



# HOW TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACTS OF *WAYFAIR*

August 2018

# With You Today



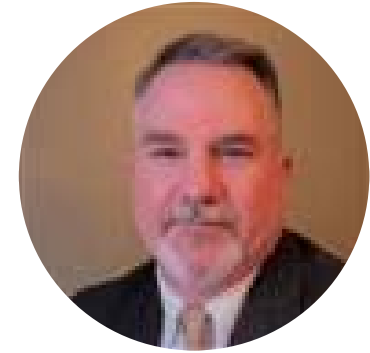
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# Agenda

- ▶ The *Wayfair* decision
  - State taxes and nexus: It's more than physical!
- ▶ Deeper dive on sales/use taxes
  - This is easy, right?
- ▶ Patterns with states' "economic nexus" sales/use tax laws
  - Economic nexus thresholds and start dates
  - Open issues after *Wayfair*
- ▶ Practical impact to businesses
  - Action plan!
- ▶ Managing sales tax determination
  - Automation is your friend
- ▶ Q&A

# The *Wayfair* Decision

# *South Dakota v. Wayfair*

- ▶ On June 21, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court held that states may require a retailer to collect and remit sales tax even if the retailer lacks an in-state physical presence.
- ▶ The Court overruled the long-standing “bright-line physical presence” test.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave a “nod” to South Dakota’s economic nexus provisions that were prospective only.

# South Dakota: The Sales Tax Imposition Statute

- ▶ On March 22, 2016, the South Dakota governor signed into law a bill effective May 1, 2016, that required remote sellers to remit sales tax on all taxable sales if, in the previous calendar year or the current calendar year:
  1. The seller's gross revenue from the sale of TPP, any product transferred electronically, or services delivered into SD exceeds **\$100,000**; or
  2. The seller sold TPP, any product transferred electronically, or services for delivery into SD in **200** or more separate transactions.
- ▶ The law stated: "**No obligation** to remit the sales tax required by this Act **may be applied retroactively.**"

South Dakota's law provided a "fast track" to the state Supreme Court for challenges to be resolved expeditiously.

# Deeper Dive On Sales/Use Taxes

# U.S. Sales/Use Tax Overview

- ▶ 45 states & DC impose sales taxes on retail sales (not wholesale sales) of tangible personal property (“TPP”) and enumerated services.
- ▶ Sales taxes are generally destination based.
- ▶ Every state that imposes a “sales tax” also imposes a complementary “use tax.”
- ▶ Local sales/use taxes:
  - None (CT)
  - The only sales/use tax (AK)
  - State administered (SD)
  - Locally administered (LA)

Individuals’ “use tax” compliance is generally dismal.

Individuals generally don’t maintain appropriate records to comply and revenue departments seldom conduct audits.





# States' Power To Tax

States' power to impose sales/use taxes is limited by:

▶ State law

- Sales tax statutes, regulations, cases
- State constitutions

▶ Federal law

- U.S. Constitution
  - Due Process Clause
  - Commerce Clause
  - First Amendment
- Federal statutes
  - Internet Tax Freedom Act

# Overruled! *Bellas Hess* (US 1967) & *Quill* (US 1992)

Prior to *Wayfair*, businesses understood that states could not require a retailer to administer sales/use taxes if:

- ▶ The retailer had no in-state physical presence
  - No office
  - No employees
  - No sales representative (including third-party)
  - No property, including consigned inventory
- ▶ The retailer had an in-state physical presence, but the presence did not create a “substantial nexus” with the state.
  - Floppy disks

# Getting Around the “Physical Presence” Tax Barrier

Despite *Bellas Hess & Quill*, states continued to assert taxing power:

- ▶ **Affiliate nexus** – If the remote retailer has an affiliate with an in-state physical presence, the affiliate’s nexus may be attributed to the retailer.
- ▶ **Click-through nexus** – If an in-state person directly or indirectly refers potential customers to the retailer for a commission or other consideration, the retailer is treated as having nexus in the state.
- ▶ **Cookie nexus** – Assertion of “physical presence” due to “cookies” being placed on prospective or current customer’s computer.
- ▶ **Marketplace nexus** – Deems a marketplace facilitator as the seller who is required to administer sales tax on any taxable sale.
- ▶ **Use tax notice & reporting** – Requires out-of-state sellers to notify customers that they must pay use tax on their purchases and report all purchases to the state.



# Affiliate Nexus

## EXAMPLE: OKLAHOMA

H.B. 2531 (eff. Nov. 1, 2016)

- ▶ Created a rebuttable presumption that a vendor has is required to collect Oklahoma sales/use tax if it has a subsidiary in the state that:
  - Sells a similar line of products, and does so under the same/similar business name,
  - Uses trademarks, service marks, or trade names that are the same/substantially similar to those used by the vendor,
  - Delivers, installs, assembles, or performs maintenance services for the vendor, or
  - Facilitates delivery of the vendor's products.
- ▶ Nexus presumption can be rebutted by demonstrating that:
  - The subsidiary's activities in the state are not significantly associated with the vendor's ability to establish and maintain a market in the state for the vendor's sales.

# [Amazon] Click-Through Nexus

## EXAMPLE: NEW YORK (SINCE 2008)

- ▶ Remote Internet sellers are presumed required to collect NY sales/use tax if:
  - they enter into agreements with NY residents for a commission for referring potential customers, either directly or indirectly, and
  - Derive gross receipts > \$10,000 over a 12-month period from such referrals.
- ▶ Presumption rebuttal:
  - If the retailer can establish that the only activity of its NY resident representatives on the retailer's behalf is a link on the representative's website AND
  - none of the resident representatives engage in any solicitation activity in NY targeted at potential NY customers on the seller's behalf.
- ▶ Amazon's response:
  - In states where Amazon wasn't registered, it severed relationships with affiliate online sellers located in states with click-through nexus.

# Current State Click-Through Nexus

State	Effective Date	Annual Threshold (before required to file)	Statute
Arkansas	October 24, 2011	\$10,000	Ark. Code Ann. Sec. 26-52-117
California	September 15, 2012	\$10,000 and seller has more than \$1,000,000 in CA sales	CA Sec. 6203 of Rev & Tax Code
Colorado	March 1, 2010	None	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 39-26-102
Connecticut	July 1, 2011	\$2,000	Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-407(a)(12)(L)
Georgia	December 30, 2012	\$50,000	GA. CODE ANN. § 48,8,2(8)(K)
Idaho	July 1, 2018	\$10,000	H.B. 578 (enacted 3/21/2018)
Illinois	July 1, 2011	\$10,000 from prior year	35 ILCS 105/2 and 110/2
Iowa	January 1, 2019	\$10,000 from current or prior year	S.F. 2417 (enacted 6/12/2018)
Kansas	July 1, 2013	\$10,000	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 79-3702(h)(2)(C)
Louisiana	April 1, 2016	\$50,000 from prior 12 months	La. R.S. section 47:302.V.
Maine	October 9, 2013	\$10,000	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1754-B(1-A)(C)
Michigan	October 1, 2015	\$10,000 to in state purchasers	Mich. S.B. 658, effective Oct. 1, 2015

# Current State Click-Through Nexus

State	Effective Date	Annual Threshold (before required to file)	Statute
Minnesota	July 1, 2013	\$10,000	Minn. Stat. § 297A.66(4a)
Missouri	August 28, 2013	\$10,000	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 144.605
New Jersey	July 1, 2014	\$10,000	N.J. Stat. §54:32B-2(i)
Nevada	October 1, 2015	\$10,000	2015 Nev. A.B. 380
New York	June 1, 2008	\$10,000	N.Y. Tax Law Sec. 1101(b)(8)(vi)
North Carolina	August 7, 2009	\$10,000	N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 105-164.8
Ohio	July 1, 2015	\$10,000	Sec. 5741.01(l)(2)(g)
Pennsylvania	September 1, 2012	None	Sales & Use Tax Bulletin 2011-01 (issued 12/1/2011)
Rhode Island	July 1, 2009	\$5,000	R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 44-18-15
Tennessee	July 1, 2015	\$10,000	2015 Tenn. H.B. 644
Vermont	When adopted in 15 other states	\$50,000	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 32, Sec. 9701(9)(l)(H.B. 436)
Washington	September 1, 2015	\$10,000	Sec. 202(1)

# Cookie Nexus

## EXAMPLE: MASSACHUSETTS

Regulation 830 CMR 64H.1.7 (eff. 9/22/17)

- ▶ A remote Internet vendor is required to collect and remit sales tax if, during the prior calendar year, it had:
  - “property interests in and/or the use of in-state software (e.g., “apps”) and ancillary data (e.g., “cookies”) which are distributed to or stored in the computers or other physical communications devices of a vendor’s in-state customers, and may enable the vendor’s use of such physical devices;
  - over \$500,000 in MA sales over the Internet; and
  - 100 or more deliveries in MA from those sales.
- ▶ Court challenge:
  - Crutchfield Corp. filed its lawsuit in Virginia (not MA)!
  - Asserted a violation of federal statutes & constitutional law
  - 6/22/18: MA issued a press release: Regulation remains in effect



# Marketplace Facilitator Nexus

## EXAMPLE: PENNSYLVANIA

2017 Pa. H.B. 542 (Eff. Oct. 30, 2017)

- ▶ Requires a “marketplace facilitator” to collect and remit PA sales/use tax on sales of TPP if it delivered into PA within a 12-month period sales worth **at least \$10,000** during the prior 12 months.
  - Exception: if the marketplace facilitator elected to comply with use tax notice and reporting requirements (discussed next).
- ▶ A “marketplace facilitator”:
  - Lists or advertises TPP for sales at retail in any forum; and
  - Either directly or indirectly through agreements or arrangements with third parties, collects the payment from the purchaser and transmits the payment to the person selling the property.
- ▶ Amazon:
  - Automatically calculates, collects, and remits sales tax on behalf of sellers for orders shipped to customers in PA, WA, and OK.

# Use Tax Notice & Reporting Laws

## EXAMPLE: COLORADO (ENFORCEMENT STARTED 7/1/17)

- ▶ Requires out-of-state, non-registered retailers with Colorado sales in excess of \$100,000 to provide:
  - a **transactional notice** to all CO purchasers at the time of purchase;
  - an **annual purchase summary** to all CO purchasers by Jan. 31; and
  - an **annual customer information report** to the Department by March 1.
- ▶ Non-compliance penalties:
  - Transactional notice penalty: \$5 for each sale
  - Annual purchase summary penalty: \$10 for each failure
  - Annual customer information report penalty: \$10 for each purchaser excluded
- ▶ Other states that enacted notice & reporting laws
  - AL, GA, IA, KY, LA, OK, PA, RI, SD, TN, VT, WA

# Use Tax Notification & Reporting Laws

- ▶ Colorado's penalty regime is typical. But, watch out!
- ▶ Pennsylvania and Washington are especially punitive.
  - PA - Annual penalty of lower of \$20,000 or 20% of total PA sales.
  - WA -
    - (1) \$20,000 for failure to provide transaction notice to customers;
    - (2) \$20,000 minimum, or \$25 per customer, for failure to provide sales report to the Department; AND
    - (3) a tiered penalty structure for failure to provide annual report to customers as follows:

<u>Annual WA Gross Receipts</u>	<u>Penalty Amount</u>
Under \$50,000	\$5,000
Under \$150,000	\$10,000
Under \$300,000	\$50,000
\$300,000 and above	\$100,000 + \$20,000 per \$50,000 of additional gross receipts

# Litigation: Use Tax Notification/Reporting Set The Stage For *Wayfair*

- ▶ *Direct Marketing Ass'n v. Brohl*, (US 2015)
  - Justice Kennedy indicated: It's time to reconsider *Quill's* physical presence standard.
    - *"There is a powerful case to be made that a retailer doing extensive business within a State has a sufficiently 'substantial nexus' to justify imposing some minor tax-collection duty, even if that business is done through the mail or the Internet. . . This argument has grown stronger and the cause more urgent with time."*

The U.S. Supreme Court held that the case could be decided by a federal court.

On remand, in 2016, the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit held that *Quill* did not apply and Colorado's notice and reporting law was permissible.

# Summary of Sales/Use Tax Nexus Rules

State	Click-Through Nexus	Affiliate Nexus	Reporting Requirements	Economic Nexus	Marketplace Nexus
Alabama		8/24/2012	7/1/2017	1/1/2016	
Arizona					Ruling Issued 9/20/2016
Arkansas	10/27/2011	10/27/2011			
California	9/15/2012	9/15/2012			
Colorado	7/1/2014	7/1/2014	7/1/2017		
Connecticut	5/4/2011				
Georgia	7/18/2012	10/1/2012	1/1/2019	1/1/2019	
Idaho	7/1/2018				
Illinois	1/1/2015	7/1/2011			
Indiana				7/1/2017 – Challenged	
Iowa	1/1/2019	6/11/2013			
Kansas	10/1/2013	7/1/2013			
Kentucky			7/1/2013	7/1/2018	
Louisiana	4/1/2016	4/1/2016	7/1/2017		
Maine	10/9/2013	10/9/2013		10/1/2017	
Massachusetts				10/1/2017 – Pending	
Michigan	10/1/2015	10/1/2015		10/1/2018	
Minnesota	7/1/2013	Delayed			Delayed
Mississippi				12/1/2017	
Missouri	8/28/2013	8/28/2013			
Nevada	10/1/2015	7/1/2015			
New Jersey	7/1/2014				
New York	5/8/2008	6/1/2009			
North Carolina	8/7/2009				
North Dakota				Delayed	

# Summary of Sales/Use Tax Nexus Rules

State	Click-Through Nexus	Affiliate Nexus	Reporting Requirements	Economic Nexus	Marketplace Nexus
Ohio	7/1/2015	7/1/2015		1/1/2018 – Challenged	
Oklahoma		6/9/2010 and 11/1/2016	6/9/2010 and 11/1/2016 and 4/10/2018		4/10/2018
Pennsylvania	12/1/2011	12/1/2011	2/1/2018 and 2/1/2019	2/1/2018 and 2/1/2019	2/1/2018 and 2/1/2019
Rhode Island	7/1/2009 and 8/17/2017	8/17/2017	8/17/2017	8/17/2017	8/17/2017
South Dakota		7/1/2011	7/1/2011	Appealed	
Tennessee	7/1/2015	1/1/2014	3/26/2012	Delayed	
Texas		1/1/2012			
Utah		7/1/2012			
Vermont	12/1/2015		5/24/2011 and 7/1/2017	Effective date pending SD legislation	
Virginia		9/1/2013			
Washington	9/1/2015		1/1/2018	10/1/2018	1/1/2018
West Virginia		1/1/2014			
Wyoming				Delayed	

# Patterns With States' "Economic Nexus" Sales/Use Tax Laws

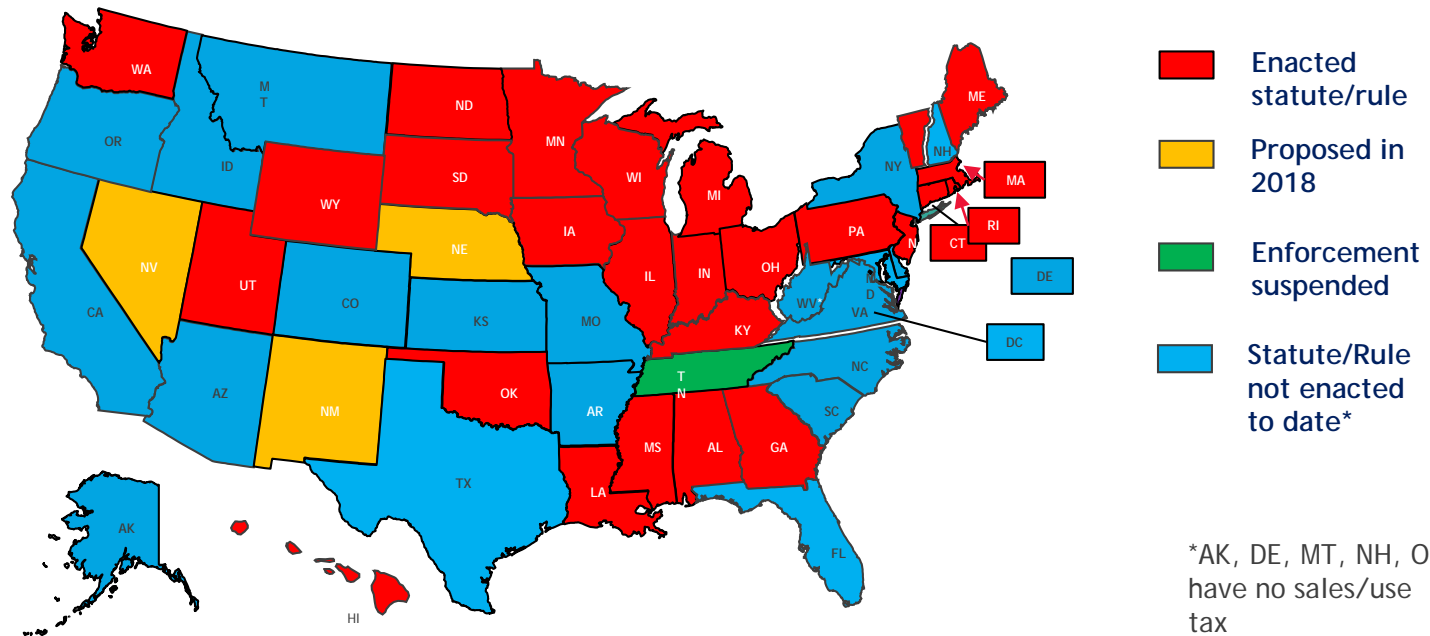
# Wayfair & “Economic Nexus”

- ▶ The Court’s “nod” to South Dakota’s statute:
  - Safe harbor to those with limited business in South Dakota:
    - \$100,000 sales or 200 separate transactions
  - NOT retroactive
  - Standardized sales/use tax laws that reduce administration & compliance costs
- ▶ *Wayfair* case isn’t over!
  - “Question remains whether some other principle in the Court’s Commerce Clause doctrine might invalidate [South Dakota’s tax law].”



# States with Sales/Use Tax Economic Nexus Statutes (AS OF 8/3/2018)

[www.bdo.com/wayfair](http://www.bdo.com/wayfair)



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# Safe Harbor: Not Consistent Everywhere

- ▶ Some states' laws require greater (or lesser) contacts that SD requires:
  - And vs. Or
    - "Or" -- SD is an "or" state: \$100,000 sales OR 200 transactions
    - "And" -- CT & MA laws say "and"
  - Sales thresholds
    - \$100,000 sales: SD and most other states
    - > \$100,000:
      - AL, CT, GA, MS (\$250,000)
      - MA, TN (\$500,000)
    - < \$100,000: OK, PA (\$10,000)
  - No safe harbor
    - "Sleeper laws" (MD, SC)

# Start Dates: Not Consistent!!

- ▶ Retroactivity concerns:
  - ME, MD, MA, MS, OH, PA, RI, SC, WA, WY
- ▶ 6/21/18:
  - LA, ND
- ▶ 7/1/18:
  - HI, VT
- ▶ 10/1/18:
  - AL, IL, IN, KY, MN, NJ, WI
- ▶ 12/1/18:
  - CT
- ▶ 1/1/19:
  - GA, IA, UT

# Standardized Sales/Use Tax Laws

- ▶ South Dakota is party to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement
  - SD is one of over 20 states
  - See [www.streamlinedsalestax.org](http://www.streamlinedsalestax.org)
- ▶ Key features of the Streamlined Sales Tax:
  - Uniform definitions
  - Tax rate simplification
  - Uniformity of state/local tax bases
  - State-level tax administration
  - Uniform sourcing rules
  - Uniform administration of exempt sales
  - Single online central registration system
  - Simplified and uniform tax returns and tax remittance procedures
  - State funding of the system

# Practical Impact To Businesses



# BDO's Perspective

## THE WHOS, WHATS, WHYS, AND HOWS...

- ▶ Businesses impacted
- ▶ Tax types impacted
- ▶ Impact on financial reporting
- ▶ Risks of taking no action
- ▶ Recommended action steps

# Businesses Impacted

- ▶ Retail and Consumer Products
  - e-Commerce
  - Service providers
- ▶ Technology
  - Online services (SaaS, sellers of digital products)
- ▶ Private Equity/M&A
  - PE firms and strategic buyers will need to address *Wayfair* exposure and ongoing compliance requirements of their portfolio companies and targets
- ▶ Non-U.S. Businesses
  - U.S. tax treaties generally do not apply at the state level
  - A foreign business with no U.S. permanent establishment may still be subject to state economic nexus provisions

All industries are likely to see an impact from the *Wayfair* decision, but these are likely the most widely impacted.



# Tax Types Impacted

- ▶ Sales/use taxes
- ▶ Gross receipts taxes
- ▶ Non-net income taxes
- ▶ State income taxes
  - Caveat: Public Law 86-272 still applies!



# Sales Tax Remediation

## FAS 5 / ASC 450-20 CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ FAS 5 / ASC 450-20 provides that an estimated loss from a loss contingency must be accrued as a charge to income if both of the following conditions are met:
  - Information indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the date of the financial statements; and
  - The amount of loss can be reasonably estimated.
- ▶ Accrue the best estimate in a range or lowest amount in the range.
- ▶ When a loss contingency exists, the likelihood that the future event or events will confirm the loss or impairment of an asset or the incurrence of a liability can range from probable to remote.
  - *Probable* - The future event or events are likely to occur
  - *Reasonably Possible* - The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely
  - *Remote* - The chance of the future event or events occurring is slight

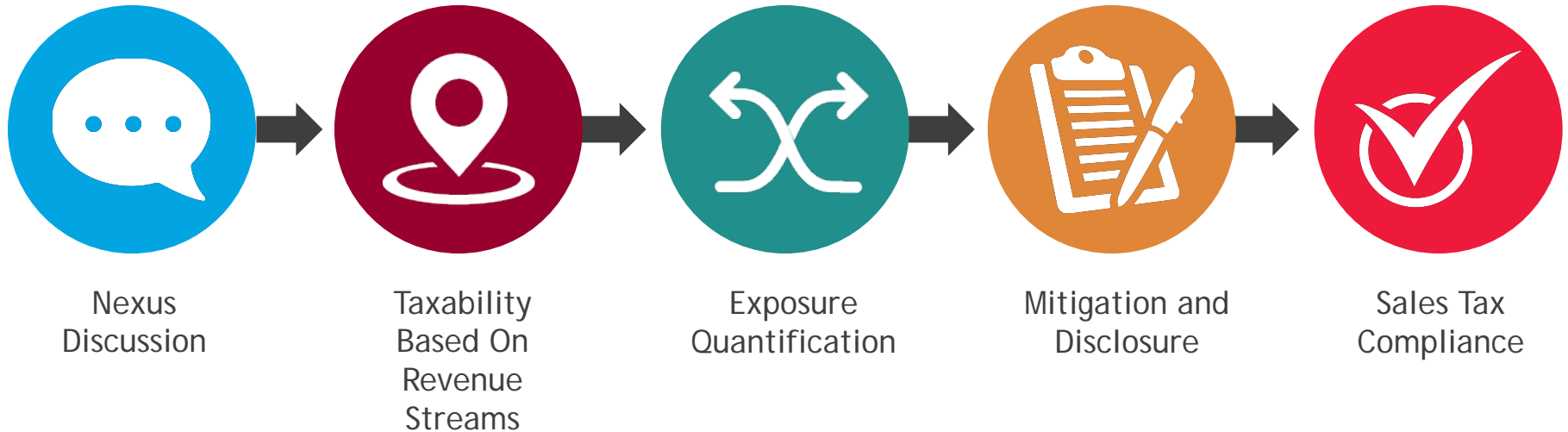


# Risks of Taking No Action

- ▶ Financial risks:
  - Sales tax: Detection risk by departments of revenue
  - Use tax notification penalties
  - Qui Tam lawsuits: Detection risk by non-government persons
  - Class action lawsuits: Complying - but not properly - resulting in overcharging tax
  - Other tax types, too!
- ▶ Reputational risks
- ▶ Regulatory risks

# Sales Tax Remediation

## FIVE STEP APPROACH



# Sales Tax Remediation

## FIVE STEP APPROACH (CONT'D)

### ▶ Step 1 - Determine Nexus and Filing Obligations

- Determine where the company may have nexus
- Determine where the company has a filing obligation

### ▶ Step 2 - Determine the Taxability of Products and Services

- Evaluate the Company's revenue streams to determine the taxability
- Evaluate the Company's customer base for possible exemptions

### ▶ Step 3 - Quantify Potential State Tax Exposure

- Compile sales tax data
- Destination based sourcing
- State & Local Tax, Interest & Penalty Rates
- Compute Exposure Amount



# Sales Tax Remediation

## FIVE STEP APPROACH (CONT'D)

### ▶ Step 4 - Mitigation and Disclosure of Historical Liabilities

- Filing and Paying All Prior Tax Returns
- Voluntary Disclosure - Anonymous basis
- Negotiated Settlement
- Do Nothing

### ▶ Step 5 - Prospective Compliance

- Indirect Tax Automation
- Utilization of rate software
- In-house or outsource tax return function

# Managing Sales Tax Determination and Reporting



# What Are My Options?

## Tax Determination

- ▶ Maintain Existing Process at Larger Capacity
- ▶ Acquire a Tax Rate Subscription
- ▶ Acquire a Third-Party Tax Determination Software

## Tax Compliance Reporting

- ▶ Maintain Existing Process at Larger Capacity
- ▶ Acquire a Third-Party Tax Reporting Software
- ▶ Outsource Tax Reporting



# Advantages/Challenges of Options

## MAINTAIN EXISTING PROCESS

### Tax Determination

Advantages	Challenges
No cash outlay for rate subscription or tax software	Manual maintenance of tax rates
	Customization for special tax calculation rules
	Manual maintenance of taxability research

### Tax Compliance Reporting

Advantages	Challenges
No cash outlay for tax software or outsourcing	Increase in number of tax return filings
	Potential need to hire additional resources





# Advantages/Challenges of Options

## ACQUIRE TAX RATE SUBSCRIPTION

### Tax Determination

Advantages	Challenges
No cash outlay for tax determination software	Customization for special tax calculation rules
No manual maintenance of tax rates	Manual maintenance of taxability research

# Advantages/Challenges of Options

## ACQUIRE THIRD-PARTY TAX DETERMINATION SOFTWARE

### Tax Determination

Advantages	Challenges
No manual maintenance of tax rates	Investment in tax determination software
Taxability content provided *	Investment in set-up and testing
State and local tax authorities provided	Configuration maintenance
Source for tax compliance reporting	
Manage customer exemptions/exceptions	
Manage product/service exceptions	
Manage jurisdictional exceptions	
Source for audit support	
Resource re-deployment	

\* (Most but not all products and services)



# Advantages/Challenges of Options

## ACQUIRE THIRD-PARTY TAX REPORTING SOFTWARE

### Tax Compliance Reporting

Advantages	Challenges
Can produce signature-ready tax returns	Investment in tax reporting software
Reduces tax return preparation effort	Web site filings are still necessary
EDI Filing Options	



# Advantages/Challenges of Options

## OUTSOURCE TAX COMPLIANCE REPORTING

### Tax Compliance Reporting

Advantages	Challenges
No cash outlay for tax reporting software	Cost of outsourcing
Resource re-deployment	



# Tax Vendors

## Tax Determination Software

- ▶ Vertex
- ▶ Thomson Reuters (Sabrix)
- ▶ Avalara
- ▶ SOVOS (Taxware)
- ▶ CCH

## Tax Rate Subscriptions

- ▶ Zip2Tax
- ▶ Thomson Reuters
- ▶ Vertex
- ▶ CCH



# Cost Considerations

- ▶ Cost to Maintain Existing Process
  - Internal EFT's
- ▶ Tax Rate File Subscription
  - \$3K - \$15k +
- ▶ Cost of Third-Party Tax Determination Software
  - Depends on your needs
  - \$5K - \$150K +
- ▶ Cost of Third-Party Tax Reporting Software
  - \$8k - \$40k
- ▶ Cost of Outsourcing
  - \$30 - \$50 + (Per Return)
  - Add-on costs depending on service provider

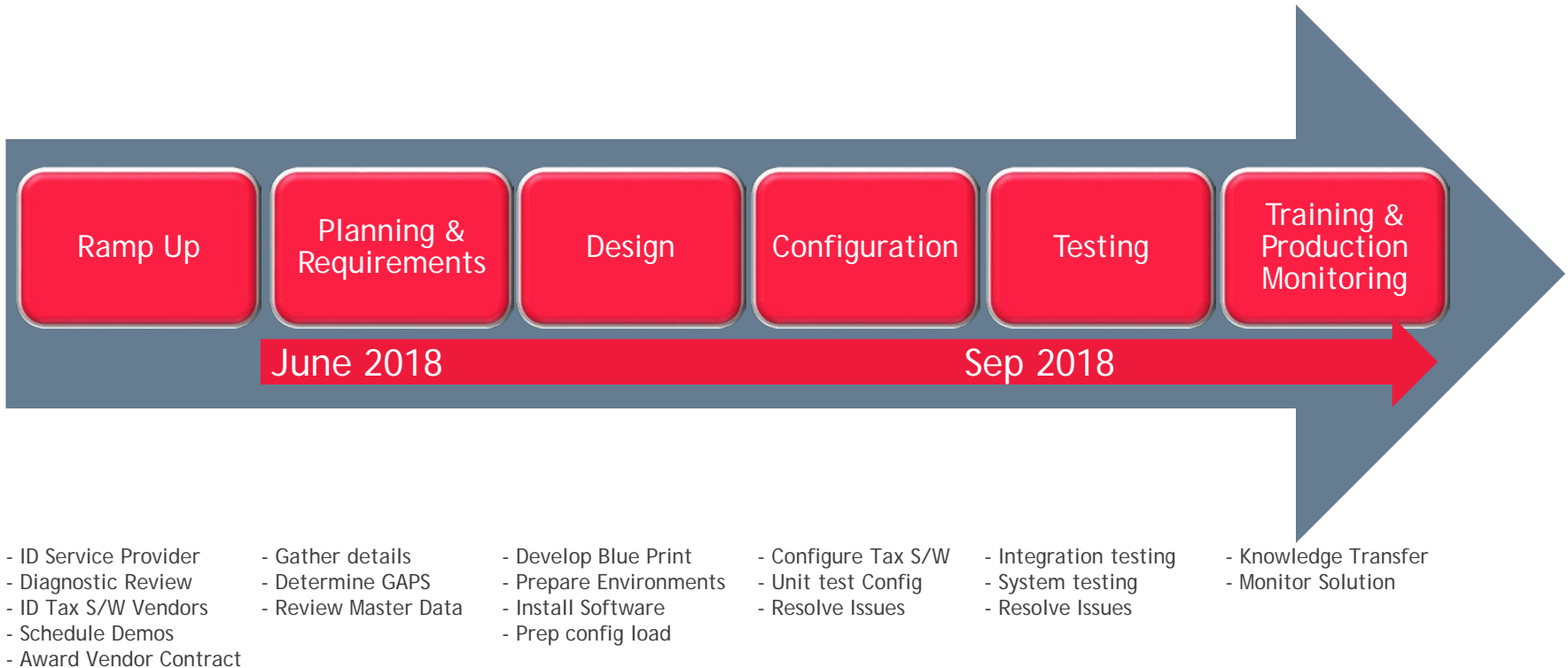


# Automation with Third-Party Software:

## INVESTMENT SCOPE

- ▶ Software licensing
  - Initial license fee - First Year
  - Annual support renewal - Second Year +
- ▶ Software connector
  - Service fee for establishing communication with ERP
- ▶ Implementation
  - Professional Service provider fees covering project lifecycle
- ▶ Internal (EFT's) Resources
  - Project assistance and upkeep after Go-Live

# Automation with Third-Party Software: COMMON PROJECT LIFECYCLE







# Automation with Third-Party Software:

## COMMON DELIVERABLES

- ▶ Project work plan
- ▶ Roles & responsibilities matrix
- ▶ Business requirements & Gap analysis
- ▶ Functional design document
- ▶ Tax configuration guide
- ▶ Test plan & results
- ▶ Training materials



# Automation with Third-Party Software:

## AUTOMATION PROJECT RESOURCES

### ▶ Company

- Tax representative(s)
- Accounts receivable & billing
- Procurement & accounts payable
- Information Technology (DBA, Network Engineer)

### ▶ Service Provider

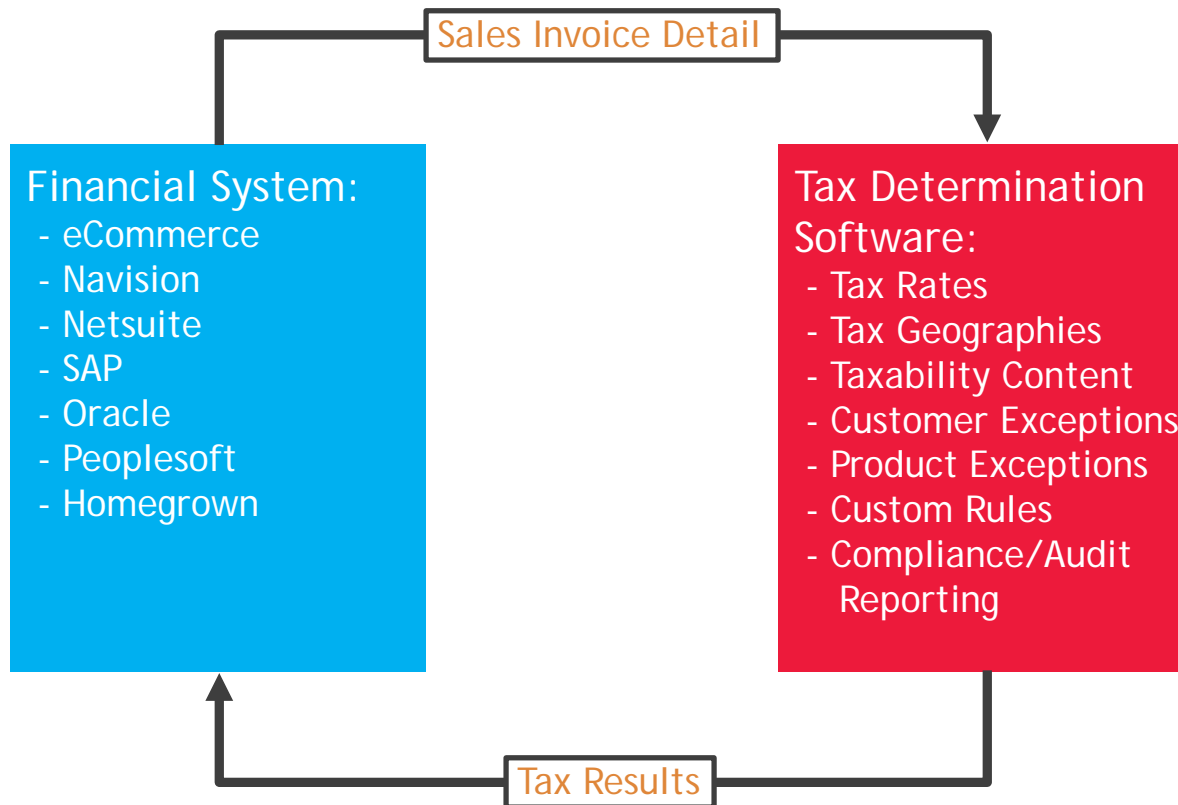
- Project team (Director, Manager, Staff Associate)
- Multi-State professionals & Tax Software Expertise

### ▶ Tax Software Vendor

- Software technical consultant
- Professional Services coordinator

# Automation with Third-Party Software:

## EXAMPLE TOPOLOGY



Thank you!



# Questions?

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