

Marino and Associates, Inc.

January 2021

Dear Preferred Client:

We hope you are well and safe as we enter 2021.

Several tax laws were passed in 2020 and some were changed by a newer tax law before the end of the year. These are some of the highlights that affect many of you:

- **Economic Impact Payments** were sent to many taxpayers along with a letter (Notice 1444 and 1444-B). We need the letters or exact amount of both payments to correctly complete your 2020 tax return, even if received in 2021.
- **Unemployment Compensation**, yes, it is taxable. We hope you elected to have Federal & Oregon taxes withheld. Income is reported to you on a form 1099-G.
- **Working From Home** due to the pandemic, sorry, there are no extra home office tax deductions for W-2 employees.
- **New Charitable Tax Deduction** up to \$300 is available to those who use the standard deduction. Only cash/check/credit card donations qualify, no stuff.
- **Oregon 529 College Savings Plan** contributions changing from a deduction to a new credit. This reduces the tax benefit for upper incomes but increases the tax benefit for low or no income Oregonians, ***including your 1 year old child***. Please see additional information on our web page www.MarinoTaxPro.com.
- **Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN)** program is being rolled out nationwide for all taxpayers. If you do not already have a IP PIN (from a prior identity theft issue), we recommend that you get one prior to sending us your tax documents. Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhfSZuwGrIY> and see additional information on our web page.
- **Oregon Special Medical Deduction** changed from 65 to 66.
- **IRS delays due to the pandemic**, IRS still has 7 million unopened and unprocessed mailed-in payments and tax returns. We electronically file all tax returns, when possible. Several secure electronic payment options are available to you instead of mailing a check. Ask us if we can help you avoid this backlog.

Due to the pandemic, we are forced to make changes to our office procedures.

For the safety of our clients and staff, we are avoiding in-office appointments and are asking that you provide your documents and information to us using one of these options.

Option 1. Electronically submit your tax documents through our secure portal (Verifyle). You will need the ability to scan and create PDF files (photos of documents do not work well). Send us an email at d.c.marino@comcast.net, and we will send you your secure portal access information. When we have finished, we can post your completed tax return to this secure portal for you to print or save electronically.

Option 2. Fax your tax documents to us at 503-239-7497.

Option 3. Copy all your tax documents and mail the copies to us. Keep the originals. Please use this address:

**Marino and Associates
PO Box 66512
Portland, Oregon 97290-6512.**

Option 4. Drop-off your documents in person at our office. Appointments are required. You can NOT have a fever or symptoms of illness. No children or pets. Must wear face mask. Must complete “Assumption of Risk” form. Before entering our office for your appointment time, call us using your cell phone to see if you can enter. We are allowing only 1 client in the office at a time.

From our web page at www.MarinoTaxPro.com, you can download and print your copy of my “2020 Tax Organizer and Deduction Finder”. I hope you find this a valuable tool. Please complete and return the organizer and “Engagement Letter”, signed by you and your spouse (if applicable). If you would like a more detailed and customized organizer, just let us know.

When completing the “2020 Tax Organizer and Deduction Finder”, read the entire line. Some lines reference to more than one topic. If anything in the statement pertains to you, check the box. If you are not sure, put a “?” in the box and your tax preparer will better explain it to you.

It is very important that you send us **all** your information and documents at one time. Two possible exception are if you are waiting on a late coming K-1 form or your stockbroker 1099 statement.

Avoid our “Tax Preparer Stress Fee” added to your invoice by having your tax return information to us 30 days before the due date.

If you want to avoid the rush in March and April, we can file for an automatic extension for you. As long as you do not owe any taxes, an extension gives you until October 15, 2021 to file your individual tax return. Actually, if you have a refund due, you have three years, until April 15, 2023 to claim it. There are generally no penalties for filing late when you are due a refund.

Your tax return and supporting documents contain your personal and confidential information. Secure them in a safe place so if you need them again, you know where they are. Additional copies of your tax return are available for a fee.

Beware of scams and swindlers. Do not respond to any telephone calls, emails or letters that you suspect may not be legitimate from the IRS or other taxing authority. Call our office, first.

See - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4GjJ_kaX1g

Do not attach documents to emails sent to us. We will no longer accept these documents. Instead ask us for access to our secure portal (Verifyle) and send documents and messages securely to us.

Daily, we receive suspicious emails. If we do not respond to an email from you, call our office.

Please feel free to call us at 503-239-4716, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to serving you, again, soon.

Sincerely,

Dale Marino, EA, LTC