



TAKE ACTION

Call, or write a letter, postcard or email to your senators and representative asking them to support RBT.

Here's a sample script:

I am calling to ask Senator/Representative _____ to support Residency-Based Taxation. As you may know, the U.S. is the only advanced country that taxes its citizens on their world-wide income even when those citizens live abroad. That means that I not only pay taxes in [name of country] where I live but I also file a tax return to the IRS every year. IRS tax forms for declaring foreign income are very complicated, so besides being a very stressful nuisance, filing from abroad can be very costly even if no tax is owed.

I'm an ordinary American. I moved to [country] to [be with my partner/ family/get an education/take an exciting job/ other]. I am/My family are not wealthy. I/We don't have extra money to spend on tax return preparers, and I/we certainly cannot afford to be double-taxed.

I value my American citizenship. I pay attention to U.S. politics as much if not more than the average citizen and I vote in every election for which I'm eligible. But I don't think it's fair that I must pay taxes to the IRS as well as in [country of residence].

The current law is costly, punishing, and unfair, and it is causing many of us Americans abroad to consider renouncing our U.S. citizenship. I hope that shocks you because it shocks me.

That's why I'm asking Senator/Representative _____ to change the U.S. system from Citizenship Based to Residency Based Taxation.

VOTE FROM ABROAD!

The Uniform and Overseas Citizen Voters Act of 1986, Help America Vote Act of 2002 and Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act of 2010 provide entitlement to and regulations governing and voting by non-resident U.S. citizens. Tax reform for Americans abroad won't happen unless Americans abroad exercise their franchise and vote in all elections in which they are eligible.

Please vote from abroad!

Find answers, register to vote and request your absentee ballot by going to any of these **websites**: fvap.gov, overseasvotefoundation.org, or votefromabroad.org.

Local Election Officials can help you confirm that your blank ballot has been sent to you and your voted ballot has been received. Find the Local Election Office and Official contact details here: <https://www.fvap.gov/search-offices>



It's Time for Residency Based Taxation!



Residency Based taxation (RBT) is a system in which **you pay taxes according to the country where you live** rather than the one of which you are a citizen. The alternative system – which we have now – is known as Citizenship-Based Taxation.

Every advanced nation has an RBT system, **with one notable exception: The United States of America!** The main rationale for our system is that the benefits of U.S. citizenship follow Americans no matter where they live, but other countries also provide services to their citizens living abroad. The U.S. taxation system puts an enormous burden on Americans living abroad that gets more complex each year. It's time for change.

This is a non-partisan issue and is attracting the support and advocacy of all groups working in support of Americans living outside the U.S. We are raising our voices in unison, asking for Congress for a switch to Residency Based Taxation.

You can help!

HOW IS CITIZENSHIP-BASED TAXATION (CBT) A PROBLEM FOR AMERICANS ABROAD?

An estimated nine million U.S. citizens (more than the population of New Jersey) live outside the U.S. Most are hard-working, middle class Americans **living abroad for totally ordinary reasons such as work, spouse, school, etc.** We are not “fat cats” using foreign residency to “game the system.”

Globalization means that the number of Americans living overseas will only grow over time.

Under CBT Americans abroad face the administrative and financial burden of tax-filing in two nations, and sometimes double-taxation.

Most Americans abroad pay expensive professional tax preparers to comply with complex and ever-changing U.S. tax laws and reporting requirements, even if they owe no U.S. tax.

Ordinary Americans abroad are also being denied bank accounts because of related **FATCA** reporting requirements designed to catch “fat cat” tax cheats.

Increasing numbers of us are giving up our U.S. citizenship because its costs have become too high compared to its benefits.

Besides Medicare and, in some instances, voting in state/local elections, **other benefits of U.S. citizenship which may not follow Americans abroad** include these major areas:

- Many sections of the tax code discriminate against Americans abroad. For example, double or punitive taxation can occur in the treatment of foreign-retirement savings plans; capital gains; non-qualified, non-U.S. pension plans; social welfare payments and bequests to surviving foreign spouses.

- IRS outreach to Americans abroad was woefully inadequate to start with, and budget cuts have resulted in IRS offices abroad being closed, making misinformation and confusion about U.S. tax-filing even worse.

- State Department budget cuts also mean fewer services for Americans abroad and longer wait-times for appointments to renew passports or conduct other important business.

EXPAT TAX REFORM

A House bill enacting a switch to RBT was introduced in the last Congress. Expat tax activists expect a more advanced bill to be introduced in the 116th Congress and are contributing to provisions in it.

HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR RBT?

You have a voice. Contact your state’s senators as well as the Representative for your congressional district (where you are registered to vote, or where you last voted in the States). Ask for their support for RBT (see sample script in the TAKE ACTION section.)

FIND YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE

If you don’t know the names of your senators and/or representative, you can look them up using the online tools below. All you need is the zip code of the last place you voted in the States.

Calls are best (because they require the most involvement at the other end), then letters or postcards, but you can also send an email.

To call, email or send a letter or postcard, you can find telephone numbers and postal addresses here:

Senate:

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

House of Representatives:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Clicking on the representative’s name will take you to their website. To find their phone number and address, look for Contact, usually at the bottom, sometimes on the right-hand side.

If you have any questions about any of the contents of this pamphlet please email us on taxreformuk@gmail.com

