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Press Release

Why is Tax Day Tuesday April 17, 2018 when it is usually April 15?

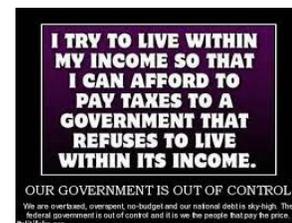
From the Chair of the Macomb County Taxpayers' Association, Philis DeSaele (586-254-1284, philis@desaele.us) citing Joseph Thorndike, Contributor to Forbes.com (<https://bit.ly/2qDGaOC>)

Taxpaying is a civic ritual. The annual ceremony -- gathering records, completing returns, rushing to the post office -- has been diluted in recent years, especially by the rise of electronic filing. But April 15 remains a national anti-holiday of sorts. It may not be fun, but it's a burden of American citizenship.

Tax day has a tendency to shift slightly from year to year, depending on weekends and the proximity of Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. This year returns are due April 17. But why is April 15 the target for individual filing? Why not a different day, or even a different month? As it happens, April hasn't always been tax time in America. Originally, Congress established March 1 as the deadline for filing individual returns. According to the conventional explanation, the decision was driven by the timing of the 16th Amendment. "When the 16th Amendment, which allows Congress to institute the income tax, was adopted on Feb. 3, 1913, Congress chose March 1 -- one year and a few dozen days later -- as the deadline for filing returns," explained a 2002 article in Fortune magazine.

Congress soon rethought the timing. In the Revenue Act of 1918, lawmakers gave taxpayers an extra couple of weeks, setting March 15 as the new deadline. Not until 1955 did taxpayers face a new deadline. The Internal Revenue Code of 1954 established April 15 as the tax day we all know and loathe.

"Taxation is legalized theft," said MCTA Chair DeSaele, "That's why the Macomb County Taxpayers' Association will research and survey campaign candidates for the 2018 election cycle to protect hardworking American paychecks and homes."



The Macomb County Taxpayers' Association is a Non-Partisan Organization focusing on lowering taxes and reducing government waste.

An Informational letter