



## Frequently Asked Questions

### State and City Income Tax Deadline Change

On March 27, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-26](#), which pushes all April 2020 state and city income tax filing deadlines in Michigan to July 2020 as a part of continued efforts to help Michiganders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately, state of Michigan and city of Detroit income tax returns and payments due on April 15 are now due before midnight on July 15. Other state of Michigan cities with income taxes due on April 15 will now be due on July 15, while cities with income taxes due on April 30 will now be due on July 31.

The new filing and payment deadlines come after the Internal Revenue Service changed its deadline to July 15 to provide tax assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the benefit and convenience of taxpayers, both the beginning and end of the state of Michigan and city of Detroit income tax filing season are the same as the IRS.

In addition, Michigan businesses that file corporate income tax annual returns by April 30 now have until July 31 to file and pay. Businesses that pay this tax are typically larger businesses known as C Corporations.

S Corporations and Limited Liability Corporations typically pay taxes through the state's individual income tax.

On April 17, the state Treasury Department [provided additional guidance](#) about new state income tax filing and return payment deadlines, including making both first and second quarter estimated tax payments due on July 15. [The April 17 Notice](#) also extends the date of the annual return for fiscal filers with state income tax returns or payments due after April 30, 2020 and before July 31, 2020.

### **Who is eligible for tax assistance under the executive order?**

Any person with a Michigan or city income tax return or payment due on April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020 is eligible for tax assistance under the executive order.

A “person” includes any type of taxpayer, such as an individual, trust, estate, composite return filer, corporation, insurance company or financial institution. The payment due refers to both 2019 Michigan and city income tax payments and first quarter 2020 estimated Michigan and city income tax payments. The return or payment must be due on April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020, as the executive order does not apply to payments due on any other date.

This executive order does not apply to withholding taxes, sales or use tax, marijuana tax, motor fuel tax, motor carrier fuel tax, or any other tax that is not collected under the Michigan Income Tax Act or the City Income Tax Act. The order also does not apply to the annual return filing of insurance companies due on March 2, 2020.

Although the executive order is limited to returns or payments due on April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020, the [state Treasury Department’s April 17 Notice](#) expands that relief to **any** state income tax return or payments due after April 15, 2020 and before July 31, 2020.

### **Who is eligible for tax assistance under the state Treasury Department’s April 17 Notice?**

Any person with a Michigan income tax return or payment due after April 15, 2020 and before July 31, 2020 is eligible for an automatic extension under the [state Treasury Department’s April 17 Notice](#). This only applies to **state** income taxes and includes any individual, trust, estate, corporation, or other person with a return or payment due after April 15, 2020 and before July 31, 2020. The Notice does not apply to withholding taxes, sales or use tax, marijuana tax, motor fuel tax, motor carrier fuel tax, or any other tax that is not collected under the Michigan Income Tax Act.

### **When is the state income tax annual return due as a result of the automatic extensions provided in the executive order and the April 17 Notice?**

For calendar and fiscal individual, fiduciary and composite taxpayers that file state returns otherwise due between April 15, 2020 and before July 15, 2020, the return and payment of tax has been automatically extended to July 15, 2020.

For calendar and fiscal corporate state income tax filers with returns otherwise due between April 30, 2020 and before July 31, 2020, the return and payment of tax has been automatically extended to July 31, 2020.

**Are city income tax returns or payments due after April 30, 2020 extended by the April 17 Notice?**

No, for city income tax returns or payments due after April 30, 2020, the [April 17 Notice](#) does not further extend any filing or payment deadline. Taxpayers should contact their respective city income tax administrators for information regarding that city's potential conformity with an automatic extension of returns or payments due between May 1, 2020 and July 30, 2020. Subject to the administration by each respective city, city income tax deadlines have been automatically extended for returns or payments due on either April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020 as provided in the executive order.

**Do I have to be sick, or quarantined or have any other impact from the COVID-19 pandemic to qualify for payment assistance?**

No, you do not have to be sick, or quarantined, or have any other impact from COVID-19 to qualify for tax assistance. You only need to have a Michigan income tax return or payment due between April 15, 2020 and July 30, 2020, or a city income tax return or payment due on either April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020.

**I am a fiscal year filer. My state of Michigan and city income tax returns for fiscal year 2019 are due after an extension on April 15, 2020. Am I eligible for assistance under this executive order?**

Yes, if your Michigan or city income tax return for your fiscal year ending during 2019 is due on April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020 — whether that is the original due date or the due date on extension — your due date is postponed to July 15, 2020 or July 31, 2020, respectively.

**What about insurance companies and other businesses or other entities that have filing due dates on May 15, June 15, or some other date besides April 15 or April 30. Have their filing and payment deadlines been suspended?**

Yes, any taxpayers who have state filing or payment due dates between April 15, 2020 and July 30, 2020 are eligible for an automatic extension for those deadlines. Taxpayers in cities with a city income tax should contact their local administrators regarding an automatic extension of any return or payment due after April 30, 2020.

**Does the income tax assistance provided in the executive order extend the filing deadline for a previously requested extension to file a return after the original filing deadline?**

The executive order extends the due date for any application and payment of tax related to an extension of time to file the annual return. Individual and corporate taxpayers may generally request an extension of time to file the annual return, but the tax must be paid by the due date of the original return.

For purposes of paying the income tax, the due date of the original return is the filing date of the annual return, as established by the executive order.

- Individuals — An individual taxpayer requesting a 6-month extension of time to file a state income tax return must submit that request and pay the appropriate amount of tax by July 15, 2020, but the extended annual return remains due on October 15, 2020.
- Corporations — A calendar-year corporate taxpayer requesting an 8-month extension of time to file a state corporate income tax return must submit that request and pay the appropriate amount of tax by July 31, 2020, but the extended annual return remains due on December 31, 2020. A fiscal-year corporate taxpayer with an annual return due on June 30, 2020 must submit an extension request and pay the appropriate amount of tax by July 31, 2020, but the extended annual return remains due on February 28, 2021.

**Do I need to specifically request the extension or submit any attachments with the return to claim the extension for the new July 2020 filing return deadline?**

No, because the extension is automatic for all qualifying taxpayers, you do not need to request the extension or submit anything with the return to claim the extension.

**If I fail to make my payment by the extended due date of July 15 or July 30, when will penalty and interest accrue?**

For returns subject to the suspended deadlines in the executive order, penalty and interest will not accrue between April 15, 2020 and July 15, 2020 for most individuals and, likewise, will not accrue between April 30, 2020 and July 31, 2020 for most corporations and city income tax filers. The suspension of penalty and interest is limited to the automatic extensions authorized under the executive order. Penalty and interest will continue to accrue as appropriate for taxes otherwise owed by any taxpayer.

**If I file before July 15 or July 30 and I am due a refund, when will interest begin to accrue on my refund?**

The executive order suspends the time period for the calculation of interest on any refund of state or city income taxes for the 2019 tax year. Interest will generally not begin to accrue until 45 days after the claim for refund is filed or 45 days after the extended due date for the filing of the return, whichever is later.

**I want to file a claim for a refund for 2015, which must be filed by April 15, 2020 to be timely. Does this tax assistance give me more time to claim my 2015 refund?**

No, the tax assistance provided for filing Michigan and city income tax returns applies only to income tax returns for the 2019 taxable year. The executive order does not extend tax assistance to any filings or payments for taxable year 2015.

**The executive order postpones the deadline for a first quarter 2020 estimated income tax payment due on April 15, 2020 or April 30, 2020. What about the second quarter estimated tax payment? Has that been postponed as well?**

Yes, with the April 15 estimated tax payment deadline previously extended until July 15, the state Treasury Department has also followed the Internal Revenue Service and is moving the second quarter June 15 estimated tax deadline to July 15. For most individual and business taxpayers, this means that both the first and second quarter estimated tax payments are now due July 15.

**I failed to make the required installments of estimated tax in the required amounts during 2019 for my 2019 taxable year. Does this tax assistance apply to an estimated tax penalty for 2019?**

No, the tax assistance does not change the estimated tax requirements or estimated tax penalty for 2019. Relief from the penalty may be available under the Department of Treasury's normal rules and procedures for waiver of penalty.

**Does the assistance provided in the executive order apply to withholding or excise taxes?**

The executive order does not apply to withholding taxes, sales or use tax, marijuana tax, motor fuel tax, motor carrier fuel tax, or any other tax that is not collected under the Michigan Income Tax Act or the City Income Tax Act.

**Should I include identification with my tax payments?**

Yes, when submitting tax payments, businesses should include their Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN). Individuals should write the last four digits of their Social Security number on the memo line of the check or electronic payment to ensure the payment can be matched to the account.

Payment vouchers should be included with tax payments when available.

**Should I wait until July to file my income tax return?**

No, taxpayers who are owed a refund are encouraged to file their state income tax returns so they can receive their refunds. More information about e-filing is available at [www.michigan.gov/mifastfile](http://www.michigan.gov/mifastfile).