

TAXES · Published July 2

US tax burdens drive expats to consider renouncing citizenship, survey shows

U.S. is only country that requires citizens to pay taxes no matter where in the world they live

By Brittany De Lea | FOXBusiness |



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The main reason expats are considering renouncing their U.S. citizenship is the burdensome U.S. [tax](#) code.

According to a report conducted by Greenback Expat Tax Services, 37 percent of citizens living abroad who were considering renouncing their citizenship blamed the U.S. tax code.

In fact, a record number of people made good on that threat in the first quarter, when about 2,909 people did in fact renounce their U.S. citizenship.

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In the second quarter, 4 percent planned to renounce their citizenship, 17 percent were seriously considering it, while another 41 percent said they would not rule it out.

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Seventy percent of expats said they do not feel as though they should be required to file taxes in the U.S.

A U.S. expat is an individual who is either inside a foreign country for at least 330 days out of the year or resides outside the U.S. for at least a year with no intention of permanently returning.

As previously reported by FOX Business, the U.S. is the only country with laws that require citizens to pay taxes no matter where in the world they reside, including if they have lived abroad their entire lives.

Twenty-eight percent of expats surveyed owed U.S. taxes in 2019, while only 12 percent received a refund.

There are penalties for citizens living abroad who do not pay their U.S. tax obligations. These individuals may face the failure-to-file and failure-to-pay penalties, and in some cases passports can be revoked.

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The survey was conducted among 4,000 expats living throughout 125 countries.

The other reasons expats were considering renouncing their U.S. citizenship, according to the survey, included disappointment with the direction of the U.S. government and concerns about the political climate.

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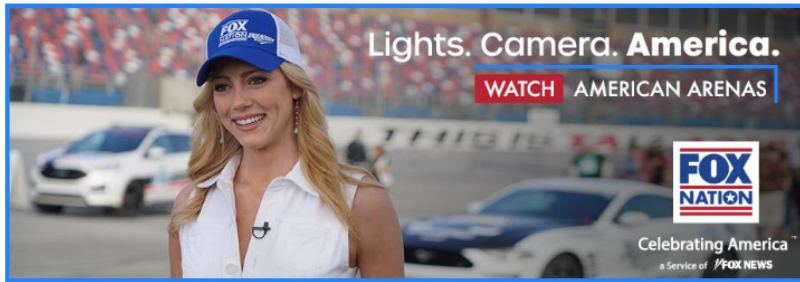
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livinabroad ★ Leader · 6 Jul

Wrong law. FACTA = Foreign Accounts Compliance Act. That one requires you to report your foreign bank accounts and transactions. Nice try, may want to stop drinking the kool-aid and see these laws for what they are.

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JFogarty2 ★ Leader · 4 Jul

Can we get all the high paid liberals, celebrities, and athletes to renounce their citizenship and just leave also?

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MaryT. ★ Leader · 4 Jul

Why not make the people who live here pay their taxes.....Al Sharpton?

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Soapbox55806 ★ Leader · 4 Jul

Don't ever ask to come back then. The door is closed.

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ritchieg21 ★ Leader · 4 Jul

It doesn't matter about tax payers to the Dems, they will replace them with illegals who they say pay a lot of taxes and cost us nothing.

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Neuadan ★ Leader · 4 Jul

Are you going to want SS when you get older.. Medicare??? Do you enjoy the benefits of having a US passport? Pay your taxes. Otherwise leave and don't expect a return invite.

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livinabroad ★ Leader · 4 Jul → Neuadan

If you were paying into SS and net the minimum number of quarters worked you will get that regardless. As for Medicare, not something to get excited about. You go to Thailand or South Korea and you can get health care without insurance for less than what you will pay in the US with insurance. Most folks who gave up their US passports have 2 or more other passports.

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MawbRules ★ Leader · 4 Jul



Seems rather foolish to renounce your citizenship over taxes. Wouldn't you lose the money that you have paid into Social Security and medicare once you turn 65?

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livinabroad ★ Leader · 4 Jul → MawbRules

Long as you meet the minimum requirements for quarters worked as a taxpayer then you still get it. How much however depends on the situation. As for Medicare, its overrated as depending on where you live you may get better health care at a better rate than the US.

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STEVENDELLICURTI686 ★ Leader · 4 Jul

I live in the Dominican Republic. I would never give up my U.S. Citizenship. You never know the future. What if the country you are living in changes, and is no longer friendly with the U.S. And you need to return to the U.S.?

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foxtex ★ Leader · 4 Jul

When living in South America, I got to know an expat that renounced their citizenship about 10 years previously.

They told me they had lived to deeply regret it, and it was the worst mistake of their life. They had spent thousands in legal fees trying to reverse it, to no avail.

Moral to the story: Don't do this!

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VernonThiede ★ Leader · 4 Jul

The USA and tiny Eritrea are the only two nations who Tax their Citizens when they live and work abroad. Makes no Sense!

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