



Rhode Island Division of Taxation

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Revenue

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Advisory: Tax-filing season opens

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation kicked off the new tax-filing season on January 18 by officially accepting its first batch of electronically filed personal income tax returns. The Tax Division also announced free online tax-preparation options for eligible taxpayers, and opened its walk-in tax-preparation service.

E-filing begins

By 2:30 a.m. on January 18, the Tax Division had received 1,539 e-filed personal income tax returns. By 4:30 p.m., the number had risen to about 3,000. They were the first of several hundred thousand personal income tax returns that will be prepared and filed by computer, online, during the 2012 filing season.

Last year, about 76 percent of all Rhode Island personal income tax returns were e-filed – about 440,000 out of a total of 578,000 returns. “This year, we expect even more returns to be e-filed,” said Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan. More tax preparers will be required to e-file this year, Sullivan said, and more taxpayers will discover the benefits of e-filing. “We urge all taxpayers -- and preparers -- to e-file,” Sullivan said. E-filing provides prompt and accurate processing of returns, faster issuing of refunds, and the option to have a Rhode Island refund deposited directly into the taxpayer’s bank or credit union account, Sullivan said.

Free online tax preparation

The Tax Division began providing links on January 18 to two online tax-preparation programs. The programs allow eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns online at no charge. Taxpayers must first meet the eligibility requirements, then read each program’s terms and conditions carefully before choosing. “Taxpayers should check to see if they’re eligible, and then read each program’s rules to make sure the program suits their needs,” Sullivan said. [The links are available here.](#)

Walk-in service

The Tax Division’s free walk-in tax-preparation service opened on January 18 at the agency’s headquarters, at One Capitol Hill, Providence, near the State House.

Through the service, skilled Tax Division personnel help walk-ins prepare and file their Rhode Island income tax returns, including the property-tax relief claim on Form RI-1040H. On its first day, the service helped more than 200 taxpayers. The service is available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days.

Forms, instructions

Although the Tax Division no longer automatically makes bulk mailings of tax booklets, taxpayers have several options to obtain forms, instructions, booklets, and additional information:

- Download a copy from the Tax Division's website, <http://www.tax.ri.gov>;
- Use the following e-mail address to request a form or booklet: TaxForms@tax.ri.gov;
- Visit the Tax Division's first-floor lobby at One Capitol Hill, Providence; or
- Call the Tax Division's forms request line at (401) 574-8970.

Taxpayers with questions may call the agency at (401) 574-8829 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. business days.

Newsletter for filing season

The Tax Division has issued a special edition of its newsletter, *Rhode Island Tax News*, to provide tax preparers, taxpayers, and others with helpful information about the filing season. [Click here for a copy.](#)

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