



## IRS Tax Tip 2016-16: Do Your Federal Taxes for Free

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IRS Tax Tips

February 9, 2016

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### Issue Number: IRS Tax Tip 2016-16 Inside This Issue

## Do Your Federal Taxes for Free

You can prepare and electronically file your federal taxes for free using IRS Free File. It is fast, safe and easy to use. IRS Free File does the hard work for you with either brand-name tax software or online fillable forms.

Here are six facts that you should know about Free File.

**1. Free Options for All.** If you make \$62,000 or less – as do 70 percent of Americans – you can choose easy-to-use software to do your taxes and e-file for free. If you make more than \$62,000 can use [Free File Fillable Forms](#), the electronic version of IRS paper forms. Either way, it's free.

**2. Free File Does the Hard Work.** IRS Free File is a partnership between the IRS and tax software manufacturers that make their products available for free. You don't need to be a tax expert. The software will help find tax breaks you may be able to claim but might overlook, such as the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#). The software asks the questions; you provide the answers. It will choose the right tax forms and do the math for you. Free File can also help with the [health care law tax provisions](#).

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[Where to File](#)

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**3. Free File on IRS.gov.** Access IRS Free File on [IRS.gov/freefile](https://www.irs.gov/freefile) to avoid any charges for preparing or e-filing your federal tax return. Once you choose a Free File company, you'll go to their website to prepare, print and e-file your federal tax return.

**4. All Forms and Schedules are Free.** Whether you file Form 1040 EZ, Form 1040A or Form 1040, all are free. If you have a mortgage interest deduction, children in college or made money in the stock market, the Free File software will complete the forms and schedules you need.

**5. Free Extensions.** If you can't make the April 18 deadline (April 19 if you live in Maine or Massachusetts), you can use Free File to request an automatic six-month extension. Making the request is easy and free through IRS Free File. Just look for "free extensions for anyone" in the company offers. Remember, this is a six-month extension of time to file your tax return, not to pay your tax. If you think you owe, make an estimated payment with your extension request. Tax software will help you make this payment, or you can view other [payment options](#) at IRS.gov.

**6. Use IRS E-file.** Remember, the fastest way to get your refund is to combine [e-file](#) with [direct deposit](#). If you owe taxes, you can e-file now and set up an automatic payment on any day until the due date. To view your payment options visit [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments).

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your [Taxpayer Bill of Rights](#). Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on IRS.gov.

## IRS YouTube Videos:

- *Welcome to Free File* - [English](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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