Commuting Use Only"), a written policy must be established.

supporting documents for a minimum of six years. The requirements for recordkeeping are solely your responsibility and not ours, as your employer. Please refer to IRS recordkeeping requirements if you

The policy could be worded as follows:

Employees who are provided with company owned automobiles must take those automobiles home at night to provide safe parking. Employees may not, however, use such automobile for personal purposes, other than for commuting or de minimis personal use.

F. <u>Annual Lease Value Table for Employer Provided Autos</u>

The purpose of this table is to establish the annual value of personal use of employer provided autos. Take the table value times the personal use percentage. The product is the personal use value includable as additional wages subject to withholdings (including FICA and SDI).

Automobile fair market value when first provided to employee	Annual lease value*
\$ 0 to \$ 999	¢ 600
1,000 to 1,999	
2,000 to 2,999	,
3,000 to 3,999	•
4,000 to 4,999	•
5,000 to 5,999	,
6,000 to 6,999	•
7,000 to 7,999	•
8,000 to 8,999	•
9,000 to 9,999	,
10,000 to 10,999	•
11,000 to 11,999	
12,000 to 12,999	3,600
13,000 to 13,999	3,850
14,000 to 14,999	4,100
15,000 to 15,999	4,350
16,000 to 16,999	4,600
17,000 to 17,999	4,850
18,000 to 18,999	5,100
19,000 to 19,999	5,350
20,000 to 20,999	5,600
21,000 to 21,999	5,850
22,000 to 22,999	
23,000 to 23,999	
24,000 to 24,999	•
25,000 to 25,999	•
26,000 to 27,999	,
28,000 to 29,999	•
30,000 to 31,999	•
32,000 to 33,999	•
34,000 to 35,999	•
36,000 to 37,999	•
38,000 to 39,999	•
40,000 to 41,999	•
,	•
42,000 to 43,999	,
44,000 to 45,999	•
46,000 to 47,999	•
48,000 to 49,999	•
50,000 to 51,999	•
52,000 to 53,999	•
54,000 to 55,999	•
56,000 to 57,999	•
58,000 to 59,999	15,250

^{*} Add 5.5 cents per mile for gas if reimbursed by employer.

IV. NEW LAWS AND OTHER CHANGES

FEDERAL

A. Use of R&D Credits to offset Federal Payroll Taxes

Certain small start-up businesses can potentially utilize up to \$250,000 of qualified research expenses to offset payroll taxes instead of income taxes. This was a change that began for 2016 tax return filings. Since most start-up businesses are not immediately profitable, this is a real benefit that start-ups could be taking if they have R&D costs. A qualified small business is a corporation that are not publicly traded (including an S corporation), partnership, or sole proprietorship with gross receipts of less than \$5 million for the tax year and no gross receipts for any tax year before the 5-year tax period ending with the tax year. There are also some other restrictions. Tax-exempt organizations under Section 501 do not qualify. Research credits are generated for work undertaken for discovering information that is technological in nature and intended to develop a new or improved business component. For more details, see the instructions for IRS Form 6765.

B. New IRS Partnership Audit Rules

As part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 ("BBA"), new partnership audit rules went into effect on January 1, 2018 that are intended to create a more efficient audit process. Historically, IRS adjustments to partnership income have flowed through to the partners/LLC members. These new rules effectively create an entity-level tax on partnerships by imposing a tax on the partnership level at the highest individual or corporate tax rate should the audit result in additional reportable income. Furthermore, the new rules require the IRS to assess the partnership for the current year rather than the audited year. This may impact current partners who were not partners of the partnership in the year under review.

Partnerships with fewer than 100 partners that do not have any trusts or other partnerships/LLCs as partners may make an annual election to opt out of the new audit regime. One more significant change in the law is that previously the IRS had to notify all partners of a partnership audit. However, under the new BBA, the IRS only needs to notify the partnership representative.

C. Opportunity Zones

The TCJA added "Opportunity Zones" to the tax code. Opportunity Zones are economic development tools designed to generate economic development and job creation by providing tax benefits to investors. Specifically, investors can defer any gains invested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund ("QOF") until the earlier of the date on which the investment in a QOF is sold or exchanged, or December 31, 2026. There is a graduated increase in the rate of exclusion of the deferred gain depending upon how long the investor holds the investment. See Notice 2018-48 for a list of designated Qualified Opportunity Zones in which a Fund may invest to meet the program requirements.

D. More Online Purchases Subject to Sales Tax

On June 21, 2018, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* holding that states had the right to impose sales taxes on e-commerce companies even if those companies did not have any property, such as stores or warehouses, or employees within the state's borders. The Court upheld a South Dakota law that required remote sellers with at least \$100,000 in sales or 200 or more transactions annually in South Dakota to collect sales tax from buyers in the state. As a result, new taxes on e-commerce sales have gone into effect in multiple states. These changes will require significant research into the economic nexus standards for sales, use, and income tax laws in various states. Please contact us for further advice on this topic.

IV. NEW AND OTHER CHANGES (Continued)

E. Organizations Exempt from Income Tax

In 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"), the accounting profession's rule setting body, issued a pronouncement, which, among other changes, changed the way not-for-profit organizations classified net assets and required all nonprofits to disclose their disbursements. The new reporting standard is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. In light of the pronouncement, in May 2017, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") sent a letter to the IRS requesting for several changes to future Forms 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*. Thus, look for possible future changes to the Forms 990.

F. Reduced Backup Withholding Rate

Because of the new tax rates, the federal backup withholding rate dropped from 28% to 24%. You generally must withhold 24% of certain taxable payments if the payee fails to furnish you with his or her correct taxpayer identification number ("TIN"). Payments subject to backup withholding include interest, dividends, rents, royalties, commissions, and nonemployee compensation.

CALIFORNIA

G. California Extends Film Tax Credits to 2025

On June 27, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation extending California's film and TV incentive program to 2025. The tax credit program will continue to provide \$330M in tax credits per year to eligible productions. The new law contains provisions to increase diversity, including minority and women representation in the industry, and incentivizes the hiring of California musicians for film and television scoring. For more information visit the California Film Commission's website at http://film.ca.gov/.

H. Replacement of Board of Equalization Functions

On June 14, 2017, the California State legislature voted to take away much of the authority from the elected State Board of Equalization ("BOE") and create two replacement agencies. The bill was signed into law June 27, 2017 and went into effect July 1, 2017. This action resulted from legislators' dissatisfaction with the BOE for a number of reasons. The new California Department of Tax and Fee Administration ("CDTFA") has taken over the responsibility to manage most tax and fee programs for sales, use, and excise taxes, and most fee collection. The California Office of Tax Appeals ("OTA") has taken over dispute settlements related to franchise and personal income tax appeals, sales and use tax, and other special taxes and fees. The BOE still has constitutionally mandated power to review property tax assessments and certain excise and fuel taxes.

I. New State Retirement Program for Private Workers

California has enacted a state-sponsored retirement program for workers in private industry. The CalSavers Retirement Savings Program will require private employers with at least five employees that don't already offer a workplace retirement plan to either begin offering one via the private market or provide their employees access to CalSavers. CalSavers is an automatic enrollment payroll deduction IRA, which offers some tax benefits and consequences. Pending any court challenges as to its legality, the program will be phased in over three years and will open to all eligible employers beginning July 1, 2019.

IV. NEW AND OTHER CHANGES (Continued)

CALIFORNIA (Continued)

J. California Parental Leave Expands

Governor Jerry Brown signed California's new Parental Leave Act ("PLA"), which took effect on January 1, 2018. The PLA provides California parents who work for employers with between 20 and 49 employees in a 75-mile radius the right to 12 weeks of job protected leave to bond with their newborns. Employees of large businesses already have a similar right under the Federal and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA").

K. College Access Tax Credit

This California College Access Tax Credit ("CATC") is a credit available to individuals, business entities, and insurance companies that contribute to the CATC Fund. The CATC began in 2014 and was set to expire at the end of 2017, however, in October 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation which extended the credit to taxable years beginning before January 1, 2023. The credit is a percentage of the amount you contribute each taxable year, 50% for 2017 through 2022. The credit can be used to offset California tax, but you are not eligible to get both a CATC and a state tax deduction. The credit can also be used to claim a charitable deduction on your federal tax return. Additional information about obtaining the CATC can be found on the FTB's website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Update: On August 27, 2018, the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department published proposed regulations regarding "Contributions in Exchange for State or Local Tax Credits." The proposed regulations were issued to prevent states from allowing taxpayers to claim a charitable deduction for state and local tax payments above the new \$10,000 state tax deduction limit set in the TCJA. The proposed regulations were issued to prevent attempts by states to convert tax payments into charitable contributions. As it stands, this California credit is now less valuable.

L. San Francisco Prop. C Homeless Tax Passes

On November 6, 2018, sixty percent of voters in San Francisco approved Proposition C, Gross Receipts Tax for Homelessness Services. The business tax measure was designed to address the severe homelessness problem in that city by taxing large corporations. Proposition C will increase the gross receipts taxes for companies with more than \$50M by an average of 0.5%, with the proceeds going toward homelessness programs.

V. IDENTITY THEFT

The IRS has some suggestions to reduce identity theft as follows:

- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Use strong passwords.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threating calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card companies and even the IRS.
- Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.
- Protect your personal information and that of any dependents. Don't routinely carry Social Security cards, and make sure your tax records are secure.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

V. IDENTITY THEFT (Continued)

The Federal Trade Commission makes consumer information available on www.consumer.ftc.gov. They have various recommendations regarding steps to take to prevent identity theft as well.

The following are certain tips that we published last year as well. We also suggest that you should file your taxes early – as soon as you have all of the tax information required. Also, you should respond promptly to any letters or notices from the IRS and state taxing agencies.

The following are tips to protect yourself from identity theft:

- Avoid sending sensitive personal information like your credit card or Social Security number through chat lines, email, or other online posts. Assume your communications are not private unless encrypted.
- Shred all unwanted pre-approved credit card offers.
- Order your credit report annually from the three credit bureaus to check for inaccuracies and fraudulent use of your accounts.
- Do not carry your Social Security card or number, passport, or birth certificate.

If you are a victim of identity theft:

- Close your credit card accounts and request they be processed as "account closed at the customer's request" instead of "lost or stolen." This will not reflect negatively on your credit report. Follow up with a written request.
- Notify your bank of the theft and change all account numbers. Also, request that the bank assign you a secret password to be used in all future transactions.
- Keep a log of all contacts you make in the resolution of your theft.

VI. IRS TANGIBLE PROPERTY REGULATIONS

The Internal Revenue Code allows a deduction for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in carrying on a trade or business. The code also requires you to capitalize costs incurred for acquiring, producing, and improving tangible property. In order to reconcile or establish a framework to determine how such costs are to be treated, taxpayer friendly regulations took effect in 2014 which contains simplifying provisions and allows taxpayers to elect to currently deduct expenses for the purchase of tangible property that would otherwise have to be capitalized.

Under these regulations you may elect to apply a de minimis safe harbor to amounts paid to acquire or produce tangible property to the extent such amounts are deducted by you for financial accounting purposes. If you have what is known as an applicable financial statement ("AFS") you may use the safe harbor to deduct amounts paid for tangible property up to \$5,000 per invoice or item. If you do not have such a statement, you may use the safe harbor to deduct up to \$2,500 per item or invoice.

An AFS includes a financial statement required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as well as other types of certified audited financial statements accompanied by a CPA report. If you don't have an AFS you must expense amounts on your books and records in accordance with a consistent accounting policy which exists at the beginning of the taxable year. The annual election is not a change in accounting method and does not require a filing of Form 3115. Contact us should you have further questions.

VII. CALIFORNIA COMPETES TAX CREDIT

The California Competes Tax Credit is an income or franchise tax credit available to businesses that come to California or stay and grow in California. Tax credit agreements will be negotiated by Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and approved by a statutorily created "California Competes Tax Credit Committee." The committee consists of Director of GO-Biz (Chair), State Treasurer, Director of the Department of Finance, and one appointee each by the Speaker of the Assembly and Senate Committee on Rules.

Of the aggregate amount of tax credit available each fiscal year, 25% of the total credit amount is reserved for small businesses. A small business is defined as one that had less than \$2M in gross income in the prior year. Any credit amount not awarded during the application period will carry over to the next application period.

For fiscal year 2018-19, GO-Biz will accept applications for the California Competes Tax Credit during the following periods:

- July 30, 2018, through August 20, 2018
- January 2, 2019, through January 21, 2019
- March 4, 2019, through March 25, 2019

Go to <u>business.ca.gov</u> for more information on the California Competes Tax Credit.

VIII. CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of these reporting requirements is to increase child support collection by helping to locate parents who are delinquent in their child support obligations. This law requires businesses and government entities to report specified information to the Employment Development Department ("EDD") on independent contractors.

Any business or government entity (defined as a "service-recipient") that is required to file a federal Form 1099-MISC for services performed by an independent contractor (defined as a "service-provider") must comply with these reporting requirements. A "service-recipient" means any individual, person, corporation, association, or partnership, or agent thereof, doing business in this State, deriving trade or business income from sources within this State, or in any manner in the course of trade or business subject to the laws of this State. An independent contractor is defined as an individual who is not an employee of the business or government entity for California purposes and who receives compensation or executes a contract for services performed for that business or government entity either in or outside of California.

You must report to EDD within twenty (20) days of either making payments totaling \$600 or more or entering into a contract for \$600 or more with an independent contractor in any calendar year, whichever is earlier.

You are required to provide the name of your business, the federal employer identification number, the California employer account number (if applicable), Social Security number, and the service-recipient's name/business name, address, and telephone number.

You are also required to provide the independent contractor's (service-provider's) first name, middle initial, last name, Social Security number, address, and start date of contract, along with the amount of contract, contract expiration date, and an indication if it is an ongoing contract (check box if applicable).

VIII. CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

Use e-Services for Business to submit the *Report of Independent Contractor(s)* form (DE 542) online or submit a paper report by mail or fax. To obtain forms and/or information, call (888) 745-3886. You may also visit your local Employment Tax Office or access the Internet site at www.edd.ca.gov/.

IX. EARNED INCOME CREDIT

The Earned Income Credit ("EIC") is a refundable tax credit available to certain low-income workers. Although the Education Jobs and Medicare Assistance Act repealed the Advanced Earned Income Credit, effective with tax year 2011, which eliminated the Form W-5, employers are still required to notify employees who have no federal income tax withheld that they may be able to claim a tax refund because of the EIC. Employers, however, are not required to notify employees who claimed exemption from withholding on Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, about the EIC. If employers give an employee a timely Form W-2, no further notice is necessary if the Form W-2 has the required information about the EIC on the back of the employee's copy. Eligible employees can still claim the EIC when filing their federal income tax return, Form 1040.

California also has an Earned Income Tax Credit, which employees can claim by preparing and filing a California tax return.

X. PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT SYSTEM

All employers are either federal "monthly depositors" or "semiweekly depositors." Prior to the beginning of each calendar year, employers must determine which of the two deposit schedules they are required to use. An employer's status is determined by reference to the employer's deposit history during a "lookback period." The lookback period for a Form 941 filer begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the preceding year.

An employer is a monthly depositor for a calendar year if the aggregate amount of employment taxes reported on its quarterly returns, Forms 941, for the four consecutive quarters ending June 30 of the preceding year is \$50,000 or less. An employer is a semiweekly depositor if the aggregate is more than \$50,000. Initially, new employers are treated as monthly depositors. A monthly depositor must deposit employment taxes accumulated within the calendar month by the 15th day of the following month. For a semiweekly depositor, if the depositor's payday is on a Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Friday, taxes must be deposited on or before the following Wednesday. For all other paydays, the deposit is due on the Friday following the payday. A special one-day rule applies to any employer that has \$100,000 or more in undeposited employment taxes on any day during a monthly or semiweekly deposit period.

If a deposit is required to be made on a day that is not a business day, the deposit is considered timely if it is made by the close of the next business day. Semiweekly depositors have a minimum of three (3) business days following the close of the semiweekly period to make a deposit. Thus, a semiweekly depositor with a Friday payroll will have until the following Thursday to deposit employment taxes if the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday following the payday is a legal holiday.

X. PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT SYSTEM (Continued)

An employer is treated as having made the required deposit if any deposit shortfall does not exceed the greater of \$100 or two (2) percent of the amount required to be deposited and the shortfall is deposited on or before prescribed shortfall makeup dates. For a monthly depositor, the shortfall makeup date is the return due date for the return period in which the shortfall occurs. For a semiweekly depositor, the shortfall makeup date is the earlier of the first Wednesday or Friday (whichever is earlier) that falls on or after the 15th day of the month following the month in which the shortfall occurred, or the due date of the return for the period of the tax liability.

XI. EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Some companies have attempted to avoid the burden of the employers' share of employment taxes by classifying their workers as independent contractors when in fact they were employees. The state and federal taxing authorities have been aggressively auditing companies to find such abuses. IRS Publication 1779 is a helpful resource for determining whether a worker is properly classified as an independent contractor or an employee.

The Voluntary Classification Settlement Program ("VCSP") is an optional program that provides taxpayers an opportunity to reclassify their workers as employees for employment tax purposes for future tax periods with partial relief from federal employment taxes. To participate in this voluntary program, the taxpayer must meet certain eligibility requirements, apply to participate in the VCSP by filing Form 8952, *Application for Voluntary Classification Settlement Program*, and enter into a closing agreement with the IRS.

When determining worker classification, certain factors carry more weight than others depending upon specific industry practices. The IRS has the burden of proof on worker classification if the taxpayer can cite judicial precedent or long-standing industry practice for not treating a worker as an employee. Filing Forms 1099-MISC consistent with the taxpayer's treatment of a worker as a non-employee is imperative but not definitive. Worker classification is an area of increasing IRS enforcement and the target of litigation. Therefore, given the penalties associated with the Statutory Employer statutes and regulations for failing to withhold and pay taxes associated with wages, employers should be aware of the risks associated with misclassifying workers.

On April 30, 2018, the California Supreme Court issued a decision in the matter of *Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles* that has broad implications in this regard. The Court held that a worker is an independent contractor only if the hiring party can establish the following: (a) the worker is free from control and direction of the hiring entity; (b) the worker performs work outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business; and (c) the worker is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business of the same nature as the work performed for the hiring entity.

A. Worker Classification: The IRS' Approach

1. Do behavioral controls over the worker exist?

Behavioral control focuses on whether the business has the right to direct or control how the work is done, e.g., how the worker performs the specific task for which he was hired. Factors include:

- a. To what extent are instructions given and taken?
- b. What training does the business give the worker?

XI. EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR (Continued)

A. Worker Classification: The IRS' Approach (Continued)

2. Do financial controls over the worker exist?

These factors illustrate whether there is a right to control how the business aspects of the worker's activities are conducted:

- a. Can the worker realize a profit or incur a loss?
- b. Is the worker's investment significant?
- c. To what extent does the worker make services available to the general public?
- d. How does the business pay the worker?

3. What type of relationship between the parties exists?

These factors illustrate how the worker and the business perceive their relationship.

- a. Does a written contract exist that describes the relationship the parties intend to create?
- b. Does the business provide the worker with employee-type benefits?
- c. How permanent and ongoing is this relationship?
- d. To what extent are the services performed by the worker a key aspect of the regular business of the company?

XII. DBA – FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

You must file a fictitious name registration within 40 days of starting a company in the county where you have your principal place of business. In Los Angeles County, visit rrcc.lacounty.gov/Clerk. In Orange County, start at egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/ and search for "fictitious business." In San Francisco County, go to https://sfgov.org/countyclerk/fictitious-business-name-fbn.

You do not have to file if you use your surname in the name of the business. So "Tim Parker Plumbing" or "Parker's Plumbing" are both exempt from registering, but "Tim's Plumbing" is not. Also, if you use something like "Parker and Sons Plumbing" you do not have to file, because the name suggests additional owners.

In Los Angeles County, the first-time filing fee for one business name and one registrant is \$26, plus an additional \$5 more for each additional business name and/or each additional registrant. The base fee is \$23 in Orange County, \$55 in San Bernardino County, \$58 in Riverside County, \$53 in Ventura County, and \$53 in San Francisco County. Filings are good for five years, then it can be renewed.

Within 30 calendar days from the date of filing your fictitious business name statement, you must publish it in a legally adjudicated newspaper in your area once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks. The county clerk can provide you a list of which newspapers you must use.

You don't want to create confusion by choosing a business name that's already being used, so most county clerks offer an online search form so you can check if a name is already taken. In Los Angeles County, visit rrcc.lacounty.gov/clerk/fbn search.cfm.

XIII. REPORT OF FOREIGN BANK AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS ("FBAR")

If you have a financial interest in or signature authority over a foreign financial account, including a bank account, brokerage account, mutual fund, trust, or other type of foreign financial account, the Bank Secrecy Act may require you to report the accounts annually to the IRS by electronically filing a Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts ("FBAR"). The FBAR must be filed electronically through FinCEN's BSA E-Filing System. The FBAR is not filed with a federal tax return. You are required to file an FBAR if the aggregate value of all foreign financial accounts exceeded \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year reported.

Reporting and Filing Information

If you who hold a foreign financial account, you may have a reporting obligation even though the account produces no taxable income. The reporting obligation is met by answering questions on a tax return about foreign accounts (for example, the questions about foreign accounts found on Form 1040, Schedule B) and by filing an FBAR.

The FBAR is a calendar year report, which historically has had to be filed with the Department of Treasury on or before June 30 of the year following the calendar year reported with no extension. The *Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015* changed the standard FBAR due date to April 15 beginning with the 2016 calendar year reports. For filers living in the U.S., this change in the law aligned the timing of their FBAR submission with the timing of their income tax return. FinCEN will grant filers failing to meet the FBAR annual due date of April 15 an automatic extension to October 15 each year. Accordingly, specific requests for this extension is not required.

Those required to file an FBAR who fail to properly file a complete and correct FBAR may be subject to civil monetary penalties. For penalties that are assessed after August 1, 2016, whose associated violations occurred after November 2, 2015, the IRS may assess an inflation-adjusted civil penalty not to exceed \$12,459 per violation for non-willful violations that are not due to reasonable cause. For willful violations, the inflation-adjusted penalty may be the greater of \$124,588 or 50 percent of the balance in the account at the time of violation, for each violation.

Help with electronic filing technical questions is available at BSAEfilinghelp@fincen.gov or through the BSA E-Filing Help Desk at (866) 346-9478. For questions regarding BSA regulations contact FinCEN's Regulatory Helpline at (800) 949-2732.

Taxpayers with specified foreign financial assets that exceed certain thresholds must also report those assets to the IRS on Form 8938, *Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets*, which is filed with an income tax return. The Form 8938 filing requirement is in addition to the FBAR filing requirement. A chart providing a comparison of Form 8938 and FBAR requirements may be accessed on the IRS Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Web page.

XIV. REPORTING OF CASH TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000

Generally, if your business receives more than \$10,000 in cash in a single transaction or two or more related transactions, you must file a Form 8300, Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business. In addition, you may file this form voluntarily for any suspicious transaction, even if the transaction does not exceed \$10,000. Cash includes the coins and currency of the United States and a foreign country, cashier's checks, bank drafts, travelers checks, and money orders. The civil penalties for failure to comply with the filing and payer reporting requirements are the same as those for failure to file or correctly file Forms 1099. You may be subject to criminal penalties, including up to five years imprisonment, for willfully failing to file a Form 8300, willfully filing a false or fraudulent Form 8300, stopping, or trying to stop, a Form 8300 from being filed, or setting up, helping to set up, or trying to set up a transaction in a way that would make it seem unnecessary to file Form 8300.

XIV. REPORTING OF CASH TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000 (Continued)

When a business is required to file a Form 8300, the business must also provide a written statement to each person(s) named on the Form 8300 on or before January 31 of the year that immediately follows the year the cash payment was made. The statement must include the name and address of the cash recipient's business, the name and telephone number of a contact person for the business, the total amount of reportable cash received in a 12-month period, and a statement that the cash recipient is reporting the information to the IRS. The statement must be mailed to the payer's last known address.

A business must file Form 8300 by the 15th day after the date of the transaction. Businesses can file Form 8300 electronically using the Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA") E-filing System. E-fining is free and secure. Businesses can also mail the Form 8300 to the IRS at: IRS Detroit Computing Center, P.O. Box 32621, Detroit, Michigan 48232. California also requires you to send a copy of Form 8300 to: Franchise Tax Board, P.O. Box 1468, Sacramento, California 95812-1468.

XV. WHEN HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES

A. Compliance with U.S. Immigration Laws

Federal law requires that every employer who recruits, refers for a fee, or hires an individual for employment in the U.S. must complete Form I-9, *Employment Eligibility Verification*. Within three days of starting work for pay, the employee must present the employer an original document or documents that establishes their identity and employment authorization. We strongly suggest you contact your legal advisor with regards to the form and the timing of requesting documentation, since incorrect steps could result in being found liable for discrimination practices.

There is no associated filing fee for completing Form I-9. This form is not filed with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") or any government agency. Form I-9 must be retained by the employer and made available for inspection by U.S. Government officials. Until August 31, 2019, use the version revised July 17, 2017. After this date, employers should use the new revised version of Form I-9. The changes to the form are generally not substantial.

Employers hiring foreign nationals should always check for the individual's Form I-94, which controls the terms of an individual's stay in the country. The Form I-94 serves as the "work permit". Once it expires, the period of lawful stay in the U.S. is over. (The visa, which establishes a specific length of stay, is permission to present oneself at the border). See details regarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify Department program on the uscis.gov website.

Nonimmigrant visa categories are arranged according to proposed activities in the U.S. Some typical work visas are E (persons with essential skills), H-1B (temporary professional worker), L-1 (permits international companies to transfer key employees), O (for outstanding individuals), and TN or NAFTA (for Mexicans or Canadians entering to work in the U.S. for one year as architects, scientists or other professionals).

B. E-Verify

U.S. law requires employers to employ only individuals who have legal authority to work in the United States – either U.S. citizens or foreigners who have the proper authorization. E-Verify is an online system maintained by the Department of Homeland Security that checks information provided by potential new hires against government records. The program was created by the Illegal Immigration Reform Act of 1996. Businesses in many states as well as federal contractors are required to use E-Verify.

XV. WHEN HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES (Continued)

B. <u>E-Verify</u> (Continued)

California law states that no state agency, city, or county can require private employers to use the federal E-Verify system to confirm the legal immigration status of workers they hire, except when required by federal law or as a condition of receiving federal funds. However, private employers may still choose to use the system.

To enroll go to www.e-verify.gov/.

C. <u>Income Tax Withholding</u>

When you hire an employee, you must have the employee complete Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*. The amount of income tax that an employer must withhold from wages is based on the filing status and number of withholding allowances claimed by the employee. Employers should retain the Form W-4 and should not transmit it to the IRS.

The amount of money withheld as federal income tax is reduced for each allowance claimed. If an employee fails to properly complete a Form W-4, the employer must withhold federal income tax as if the employee was single and claiming no withholding allowances. According to the IRS, the form should be retained for at least four (4) years after an employee's departure.

D. <u>New Employee Registry</u>

California requires all employers to report all of their new or rehired employees to the EDD within 20 calendar days of an employee's first day of work. This information will be cross-matched against child support records to locate parents who are delinquent in their support payments and it will also be used to detect unemployment insurance fraud. Use Form DE 34, *Report of New Employee(s)*, to report this information.

You may also report the new employee by submitting a copy of the employee's Form W-4, but you must include the employee's start-of-work date, your California employer payroll tax account number, and federal employer identification number ("FEIN") on the Form W-4.

You can order the forms on the EDD's website through the Online Forms and Publications page. You can also order forms or obtain additional information by contacting the Taxpayer Assistance Center at (888) 745-3886 or visiting your local EDD Employment Tax Office.

XVI. BASIS IN S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We want to make you aware of the importance of keeping track of basis in your S corporation and partnership investments, as the IRS may disallow losses unless there is proof of sufficient basis.

S Corporation Stock and Debt Basis

Many corporations elect S corporation status. The impact of electing S corporation status is that the items of income and loss, etc. flow through to the shareholders. There are three shareholder loss limitations, relating to the following issues:

XVI. BASIS IN S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS (Continued)

S Corporation Stock and Debt Basis (Continued)

- 1. Stock and debt basis;
- 2. the amount "At Risk"; and
- 3. the Passive Activity rules.

The following information relates to stock and debt basis. The fact that a shareholder receives a K-1 reflecting a loss does not necessarily mean that the shareholder is entitled to claim the loss. The shareholder must have basis to claim the loss. Basis should be computed each year.

To compute stock basis, the shareholder begins with their initial capital contribution to the S corporation or the initial cost of the stock they purchased (the same as a C corporation). That amount is then increased and/or decreased based on the flow-through amounts from the S corporation. An income item will increase stock basis while a loss, deduction, or distribution will decrease stock basis.

A shareholder's stock is **increased** by:

- 1. Ordinary income
- 2. Separately stated income items
- 3. Tax exempt income
- 4. Excess depletion

A shareholder's stock is **decreased**, but not below zero, by:

- 1. Ordinary loss
- 2. Separately stated loss items
- 3. Nondeductible expenses
- 4. Non-dividend distributions
- 5. Depletion for oil and gas

Most distributions from an S corporation are non-dividend distributions. Dividend distributions can occur in a company that was previously a C corporation or acquired C corporation attributes in a non-taxable transaction (i.e., merger, reorganization, QSub election, etc.).

For loss and deduction items, which exceed a shareholder's stock basis, the shareholder may include its debt basis to determine the deductibility of these items. Debt basis is generally the loans that the shareholder personally made to the S corporation. Debt basis is computed similarly to stock basis, but there are some differences.

The bottom line is that it is not the corporation's responsibility to track each shareholder's stock and debt basis, but rather, it is the shareholder's responsibility.

XVI. BASIS IN S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS (Continued)

Partnership Basis

Basis has two separate meanings in partnership taxation. Outside basis is the basis of the partner in their partnership investment. Inside basis is the basis of the partnership in its assets. Outside basis determines how much a partner can withdraw or deduct from a partnership for tax purposes without recognizing additional gain or without being limited with respect to the deductibility of their share partnership losses.

In determining outside basis, each partner's acquisition costs for their partnership interest, contributions, and distributions along with their share of profits and losses must be accounted for. Basis is increased by additional contributions of money, property, services, and the partner's share of liabilities and partnership income.

Here again, as with S-corporation investments, it is the partner's responsibility, and not that of the partnership, to keep track of basis.

XVII. CAFETERIA PLANS

A Cafeteria Plan is a separate written plan maintained by an employer for employees that meets the specific requirements of and regulations of section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. It provides participants an opportunity to receive certain benefits on a pretax basis. Participants in a cafeteria plan must be permitted to choose among at least one taxable benefit (such as cash) and one qualified benefit.

A qualified benefit is a benefit that does not defer compensation and is excludable from an employee's gross income under a specific provision of the Code, without being subject to the principles of constructive receipt. Qualified benefits include the following:

- Accident and health benefits (but not Archer medical savings accounts or long-term care insurance);
- Adoption assistance;
- Dependent care assistance;
- Group-term life insurance coverage;
- Health savings accounts, including distributions to pay long-term care services.

The written plan must specifically describe all benefits and establish rules for eligibility and elections.

A section 125 Plan is the only means by which an employer can offer employees a choice between taxable and nontaxable benefits without the choice causing the benefits to become taxable. A plan offering only a choice between taxable benefits is not a section 125 Plan.

The plan may make benefits available to employees, their spouses and dependents. It may also include coverage of former employees, but cannot exist primarily for them.

Employer contributions to the Cafeteria Plan are usually made pursuant to salary reduction agreements between the employer and the employee in which the employee agrees to contribute a portion of his or her salary on a pre-tax basis to pay for the qualified benefits. Salary reduction contributions are not actually or constructively received by the participant. Therefore, those contributions are not considered wages for federal income tax purposes. In addition, those sums generally are not subject to FICA and FUTA. See sections 3121(a)(5)(G) and 3306(b)(5)(G) of the Internal Revenue Code.

XVII. CAFETERIA PLANS (Continued)

A flexible spending arrangement ("FSA") is a form of cafeteria plan benefit, funded by salary reduction, that reimburses employees for expenses incurred for certain qualified benefits. An FSA may be offered for dependent care assistance, adoption, and medical care reimbursements. The benefits are subject to an annual maximum and are subject to an annual "use-or-lose" rule. An FSA cannot provide a cumulative benefit to the employees beyond the plan year.

The above discussion from the irs.gov website provides only the most basic rules governing a cafeteria plan. For a complete understanding of the rules, see the Regulations under section 125.

The Affordable Health Care Act, which became law in March 2010, included a provision that limits the annual amount of salary reductions that an employee may contribute to a health FSA. The limit is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. Prior to this provision, there was no statutory limit for employee contributions to a health FSA; that amount was dictated by the employer either as a maximum dollar amount or maximum percentage of compensation. For taxable year 2018, the limit is \$2,650. For taxable years beginning in 2019, the limit is \$2,700.

XVIII. USE TAX

If you purchase an item out-of-state or from an internet seller that will be used, consumed, or stored in California, then you may owe use tax. If the out-of-state merchant or internet seller charges you the correct amount of sales or use tax on your purchase, then your use tax requirement has been fulfilled. Out-of-state companies that are "engaged in business" in California must register with the Board of Equalization and collect sales or use tax on their retail sales of personal property to California customers. However, if no sales or use tax was collected on your purchase, then you are required to compute and pay the amount of use tax due.

How do you compute the use tax? First, add the amount of all purchases made from out-of-state or internet sellers made without payment of California sales or use tax. Next, multiply that amount by the applicable use tax rate. The use tax rate and the sales tax rate are the same. The use tax rate is determined by where the property will be used, consumed, or stored in California. Subtract any sales or use tax you paid to another state for the items you purchased from the use tax due.

XIX. RECORDS RETENTION

WARNING:

Your circumstances may require that you retain records for a longer period of time than shown in the table below. The schedule provides general guidelines. Statute of limitations vary from state to state and companies should have record retention policies for computer files, word processing, and email in addition to traditional ledger and paper documents. Prior to formalizing a policy, we recommend consulting your attorneys and accountants for further information. See the chart on the next page for recommended holding periods for specific types of documents.

XIX. RECORDS RETENTION (Continued)

	Retention <u>Period</u>		Retention <u>Period</u>
Accident reports and claims (settled cases)	7 yrs.	Internal audit reports (in some situations, longer retention periods may be desirable)	7 vrs
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	10 yrs.	reterition periods may be desirable,	7 413.
Accounts receivable ledgers and schedules	10 yrs.	Inventories of products, materials and supplies First year	•
Audit reports of accountants	Permanently	Invoices to customers	7 yrs.
Bank reconciliations	1 yr.	Invoices from vendors	7 yrs.
Canceled checks for important payments, i.e. taxes and purchases of property	Permanently	Journals	Permanently
Canceled checks, bank statements and deposit slips	10 yrs.	Minute books of directors and stockholders, including by-laws and charter	Permanently
Capital stock and bond records; ledgers, transfer registers, stubs showing issues, record of		Notes receivable ledgers and schedules	
interest coupons, options, etc	Permanently		схрітацоп
Cash receipts and disbursements journals	Permanently	Payroll records and summaries, including payments to pensioners	7 yrs.
Charts of accounts	Permanently	Personnel data	7 yrs.
Contracts and leases	, ,	Petty cash vouchers	3 yrs.
Correspondence (routine) with customers or vendors	. ,	Physical inventory tags	3 yrs.
Correspondence (general)	3 vrs.	Plant cost ledgers	•
		,	•
Correspondence (legal and important matters only)	Permanently	Property appraisals by outside appraisers	Permanently
Deeds, mortgages and bills of sale	Permanently	Property records - including blueprints, appraisals, and penalties	Permanently
Depreciation schedules	Permanently	Purchase orders or requisitions (copy)	5 vrs
Duplicate deposit slips	1 yr.		,
Employment applications and employee contracts	7 vrs. (after	Receiving sheets	1 yr.
		Requisitions	1 yr.
Expense reports	7 yrs.	Sales records	7 yrs.
Financial statements (end-of-year, other months optional)	Permanently	Scrap and salvage records (inventories, sales, etc.)	7 yrs.
	,	Stenographer's notebooks	1 yr.
General and private ledgers (and end-of-year trial balances)	Permanently	Subsidiary ledgers	7 yrs.
INS I-9 Forms		Tax returns and worksheets, revenue agents' reports and other documents relating to determination	
	date of hire	of income tax liability	Permanently
	after	Time reports	7 yrs.
	termination	Trademark registrations	Permanently
Insurance documents	, ,		
		Voucher register, schedules and backup	/ yrs.
	settlement)	Warranties and service agreements	

XX. CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM

From the Controller's website:

California's Unclaimed Property Law requires corporations, businesses, associations, financial institutions, and insurance companies (collectively referred to as "Holders") to annually report and deliver property to the State Controller's Office after there has been no activity on the account or contact with the owner for a period of time specified in the law—generally three (3) years. Common types of unclaimed property are bank accounts, stocks, bonds, uncashed checks, insurance benefits, wages, and safe deposit box contents. Often, contact is lost when the owner forgets that the account exists, or moves and does not leave a forwarding address, or the forwarding order expires. In some cases, the owner dies and the heirs have no knowledge of the property.

The Unclaimed Property Law was passed to protect consumers. It prevents businesses with unclaimed property from keeping money and using it as business income. The law provides California citizens a single source, the State Controller's Office, to check for unclaimed property that may be reported by businesses from around the nation and enables the State to return property, or the net proceeds from any legally required sale of the property, to its rightful owner or their heirs.

The State Controller's Office processes unclaimed property claims free of charge. Owners or heirs can claim their property directly from this office without any service charges or fees.

Go to www.sco.ca.gov for more details.

XXI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

Federal:	
Center for Disease Control	www.cdc.gov/flu
Department of Health and Human Services	www.hhs.gov
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov
Department of Labor	www.dol.gov
Health Insurance Information	healthcare.gov
Immigration and Naturalization Service	www.us-immigration.com
Internal Revenue Service (Primary Address)	www.irs.gov
Internal Revenue Service (Small Business Help)	www.irs.gov/business/index.html
Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov
United States Postal Service	www.usps.com
California:	
Film Commission	www.film.ca.gov
Franchise Tax Board	www.ftb.ca.gov
Employment Development Department	www.edd.ca.gov
Health Insurance Information	coveredca.com
State Controller (Unclaimed Property)	www.sco.ca.gov
Board of Equalization	www.boe.ca.gov
Department of Tax and Fee Administration	www.cdtfa.ca.gov
Office of Tax Appeals	www.ota.ca.gov
Secretary of State	www.sos.ca.gov
Local:	
Los Angeles County Clerk	www.lacounty.info

Energy Research and Credit Information:

Federal	www.energystar.gov
California	Gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov

Foreign exchange rates at www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/hist (1990 to present).

Consumer information at www.pueblo.gsa.gov.

Stock Market Quotes at www.moneycentral.msn.com.

General Government Information at www.usa.gov

XXII. TYPES OF PAYMENTS

Types of Payments
Below is an alphabetic list of some payments and the forms to file and report them on.
However, it is not a complete list of all payments, and the absence of a payment from the list does not indicate that the payment is not reportable. For instructions on a specific type of payment, see the separate instructions in the form(s) listed.

Type of Payment Report on Form

ABLE accounts:	
Contributions	5498-QA
Distributions	1099-QA
Abandonment	1099-A
Accelerated death benefits	1099-LTC
Acquisition of control	1099-CAP
Agriculture payments	1099-G
Allocated tips	W-2
Alternate TAA payments	1099-G
Annuities	1099-R
Archer MSAs:	
Contributions	5498-SA
Distributions	1099-SA
Attorney, fees and gross	
proceeds	1099-MISC
Auto reimbursements, employee	W-2
Auto reimbursements,	
nonemployee	1099-MISC
Awards, employee	W-2
Awards, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Barter exchange income	1099-B
Bond tax credit	1097-BTC
Bonuses, employee	W-2
Bonuses, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Broker transactions	1099-B
Cancellation of debt	1099-C
Capital gain distributions	1099-DIV
Car expense, employee	W-2
Car expense, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Changes in capital structure	1099-CAP
Charitable gift annuities	1099-R
Commissions, employee	W-2
Commissions, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Commodities transactions	1099-B
Compensation, employee	W-2
Compensation, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Contributions of motor vehicles, boats,	
and airplanes	1098-C
Cost of current life insurance	2000000 200
protection	1099-R
Coverdell ESA contributions	5498-ESA
Coverdell ESA distributions	1099-Q
Crop insurance proceeds	1099-MISC
Damages	1099-MISC
Death benefits	1099-R

Type of Payment Report on Form		Type of Payment Report on Form	
Accelerated	1099-LTC	Mortgage interest	1098
Debt cancellation	1099-C	Moving expense	W-2
Dependent care payments	W-2	Nonemployee compensation	1099-MISC
Direct rollovers	1099-Q,	Nonqualified deferred compensation:	
	1099-R,	Beneficiary	1099-R
Direct sales of consumer products for	5498	Employee	W-2
resale	1099-MISC	Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Directors' fees	1099-MISC	Original issue discount (OID)	1099-OID
Discharge of indebtedness	1099-C	Tax-exempt OID	1099-OID
Dividends	1099-DIV	Patronage dividends	1099-PATR 1099-K
Donation of motor vehicle	1098-C	Payment card transactions	1099-R 1099-R
Education loan interest	1098-E	Pensions Points	1099-1
Employee business expense		Prizes, employee	W-2
reimbursement	W-2	Prizes, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Employee compensation	W-2	Profit-sharing plan	1099-R
Excess deferrals, excess contributions,		Punitive damages	1099-MISC
distributions of	1099-R	Qualified longevity annuity	
Exercise of incentive stock option under		contract	1098-Q
section 422(b)	3921	Qualified plan distributions	1099-R
Fees, employee	W-2	Qualified tuition program	
Fees, nonemployee	1099-MISC	payments	1099-Q
Fishing boat crew members	1099-MISC	Real estate transactions	1099-S
proceeds Fish purchases for cash	1099-MISC	Recharacterized IRA	1099-R,
Foreclosures	1099-MISC	contributions	5498
Foreign persons' income	1042-S	Refund, state and local tax	1099-G
401(k) contributions	W-2	Rents	1099-MISC
404(k) dividend	1099-DIV	Reportable policy sale	1099-LS
Gambling winnings	W-2G	Retirement	1099-R
Golden parachute, employee	W-2	Roth conversion IRA	5498
Golden parachute,		contributions Roth conversion IRA	3490
nonemployee	1099-MISC	distributions	1099-R
Grants, taxable	1099-G	Roth IRA contributions	5498
Health care services	1099-MISC	Roth IRA distributions	1099-R
Health coverage tax credit (HCTC)		Royalties	1099-MISC.
advance payments	1099-H		1099-S
Health savings accounts:		Timber, pay-as-cut contract	1099-S
Contributions	5498-SA	Sales:	
Distributions	1099-SA	Real estate	1099-S
Income attributable to domestic		Securities	1099-B
production activities, deduction for	1099-PATR	Section 1035 exchange	1099-R
Income tax refunds, state and	1099-FAIR	Seller's investment in life insurance	
local	1099-G	contract	1099-SB
Indian gaming profits paid to tribal	1000 C	SEP contributions	W-2, 5498
members	1099-MISC	SEP distributions	1099-R
Interest income	1099-INT	Severance pay	W-2
Tax-exempt	1099-INT	Sick pay	W-2
Interest, mortgage	1098	SIMPLE contributions	W-2, 5498
IRA contributions	5498	SIMPLE distributions	1099-R
IRA distributions	1099-R	Student loan interest	1098-E
Life insurance contract	1099-R,	Substitute payments in lieu of dividends or tax-exempt interest	1099-MISC
distributions	1099-LTC	Supplemental unemployment	W-2
Liquidation, distributions in	1099-DIV	Tax refunds, state and local	1099-G
Loans, distribution from pension		Third party network transactions	1099-K
plan	1099-R	Tips	W-2
Long-term care benefits	1099-LTC	Traditional IRA contributions	5498
Medicare Advantage MSAs:	E400 CA	Traditional IRA distributions	1099-R
Contributions Distributions	5498-SA 1099-SA	Transfer of stock acquired through an	
	1099-SA 1099-MISC	employee stock purchase plan under	
Medical services Mileage, employee	1099-MISC W-2	section 423(c)	3922
Mileage, employee Mileage, nonemployee	1099-MISC	Tuition	1098-T
Military retirement	1099-MISC 1099-R	Unemployment benefits	1099-G
Mortgage assistance payments	1099-H 1098-MA	Vacation allowance, employee	W-2
	1000-IVIA	Vacation allowance,	
		nonemployee	1099-MISC
		Wages	W-2