

## **171.05 ANNUAL RETURN; FILING.**

(A) An annual Centerburg income tax return shall be completed and filed by every individual taxpayer eighteen (18) years of age or older and any taxpayer that is not an individual for each taxable year for which the taxpayer is subject to the tax, whether or not a tax is due thereon.

(1) The Tax Administrator may accept on behalf of all nonresident individual taxpayers a return filed by an employer, agent of an employer, or other payer under Section 5 of this Chapter when the nonresident individual taxpayer's sole income subject to the tax is the qualifying wages reported by the employer, agent of an employer, or other payer, and no additional tax is due Centerburg.

(2) Retirees having no Municipal Taxable Income for Centerburg income tax purposes may file with the Tax Administrator a written exemption from these filing requirements on a form prescribed by the Tax Administrator. The written exemption shall indicate the date of retirement and the entity from which retired. The exemption shall be in effect until such time as the retiree receives Municipal Taxable Income taxable to Centerburg, at which time the retiree shall be required to comply with all applicable provisions of this ordinance/chapter.

(B) If an individual is deceased, any return or notice required of that individual shall be completed and filed by that decedent's executor, administrator, or other person charged with the property of that decedent.

(C) If an individual is unable to complete and file a return or notice required by Centerburg, the return or notice required of that individual shall be completed and filed by the individual's duly authorized agent, guardian, conservator, fiduciary, or other person charged with the care of the person or property of that individual.

(D) Returns or notices required of an estate or a trust shall be completed and filed by the fiduciary of the estate or trust.

(E) Centerburg shall permit spouses to file a joint return.

(F) (1) Each return required to be filed under this division shall contain the signature of the taxpayer or the taxpayer's duly authorized agent and of the person who prepared the return for the taxpayer. The return shall include the taxpayer's social security number or taxpayer identification number. Each return shall be verified by a declaration under penalty of perjury.

(2) The Tax Administrator shall require a taxpayer who is an individual to include, with each annual return and amended return, copies of the following documents: all of the taxpayer's Internal Revenue Service form W-2, "Wage and Tax Statements," including all information reported on the taxpayer's federal W-2, as well as taxable wages reported or withheld for any municipal corporation; the taxpayer's Internal Revenue Service form 1040 or, in the case of a return or request required by a qualified municipal corporation, Ohio form IT-1040; and, with respect to an amended tax return, any other documentation necessary to support the adjustments made in the amended return. An individual taxpayer who files the annual return required by this section electronically is not required to provide paper copies of any of the foregoing to the Tax Administrator unless the Tax Administrator requests such copies after the return has been filed.

(3) The Tax Administrator may require a taxpayer that is not an individual to include, with each annual net profit return, amended net profit return, or request for refund required under this section, copies of only the following documents: the taxpayer's Internal Revenue Service form 1041, form 1065, form 1120, form 1120-REIT, form 1120F, or form 1120S, and, with respect to an amended

tax return or refund request, any other documentation necessary to support the refund request or the adjustments made in the amended return.

A taxpayer that is not an individual and that files an annual net profit return electronically through the Ohio Business Gateway or in some other manner shall either mail the documents required under this division to the Tax Administrator at the time of filing or, if electronic submission is available, submit the documents electronically through the Ohio Business Gateway.

(4) After a taxpayer files a tax return, the Tax Administrator may request, and the taxpayer shall provide, any information, statements, or documents required by Centerburg to determine and verify the taxpayer's municipal income tax liability. The requirements imposed under division (F) of this section apply regardless of whether the taxpayer files on a generic form or on a form prescribed by the Tax Administrator.

(G) (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, each individual income tax return required to be filed under this section shall be completed and filed as required by the Tax Administrator on or before the date prescribed for the filing of state individual income tax returns under division (G) of Section 5747.08 of the ORC. The taxpayer shall complete and file the return or notice on forms prescribed by the Tax Administrator or on generic forms, together with remittance made payable to Centerburg. No remittance is required if the net amount due is ten dollars or less.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, each annual net profit return required to be filed under this section by a taxpayer that is not an individual shall be completed and filed as required by the Tax Administrator on or before the fifteenth day of the fourth month following the end of the taxpayer's taxable year. The taxpayer shall complete and file the return or notice on forms prescribed by the Tax Administrator or on generic forms, together with remittance made payable to Centerburg. No remittance is required if the net amount due is ten dollars or less.

(2) Any taxpayer that has duly requested an automatic six-month extension for filing the taxpayer's federal income tax return shall automatically receive an extension for the filing of Centerburg's income tax return. The extended due date of Centerburg's income tax return shall be the 15th day of the tenth month after the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates. An extension of time to file under this division is not an extension of the time to pay any tax due unless the Tax Administrator grants an extension of that date.

(a) A copy of the federal extension request shall be included with the filing of Centerburg's income tax return.

(b) A taxpayer that has not requested or received a six-month extension for filing the taxpayer's federal income tax return may request that the Tax Administrator grant the taxpayer a six-month extension of the date for filing the taxpayer's Centerburg income tax return. If the request is received by the Tax Administrator on or before the date the Centerburg income tax return is due, the Tax Administrator shall grant the taxpayer's requested extension.

(3) If the tax commissioner extends for all taxpayers the date for filing state income tax returns under division (G) of Section 5747.08 of the ORC, a taxpayer shall automatically receive an extension for the filing of a Centerburg's income tax return. The extended due date of Centerburg's income tax return shall be the same as the extended due date of the state income tax return.

(4) If the Tax Administrator considers it necessary in order to ensure the payment of the tax imposed by Centerburg, the Tax Administrator may require taxpayers to file returns and make payments

otherwise than as provided in this division, including taxpayers not otherwise required to file annual returns.

(5) To the extent that any provision in this division (G) of this section conflicts with any provision in divisions (N), (O), (P), or (Q) of this section, the provisions in divisions (N), (O), (P), or (Q) prevail.

(H) (1) For taxable years beginning after 2015, Centerburg shall not require a taxpayer to remit tax with respect to net profits if the net amount due is ten dollars or less.

(2) Any taxpayer not required to remit tax to Centerburg for a taxable year pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section shall file with Centerburg an annual net profit return under division (F)(3) of this section, unless the provisions of division (H)(3) apply.

(3) (a) A person may notify the Tax Administrator that the person does not expect to be a taxpayer subject to Centerburg income tax ordinance for a taxable year if both the following apply:

(i) The person was required to file a tax return with Centerburg for the immediately preceding taxable year because the person performed services at a worksite location (as defined in Section 4(C)(1)(g)) within Centerburg.

(ii) The person no longer provides services in Centerburg and does not expect to be subject to Centerburg income tax for the taxable year.

(b) The person shall provide the notice in a signed affidavit that briefly explains the person's circumstances, including the location of the previous worksite location and the last date on which the person performed services or made any sales within Centerburg. The affidavit shall also include the following statement: "The affiant has no plans to perform any services within Centerburg, make any sales in Centerburg, or otherwise become subject to the tax levied by Centerburg during the taxable year. If the affiant does become subject to the tax levied by Centerburg for the taxable year, the affiant agrees to be considered a taxpayer and to properly comply as a taxpayer with Centerburg income tax ordinance and rules and regulations." The person shall sign the affidavit under penalty of perjury.

(c) If a person submits an affidavit described in division (H)(3)(b) the Tax Administrator shall not require the person to file and tax return for the taxable year unless the Tax Administrator possesses information that conflicts with the affidavit or if the circumstances described in the affidavit change.

(d) Nothing in division (H)(3) of this section prohibits the Tax Administrator from performing an audit of the person.

(I) If a payment under this chapter is made by electronic funds transfer, the payment shall be considered to be made on the date of the timestamp assigned by the first electronic system receiving that payment.

(J) Taxes withheld for Centerburg by an employer, the agent of an employer, or other payer as described in Section 4 shall be allowed to the taxpayer as credits against payment of the tax imposed on the taxpayer by Centerburg, unless the amounts withheld were not remitted to Centerburg and the recipient colluded with the employer, agent, or other payer in connection with the failure to remit the amounts withheld.

(K) Each return required by Centerburg to be filed in accordance with this division shall include a box that the taxpayer may check to authorize another person, including a tax return preparer who prepared the return, to communicate with the Tax Administrator about matters pertaining to the return.

(L) The Tax Administrator shall accept for filing a generic form of any income tax return, report, or document required by Centerburg, provided that the generic form, once completed and filed, contains all of the information required by ordinance, resolution, or rules and regulations adopted by Centerburg or the Tax Administrator, and provided that the taxpayer or tax return preparer filing the generic form otherwise complies with the provisions of this Chapter and of Centerburg's ordinance, resolution, or rules and regulations governing the filing of returns, reports, or documents.

**Filing via Ohio Business Gateway.**

(M) (1) Any taxpayer subject to municipal income taxation with respect to the taxpayer's net profit from a business or profession may file Centerburg's income tax return, estimated municipal income tax return, or extension for filing a municipal income tax return, and may make payment of amounts shown to be due on such returns, by using the Ohio Business Gateway.

(2) Any employer, agent of an employer, or other payer may report the amount of municipal income tax withheld from qualifying wages, and may make remittance of such amounts, by using the Ohio Business Gateway.

(3) Nothing in this section affects the due dates for filing employer withholding tax returns.

**Extension for service in or for the armed forces.**

(N) Each member of the national guard of any state and each member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States called to active duty pursuant to an executive order issued by the president of the United States or an act of the congress of the United States, and each civilian serving as support personnel in a combat zone or contingency operation in support of the armed forces, may apply to the Tax Administrator of Centerburg for both an extension of time for filing of the return and an extension of time for payment of taxes required by Centerburg during the period of the member's or civilian's duty service, and for 180 days thereafter. The application shall be filed on or before the one hundred eightieth day after the member's or civilian's duty terminates. An applicant shall provide such evidence as the Tax Administrator considers necessary to demonstrate eligibility for the extension.

(O) (1) If the Tax Administrator ascertains that an applicant is qualified for an extension under this section, the Tax Administrator shall enter into a contract with the applicant for the payment of the tax in installments that begin on the 181st day after the applicant's active duty or service terminates. The Tax Administrator may prescribe such contract terms as the Tax Administrator considers appropriate. However, taxes pursuant to a contract entered into under this division are not delinquent, and the Tax Administrator shall not require any payments of penalties or interest in connection with those taxes for the extension period.

(2) If the Tax Administrator determines that an applicant is qualified for an extension under this section, the applicant shall neither be required to file any return, report, or other tax document nor be required to pay any tax otherwise due to the municipal corporation before the 181st day after the applicant's active duty or service terminates.

(3) Taxes paid pursuant to a contract entered into under (O)(1) of this division are not delinquent. The Tax Administrator shall not require any payments of penalties or interest in connection with those taxes for the extension period.

(P) (1) Nothing in this division denies to any person described in this division the application of divisions (N) and (O) of this section.

(2) (a) A qualifying taxpayer who is eligible for an extension under the Internal Revenue Code shall receive both an extension of time in which to file any return, report, or other tax document and an extension of time in which to make any payment of taxes required by a municipal corporation in accordance with this Chapter. The length of any extension granted under division (P)(2)(a) of this section shall be equal to the length of the corresponding extension that the taxpayer receives under the Internal Revenue Code. As used in this division, "qualifying taxpayer" means a member of the national guard or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States called to active duty pursuant to either an executive order issued by the president of the United States or an act of the congress of the United States, or a civilian serving as support personnel in a combat zone or contingency operation in support of the armed forces.

(b) Taxes whose payment is extended in accordance with division (P)(2)(a) of this section are not delinquent during the extension period. Such taxes become delinquent on the first day after the expiration of the extension period if the taxes are not paid prior to that date. The Tax Administrator shall not require any payment of penalties or interest in connection with those taxes for the extension period. The Tax Administrator shall not include any period of extension granted under division (C)(2)(a) of this section in calculating the penalty or interest due on any unpaid tax.

(Q) For each taxable year to which division (N), (O), or (P) of this section applies to a taxpayer, the provisions of divisions (O)(2) and (3) of this section, as applicable, apply to the spouse of that taxpayer if the filing status of the spouse and the taxpayer is married filing jointly for that year.

**Consolidated municipal income tax return.**

(R) As used in this section:

(1) "Affiliated group of corporations" means an affiliated group as defined in Section 1504 of the Internal Revenue Code, except that, if such a group includes at least one incumbent local exchange carrier that is primarily engaged in the business of providing local exchange telephone service in this state, the affiliated group shall not include any incumbent local exchange carrier that would otherwise be included in the group.

(2) "Consolidated federal income tax return" means a consolidated return filed for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 1501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) "Consolidated federal taxable income" means the consolidated taxable income of an affiliated group of corporations, as computed for the purposes of filing a consolidated federal income tax return, before consideration of net operating losses or special deductions. "Consolidated federal taxable income" does not include income or loss of an incumbent local exchange carrier that is excluded from the affiliated group under division (R)(1) of this section.

(4) "Incumbent local exchange carrier" has the same meaning as in Section 4927.01 of the ORC.

(5) "Local exchange telephone service" has the same meaning as in Section 5727.01 of the ORC.

(S) (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, a taxpayer that is a member of an affiliated group of corporations may elect to file a consolidated municipal income tax return for a taxable year if at least one member of the affiliated group of corporations is subject to Centerburg's income tax in that taxable year, and if the affiliated group of corporations filed a consolidated federal income tax return with respect to that taxable year. The election is binding for a five-year period beginning with the first taxable year of the initial election unless a change in the reporting method is required under federal law. The election continues to be binding for each subsequent five-year period unless the taxpayer elects to discontinue filing consolidated municipal income tax returns under division (S)(2) of this section or a taxpayer receives permission from the Tax Administrator. The Tax Administrator shall approve such a request for good cause shown.

(2) An election to discontinue filing consolidated municipal income tax returns under this section must be made in the first year following the last year of a five-year consolidated municipal income tax return election period in effect under division (S)(1) of this section. The election to discontinue filing a consolidated municipal income tax return is binding for a five-year period beginning with the first taxable year of the election.

(3) An election made under division (S)(1) or (2) of this section is binding on all members of the affiliated group of corporations subject to a municipal income tax.

(T) A taxpayer that is a member of an affiliated group of corporations that filed a consolidated federal income tax return for a taxable year shall file a consolidated Centerburg income tax return for that taxable year if the Tax Administrator determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that intercompany transactions have not been conducted at arm's length and that there has been a distortive shifting of income

or expenses with regard to allocation of net profits to Centerburg. A taxpayer that is required to file a consolidated Centerburg income tax return for a taxable year shall file a consolidated Centerburg income tax return for all subsequent taxable years, unless the taxpayer requests and receives written permission from the Tax Administrator to file a separate return or a taxpayer has experienced a change in circumstances.

(U) A taxpayer shall prepare a consolidated Centerburg income tax return in the same manner as is required under the United States department of treasury regulations that prescribe procedures for the preparation of the consolidated federal income tax return required to be filed by the common parent of the affiliated group of which the taxpayer is a member.

(V) (1) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (V)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, corporations that file a consolidated municipal income tax return shall compute adjusted federal taxable income, as defined in Section 2, by substituting "consolidated federal taxable income" for "federal taxable income" wherever "federal taxable income" appears in that division and by substituting "an affiliated group of corporation's" for "a C corporation's" wherever "a C corporation's" appears in that division.

(2) No corporation filing a consolidated Centerburg income tax return shall make any adjustment otherwise required under Section (2)(C)(1) to the extent that the item of income or deduction otherwise subject to the adjustment has been eliminated or consolidated in the computation of consolidated federal taxable income.

(3) If the net profit or loss of a pass-through entity having at least eighty percent (80%) of the value of its ownership interest owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an affiliated group of corporations is included in that affiliated group's consolidated federal taxable income for a taxable year, the corporation filing a consolidated Centerburg income tax return shall do one of the following with respect to that pass-through entity's net profit or loss for that taxable year:

(a) Exclude the pass-through entity's net profit or loss from the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated group and, for the purpose of making the computations required in divisions (R) through (Y) of Section 5, exclude the property, payroll, and gross receipts of the pass-through entity in the computation of the affiliated group's net profit situated to Centerburg. If the entity's net profit or loss is so excluded, the entity shall be subject to taxation as a separate taxpayer on the basis of the entity's net profits that would otherwise be included in the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated group.

(b) Include the pass-through entity's net profit or loss in the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated group and, for the purpose of making the computations required in divisions (R) through (Y) of Section 5, include the property, payroll, and gross receipts of the pass-through entity in the computation of the affiliated group's net profit situated to Centerburg. If the entity's net profit or loss is so included, the entity shall not be subject to taxation as a separate taxpayer on the basis of the entity's net profits that are included in the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated group.

(4) If the net profit or loss of a pass-through entity having less than eighty percent of the value of its ownership interest owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an affiliated group of corporations is included in that affiliated group's consolidated federal taxable income for a taxable year, all of the following shall apply:

(a) The corporation filing the consolidated municipal income tax return shall exclude the pass-through entity's net profit or loss from the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated

group and, for the purposes of making the computations required in divisions (R) through (Y) of Section 5, exclude the property, payroll, and gross receipts of the pass-through entity in the computation of the affiliated group's net profit situated to Centerburg;

(b) The pass-through entity shall be subject to Centerburg income taxation as a separate taxpayer in accordance with this Chapter on the basis of the entity's net profits that would otherwise be included in the consolidated federal taxable income of the affiliated group.

(W) Corporations filing a consolidated Centerburg income tax return shall make the computations required under divisions (R) through (Y) of Section 5 by substituting "consolidated federal taxable income attributable to" for "net profit from" wherever "net profit from" appears in that section and by substituting "affiliated group of corporations" for "taxpayer" wherever "taxpayer" appears in that section.

(X) Each corporation filing a consolidated Centerburg income tax return is jointly and severally liable for any tax, interest, penalties, fines, charges, or other amounts imposed by Centerburg in accordance with this Chapter on the corporation, an affiliated group of which the corporation is a member for any portion of the taxable year, or any one or more members of such an affiliated group.

(Y) Corporations and their affiliates that made an election or entered into an agreement with Centerburg before January 1, 2016, to file a consolidated or combined tax return with Centerburg may continue to file consolidated or combined tax returns in accordance with such election or agreement for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2016.



**171.06 CREDIT FOR TAX PAID TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES.**

No credit is provided to residents for tax paid to other municipalities.

## 171.07 ESTIMATED TAXES.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Estimated taxes" means the amount that the taxpayer reasonably estimates to be the taxpayer's tax liability for Centerburg's income tax for the current taxable year.

(2) "Tax liability" means the total taxes due to Centerburg for the taxable year, after allowing any credit to which the taxpayer is entitled, and after applying any estimated tax payment, withholding payment, or credit from another taxable year.

(B) (1) Every taxpayer shall make a declaration of estimated taxes for the current taxable year, on the form prescribed by the Tax Administrator, if the amount payable as estimated taxes is at least \$200. For the purposes of this section:

(a) Taxes withheld for Centerburg from qualifying wages shall be considered as paid to Centerburg in equal amounts on each payment date unless the taxpayer establishes the dates on which all amounts were actually withheld, in which case they shall be considered as paid on the dates on which the amounts were actually withheld.

(b) An overpayment of tax applied as a credit to a subsequent taxable year is deemed to be paid on the date of the postmark stamped on the cover in which the payment is mailed or, if the payment is made by electronic funds transfer, the date the payment is submitted. As used in this division, "date of the postmark" means, in the event there is more than one date on the cover, the earliest date imprinted on the cover by the postal service.

(2) Taxpayers filing joint returns shall file joint declarations of estimated taxes. A taxpayer may amend a declaration under rules prescribed by the Tax Administrator. A taxpayer having a taxable year of less than twelve months shall make a declaration under rules prescribed by the Tax Administrator.

(3) The declaration of estimated taxes shall be filed on or before the date prescribed for the filing of municipal income tax returns under division (G) of Section 5 or on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the fourth month after the taxpayer becomes subject to tax for the first time.

(4) Taxpayers reporting on a fiscal year basis shall file a declaration on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the fourth month after the beginning of each fiscal year or period.

(5) The original declaration or any subsequent amendment may be increased or decreased on or before any subsequent quarterly payment day as provided in this section.

(C) (1) The required portion of the tax liability for the taxable year that shall be paid through estimated taxes made payable to Centerburg, including the application of tax refunds to estimated taxes and withholding on or before the applicable payment date, shall be as follows:

(a) On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the fourth month after the beginning of the taxable year, twenty-two and one-half (22.5) percent of the tax liability for the taxable year;

(b) On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the sixth month after the beginning of the taxable year, forty-five (45) percent of the tax liability for the taxable year;

(c) On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the ninth month after the beginning of the taxable year, sixty-seven and one-half (67.5) percent of the tax liability for the taxable year;

(d) For an individual, on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the first month of the following taxable year, ninety percent (90%) of the tax liability for the taxable year. For a person other than an individual, on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the twelfth month of the taxable year, ninety percent (90%) of the tax liability for the taxable year.

(2) When an amended declaration has been filed, the unpaid balance shown due on the amended declaration shall be paid in equal installments on or before the remaining payment dates.

(3) On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the fourth month of the year following that for which the declaration or amended declaration was filed, an annual return shall be filed and any balance which may be due shall be paid with the return in accordance with Section 718.05.

(D) (1) In the case of any underpayment of any portion of a tax liability, penalty and interest may be imposed pursuant to Section 18 upon the amount of underpayment for the period of underpayment, unless the underpayment is due to reasonable cause as described in division (E) of this section. The amount of the underpayment shall be determined as follows:

(a) For the first payment of estimated taxes each year, twenty-two and one-half percent (22.5%) of the tax liability, less the amount of taxes paid by the date prescribed for that payment;

(b) For the second payment of estimated taxes each year, forty-five percent (45%) of the tax liability, less the amount of taxes paid by the date prescribed for that payment;

(c) For the third payment of estimated taxes each year, sixty-seven and one-half percent (67.5%) of the tax liability, less the amount of taxes paid by the date prescribed for that payment;

(d) For the fourth payment of estimated taxes each year, ninety percent (90%) of the tax liability, less the amount of taxes paid by the date prescribed for that payment.

(2) The period of the underpayment shall run from the day the estimated payment was required to be made to the date on which the payment is made. For purposes of this section, a payment of estimated taxes on or before any payment date shall be considered a payment of any previous underpayment only to the extent the payment of estimated taxes exceeds the amount of the payment presently required to be paid to avoid any penalty.

(E) An underpayment of any portion of tax liability determined under division (D) of this section shall be due to reasonable cause and the penalty imposed by this section shall not be added to the taxes for the taxable year if any of the following apply:

(1) The amount of estimated taxes that were paid equals at least ninety percent (90%) of the tax liability for the current taxable year, determined by annualizing the income received during the year up to the end of the month immediately preceding the month in which the payment is due.

(2) The amount of estimated taxes that were paid equals at least one hundred percent of the tax liability shown on the return of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year, provided that the immediately preceding taxable year reflected a period of twelve months and the taxpayer filed a return with Centerburg under Section 5 for that year.

(3) The taxpayer is an individual who resides in Centerburg but was not domiciled there on the first day of January of the calendar year that includes the first day of the taxable year.

**171.08      ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS.**

A person may round to the nearest whole dollar all amounts the person is required to enter on any return, report, voucher, or other document required under this Chapter. Any fractional part of a dollar that equals or exceeds fifty cents shall be rounded to the next whole dollar, and any fractional part of a dollar that is less than fifty cents shall be dropped. If a person chooses to round amounts entered on a document, the person shall round all amounts entered on the document.

## **171.09      REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS.**

(A) As used in this section, "withholding tax" has the same meaning as in Section 18.

(B) Upon receipt of a request for a refund, the Tax Administrator, in accordance with this section, shall refund to employers, agents of employers, other payers, or taxpayers, with respect to any income or withholding tax levied by the municipal corporation:

- (1) Overpayments of more than ten dollars or more;
- (2) Amounts paid erroneously if the refund requested exceeds ten dollars or more.

(C) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, requests for refund shall be filed with the Tax Administrator, on the form prescribed by the Tax Administrator within three years after the tax was due or paid, whichever is later. The Tax Administrator may require the requestor to file with the request any documentation that substantiates the requestor's claim for a refund.

(2) On filing of the refund request, the Tax Administrator shall determine the amount of refund due and certify such amount to the appropriate municipal corporation official for payment. Except as provided in division (C)(3) of this section, the administrator shall issue an assessment to any taxpayer whose request for refund is fully or partially denied. The assessment shall state the amount of the refund that was denied, the reasons for the denial, and instructions for appealing the assessment.

(3) If a Tax Administrator denies in whole or in part a refund request included within the taxpayer's originally filed annual income tax return, the Tax Administrator shall notify the taxpayer, in writing, of the amount of the refund that was denied, the reasons for the denial, and instructions for requesting an assessment that may be appealed under Section 21.

(D) A request for a refund that is received after the last day for filing specified in division (C) of this section shall be considered to have been filed in a timely manner if any of the following situations exist:

(1) The request is delivered by the postal service, and the earliest postal service postmark on the cover in which the request is enclosed is not later than the last day for filing the request.

(2) The request is delivered by the postal service, the only postmark on the cover in which the request is enclosed was affixed by a private postal meter, the date of that postmark is not later than the last day for filing the request, and the request is received within seven days of such last day.

(3) The request is delivered by the postal service, no postmark date was affixed to the cover in which the request is enclosed or the date of the postmark so affixed is not legible, and the request is received within seven days of the last day for making the request.

(E) Interest shall be allowed and paid on any overpayment by a taxpayer of any municipal income tax obligation from the date of the overpayment until the date of the refund of the overpayment, except that if any overpayment is refunded within 90 days after the final filing date of the annual return or 90 days after the completed return is filed, whichever is later, no interest shall be allowed on the refund. For the purpose of computing the payment of interest on amounts overpaid, no amount of tax for any taxable year shall be considered to have been paid before the date on which the return on which the tax is reported is due, without regard to any extension of time for filing that return. Interest shall be paid at the interest rate described in Section 18 (A)(4).

**171.10 SECOND MUNICIPALITY IMPOSING TAX AFTER TIME PERIOD ALLOWED FOR REFUND.**

(A) Income tax that has been deposited with Centerburg, but should have been deposited with another municipality, is allowable by Centerburg as a refund but is subject to the three-year limitation on refunds.

(B) Income tax that was deposited with another municipality but should have been deposited with Centerburg is subject to recovery by Centerburg. If Centerburg's tax on that income is imposed after the time period allowed for a refund of the tax or withholding paid to the other municipality, Centerburg shall allow a nonrefundable credit against the tax or withholding Centerburg claims is due with respect to such income or wages, equal to the tax or withholding paid to the first municipality with respect to such income or wages.

(C) If Centerburg's tax rate is less than the tax rate in the other municipality, then the nonrefundable credit shall be calculated using Centerburg's tax rate. However, if Centerburg's tax rate is greater than the tax rate in the other municipality, the tax due in excess of the nonrefundable credit is to be paid to Centerburg, along with any penalty and interest that accrued during the period of nonpayment.

(D) Nothing in this section permits any credit carryforward.

## 171.11 AMENDED RETURNS.

- (A) (1) If a taxpayer's tax liability shown on the annual tax return for Centerburg changes as a result of an adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return, the taxpayer shall file an amended return with Centerburg. The amended return shall be filed on a form required by the Tax Administrator.
- (2) If a taxpayer intends to file an amended consolidated municipal income tax return, or to amend its type of return from a separate return to a consolidated return, based on the taxpayer's consolidated federal income tax return, the taxpayer shall notify the Tax Administrator before filing the amended return.
- (B) (1) In the case of an underpayment, the amended return shall be accompanied by payment of any combined additional tax due, together with any penalty and interest thereon. If the combined tax shown to be due is ten dollars or less, no payment need be made. The amended return shall reopen those facts, figures, computations, or attachments from a previously filed return that are not affected, either directly or indirectly, by the adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return only:
- (a) to determine the amount of tax that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened; or,
- (b) if the applicable statute of limitations for civil actions or prosecutions under Section 12 has not expired for a previously filed return.
- (2) The additional tax to be paid shall not exceed the amount of tax that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened; i.e., the payment shall be the lesser of the two amounts.
- (C) (1) In the case of an overpayment, a request for refund may be filed under this division within the period prescribed by division (A)(2) of Section 12 for filing the amended return, even if it is filed beyond the period prescribed in that division if it otherwise conforms to the requirements of that division. If the amount of the refund is less than ten dollars, no refund need be paid by Centerburg. A request filed under this division shall claim refund of overpayments resulting from alterations only to those facts, figures, computations, or attachments required in the taxpayer's annual return that are affected, either directly or indirectly, by the adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return, unless it is also filed within the time prescribed in Section 9.
- (2) The amount to be refunded shall not exceed the amount of refund that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened. All facts, figures, computations, and attachments may be reopened to determine the refund amount due by inclusion of all facts, figures, computations, and attachments.
- (D) Within 60 days after the final determination of any federal or state tax liability affecting the taxpayer's Centerburg's tax liability, that taxpayer shall make and file an amended Centerburg return showing income subject to Centerburg income tax based upon such final determination of federal or state tax liability. The taxpayer shall pay any additional Centerburg income tax shown due thereon or make a claim for refund of any overpayment, unless the tax or overpayment is less than ten dollars.
- (E) Unless otherwise required by law, no taxpayer shall use a different accounting method on an amended return than the accounting method used on the original return that the taxpayer seeks to amend.



## 171.12 LIMITATIONS.

(A) (1) (a) Civil actions to recover municipal income taxes and penalties and interest on municipal income taxes shall be brought within the later of:

(i) Three years after the tax was due or the return was filed, whichever is later; or

(ii) One year after the conclusion of the qualifying deferral period, if any.

(b) The time limit described in division (A)(1)(a) of this section may be extended at any time if both the Tax Administrator and the employer, agent of the employer, other payer, or taxpayer consent in writing to the extension. Any extension shall also extend for the same period of time the time limit described in division (C) of this section.

(2) As used in this section, "qualifying deferral period" means a period of time beginning and ending as follows:

(a) Beginning on the date a person who is aggrieved by an assessment files with the Board of Tax Review the request described in Section 21. That date shall not be affected by any subsequent decision, finding, or holding by any administrative body or court that the Board of Tax Review did not have jurisdiction to affirm, reverse, or modify the assessment or any part of that assessment.

(b) Ending the later of the sixtieth day after the date on which the final determination of the Board of Tax Review becomes final or, if any party appeals from the determination of the local board of Tax Review, the sixtieth day after the date on which the final determination of the Board of Tax Review is either ultimately affirmed in whole or in part or ultimately reversed and no further appeal of either that affirmation, in whole or in part, or that reversal is available or taken.

(B) Prosecutions for an offense made punishable under a resolution or ordinance imposing an income tax shall be commenced within three years after the commission of the offense, provided that in the case of fraud, failure to file a return, or the omission of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of income required to be reported, prosecutions may be commenced within six years after the commission of the offense.

(C) A claim for a refund of municipal income taxes shall be brought within the time limitation provided in Section 9.

(D) (1) Notwithstanding the fact that an appeal is pending, the petitioner may pay all or a portion of the assessment that is the subject of the appeal. The acceptance of a payment by Centerburg does not prejudice any claim for refund upon final determination of the appeal.

(2) If upon final determination of the appeal an error in the assessment is corrected by the Tax Administrator, upon an appeal so filed or pursuant to a final determination of the Board of Tax Review, of the Ohio board of tax appeals, or any court to which the decision of the Ohio board of tax appeals has been appealed, so that the resultant amount due is less than the amount paid, a refund will be paid in the amount of the overpayment as provided by Section 9, with interest on that amount as provided by division (E) of Section 9.

(E) No civil action to recover Centerburg income tax or related penalties or interest shall be brought during either of the following time periods:

(1) The period during which a taxpayer has a right to appeal the imposition of that tax or interest or those penalties;

(2) The period during which an appeal related to the imposition of that tax or interest or those penalties is pending.

(F) All taxes imposed by this chapter shall be collectible, together with any interest and penalties thereon, by suit, as other debts of like amount are recoverable. The Tax Administrator or his/her delegate is authorized, in addition to his other duties, to institute civil lawsuits to collect delinquent taxes due and owing the Centerburg by virtue of the provisions of this chapter. In accordance with this Section 171.18 of this Chapter, the Tax Administrator or his/her delegate is authorized to assess costs of collection (including reasonable attorney's fees) and is further authorized to waive penalties and interest and compromise tax liability and the right to accept waiver of State statutes of limitations.

## **171.13 AUDITS.**

(A) At or before the commencement of an audit, the Tax Administrator shall provide to the taxpayer a written description of the roles of the Tax Administrator and of the taxpayer during the audit and a statement of the taxpayer's rights, including any right to obtain a refund of an overpayment of a tax. At or before the commencement of an audit, the Tax Administrator shall inform the taxpayer when the audit is considered to have commenced.

(B) Except in cases involving suspected criminal activity, the Tax Administrator shall conduct an audit of a taxpayer during regular business hours and after providing reasonable notice to the taxpayer. A taxpayer who is unable to comply with a proposed time for an audit on the grounds that the proposed time would cause inconvenience or hardship must offer reasonable alternative dates for the audit.

(C) At all stages of an audit by the Tax Administrator, a taxpayer is entitled to be assisted or represented by an attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner. The Tax Administrator shall prescribe a form by which a taxpayer may designate such a person to assist or represent the taxpayer in the conduct of any proceedings resulting from actions by the Tax Administrator. If a taxpayer has not submitted such a form, the Tax Administrator may accept other evidence, as the Tax Administrator considers appropriate, that a person is the authorized representative of a taxpayer.

A taxpayer may refuse to answer any questions asked by the person conducting an audit until the taxpayer has an opportunity to consult with the taxpayer's attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner.

This division does not authorize the practice of law by a person who is not an attorney.

(D) A taxpayer may record, electronically or otherwise, the audit examination.

(E) The failure of the Tax Administrator to comply with a provision of this section shall neither excuse a taxpayer from payment of any taxes owed by the taxpayer nor cure any procedural defect in a taxpayer's case.

(F) If the Tax Administrator fails to substantially comply with the provisions of this section, the Tax Administrator, upon application by the taxpayer, shall excuse the taxpayer from penalties and interest

## 171.14 SERVICE OF ASSESSMENT.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Last known address" means the address the Tax Administrator has at the time a document is originally sent by certified mail, or any address the Tax Administrator can ascertain using reasonable means such as the use of a change of address service offered by the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC.

(2) "Undeliverable address" means an address to which the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC is not able to deliver an assessment of the Tax Administrator, except when the reason for non-delivery is because the addressee fails to acknowledge or accept the assessment.

(B) Subject to division (C) of this section, a copy of each assessment shall be served upon the person affected thereby either by personal service, by certified mail, or by a delivery service authorized under Section 5703.056 of the ORC. With the permission of the person affected by an assessment, the Tax Administrator may deliver the assessment through alternative means as provided in this section, including, but not limited to, delivery by secure electronic mail.

(C) (1) (a) If certified mail is returned because of an undeliverable address, a Tax Administrator shall utilize reasonable means to ascertain a new last known address, including the use of a change of address service offered by the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC. If the Tax Administrator is unable to ascertain a new last known address, the assessment shall be sent by ordinary mail and considered served. If the ordinary mail is subsequently returned because of an undeliverable address, the assessment remains appealable within 60 days after the assessment's postmark.

(b) Once the Tax Administrator or other Centerburg official, or the designee of either, serves an assessment on the person to whom the assessment is directed, the person may protest the ruling of that assessment by filing an appeal with the local board of tax review within 60 days after the receipt of service. The delivery of an assessment of the Tax Administrator under division (C)(1)(a) of this section is prima facie evidence that delivery is complete and that the assessment is served.

(2) If mailing of an assessment by a Tax Administrator by certified mail is returned for some cause other than an undeliverable address, the Tax Administrator shall resend the assessment by ordinary mail. The assessment shall show the date the Tax Administrator sends the assessment and include the following statement:

"This assessment is deemed to be served on the addressee under applicable law ten days from the date this assessment was mailed by the Tax Administrator as shown on the assessment, and all periods within which an appeal may be filed apply from and after that date."

Unless the mailing is returned because of an undeliverable address, the mailing of that information is prima facie evidence that delivery of the assessment was completed ten days after the Tax Administrator sent the assessment by ordinary mail and that the assessment was served.

If the ordinary mail is subsequently returned because of an undeliverable address, the Tax Administrator shall proceed under division (C)(1)(a) of this section. A person may challenge the

presumption of delivery and service under this division in accordance with division (D) of this section.

(D) (1) A person disputing the presumption of delivery and service under division (C) of this section bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the address to which the assessment was sent by certified mail was not an address with which the person was associated at the time the Tax Administrator originally mailed the assessment. For the purposes of this section, a person is associated with an address at the time the Tax Administrator originally mailed the assessment if, at that time, the person was residing, receiving legal documents, or conducting business at the address; or if, before that time, the person had conducted business at the address and, when the assessment was mailed, the person's agent or the person's affiliate was conducting business at the address. For the purposes of this section, a person's affiliate is any other person that, at the time the assessment was mailed, owned or controlled at least 20 percent, as determined by voting rights, of the addressee's business.

(2) If a person elects to appeal an assessment on the basis described in division (D)(1) of this section, and if that assessment is subject to collection and is not otherwise appealable, the person must do so within 60 days after the initial contact by the Tax Administrator or other Centerburg official, or the designee of either, with the person. Nothing in this division prevents the Tax Administrator or other official from entering into a compromise with the person if the person does not actually file such an appeal with the local board of tax review.

(E) Nothing in this section prohibits the Tax Administrator or the Tax Administrator's designee from delivering an assessment by a Tax Administrator by personal service.

(F) Collection actions taken upon any assessment being appealed under division (C)(1)(b) of this section, including those on which a claim has been delivered for collection, shall be stayed upon the pendency of an appeal under this section.

(G) Additional regulations as detailed in the Rules and Regulations shall apply.

## **171.15      ADMINISTRATION OF CLAIMS.**

(A) As used in this section, "claim" means a claim for an amount payable to Centerburg that arises pursuant to Centerburg's income tax imposed in accordance with this Chapter.

(B) Nothing in this Chapter prohibits a Tax Administrator from doing either of the following if such action is in the best interests of the municipal corporation:

(1) Compromise a claim;

(2) Extend for a reasonable period the time for payment of a claim by agreeing to accept monthly or other periodic payments.

(C) The Tax Administrator's rejection of a compromise or payment-over-time agreement proposed by a person with respect to a claim shall not be appealable.

(D) A compromise or payment-over-time agreement with respect to a claim shall be binding upon and shall be to the benefit of only the parties to the compromise or agreement, and shall not eliminate or otherwise affect the liability of any other person.

(E) A compromise or payment-over-time agreement with respect to a claim shall be void if the taxpayer defaults under the compromise or agreement or if the compromise or agreement was obtained by fraud or by misrepresentation of a material fact. Any amount that was due before the compromise or agreement and that is unpaid shall remain due, and any penalties or interest that would have accrued in the absence of the compromise or agreement shall continue to accrue and be due.

**171.16 TAX INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL.**

(A) Any information gained as a result of returns, investigations, hearings, or verifications required or authorized by this Chapter is confidential, and no person shall access or disclose such information except in accordance with a proper judicial order or in connection with the performance of that person's official duties or the official business of Centerburg as authorized by this Chapter. The Tax Administrator or a designee thereof may furnish copies of returns filed or otherwise received under this Chapter and other related tax information to the internal revenue service, the tax commissioner, and tax administrators of other municipal corporations.

(B) This section does not prohibit Centerburg from publishing or disclosing statistics in a form that does not disclose information with respect to particular taxpayers.

**171.17 FRAUD.**

No person shall knowingly make, present, aid, or assist in the preparation or presentation of a false or fraudulent report, return, schedule, statement, claim, or document authorized or required by Centerburg ordinance or state law to be filed with a the Tax Administrator, or knowingly procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of such report, return, schedule, statement, claim, or document, or knowingly change, alter, or amend, or knowingly procure, counsel or advise such change, alteration, or amendment of the records upon which such report, return, schedule, statement, claim, or document is based with intent to defraud Centerburg or the Tax Administrator.



## **171.18 INTEREST AND PENALTIES.**

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Applicable law" means this Chapter, the resolutions, ordinances, codes, directives, instructions, and rules adopted by Centerburg provided they impose or directly or indirectly address the levy, payment, remittance, or filing requirements of Centerburg.

(2) "Federal short-term rate" means the rate of the average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity of three years or less, as determined under Section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code, for July of the current year.

(3) "Income tax," "estimated income tax," and "withholding tax" means any income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax imposed by Centerburg pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(4) "Interest rate as described in division (A) of this section" means the federal short-term rate, rounded to the nearest whole number percent, plus five percent. The rate shall apply for the calendar year next following the July of the year in which the federal short-term rate is determined in accordance with division (A)(2) of this section.

(5) "Return" includes any tax return, report, reconciliation, schedule, and other document required to be filed with a the Tax Administrator or Centerburg by a taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(6) "Unpaid estimated income tax" means estimated income tax due but not paid by the date the tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(7) "Unpaid income tax" means income tax due but not paid by the date the income tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(8) "Unpaid withholding tax" means withholding tax due but not paid by the date the withholding tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(9) "Withholding tax" includes amounts an employer, any agent of an employer, or any other payer did not withhold in whole or in part from an employee's qualifying wages, but that, under applicable law, the employer, agent, or other payer is required to withhold from an employee's qualifying wages.

(B) (1) This section applies to the following:

(a) Any return required to be filed under applicable law for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016;

(b) Income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax required to be paid or remitted to Centerburg on or after January 1, 2016.

(2) This section does not apply to returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, regardless of the filing or payment date. Returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, but filed or paid after that date shall be

subject to the ordinances or rules and regulations, as adopted before January 1, 2016, of Centerburg to which the return is to be filed or the payment is to be made.

(C) Should any taxpayer, employer, agent of the employer, or other payer for any reason fails, in whole or in part, to make timely and full payment or remittance of income tax, estimated income tax, or withholding tax or to file timely with Centerburg any return required to be filed, the following penalties and interest shall apply:

(1) Interest shall be imposed at the rate described in division (A) of this section, per annum, on all unpaid income tax, unpaid estimated income tax, and unpaid withholding tax.

(2) (a) With respect to unpaid income tax and unpaid estimated income tax, Centerburg may impose a penalty equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the amount not timely paid.

(b) With respect to any unpaid withholding tax, Centerburg may impose a penalty not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the amount not timely paid.

(3) With respect to returns other than estimated income tax returns, Centerburg may impose a penalty of \$25 for each failure to timely file each return, regardless of the liability shown thereon for each month, or any fraction thereof, during which the return remains unfiled regardless of the liability shown thereon. The penalty shall not exceed \$150 for each failure.

(D) Nothing in this section requires Centerburg to refund or credit any penalty, amount of interest, charges, or additional fees that Centerburg has properly imposed or collected before January 1, 2016.

(E) Nothing in this section limits the authority of Centerburg to abate or partially abate penalties or interest imposed under this section when the Tax Administrator determines, in the Tax Administrator's sole discretion, that such abatement is appropriate.

(F) By the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October of each year Centerburg shall publish the rate described in division (A) of this section applicable to the next succeeding calendar year.

(G) Centerburg may impose on the taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer Centerburg's post-judgment collection costs and fees, including attorney's fees.

## **171.19 AUTHORITY OF TAX ADMINISTRATOR; VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.**

### **Authority.**

(A) Nothing in this Chapter shall limit the authority of the Tax Administrator to perform any of the following duties or functions, unless the performance of such duties or functions is expressly limited by a provision of the ORC:

(1) (a) Exercise all powers whatsoever of an query nature as provided by law, including, the right to inspect books, accounts, records, memorandums, and federal and state income tax returns, to examine persons under oath, to issue orders or subpoenas for the production of books, accounts, papers, records, documents, and testimony, to take depositions, to apply to a court for attachment proceedings as for contempt, to approve vouchers for the fees of officers and witnesses, and to administer oaths.

(b) The powers referred to in this division of this section shall be exercised by the Tax Administrator only in connection with the performance of the duties respectively assigned to the Tax Administrator under Centerburg's income tax ordinance;

(2) Appoint agents and prescribe their powers and duties;

(3) Confer and meet with officers of other municipal corporations and states and officers of the United States on any matters pertaining to their respective official duties as provided by law;

(4) Exercise the authority provided by law, including orders from bankruptcy courts, relative to remitting or refunding taxes, including penalties and interest thereon, for any reason overpaid. In addition, the Tax Administrator may investigate any claim of overpayment and, if the Tax Administrator finds that there has been an overpayment, make a written statement of the Tax Administrator's findings, and approve and issue a refund payable to the taxpayer, the taxpayer's assigns, or legal representative as provided in this Chapter;

(5) Exercise the authority provided by law relative to consenting to the compromise and settlement of tax claims;

(6) Exercise the authority provided by law relative to the use of alternative apportionment methods by taxpayers in accordance with Section 3;

(7) (a) Make all tax findings, determinations, computations, and orders the Tax Administrator is by law authorized and required to make and, pursuant to time limitations provided by law, on the Tax Administrator's own motion, review, re-determine, or correct any tax findings, determinations, computations, or orders the Tax Administrator has made.

(b) If an appeal has been filed with the Board of Tax Review or other appropriate tribunal, the Tax Administrator shall not review, re-determine, or correct any tax finding, determination, computation, or order which the Tax Administrator has made, unless such appeal or application is withdrawn by the appellant or applicant, is dismissed, or is otherwise final;

(8) Destroy any or all returns or other tax documents in the manner authorized by law;

(9) Enter into an agreement with a taxpayer to simplify the withholding obligations described in Section 4.

**Verification of accuracy of returns and determination of liability.**

- (B) (1) A Tax Administrator, or any authorized agent or employee thereof may examine the books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns of any employer, taxpayer, or other person that is subject to, or that the Tax Administrator believes is subject to, the provisions of this Chapter for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any return made or, if no return was filed, to ascertain the tax due under this Chapter. Upon written request by the Tax Administrator or a duly authorized agent or employee thereof, every employer, taxpayer, or other person subject to this section is required to furnish the opportunity for the Tax Administrator, authorized agent, or employee to investigate and examine such books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns at a reasonable time and place designated in the request.
- (2) The records and other documents of any taxpayer, employer, or other person that is subject to, or that a Tax Administrator believes is subject to, the provisions of this Chapter shall be open to the Tax Administrator's inspection during business hours and shall be preserved for a period of six years following the end of the taxable year to which the records or documents relate, unless the Tax Administrator, in writing, consents to their destruction within that period, or by order requires that they be kept longer. The Tax Administrator may require any person, by notice served on that person, to keep such records as the Tax Administrator determines necessary to show whether or not that person is liable, and the extent of such liability, for the income tax levied by Centerburg or for the withholding of such tax.
- (3) The Tax Administrator may examine under oath any person that the Tax Administrator reasonably believes has knowledge concerning any income that was or would have been returned for taxation or any transaction tending to affect such income. The Tax Administrator may, for this purpose, compel any such person to attend a hearing or examination and to produce any books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns in such person's possession or control. The person may be assisted or represented by an attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner at any such hearing or examination. This division does not authorize the practice of law by a person who is not an attorney.
- (4) No person issued written notice by the Tax Administrator compelling attendance at a hearing or examination or the production of books, papers, records, or federal or state income tax returns under this section shall fail to comply.

**Identification information.**

- (C) (1) Nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from requiring any person filing a tax document with the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information, which may include the person's social security number, federal employer identification number, or other identification number requested by the Tax Administrator. A person required by the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information that has experienced any change with respect to that information shall notify the Tax Administrator of the change before, or upon, filing the next tax document requiring the identifying information.
- (2) (a) If the Tax Administrator makes a request for identifying information and the Tax Administrator does not receive valid identifying information within 30 days of making the request, nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from imposing a penalty upon the person

to whom the request was directed pursuant to Section 18, in addition to any applicable penalty described in Section 99.

(b) If a person required by the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information does not notify the Tax Administrator of a change with respect to that information as required under division (C) of Section 19 within 30 days after filing the next tax document requiring such identifying information, nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from imposing a penalty pursuant to Section 18.

(c) The penalties provided for under divisions (C)(2)(a) and (b) of this section may be billed and imposed in the same manner as the tax or fee with respect to which the identifying information is sought and are in addition to any applicable criminal penalties described in Section 99 for a violation of Section 17 and any other penalties that may be imposed by the Tax Administrator by law.

**171.20      REQUEST FOR OPINION OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR.**

(A) An "opinion of the Tax Administrator" means an opinion issued under this section with respect to prospective municipal income tax liability. It does not include ordinary correspondence of the Tax Administrator.

(B) A taxpayer may submit a written request for an opinion of the Tax Administrator in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

(C) A taxpayer is not relieved of tax liability for any activity or transaction related to a request for an opinion that contained any misrepresentation or omission of one or more material facts.

(D) A Tax Administrator may refuse to offer an opinion on any request received under this section. Such refusal is not subject to appeal.

(E) An opinion of the Tax Administrator binds the Tax Administrator only with respect to the taxpayer for whom the opinion was prepared and does not bind the Tax Administrator of any other municipal corporation.

(F) An opinion of the Tax Administrator issued under this section is not subject to appeal.

## **171.21 BOARD OF TAX REVIEW.**

(A) (1) The Board of Tax Review shall consist of three members. Two members shall be appointed by the legislative authority of Centerburg, but such appointees may not be employees, elected officials, or contractors with Centerburg at any time during their term or in the five years immediately preceding the date of appointment. One member shall be appointed by the [position name of the official] of Centerburg. This member may be an employee of Centerburg, but may not be the director of finance or equivalent officer, or the Tax Administrator or other similar official or an employee directly involved in municipal tax matters, or any direct subordinate thereof.

(2) The term for members of the Board of Tax Review Centerburg shall be two years. There is no limit on the number of terms that a member may serve if the member is reappointed by the legislative authority. The board member appointed by the [position name of the official] of Centerburg shall serve at the discretion of the administrative official.

(3) Members of the Board of Tax Review appointed by the legislative authority may be removed by the legislative authority by majority vote for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. To remove such a member, the legislative authority must give the member a copy of the charges against the member and afford the member an opportunity to be publicly heard in person or by counsel in the member's own defense upon not less than ten days' notice. The decision by the legislative authority on the charges is final and not appealable.

(4) A member of the Board of Tax Review who, for any reason, ceases to meet the qualifications for the position prescribed by this section shall resign immediately by operation of law.

(5) A vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment within 60 days of when the vacancy was created. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of such term. No vacancy on the Board of Tax Review shall impair the power and authority of the remaining members to exercise all the powers of the Board of Tax Review.

(6) If a member is temporarily unable to serve on the Board of Tax Review due to a conflict of interest, illness, absence, or similar reason, the legislative authority or top administrative official that appointed the member shall appoint another individual to temporarily serve on the Board of Tax Review in the member's place. The appointment of such an individual shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as are applicable to the appointment of the member temporarily unable to serve.

(B) Whenever a Tax Administrator issues an assessment, the Tax Administrator shall notify the taxpayer in writing at the same time of the taxpayer's right to appeal the assessment, the manner in which the taxpayer may appeal the assessment, and the address to which the appeal should be directed.

(C) Any person who has been issued an assessment may appeal the assessment to the Board of Tax Review by filing a request with the Board of Tax Review. The request shall be in writing, shall specify the reason or reasons why the assessment should be deemed incorrect or unlawful, and shall be filed within 60 days after the taxpayer receives the assessment.

(D) The Board of Tax Review shall schedule a hearing to be held within 60 days after receiving an appeal of an assessment under division (C) of this section, unless the taxpayer requests additional time to prepare or waives a hearing. If the taxpayer does not waive the hearing, the taxpayer may appear before the Board

of Tax Review and may be represented by an attorney at law, certified public accountant, or other representative. The Board of Tax Review may allow a hearing to be continued as jointly agreed to by the parties. In such a case, the hearing must be completed within 120 days after the first day of the hearing unless the parties agree otherwise.

(E) The Board of Tax Review may affirm, reverse, or modify the Tax Administrator's assessment or any part of that assessment. The Board of Tax Review shall issue a final determination on the appeal within 90 days after the Board of Tax Review's final hearing on the appeal, and send a copy of its final determination by ordinary mail to all of the parties to the appeal within 15 days after issuing the final determination. The taxpayer or the Tax Administrator may appeal the Board of Tax Review's final determination as provided in Section 5717.011 of the ORC.

(F) The Board of Tax Review created pursuant to this section shall adopt rules governing its procedures and shall keep a record of its transactions. Such records are not public records available for inspection under Section 149.43 of the ORC. Hearings requested by a taxpayer before a Board of Tax Review created pursuant to this section are not meetings of a public body subject to Section 121.22 of the ORC.



**171.22      AUTHORITY TO CREATE RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

Nothing in this Chapter prohibits the legislative authority of Centerburg, or a Tax Administrator pursuant to authority granted to the administrator by resolution or ordinance, to adopt rules to administer an income tax imposed by Centerburg in accordance with this Chapter. Such rules shall not conflict with or be inconsistent with any provision of this Chapter. Taxpayers are hereby required to comply not only with the requirements of this chapter, but also to comply with the Rules and Regulations.

All rules adopted under this section shall be published and posted on the internet.

**171. 23      RENTAL AND LEASED PROPERTY.**

THIS SECTION INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

## **171. 24 SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

(a) This Chapter shall not apply to any person, firm or corporation, or to any property as to whom or which it is beyond the power of Council to impose the tax herein provided for. Any sentence, clause, section or part of this Chapter or any tax against or exception granted any individual or any of the several groups of persons, or forms of income specified herein if found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall affect only such clause, sentence, section or part of this Chapter and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or other parts of this Chapter. It is hereby declared to be the intention of Council that this Chapter, or a reasonable part thereof consistent with any subsequent ruling but necessary to effectuate and implement an income tax of Centerburg, would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, or part hereof, not been included therein.

(B) Any reference in this Chapter 171 to a statute, ordinance, or regulation (including references to the United States Code and/or Internal Revenue Code, the Ohio Revised Code, or the Codified Ordinances of Westerville, Ohio) shall be deemed to be a reference to that statute, ordinance, or regulation as it may hereinafter be amended, regardless of whether so indicated herein.

**171.25 COLLECTION OF TAX AFTER TERMINATION OF ORDINANCE.**

(A) This chapter shall continue effective insofar as the levy of taxes is concerned until repealed, and insofar as the collection of taxes levied hereunder and actions or proceedings for collecting any tax so levied or enforcing any provisions of this chapter are concerned, it shall continue effective until all of said taxes levied hereunder in the aforesaid periods are fully paid and any and all suits and prosecutions for the collection of said taxes or for the punishment of violations of this chapter shall have been fully terminated, subject to the limitations contained in Section 12 and Section 99 hereof.

(B) Annual returns due for all or any part of the last effective year of this ordinance shall be due on the date provided in Sections 5 and Section 4 of this ordinance as though the same were continuing.

**171.26 ADOPTION OF RITA RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

Centerburg hereby adopts the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) Rules & Regulations, including amendments that may be made from time to time, for use as Centerburg's Income Tax Rules and Regulations. In the event of a conflict with any provision(s) of the Centerburg Income Tax Ordinance and the RITA Rules & Regulations, the Ordinance will supersede. Until and if the contractual relationship between Centerburg and RITA ceases, Section 26 will supersede all other provisions within Ordinance 2015-23 and subsequent amendments regarding promulgation of rules and regulations by the Tax Administrator.

## **171.99 VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.**

(A) Whoever violates Section 17, division (A) of Section 16, or Section 4 by failing to remit Centerburg income taxes deducted and withheld from an employee, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for a term of up to six months, or both. If the individual that commits the violation is an employee, or official, of Centerburg, the individual is subject to discharge from employment or dismissal from office.

(B) Any person who discloses information received from the Internal Revenue Service in violation of division (A) of Section 16 shall be guilty of a felony of the fifth degree and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 plus the costs of prosecution, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both. If the individual that commits the violation is an employee, or official, of Centerburg, the individual is subject to discharge from employment or dismissal from office.

(C) Each instance of access or disclosure in violation of division (A) of Section 16 constitutes a separate offense.

(D) If not otherwise specified herein, no person shall:

- (1) Fail, neglect or refuse to make any return or declaration required by this ordinance;
- (2) File any incomplete or false return;
- (3) Fail, neglect or refuse to pay the tax, penalties or interest imposed by this Chapter;
- (4) Refuse to permit the Tax Administrator or any duly authorized agent or employee to examine his books, records, papers and federal and state income tax returns relating to the income or net profits of a taxpayer;
- (5) Fail to appear before the Tax Administrator and to produce his books, records, papers or federal and state income tax returns relating to the income or net profits of a taxpayer upon order or subpoena of the Tax Administrator;
- (6) Refuse to disclose to the Tax Administrator any information with respect to the income or net profits of a taxpayer;
- (7) Fail to comply with the provisions of this ordinance or any order or subpoena of the Tax Administrator authorized hereby;
- (8) Give to an employer false information as to his true name, correct social security number, and residence address, or fail to promptly notify an employer of any change in residence address and date thereof;
- (9) Attempt to do anything whatsoever to avoid the payment of the whole or any part of the tax, penalties or interest imposed by this Chapter.

(E) Any person who violates any of the provisions in section 99 (D) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense; on a second and each subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.