



Landon Mance & Austin Peterson
Financial Planners
Backbone Planning Partners

Dear Valued Friends and Clients,

Happy holidays! We hope this content has been helpful to you and continues to provide value to your business. Wishing you the very best for the year ahead.

Landon Mance & Austin Peterson

Time to Start Thinking about Taxes: Tips to Choosing a Reputable Tax Preparer

As taxpayers get ready to file their 2022 tax return, they may be considering hiring a tax return preparer. The IRS reminds taxpayers to choose a tax return preparer wisely. This is important because taxpayers are responsible for all the information on their return, no matter who prepares it for them.

There are different kinds of tax preparers, and a taxpayer's needs will help determine which kind of preparer is best for them. With that in mind, the IRS provides some quick tips to help taxpayers choose a preparer.

When choosing a tax professional, taxpayers should:

- **Check the IRS “[Directory of Preparers](#)”.** While it is not a complete listing of tax return preparers, the listing includes those who are enrolled agents, CPAs, and attorneys, as well as those who participate in the “Annual Filing Season Program”.
- **Check the preparer's history with the Better Business Bureau.** Taxpayers can [verify an enrolled agent's status](#) on www.irs.gov.
- **Ask about fees.** Taxpayers should avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of their refund into their financial accounts.
- **Be wary of tax return preparers who claim they can get larger refunds than others.**
- **Ask if tax return preparers plan to use [e-file](#).**
- **Make sure the preparer is available.** People should consider whether the individual or firm will be around for months or years after filing the return. Taxpayers should do this because they might need the preparer to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return.
- **Ensure the preparer signs and includes their preparer tax identification number.** Paid [tax return preparers](#) must have a PTIN (Preparer Tax Identification Number) to prepare tax returns.
- **Check the person's credentials.** Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in tax matters. Other tax return preparers who participate in the IRS [Annual Filing Season Program](#) have limited practice rights to represent taxpayers during audits of returns they prepared.

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7477 W Lake Mead Blvd Ste 230, Las Vegas, NV 89128
(702) 569-7316

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Backbone Planning Partners

7477 W Lake Mead Blvd, Suite 230 • Las Vegas, NV 89128

702-569-7316

www.backboneplanning.com

landon.mance@lfg.com; austin.peterson@lfg.com

Austin Peterson & Landon Mance

Financial Planners

Please email christina.johnson@lfg.com if you'd like to be removed from this mailing list.

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