

Chapter 12: Tax and Compliance Matters Unique to States

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12.100: Introduction

Each state has unique laws for various taxes imposed by the state or local municipality. The first part of this chapter is a brief explanation of the most common taxes imposed by these local governments. The church and school are exempt from most of these taxes, but, in some cases, they must pay taxes like any other organization. In some cases, the church may be exempt from payroll tax as a religious institution but the school may not be because it is treated as an educational institution.

The second part of this chapter is material prepared by and available from your district office. It provides information and forms for compliance with the laws in your state. Contact your district business office for your state tax information.

12.200: Annual Reporting

In some states, nonprofit corporations are required to file reports with the secretary of state's office annually or biennially. (Contact the secretary of state's office in your state to determine your filing requirements.) The report generally is brief and requires, among other things, the purpose of the organization, the names and addresses of the board of directors or governing body, and the name of the registered agent. A nominal fee sometimes accompanies the report.

Failure to file the annual or biennial report imposes penalties that differ by state. Some states impose only a nominal fine, but others may call for cancellation of a corporation's certificate of incorporation, which has the effect of terminating the existence of the corporation.

12.300: State/Municipal Taxes

12.305: State Income Tax

All churches and schools are exempt from paying corporate state income tax because of the federal exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

However, the organization's employees are not exempt from paying state income tax. In those states with an income tax, the church or school may be required to withhold state income tax from its employees' payroll checks as it does for the federal income tax, and in some states the tax may be withheld from the "minister of the Gospel."

12.310: Property Taxes

Real and personal property taxes may be imposed by the state, county or city where the church or school is located. In most cases churches and schools are exempt from these taxes, but the exemption laws vary by taxing authority within some states. In some states the church and school may retain their exemption as long as they use the property for their tax-exempt purpose. In other states, the organization may be required to file a periodic exemption form.

The amount of the exemption allowed for the church building, school building, church or school grounds, parsonage, undeveloped land or personal property and any nonexempt manner in which they are used, varies from state to state.

Usually, churches are required to pay special assessment taxes for streets, sewers and similar improvements.

12.315: Sales and Use Tax Payments

In some states, not-for-profit organizations are exempt from the state- or county-imposed sales tax for goods **purchased by** the organization. In other states schools may be exempt from sales tax payments while churches are required to pay this tax. See Table 12-1 for information regarding your state or call your district office for information.

Where sales taxes are imposed on purchases by not-for-profit organizations, states may also collect a Compensating Use Tax for goods purchased in another state. Although generally it is the seller's responsibility to collect this tax, the end user has the responsibility of reporting such purchases and remitting any additional tax (if applicable) to the state in which they do business. Accordingly, you may have a use tax liability on the goods that you received from out-of-state. If you're not certain whether such transactions are subject to use tax in your state, we recommend contacting your Department of Revenue for a determination. Churches located near state borders where purchases are made in both states may need to be aware of this compensating use tax. Purchases made online may be subject to use tax.

12.318: Process of Acquiring an Exemption from Sales Tax Payments

Among those states that exempt purchases by churches and schools from sales taxes (refer to Table 12-1), some require the organizations to apply to the state's Department of Revenue for the exemption. Once the application has been processed, the state will respond by returning either a letter or certificate of exemption. A copy of the document should be made available to each vendor upon request. Other states simply require the exempt entity to provide the vendor directly with a certification of its exemption.

Sales Tax Exemptions for Purchases by Churches/Schools (some states require registration)				
State	Type of organization:		Register for exempt certificate?	<i>The information in this table must not be relied on for accuracy or completeness. Instead, contact your state's Department of Revenue to find out whether your organization qualifies for exemption and under what conditions.</i> Comments:
	Churches	Schools	Y=yes N=no N/A=not applicable	
Alabama		✓	Y	Must renew annually
Alaska	Does not impose sales tax			Some local municipalities impose sales tax
Arizona		*	N	*limited to food purchases by child care centers; must apply annually for letter of exemption
Arkansas	Not exempt		Y	Exemption certificate must be renewed annually
California	Not exempt		N/A	
Colorado	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid for 5 years
Connecticut	✓	✓	Y	Must have 501(c)(3) designation from IRS, renewed every 5 years
Delaware	Does not impose sales tax			
DC	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid until expiration date on certificate
Florida	✓	✓	Y	Must renew annually
Georgia	Not exempt		Y	Must renew annually
Hawaii	Not exempt		Y	Must renew annually
Idaho	*	✓	Y	Must renew annually
Illinois	✓	✓	Y	Must renew annually
Indiana	✓	✓	Y	Must renew annually
Iowa		✓	Y	Claim provided directly to vendor
Kansas	✓	✓	Y	Must renew every 5 years
Kentucky	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Louisiana	Not exempt		N/A	
Maine	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Maryland	✓	✓	Y	Must be located in Maryland or surrounding states to qualify; must renew every 5 years
Massachusetts	✓	✓	Y	Must renew every 10 years
Michigan	✓	✓	N	Certificate valid indefinitely
Minnesota	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Mississippi	*	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely; *limited to church utilities
Missouri	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Montana	Does not impose sales tax			
Nebraska	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Nevada	✓	✓	Y	Must renew every 5 years
New Hampshire	Does not impose sales tax			
New Jersey	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
New Mexico	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
New York	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
North Carolina		✓	Y	Must renew annually
North Dakota		✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Ohio	✓	✓	N	Claim provided directly to vendor
Oklahoma	✓	✓	Y	Renew certificate every 3 years; *school exemptions are severely restricted
Oregon	Does not impose sales tax			
Pennsylvania	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Rhode Island	✓	✓	Y	Must renew every 4 years
South Carolina		✓	Y	Limited to textbooks, library media; Certificate valid indefinitely
South Dakota		✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Tennessee	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Texas	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Utah	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Virginia	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Vermont	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Washington	Not exempt		N/A	
West Virginia	✓	✓	Y	Must renew with renewal of business registration
Wisconsin	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely
Wyoming	✓	✓	Y	Certificate valid indefinitely

TABLE 12-1

12.320:

Sales Tax Collections

Some churches and schools may have sales of tangible personal property (e.g., books) that are subject to the collection of sales tax. States may also impose such taxes on dinners, bake sales, garage sales, auctions, etc. The organization may be required to collect the tax and forward it to the state.

In most cases, the organization will be able to obtain an exemption. In other cases, the dinners, etc., are considered incidental sales and, unless conducted regularly, the state does not enforce the tax.

Different sales tax liabilities may also apply to incidental sales based on whether the goods sold are donated or purchased for resale.

12.325:

Franchise or Business Tax

Unless the church or school has unrelated business income (see Chapter 11), the organization will be exempt from business taxes. However, an unrelated business activity may require the church to file income tax returns, as well as franchise or business tax reports. In some states a franchise fee or business tax is also required. These taxes are not to be confused with the periodic nonprofit report that also may be required by the state. (See 13.400 for more information on corporate reporting.)

12.400:

Unemployment Tax

The church and school are exempt from federal unemployment tax because they are IRC Section 501(c)(3) exempt organizations.

However, unemployment tax is primarily a state responsibility, and, in some states, the laws are different for churches and schools. In most cases, all church and school employees are not eligible for coverage under the state unemployment laws because the organization is exempt from the tax or has elected not to participate. If the organization does not participate in the tax, the organization's employee handbook should state that its employees are not eligible for an unemployment claim should they decide to leave the employment of the church or school.

SAMPLE STATEMENT:

The Synod and its entities, as a church or church-operated school, are exempt from the Unemployment Compensation Act. This means that any employee who terminates or is terminated and is unable to find new employment is not eligible to collect federal unemployment insurance benefits.

However, some states allow "self-insurance" funds for a claim by a former employee if the employer agrees to reimburse the state fund.

12.500:

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation is a statutory insurance provided by the employer for the benefit of employees injured on the job. Very few states allow an exemption to a church or school for this insurance. In most states, the church and school are required to pay a premium for the "minister of the Gospel" and for any other employee. (See 26.245 for more information on Workers' Compensation.) Some states may permit grouping of employers for workers' compensation insurance. Since there is usually a basic fee for this insurance, there may be savings by grouping a number of churches. This could be done across denominations.

12.600:

Listing of State Withholding Tax Offices/ Departments of Revenue

Alabama

revenue.alabama.gov
Department of Revenue
Withholding Tax Section
50 N. Ripley St.
Montgomery, AL 36132-7480
(334) 242-1170

Alaska

dor.alaska.gov
No income tax

Arizona

azdor.gov
Department of Revenue
Withholding Division
1600 W. Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 255-3381

Arkansas

dfa.arkansas.gov
Department of Finance and
Administration
Withholding Tax Branch
1509 W. 7th St.
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-7290

California

edd.ca.gov
Employment Development
Department
Taxpayer Assistance Center
PO Box 826880
Sacramento, CA 94280-001
(888) 745-3886

Colorado

colorado.gov/revenue
Department of Revenue
1375 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80261-0009
(303) 238-7378

Connecticut

ct.gov/drs
Department of Revenue Services
450 Columbus Blvd. Ste. 1
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 297-5962

Delaware

revenue.delaware.gov
Division of Revenue
Carvel State Building
820 N. French St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 577-8779

District of Columbia

otr.cfo.dc.gov
Office of Tax and Revenue
1101 4th St. SW, Suite 270 West
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 727-4829

Florida

floridarevenue.com
No income tax

Georgia

dor.georgia.gov
Department of Revenue
Withholding Tax Unit
1800 Century Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30345
(877) 423-6711

Hawaii

tax.hawaii.gov
Department of Taxation
Income Tax Division
830 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96812-3827
(808) 587-4242

Idaho

tax.idaho.gov
State Tax Commission
11321 W. Chinden Blvd.
Boise, ID 83722-0410
(208) 334-7660

Illinois

tax.illinois.gov
Department of Revenue
101 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62794-9447
(800) 732-8866

Indiana

in.gov/dor
Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 7222
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7222
(317) 233-4016

Iowa

tax.iowa.gov
Taxpayer Services
Department of Revenue
PO Box 10465
Des Moines, IA 50306-0465
(515) 281-3114

Kansas

ksrevenue.org
Department of Revenue
PO Box 750680
Topeka, KS 66625-0680
(785) 368-8222

Kentucky

revenue.ky.gov
Kentucky Department of Revenue
501 High Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4581

Louisiana

revenue.louisiana.gov
Department of Revenue
617 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0201
(855) 307-3893

Maine

maine.gov
Maine Revenue Services
P.O. Box 1060
Augusta, ME 04332-1060
(207) 626-8475

Maryland
marylandtaxes.gov
Comptroller of Maryland
Revenue Administration Division
Taxpayer Services Section
110 Carroll St.
Annapolis, MD 21411-0001
(410) 260-7980

Massachusetts
mass.gov
Department of Revenue,
Customer Service Bureau
PO Box 7010
Boston, MA 02204
(617) 887-6367

Michigan
michigan.gov/treasury
Customer Contact Division
Department of Treasury
PO Box 30427
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 636-6925

Minnesota
revenue.state.mn.us
Department of Revenue
600 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55146
(651) 282-9999

Mississippi
dor.ms.gov
State Tax Commission
Income Tax Bureau
500 Clinton Ctr. Dr.
Clinton, MS 39056
(601) 923-7700

Missouri
dor.mo.gov
Department of Revenue
Taxation Bureau
PO Box 3375
Jefferson City, MO 65105-3375
(573) 751-8750

Montana
mtrevenue.gov
Department of Revenue
125 N. Roberts St.
PO Box 5835
Helena, MT 59604-5835
(406) 444-6900

Nebraska
revenue.nebraska.gov
Department of Revenue
PO Box 94818
Lincoln, NE 68509-4818
(402) 471-5729

Nevada
tax.nv.gov
No income tax

New Hampshire
revenue.nh.gov
No income tax

New Jersey
nj.gov/treasury/revenue
Department of Treasury
Division of Taxation
50 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08695-0269
(609) 292-6748

New Mexico
tax.newmexico.gov
Taxation and Revenue Department
1100 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147
(505) 827-0700

New York
tax.ny.gov
NYS Tax Department
PO Box 4131
Binghamton, NY 13902-4131
(518) 485-6654

North Carolina
ncdor.gov
Department of Revenue
PO Box 25000
Raleigh, NC 27640-0640
(877) 252-3052

North Dakota
nd.gov/tax/
State Tax Commissioner
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0599
(701) 328-1248

Ohio
tax.ohio.gov
Department of Taxation
Central Registration Unit
PO Box 182215
Columbus, OH 43218-2215
(888) 405-4089

Oklahoma
tax.ok.gov
Tax Commission
Withholding Tax Division
2501 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73194
(405) 521-3160

Oregon
oregon.gov/DOR/
Department of Revenue
955 Center St. Northeast
Salem, OR 97301-2555
(503) 378-4988

Pennsylvania
revenue.pa.gov
PA Department of Revenue
PO Box 280904
Harrisburg, PA 17128-0901
(717) 787-1064

Rhode Island
tax.ri.gov
Division of Taxation
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 574-8829

South Carolina
dor.sc.gov
Department of Revenue
PO Box 125
Columbia, SC 29214-0004
(844) 898-8542

South Dakota
dor.sd.gov
No income tax

Tennessee
tn.gov/revenue
No income tax

Texas
comptroller.texas.gov
No income tax

Utah
tax.utah.gov
State Tax Commission
210 N. 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84134-3212
(801) 297-2200

Vermont
tax.vermont.gov
Department of Taxes
133 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401
(802) 828-2551 Option 3

Virginia
tax.virginia.gov
Department of Taxation
Division of Income Tax Withholding
PO Box 1115
Richmond, VA 23218-1115
(804) 367-8037

Washington
dor.wa.gov
No income tax

West Virginia
tax.wv.gov
West Virginia State Tax Department
Taxpayer Services Division
1124 Smith Street
Charleston, WV 25301-3784
(304) 558-3333

Wisconsin
revenue.wi.gov
Department of Revenue
PO Box 8902
Madison, WI 53708-8902
(608) 266-2776

Wyoming
revenue.wyo.gov
No income tax

12.700: New Hire Reporting

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), requires employers to report certain information on their newly-hired employees to a designated state agency. Penalties may be imposed on employers who fail to comply with these rules.

The majority of the information you will be submitting is already being collected when a new employee completes a W-4 form. Each New Hire report must contain the following elements: employee name, employee address and Social Security number, employer's name, employer's address and employer identification number. Some states may require additional data.

Federal law mandates that New Hires be reported within 20 days of the date of hire. However, states are given the option of establishing reporting timeframes that may be shorter than 20 days. You must adhere to the reporting timeframe of the state to which you report.

Because the reporting methods, due dates and data requirements vary from state to state, be sure to check with your state to learn of its requirements. For state-specific filing requirements go to acf.hhs.gov/css/contact-information/state-new-hire-reporting-websites. For the "State New Hire Reporting Contacts and Program Requirements matrix" go to acf.hhs.gov/css/contact-information/state-new-hire-reporting-contacts-and-program-requirements.

12.800: Raffles, Bingo and Other Games of Chance

In planning a fundraising event, a congregation should consider the application of laws regulating charitable solicitation in each state in which the game of chance is to be conducted. Courts and other legal authorities have consistently defined games of chance under state law as consisting of three parts: 1) a prize; 2) the element of chance; and 3) consideration, or payment for the right to participate. The importance of these three is that if one can be eliminated (typically chance or payment), then usually the event will not be considered a game of chance and therefore not subject to gaming regulations. For information about the taxable consequences of gaming events, refer to Chapter 11.

12.900: Information and Forms for Compliance Locally

Contact your district's business manager or treasurer for your state's specific tax information and other information.

