

# IRS News Release

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## **IRS Announces Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Members Selected for 2017; Recruits Members for 2018**

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today the selection of 24 new members to serve on the nationwide Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. The TAP is a federal advisory committee charged with providing taxpayer suggestions to improve IRS customer service.

The new TAP members, recommended by the IRS and approved by the Department of the Treasury, will join 47 returning members to round out the panel of 71 volunteer members for 2017. The new members were selected from a pool of more than 900 interested individuals who applied during an open recruitment period last spring, as well as alternate members who applied in prior years.

The TAP listens to taxpayers at public forums they hold and through other taxpayer contacts, identifies problems and makes suggestions for improving IRS service and customer satisfaction. Oversight and program support for the TAP are provided by the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS that helps resolve taxpayer problems and makes administrative and legislative recommendations to mitigate systemic problems.

“To meet the needs of the taxpaying public, it is critical that the IRS listen to taxpayers to hear what their needs and preferences are,” said Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate. “The citizen volunteers who serve on the TAP are, first and foremost, taxpayers who bring a taxpayer perspective to bear in advising on the IRS’s taxpayer service activities.”

TAP members work with IRS executives on a variety of topics with an emphasis on those involving individual taxpayers and the small business community. Members also serve as a conduit for bringing grassroots concerns raised by the taxpaying public to the attention of the IRS.

TAP members are U.S. citizens who volunteer to serve a three-year appointment and are expected to devote 200 to 300 hours per year to panel activities. TAP members are demographically and geographically diverse, providing balanced representation from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition, there is one TAP member from abroad who represents the interests of taxpayers working, living or doing business abroad or in a U.S. territory.

Taxpayers can contact the TAP representative for their geographic area by calling 888-912-1227 or at [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org). Taxpayers can also send written correspondence to the TAP at the following address:

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)  
TA: TAP, Room 1509  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Individuals interested in volunteering to serve on the TAP for 2018 may submit an application at [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org) during the current recruiting period, open now through April 24.

A list of the new TAP members by location is included below.

<u>Name</u>		<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
Richard	Herman	Fresno	Calif.
Kristen	Petersen	Colorado Springs	Colo.
Dan	Smolnik	Brookfield	Conn.
Alice	Azzaro	Wellington	Fla.
James	Sowell	Panama City	Fla.
Angela	Hower	Norwalk	Iowa
Michelle	Brookens	Taylorville	Ill.
Kimberly	Mason	Chicago	Ill.
Tasheka	Dorsey	Darrow	La.
William	McGauley	Brockton	Mass.

Michele	Walker	Brownstown Township	Mich.
Millicent	Kasal	Saint Paul	Minn.
Joseph	Martin	Jefferson City	Mo.
David	Buchanan	Canton	Miss.
Allen	Straub	Omaha	Neb.
Mariely	Downey	Amherst	N.Y.
Heidi	Hirschfield	Brooklyn	N.Y.
Jimit	Shah	Bethpage	N.Y.
Alyssa	Burrows	Scranton	Pa.
Deborah	Oakes	Swarthmore	Pa.
Victor	Quillen	Kingsport	Tenn.
Kimberly	Pierre	Spring	Texas
Shirley	Atkinson- Samms	Salt Lake City	Utah
Joseph	Holley	Barboursville	W.Va.