



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

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TAX ADMINISTRATION

ADVISORY FOR TAX PROFESSIONALS
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Filing season opens in Rhode Island

Division of Taxation starts processing e-filed and paper returns for 2016 tax year

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today officially began accepting and processing electronically filed Rhode Island resident and nonresident personal income tax returns for the 2016 tax year.

The agency today also officially began accepting and processing paper returns, but urged tax preparers and taxpayers to e-file. E-filing is faster, results in fewer errors, and provides the filer with an electronic filing acknowledgement.

In addition, e-filing is the only method available to have your refund deposited directly into your bank or credit union account. (Direct deposit is not available for paper returns.)

Rhode Island Division of Taxation electronic filing	
<i>The Division of Taxation will accept the following returns electronically this season:</i>	
Form RI-1040	Resident personal income tax return
Form RI-1040NR	Nonresident personal income tax return
Form RI-1120C	Business corporation tax return – C corporations
Form RI-1120S	Business corporation tax return – S corporations
Form RI-1065	For partnerships, LLPs, LPs, LLCs, single-member LLCs
Preparers should check with their tax-preparation software provider to see if their programs are updated and ready for e-file.	

As preparers and taxpayers start their filing season, they will encounter a number of changes, including the following:

- A new tax break for Social Security benefits.
- An increase in the earned income credit.
- An increase in the statewide property-tax relief credit (Form RI-1040H).
- The ability to pay a balance due by debit card or credit card.
- A filing deadline of April 18, 2017.
- Increased efforts to combat tax refund fraud and refund-related identity theft.

For more information on the topics above, see the special edition of the Division's newsletter: <http://go.usa.gov/x9mzc>.

The Division expects to receive and process more than 640,000 resident and nonresident personal income tax returns this year.

Business filers

At 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time today, the Division of Taxation begins officially accepting and processing electronically filed business returns on Form RI-1065, Form RI-1120C, and Form RI-1120S. In addition, the Division today begins accepting paper filed business returns. The special edition of the Division's newsletter includes important information for the 2016 tax year involving business filers: <http://go.usa.gov/x9mzc>. Among the changes:

- New original due dates.
- New extended due dates.
- A reduction in the corporate minimum tax.
- A reduction in the filing charge for pass-through entities.

Fighting tax fraud

The IRS, state tax agencies, and the tax professional industry have joined forces to form the Security Summit, working in partnership to combat tax refund fraud, fraudulent tax returns, and identity theft-related fraud.



The Security Summit recently launched a public awareness campaign and a series of security awareness tips to guard against efforts by cybercriminals. The IRS and the states have also taken steps to increase scrutiny of tax returns this season.

The enhanced security measures, in place to protect your personal information and to combat fraud, have increased the time it takes many states, including Rhode Island, to process and issue refunds.

Also, the IRS is required by federal statute to delay, until February 15, 2017, the issuing of refunds that involve the earned income credit and additional child tax credit – to allow additional time to help prevent revenue lost due to identity theft and refund fraud related to fabricated wages and withholdings.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation asks your patience as Rhode Island and many other states implement enhanced efforts to safeguard taxpayer dollars, combat tax refund fraud, and protect your personal information. The Division this filing season will take the time necessary to review and verify the information on all tax returns to make sure that the right refund goes to the right person.

Tax preparers and taxpayers can help in the fight against fraud by filing electronically and using direct deposit, which is the most secure and effective way to receive your refund. Last year, the Division issued more than 456,000 refunds totaling \$279.9 million in the aggregate.

For those who file paper returns, the Division urges the use of tax preparation software so that the resulting return can be filed with a two-dimensional barcode. Paper returns with 2-D barcodes process more effectively and efficiently and result in fewer errors.

For those without tax preparation software, forms for the new filing season, covering tax year 2016, are now available on the Division's website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/personal.php>. Among the forms now available for download from the Division's website is Form RI-1040H, involving the statewide property-tax relief credit.

For more information on the Security Summit: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/security-summit>

Filing tips

The Division of Taxation urges taxpayers and preparers to make sure that a Rhode Island personal income tax return includes a properly and accurately completed Schedule W (assuming that the taxpayer had Rhode Island personal income tax withheld last year, from a paycheck, a pension, or other such source of income).

When filing a paper return, taxpayers should make sure that the return is signed and dated. When making a payment, taxpayers should be sure to include a payment voucher. For those using tax software, vouchers can be printed out along with a copy of the return. Vouchers are also on the Division website: http://www.tax.ri.gov/forms/2016/Income/2016%20RI-1040V_h.pdf

The Division urges taxpayers to gather and organize their financial records for 2016 to assist in the preparation of complete and accurate returns. Those claiming certain tax credits should be prepared to provide supporting documentation:

- Because the earned income credit is intended for those who have earned income (and who meet certain other requirements), those claiming the credit need to have *bona fide* documentation showing the source(s) of their earned income, such as Form W-2 wage statements.
- Because the statewide property-tax relief credit (Form RI-1040H) is generally intended for those who own or rent local property (and who meet certain other requirements), those claiming the credit need to have *bona fide* documentation showing that they paid local property tax, or paid rent to a landlord that paid local property tax.

Rhode Island personal income tax refunds			
	Calendar year 2015	Calendar year 2016	Difference
Number of refunds	454,214	456,894	+ 0.59%
Total dollar amount	\$249,597,074.19	\$279,878,237.91	+12.1%
Average refund	\$549.51	\$612.57	+11.5%

Numbers are as of December 31, do not count carryforwards or offsets, and are subject to rounding.

Contacting the Division of Taxation

There are a number of convenient ways to directly reach the Division regarding your Rhode Island personal income tax return or refund. Email the Division using the following address: Tax.Assist@tax.ri.gov. Or call the Division at (401) 574-8829 (choose option # 3), or visit the Division's office on the first floor of the Powers Building, at One Capitol Hill, diagonally across from the Smith Street entrance of the State House. The Division is typically open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. Also, beginning in early February, the Division will regularly update its online "Where's My Refund?" tool: <https://www.ri.gov/taxation/refund/>.

The Division of Taxation cannot directly respond to taxpayer inquiries via social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, because of State statutes protecting taxpayer confidentiality. For the same reason, individual taxpayer inquiries cannot be directly addressed when made through traditional media, such as TV stations and talk-show programs. The Division recommends using the contact information listed above – including the email address, phone number, and office visit information.

Forms and information online

A number of tax forms, instructions, and related schedules and other materials are now available online at the Division of Taxation website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/>. To order forms, call (401) 574-8970 (but bear in mind that forms and instructions are on the agency's website at <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/>). Or email: tax.forms@tax.ri.gov



Tax preparers and taxpayers can pick up forms and instructions, or make payments or ask questions, at the Division of Taxation office at One Capitol Hill, Providence, R.I. The office is typically open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days.

Taxpayers with questions may call the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 (choose option 3) from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days, but keep in mind that call volume is high during filing season. For a complete listing of contact information for the Division of Taxation, use the "Contact Us" section of the website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact/>

Finding a tax preparer

Although the Rhode Island Division of Taxation does not prepare tax returns on a walk-in basis, many certified public accountants, enrolled agents, public accountants, and other preparers are available throughout the state.

The IRS website includes information on choosing a tax professional, as well as a public directory of certain tax professionals to help taxpayers determine return preparer credentials and qualifications. The directory is a searchable, sortable database with the name, city, state and ZIP code of credentialed return preparers: <http://go.usa.gov/cQ7WT>

Free tax assistance

Many locations in Rhode Island will prepare personal income tax returns -- and property-tax relief claims on Form RI-1040H -- all at no charge for eligible taxpayers. To find a volunteer tax preparation site near you:

- Call the United Way of Rhode Island's helpline at 211.
- Call the VITA program toll-free at 1-800-906-9887.
- Call the AARP Tax-Aide program toll-free at 1-888-227-7669.

For more information, see the IRS website, which includes links for finding nearby volunteer tax preparation sites: <http://go.usa.gov/cQ7Zw>

Free File

You may qualify to prepare and file your federal and Rhode Island resident personal income tax returns online at no charge. The free service is made possible from Free File, which is a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation, a number of other states, and the Free File Alliance.

The Free File Alliance is a group of industry-leading private-sector tax preparation companies that have agreed to provide free commercial online tax preparation and electronic filing. The Division of Taxation website includes a listing of Free File offerings at the following address: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/misc/efile.php>

The offerings include links to the Free File partners' websites. Please read the information on those web sites carefully before you begin the filing process. (If you do not meet the qualifications for Free File, you may be charged a fee for filing your taxes electronically.)

[Home](#) > [Federal / State Online Filing](#)

Free File - Rhode Island

General Information

You may qualify to prepare and file your federal and Rhode Island resident personal income tax returns online at no charge.

Preparers and software providers

The Division of Taxation today posted an updated list of the tax-preparation software programs that the agency has cleared for use in preparing and e-filing tax year 2016 Rhode Island returns. The list includes all of the programs approved to date and is posted as a convenience for tax preparers, software providers, and others. To view the list, use the following link: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/help/Approved%20E-file%20Software.php>

Forms 1099-G, 1099-INT

The Division of Taxation recently began mailing Forms 1099-G and 1099-INT to taxpayers. Neither form is a bill; each is for information purposes. In general, Form 1099-G shows the amount of Rhode Island personal income tax refund certain taxpayers received; Form 1099-INT reports interest a taxpayer earned on a Rhode Island income tax refund. The forms are typically used to help prepare one's tax returns.

Looking ahead

The Division of Taxation will soon begin mailing 40,434 copies of Form RI-1040ES for the 2017 tax year. Taxpayers use the coupons on the form to make quarterly estimated payments of Rhode Island personal income tax. The first such payment is due on or before April 18, 2017. A blank copy of Form RI-1040ES is available on the Division of Taxation's website: http://www.tax.ri.gov/forms/2017/Income/2017%20RI-1040ES_boxes.pdf