



Dear Tax Client(s),

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families! Wow, what a year it has been. This letter comes with many wishes for blessings, health, and happiness for you and your family in 2021.

- ❖ **PHONE NUMBER:** It's official, we no longer have a landline phone! I have ported that number to a cell phone. For this reason, **please use 920-884-9806 for all calls and texts** as this will be my business phone.
- ❖ **ML ACCOUNTING UPDATE:** I have taken a new job that offers less stress and less hours. (yeah!) However, for right now, it is less flexible just due to my project load. For this reason, my appointment times will be a little more limited this year. To help allow for more pick up/drop off appointment times, if possible with COVID, I am going through the hiring process now to bring on a part-time receptionist.
- ❖ **COVID/APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING:** You know that my favorite part of tax season is getting to see all of you, however I am anticipating COVID being an issue again this year. For that reason, there will be a new, secure, "Tax Box" on the front porch of our home for you to use. Please schedule a drop off time through my scheduling system for "Tax Box" so that I know when to expect your return and to make sure that your information gets pulled out of the box timely. You don't have to be right on time for this type of appointment, anytime within a 2 hour window from the scheduled time is fine! It is going on the front porch to be more hidden, have 24/7 video surveillance, and be protected from the snow. If we end up being locked down again, I am hoping to have an option in place that will allow you to electronically sign your Efile forms (if the IRS decides to finally allow it) and doing your payments electronically through my credit card vendor. There will be multiple ways for you to receive your completed returns this year again as well, and we will discuss what works better for you.
- ❖ **APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING:** On-line scheduling for in person meetings (and Tax Box) will open on, or before January 1st. Appointments will be available from **Wednesday, January 27th, through Saturday, March 27th**. Any appointments needed after that due to late receipt of business forms, etc will be scheduled individually. *As you did last year, please plan to schedule only one of your appointments with*

*me, and the other with my new employee, or the Tax Box. This will allow me to meet with you and spend some time reviewing your taxes, tax planning (and catching up), but helps allow me to have more time to work on returns. **To schedule your appointment, please visit my website: www.mlaccounting.com, and click on the "Schedule Appointment" button.** Please follow the directions from there. If you are not comfortable with the on-line scheduling, do not hesitate to call or email me to set up an appointment. *Remember: No matter how I receive your information, or get it back to you, I will always contact you via phone to discuss your returns and any concerns you have.**

- ❖ **QUESTIONNAIRE:** Enclosed with this letter is your 2020 Tax Return Questionnaire. Please answer the question portion completely. ***It is very important that you sign and complete the backside as well.*** These questionnaires are extremely important, as they organize much of the information that I need to accurately prepare your return. ***They must be returned to me, completed,***
 - ❖ ***with your tax return information (or mailed to me prior).***
- ❖ **REFUNDS/DELAYS:** The IRS is expecting refunds to take a bit longer this year, but the longest waits will be for those that file on paper (thankfully, ML doesn't do paper filing ☺). They have announced, once again, that anyone claiming a child credit or EIC will not have refunds prior to 2/15/21. These returns can be filed before then (and I would suggest doing so) but refunds are being held to help give the IRS time to weed out the fraudulent returns.
- ❖ **IDENTITY CHECKS:** Taxpayers are to expect identity checks to be done by the IRS and WDOR on a random basis again this year. These identity checks are being done to protect you from identity theft as well as stop fraudulent tax returns from receiving refunds. If you receive a letter from the IRS or WDOR asking you to confirm your identity, please contact me immediately so we can confirm it is authentic.
- ❖ **DONATIONS:** Over 1/3 of ML clients received a 5% credit on their WI return last year for their donations. This year, the first \$300 of your **cash** donations are slated to be a credit on your federal tax return as well. Make sure to have receipts to support your donations in order to claim them. Below is the link to use to help calculate and record the value of your non-cash donations. <https://turbotax.intuit.com/personal-taxes/itsdeductible/>
- ❖ Keep in mind that as part of the ML Accounting tax family, you are part of group of people that have many talents and businesses. If you are ever in need of a

referral for anything, ask. Among my business clients there are hair salons, marketing /website design, cement installation, powder painting, craft goods, collision repair, fishing charter, logistics, Plexus sales, artist, horse blanket cleaning, and many more. Not to mention people working for over 100 different companies in the area.

I look forward to meeting with you soon to prepare your 2020 taxes. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions that you might have - any time - ***I'm available year-round for your questions!***

Thank You,

MarciAnne Lelinski, CPP, PHR
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Giving professional, individual attention to each of my clients at a very affordable price is what sets ML Accounting apart from other tax preparation and accounting firm. I will be accepting a ***VERY limited*** number of new clients this year, and only through friend and family referrals of current clients. By keeping our tax family growing this way, I can better manage the client base and not open you up to unnecessary audit risk.

I will be accepting new Payroll Or Human Resource clients this year and I am ALWAYS available to help current clients with business startup and consulting.

If you refer a new client - dinner is on me!

You will receive a \$25 gift certificate of your choice from a selection of area restaurants as my "Thank You" for your referral. (Payroll client referrals receive a \$100 "Thank You")

Tax Updates and News

- ✓ The "stimulus checks" (the official title is now, Recovery Rebate) are NOT taxable. However, ***I will need to know the amount you received in order to complete your tax return.*** If you would have received a bigger rebate based on your 2020 return, you will get that additional as a refund. This includes parents with custody of children that they are claiming this year, but did not for the year their Rebate was based on. Nothing has been passed, as of the printing of this letter, that will help get a rebate for those young-adults (17 years old or more) that are claimed on their parents returns. However, there have been attempts to do a \$500 Rebate on this year's tax return (fingers crossed!).
- ✓ If you experienced a COVID-related financial issue this year, you are able to pull up to \$100k out of your IRA without the 10% penalty. You still pay the tax on the withdrawal, and will have to prove the necessity of the withdrawal was COVID related (loss of job/income, COVID medical bills, etc).
- ✓ For those of you 70.5 years of age or older, you were not required to take your required minimum distributions for 2020. Also, if you were not 70 by 12/31/19, you will not be required to take minimum distributions until you are age 72.
- ✓ You are now able to take a penalty-free withdrawal of up to \$5k from your IRA to help with birth or adoption expenses. Again, taxes do apply, but not the 10% penalty.
- ✓ Standard deductions, retirement fund limits and flex spending have all been increased for inflation this year, as usual. The married standard deduction will be \$24,800, head of household \$18,650 and single \$12,400 with the additional deduction for blindness or age 65 and over.
- ✓ Medical expenses are now going back down to being deductible for amounts over 7.5% of your income, IF you can itemize.
- ✓ Standard mileage rates for 2020 were: (Business) \$.575, (Medical/Moving) \$.17, (Charity) \$.14