



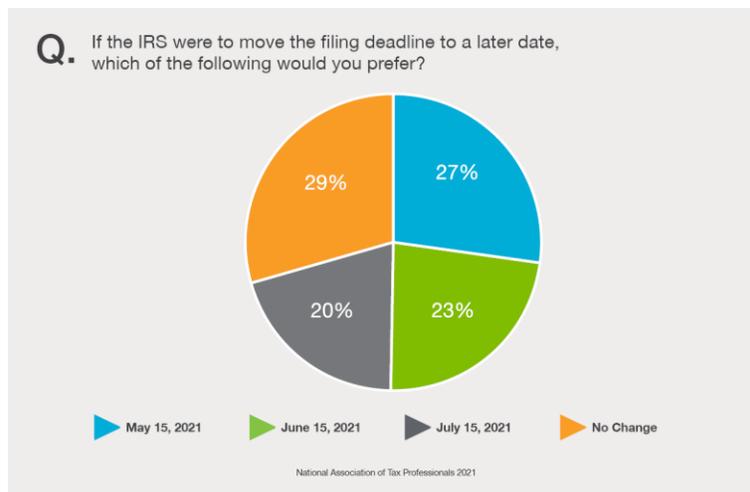
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The Honorable Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

We are writing in support of the Feb. 18, 2021 letter submitted to you by members of the Ways and Means Oversight subcommittee requesting an extension to the return filing season beyond April 15, 2021. On behalf of the 23,000 NATP members and their more than 10 million taxpaying clients, it is our belief that a filing and payment extension would be prudent. An extension will significantly help preparers as they continue to wait for filing guidance as well as the many taxpayers who continue to experience health and economic challenges not unlike what was faced during the 2020 tax season.

We recently conducted a survey of tax professionals asking their preferred filing deadline for the 2021 tax season. We learned that 71% of respondents support a later filing deadline.



National Association of Tax Professionals
PO Box 8002 • Appleton, WI 54912-8002
Phone: 800-558-3402 • Fax: 800-747-0001 • Web: natptax.com

Popular reasons preparers gave for wanting the extension include:

- A lack of guidance thus resulting in incomplete and inaccurate filing of returns, ultimately resulting in more amended returns to be prepared
- The Feb. 12 start to e-filing created a much shorter timeframe for both preparers and taxpayers
- Covid concerns including delays, limited staffing, safety precautions, illnesses and family obligations like children attending virtual school, for example
- IRS has limited assistance and backlog still exists from 2019 returns
- More time is needed to assist clients because of complications with stimulus payments, PPP loans, unemployment and more client questions

We are hopeful that you will consider an extension to this tax season, including the waiver of interest and penalties for the late payment of tax. As you currently have the authority to extend the deadline, we hope you will act quickly on providing the tax paying and tax preparing public this relief at this time. As always, NATP is available to provide any information you may need from the preparer perspective. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Scott Artman, CPA
NATP Executive Director
sartman@natptax.com



Brett Rosser, EA
NATP National President