

#### Connecticut's Response to Federal Tax Reform and Wayfair

## Agenda

- Connecticut's response to the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017
- What does the Wayfair v. South Dakota decision mean for Connecticut?





### I. CONNECTICUT'S RESPONSE TO THE TCJA

## What's in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?

• Lower rates for individuals and corporations

• Broader tax base

• New international tax system

2	Individual rates	<b>Prior Law</b> 10, 15, 25, 28, 33, 35, 39.6%	↓	<b>Tax Cuts and Jobs Act</b> 10, 12, 22, 24, 32, 35, 37%
\$	Standard deduction	Single: \$6,350 Head of Household: \$9,350 Married/Jointly: \$12,700	↑	Single: \$12,000 Head of Household: \$18,000 Married/Jointly: \$24,000
<b>S</b>	Personal exemptions	\$4,050	X	Repealed
	State and local taxes	Deductible	↓	Maximum \$10,000 deduction (\$5,000 for MFS)
	Pass- through income	Same as individual rates	↓	20% deduction
	Mortgage interest	\$1 million limit	↓	\$750,000 limit
*	Medical expenses	10% of AGI	↓	7.5% of AGI
	Estate and gift tax exemption	\$5 million exclusion	↑	\$10 million exclusion





# **SALT Deduction Cap**

- Legislature responded to the SALT deduction cap with two new policies:
  - Pass-Through Entity Tax
  - Property Tax Credit for Voluntary Contributions to Community Supporting Organizations
- Connecticut joined a lawsuit against the federal government for intruding on state sovereignty

# **Pass-Through Entity Tax**

- Entity-level income tax imposed on most passthrough businesses
- Imposed at the top income tax rate of 6.99%
- Offset by a state personal income or corporation business tax credit for the entity's members
- Because entity-level taxes remain deductible at the federal level, pass-through businesses will be able to lower their federal taxable income that is allocated to the individual owners of the business

## **Property Tax Credit for Donations to Community Supporting Organizations**

- IRS has moved to block this approach
- Targeted at residential property taxpayers
- Allows municipalities to provide a property tax credit to eligible taxpayers who make donations to certain municipally approved nonprofits (up to 85% of the donation)
- Designed to allow taxpayers to claim a federal charitable contribution for these donations

## **Estate and Gift Tax Exclusion**

- TCJA doubled the basic exclusion amount for the federal estate tax (approximately \$11 million in 2018, after adjusting for inflation)
- CT was scheduled to increase its state gift and estate tax threshold to the federal threshold from 2018 to 2020
- In 2018, legislature extended this phase-in by three years to 2023

		<b>TCJA</b> Cut rate to a flat	Impact to CT	CT's Response
%	Corporate rate	21%, rather than graduated rates from 15% to 25%	No	None
₽	Bonus depreciation	100% first-year deduction allowed after 9/27/17 and before 2023	Yes – CT conformed for personal income tax, but not corporation tax	Required pass- throughs to spread out the deduction over four years
	Section 179 expensing	Increased maximum deduction and expanded the types of property eligible	Yes – CT conformed for both personal income and corporation tax	Required pass- throughs and corporations to spread out the deduction over five years
<b>1%</b>	Interest deductions	Limited to 30% of adjusted taxable income	Yes – CT generally conformed to this deduction	Decoupled for corporation tax purposes
°°°	Repatriation transition tax	Post-1986 foreign earnings and profits of subsidiaries taxed at a reduced rate, spread over 8 years	Generally no – CT provides a 100% dividends received deduction, but requires add-back for related expenses	Specified that the related expenses equal 5% of the dividends

## II. INTERNET SALES TAX AFTER WAYFAIR

"You gave away 60 billion toys and didn't get one receipt?!"



## Wayfair v. South Dakota

Can states require out-of-state retailers that sell goods and services in the state, but have no physical presence there, to collect and remit sales tax?

#### South Dakota's Economic Nexus Law

Requires sellers to collect and remit sales tax if their South Dakota sales of goods and services **exceed \$100,000 in gross revenue <u>or</u> 200 transactions** in the previous or current calendar year

#### **Connecticut's Economic Nexus Law**

As of December 1, 2018, out-of-state retailers that **regularly or systematically solicit sales of goods** in Connecticut must collect and remit sales tax if they had at least **\$250,000 in gross receipts and 200 retail sales** in the state during the preceding year.

#### **Other Internet Sales Tax Provisions**

- "Marketplace facilitators" must collect and remit sales tax as of December 1
- "Referrers" must comply with three new reporting requirements:
  - Notice to customers about CT use tax obligations, beginning December 1, 2018
  - Notice to sellers about CT sales tax obligations, beginning July 1, 2019
  - Report to CT DRS about sellers collecting and remitting sales tax, beginning January 31, 2020



"The hunting figures add up, but it looks like someone's been doing a little gathering off the books."

#### **III. THE REVENUE IMPACT**

## Sales Tax Gap and Revenue Impact

Tax Gap = Difference between what is *required* to be paid and what is *actually* paid.



Components of the Sales Tax Gap:

- **Underpayments** Report the proper amount of tax but pay less.
- **Under-reporting** Fail to report proper amount of tax or claim exemptions.
- Non-filers Not registered or registered but not filing. <u>Uncollected online sales included here.</u>

### **Revenue Impact of Online Sales**



#### **Revenue Impact on Online Sales:**

**\$70 million** in additional revenue is anticipated to be collected annually.

- Based on new economic nexus laws and *Wayfair* ruling
- Timing of the impact will depend upon DRS bringing companies into compliance
- Online sales continues to outpace growth in total overall sales (see chart above)

#### The Takeaway: Positive upside risk to Sales Tax Collections from Online Sales



#### Presenters Rute Pinho, OLR Evelyn Wisnieski, OFA

Issues Conference 2018