

For an interview, call: George Getz, Deputy Communications Director ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 222

After working 128 days to pay taxes, May 9 is “Paycheck Emancipation Day”

Finally, you start working for yourself today — Tax Freedom Day

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, America tells the federal government: “Show me *my* money!” Because on Friday, May 9th, you *stop* working to pay taxes and *start* working for yourself.

That’s according to the Tax Foundation, a non-profit Washington, DC, research group, which has designated May 9th as Tax Freedom Day. After laboring 128 days to pay federal, state, and local taxes, average Americans are finally allowed to keep the money they’ve earned.

“Forget the 4th of July — May 9th is America’s *real* Independence Day,”
said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party, America’s third-largest
— and most fervently anti-tax — political party.

“Think of it as Paycheck Emancipation Day,” he said. “After spending one-third of the year as an indentured servant to Uncle Sam, you’re no longer working for the politicians.”

According to the Tax Foundation, the average American:

- Worked **128 days** this year to pay taxes — the longest time ever.
- Will work almost **three hours** out of every eight-hour workday to pay taxes.
- Will work more than **15 years** out of a typical 45-year career to pay taxes.

On average, the Tax Foundation says taxes consume almost 35% of the typical worker’s gross income — more than most Americans spend on food, clothing, and housing, combined. Federal taxes grab 23.4%, with state and local taxes taking an 11.8% bite.

“We Libertarians challenge Americans to ask themselves just one question today,” said Dasbach. **“Who can spend your money better — you, or the politicians?”**

“If you answer *politicians*, then keep voting for Republicans and Democrats — they’ve made an art form out of snatching your money, and will be happy to continue doing so.

“But if you think *you* are better qualified to spend your own money, and want to keep more of the money you honestly earned — then start voting Libertarian. The Libertarian Party is working every day to slash taxes and let Americans keep more of what they earn,” he said.

Want to find out when your *personal* Tax Freedom Day is, based on your income and location? A World Wide Web site has been set up to compute it. Check it out at: www.libertyconnections.com/tax

#