

10 Tax Questions I MUST Ask Myself as a Business Owner

1. **What is the level of tax planning I do annually to reduce taxes AND the risk of an audit?**

The IRS continues to announce its intent to audit more family and closely held businesses. It's simply a way to raise revenue for the IRS. Proper tax planning is the only viable option!

2. **How often do I meet with my attorney and CPA to discuss NEW ideas and opportunities relating to personal and business asset protection and tax planning?**
3. **My CPA prepares my financial statements and tax returns, but what resources does my CPA have at their disposal to stay current with the seven million word tax code and regulations, and countless court decisions that create tax and business opportunities for my business?**
4. **What competitive advantages could I create in my market by minimizing taxes across the board and reinvesting that money back into my business?**

If my competition does proactive tax planning, I have to realize my need to work harder just to keep up!

5. **Understanding that in a review of tax records from the past decade, the US General Accounting Office stated that 94% of companies paid less than 5% in tax, and 61% paid NO tax at all, Based on these numbers am I paying more or less than my fair share of tax?**
6. **What has my attorney discussed about alternative entity options such as LLCs and multi-entity structures that could potentially provide me and my business the ability to better protect my business and personal assets AND reduce my taxes?**
7. **What specific recommendations has my attorney made to ensure I am respecting the requirements of following corporate formalities to better ensure my personal assets are protected from business creditors? (*formalities = shareholder meetings and updating corporate minutes and comingling personal and corporate money and assets*)**
8. **Am I aware that if I am not having corporate meetings, updating corporate minutes and records, and avoiding co-mingling corporate and personal assets and funds a court may allow a business creditor to seize my personal assets? *Even single shareholders need to respect corporate formalities. Referred to as PIERCING THE CORPORATE VIEL!***
9. **How much money will I have when I retire? What type of lifestyle do I desire when I retire? What financial base will I need for an early retirement? How much money will I need per month during retirement? What tax advantaged strategies am I taking advantage of with the business to build my retirement income stream?**
10. **How do I plan to exit the business? What specific tax advantaged options can be utilized to successfully exit the business when I choose?**