


Making a tax election for your equity award



Quick tip

If your company's equity award plan gives you a choice of how to pay taxes on the payment from a restricted or performance award, you can make that tax election on Benefits OnLine®.

To make a tax election, you must have an open Merrill Lynch Limited Individual Investor Account, the limited, self-directed, non-interest-bearing account used for transactions related to your equity awards.* Log in to Benefits OnLine® at www.benefits.ml.com and follow the path below to get started.

 **My Accounts > Equity Plan > Grant Information > Restricted Summary OR Performance Summary**
(depending on your award type)

1 Select Grants

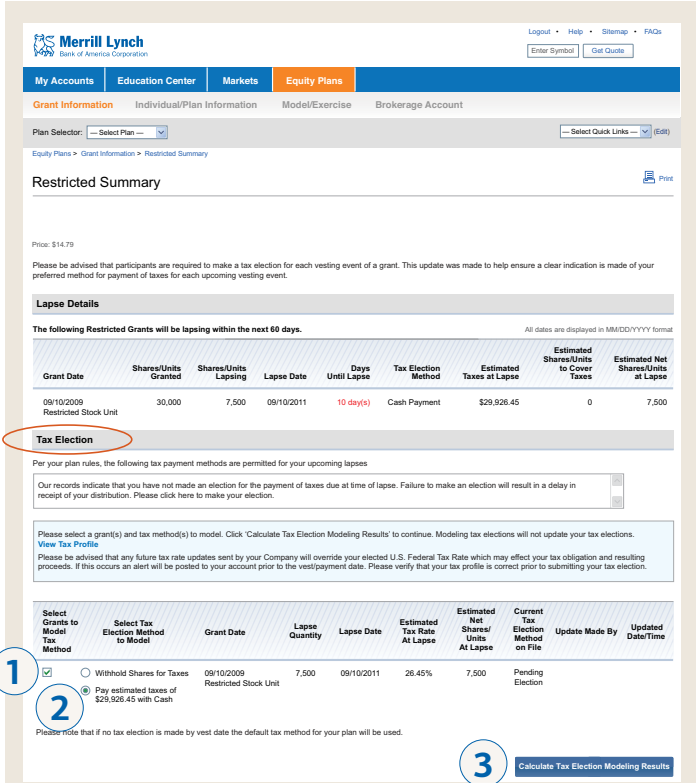
- From either the Restricted Summary or Performance Summary page, depending on your award, go to the **Tax Election** section. Under **Select Grants to Model Tax Method**, check the box next to the grants for which you want to make a tax election.

2 Select Tax Election Method

- Under **Select Tax Election Method to Model**, select "Withhold Shares for Taxes" or "Pay estimated taxes with Cash" to make your election.

3 Calculate Results

- Scroll to the end of the grant list and select **Calculate Tax Election Modeling Results**.
- The results will appear in the **Tax Election Modeling Results** section below the **Tax Election** section (see next page).



Grant Date	Shares/Units Granted	Shares/Units Lapsing	Lapse Date	Days Until Lapse	Tax Election Method	Estimated Taxes at Lapse	Estimated Shares/Units to Cover Taxes	Estimated Net Shares/Units at Lapse
09/10/2009 Restricted Stock Unit	30,000	7,500	09/10/2011	10 day(s)	Cash Payment	\$25,926.45	0	7,500

Select Grants to Model Tax Method	Select Tax Election Method to Model	Grant Date	Lapse Quantity	Lapse Date	Estimated Tax Rate At Lapse	Estimated Net Shares/Units At Lapse	Current Tax Election Method on File	Update Made By	Updated Date/Time
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Withhold Shares for Taxes	09/10/2009 Restricted Stock Unit	7,500	09/10/2011	26.45%	7,500	Pending Election		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Pay estimated taxes of \$25,926.45 with Cash								

1

2

3

The screen shots shown here are intended to illustrate the functionality and services available to participants on Benefits OnLine. They are not meant as exact representations of the screens available through your plan.

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4 Select Grants to Submit

- Under **Select Grants to Submit Election**, check the box next to the grants for which you are making a tax election.

5 Submit Your Election

- Select **Submit Tax Election** to make your election. A pop-up message will confirm that your tax election has been made.

Select Grants to Submit Election	Grant Date	Lapse Quantity	Lapse Date	Modeled Tax Method	Estimated Taxes At Lapse	Estimated Shares/Units to Cover Taxes	Estimated Net Shares / Units At Lapse
<input type="checkbox"/>	09/10/2009 Restricted Stock Unit	7,500	09/10/2011	Cash Payment	\$30,108.56	0	7,500

**The tax election modeling results use a real time price to calculate the results whereas the most recent Company FMV price is used for the calculations under vest Details and Tax Election.

Submit Tax Election



Learn more

The Equity Awards Education Center on Benefits OnLine features a series of videos to help you understand your awards. You'll also find a library of "Quick Tips" to help you manage and monitor your awards, a series of articles on equity award topics, and more. Visit now— go.ml.com/equityed

For information about your awards and the fees and commissions associated with your Merrill Lynch brokerage account, please refer to your equity awards brochure available at www.benefits.ml.com in the **Document Library** under **Equity Plan**.

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