



## State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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*Scott Walker*  
Governor

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### For Immediate Release

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## Wisconsin Department of Revenue Launches Tax Filing Season

*Wisconsin taxpayers can use Wisconsin e-file to submit their state tax returns beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>*

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) has announced that individuals can use [Wisconsin e-file](#) to electronically submit their Wisconsin individual income tax returns starting January 12, 2015. Wisconsin e-file is the free, accurate, and secure electronic filing program for Wisconsin income tax returns.

"Each year, many people choose to file their state tax return using Wisconsin e-file because it is free, fast and easy," said Secretary Richard Chandler. "The program allows people to securely file their state tax return and receive an instant confirmation that DOR received it."

### Wisconsin e-file:

- Is secure and confidential so your information is protected
- Is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Offers fill-in tax forms that do the math to help prevent errors
- Sends a confirmation once your return is electronically submitted and received
- Allows you to have your refund deposited directly into your bank account. If you owe taxes, you can use direct withdrawal.

To begin using Wisconsin e-file, you will need:

- All documents about income you received during the year, including W-2s and 1099s
- Legal names and social security numbers of everyone you'll include on your return
- Charitable donations
- Your federal income tax return, if filing using Form 1 or Form 1NPR
- Property tax bill or rent certificate, if claiming Homestead Credit
- Bank account information for direct deposit or withdrawal

Go to [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov) and click on the WI e-file button to get started.



The federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced it will accept electronically filed tax returns starting on January 20, 2015.

### Filing Deadline

The deadline to file your 2014 state and federal income taxes is April 15, 2015. If you file after April 15, 2015, you must have an extension from the IRS (extended deadline is October 15, 2015) to prevent being charged a late filing fee. Having an extension to file does not prevent interest from being charged on any tax not paid by April 15, 2015.

## Electronic Filing

DOR expects more than 3 million income tax returns to be submitted during the 2015 tax filing season, the vast majority of which will be electronically filed by using Wisconsin e-file or other electronic filing programs. In the 2014 filing season, more than 85% of filers electronically filed.

While electronic filing is the easiest and most secure way to file your income tax return, paper forms may be printed from the DOR website at [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov) by clicking on "Forms" and selecting Tax Year 2014 Individual forms. Paper forms are also available at many libraries and at [DOR offices](#).

## Form 1099-G and Estimated Payment Information Available Online

DOR provides online information to make it easier to electronically file your tax return.

- Form 1099-G provides your annual state tax refund information from last year, which you need if you itemize deductions on your federal tax return. You can view your [Form 1099-G](#) online by using DOR's secure, confidential website application.
- If you have taxable non-wage income or other income not subject to withholding, you may make quarterly estimated income tax payments. You can verify your estimated tax payments when completing your tax return by using DOR's [estimated payment look-up](#).

## ID Verification

DOR is again using Identity Verification to protect taxpayers from attempts by fraudsters to steal a taxpayer's identity and tax refund. In fiscal year 2014, ID Verification and other DOR initiatives saved \$49.6 million by preventing fraud and reducing or denying inaccurate refund claims.

- If asked to verify your identity, you will be asked to take a quiz consisting of four multiple choice questions with answers that help us verify your identity
- You can take the quiz online or by interactive telephone
- Tax return filers who are unable to take the quiz online or by phone can call our customer service representatives who will help
- Visit our [website](#) or watch [this video](#) for additional information

## What's New This Tax Season

Below are some of the changes that may impact your 2014 Wisconsin income tax return:

- Income tax rate reduction: The tax rate for the lowest tax bracket is reduced from 4.4% to 4.0%. All taxpayers will benefit from this rate reduction which is built into the tax table.
- Child and dependent care expenses: The maximum subtraction is increased to \$3,000 for one qualifying person or \$6,000 for more than one qualifying person.
- Private school tuition: A subtraction is available for tuition paid to send a dependent child to a private school. The maximum subtraction is \$4,000 for an elementary pupil and \$10,000 for a secondary pupil. Schedule PS, *Private School Tuition*, must be filed to claim the subtraction.
- College savings accounts: Numerous changes are made to the subtraction for contributions to a college savings account. For example, the subtraction is now indexed for inflation and contributions for 2014 can now be made up through April 15, 2015. These and other changes are reflected in Schedule CS, *College Savings Accounts*, which must be filed to claim the subtraction.
- Bonus depreciation and section 179 expense: The depreciation provisions extended as a result of the federal Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 do not apply when computing depreciation for Wisconsin. However, Wisconsin does follow the federal limits for section 179 expensing.

At [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov) you can access many resources designed to help you file.

- **Check On Your Refund:** You can check on your refund at your convenience using our website or automated refund line. Checking by these means provides the same information that our customer service representatives use to check the status of your refund.

By website: [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov)  
Click "*Look Up Refund*" on the Individuals tab

By automated refund line:  
(608)266-8100 in South-central Wisconsin  
(414) 227-4907 in South-eastern Wisconsin  
Toll Free: (866) 947-7363

- **Videos:** Each year thousands of people watch the brief [DOR videos](#) to get information on topics like choosing your tax form, using Wisconsin e-file, checking your refund status, Identity Verification, and submitting a homestead credit or earned income credit.
- **Free Tax Assistance:** Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites have trained volunteers that help low-to-moderate income residents, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities prepare their tax returns *for free*. Search keyword "VITA" at [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov) or dial "211" to find a location near you.
- **Customer Service Numbers**

For status of refund inquiries: Search "*Look Up Refund*" at [revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov) or call (866) 947-7363.

Other DOR Customer Service numbers  
[revenue.wi.gov](http://revenue.wi.gov)  
Individuals: (608) 266-2486  
Businesses: (608) 266-2776

Federal Internal Revenue Service  
[irs.gov](http://irs.gov)  
1-800-829-1040

- **WI Revenue Mobile APP:** Download the WI Revenue mobile app and you will have at your fingertips many of the resources already mentioned, including:
  - Look Up Your Refund – check the status of your state tax refund
  - Look Up Your Estimated Payments – see your estimated payments information
  - Free Tax Help (VITA) – get information about free tax help through the VITA/TCE programs
  - Latest Videos – Watch our Tax 101 series, how to e-file, and other
  - News Updates – Read our recent press releases and helpful articles
  - Contact Us – find out how to contact us when you need help
  - Twitter – See our Twitter feed for our latest quick updates and helpful tips



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