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Tax due dates

- **September 15** – Third quarter installment of 2015 individual estimated income tax is due.
- **September 15** – Filing deadline for 2014 tax returns for calendar-year corporations that received an automatic extension of the March 16 filing deadline.
- **September 15** – Filing deadline for 2014 partnership tax returns that received an extension of the April 15 filing deadline.
- **October 1** – Generally, the deadline for businesses to adopt a SIMPLE retirement plan for 2015.
- **October 15** – Deadline for filing 2014 individual tax returns on extension.

Roth re-do deadline approaching

It turns out you can go back after all – at least when it comes to last year’s decision to convert your traditional IRA to a Roth. The question is, do you want to?

You might, if your circumstances have changed. For example, say the value of the assets in your new Roth account is currently less than when you made the conversion. Changing your mind could save tax dollars.

Recharacterizing your Roth conversion lets you go back in time as if the conversion never happened. You’ll have to act soon, though, because the window for undoing a 2014 Roth conversion closes October 15, 2015. Before that date, you have the opportunity to undo all or part of last year’s conversion.

After October 15, you can change your mind once more and put the money back in a Roth. That might be a good choice when you’re recharacterizing because of a reduction in the value of the account. Just remember you’ll have to wait at least 30 days to convert again.

Give us a call for information on Roth recharacterization rules. We’ll help you figure out if going back is a good idea.

Finish the year with effective tax planning

The fourth quarter is often make-or-break time in sports. Likewise, tax-cutting steps you take in the last three months of the year can transform a financial plan into a bona fide winner.

Late-year tax planning is often a matter of reviewing your inflows and outflows. For instance, income from capital gains can be subject to both capital gains tax and the 3.8%

Medicare surtax. To offset capital gains, you might sell investments that have lost value since you purchased them. Net capital losses can be used to reduce ordinary income by up to \$3,000. A tax-saving examination of your portfolio is also a good time to rebalance your holdings between asset classes.

Interest and dividend income can be subject to the 3.8% Medicare surtax too. Plan for this by considering municipal bonds tax-free interest.

On the outflow side, look for opportunities to maximize deductions. Accelerate your charitable donations and consider donating appreciated securities you have owned for more than one year. This strategy can offer double value – you get the benefit of a deduction and you don't have to pay tax on the gain.

Take advantage of increased retirement plan contribution limits for 2015. This year you can contribute as much as \$5,500 to a Roth or traditional IRA (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or over). The limit for 401(k) plans is \$18,000, plus an additional \$6,000 if you're 50 or older. The limit for SIMPLE IRA plans are \$12,500 plus an additional \$3,000 if you're 50 or older. While checking on the status of your retirement plan contributions, review your list of beneficiaries too.

Another important fourth quarter exercise is an analysis of your income tax withholdings and estimated payments. These can be affected by personal events such as a change in marital status, the sale of property, or a new job.

Effective tax planning is a matter of finishing well. Contact our office to discuss steps you can take to make the fourth quarter a strong one for you.

S J Meyer & Associates Celebrating 20th Anniversary

This year S J Meyer & Associates is celebrating their 20th Anniversary. Through these years our firm has had the privilege of working with some great people who have become our friends. These relationships started out as clients but have evolved into much more. We have enjoyed watching your families and businesses grow and prosper.

Steve Meyer has been a Certified Public Accountant for 35 years and was determined to start his own accounting firm and assemble a group of professionals with the same goals and values as his own. Ginny Smyers our firm administrator has been with the company for 17 years. Bill Frazer our tax manager has been a Certified Public Accountant for 35 years and with the firm for 17 years as well. Robin Houck an Enrolled Agent for 8 years and has been with the firm 16 years. Kim Harper a Certified Public Accountant for 4 years and has been a part of the team for 5 years. Rick Johnsen has been a Certified Public Accountant for 26 years and joined the firm 4 years ago. This group is the S J Meyer family.

S J Meyer & Associates is honored to have helped you achieve your personal and professional goals using our combined years of education, knowledge and diverse experiences. All of our dedicated professionals at S J Meyer wish to express their sincere appreciation for your confidence and loyalty to our firm.