

# Close Strong: Year-End Planning for Leaders

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#### Session CPE Requirements

You need to attend 50 minutes to receive the full 1 CPE credit.

There will be 4 polling questions throughout the presentation. You must respond to a minimum of 3 to receive the full 1 CPE credit.

\*\*Both requirements must be met to receive CPE credit\*\*





# Learning Objectives

- Recognize how to avoid year-end reporting scrambles
  - 1099s
  - Tips and overtime reporting
  - Closing the year-end books
- Recall forecasting and cash flow planning methods
  - Cash basis tax planning
  - Accounting method considerations
- Identify how to set up systems to work smarter in 2026
  - What to automate and delegate
- Recall retirement plan setup and funding options before year end
- Identify year-end strategic tax moves
  - Depreciation strategies, including bonus depreciation and Section 179
  - Qualified production property
  - Research and development (R&D) strategies, including Section 174 planning





#### Today's Presenters









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#### Polling Question

# What is your organization's top priority at year end?

- Closing the books and financial reporting
- Tax planning and compliance
- Budgeting and forecasting for next year
- Operational efficiency and process improvements
- Other
- Not sure





### Year-End Strategies to Strengthen Business Operations





#### Strategically review performance

Expectations versus reality





Departmental performance

Vendor assessments















Employee benefit plans

Seasonal staffing needs

Consider strategic vendor relationships

### Implement workforce planning and benefit reviews

Review and plan for next year















Reinvestment in the business

**ROI** evaluation





Align planning with year-end processes











Tips and overtime reporting

Forms 1099, 1096, W-2

Tighten monthly closes

Coordinate and communication

Close checklist





Enhance compliance and reporting readiness

Stay ahead of regulatory changes by updating processes











Review AR/AP aging reports, fixed assets, prepaids, and accruals









Make sure documents are organized and updated



#### Polling Question

# What opportunities are you preparing for in 2026?

- Merger, acquisition, or sale
- Expansion into new geography
- Development of new product/service/sector
- New technology investments (software/systems/AI)
- Other
- Not sure





# Year-End Tax Strategies for Businesses







Review entity structure

New changes may influence entity selection

Permanent extension of 20% pass-through income deduction

Expanded qualified small business stock rules

SALT cap

Impact on sale of business















Overall accounting method (cash v. accrual)

Assess advance payment options

Leverage prepaid expense acceleration rules

Review inventory valuation methods

Section 163j interest limitation update

# Weigh accounting method changes

Explore strategies to optimize your tax position













100% bonus depreciation for qualified property acquired and placed in service after January 19, 2025

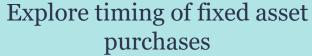
Expanded Section 179 expensing

New asset class – Qualified Production Property (100% bonus eligible)

De minimis safe harbor for immediate expensing

Cost segregation study





Leverage new tax incentives to reduce liabilities











Full expensing of domestic research and experimentation (R&E) expenses restored

Options for previously capitalized R&E costs

Accelerated phase-out of many renewable energy credits







## Create strong tax credits and incentives strategy

Review new law and develop strategy to meet shortened timelines





#### Polling Question

# I'd like to talk to someone at CLA about year-end strategies regarding:

- Staffing and workforce
- Financial reporting and compliance
- Depreciation and capital investments
- Entity selection
- Tax credits and incentives
- Other
- Nothing at this time





#### Thank you!

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