



Diane M. Linn, Multnomah County Chair

NEWS RELEASE

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Multnomah County Sends Information to Area Employers, Encourages Withholding

Multnomah County today sent a mailing to over 45,000 employers with general information about the County personal income tax as part of a continuing effort to encourage employers to withhold the tax. Employers that withhold the tax for their Multnomah County resident employees will help them avoid the surprise of having to pay the tax all at once. The mailing includes answers to common questions, basic instructions on how to set up withholding, and a quarterly payment form.

“We have already received hundreds of withholding payments, and know many more employers will begin withholding in 2004. We also know there are other employers with more questions, and we hope this mailing will give employers general information and resources to help them” said Dave Boyer, Multnomah County Tax Administrator.

Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and many local school districts already offer withholding. A list of employers currently withholding will be available by November 7, 2003 at www.multcotax.org. In addition, many individuals have begun making payments using the early payment coupon that was sent out to county residents in late September.

Many employers that are based exclusively in the Northwest have not had to deal with a local tax before. The County wants to overcome any perception that adding a local tax to payroll is overly complicated and burdensome. “Many other states and counties outside of Oregon have local taxes, and most payroll software and services can easily accommodate this tax,” says Satish Nath, Finance Manager for Multnomah County. “Major payroll services, such as ADP, Ceridian, Paychex, PrimePay and others already offer county tax withholding for their clients. Software programs, such as Oracle, PeopleSoft, SAP and others have updated their programs so employers can add withholding of this tax.”

The County income tax was created when voters approved Ballot Measure 26-48 last May, allowing county schools to start the school year without teacher layoffs and a full school year and funded critical county programs and services that would have been cut otherwise.

Employer withholding for this tax is voluntary and employees must authorize the amount to be withheld. Any wages withheld or individual payments made during calendar year 2003 are eligible for 2003 state and federal itemized deductions. To request a mailer or for further tax information, employers and individuals can visit the personal income tax Website at www.multcotax.org or by calling 503-988-4829. Businesses or associations interested in a presentation or meeting can call Amy Swanson at 503-988-3312 x27184.

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