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January 22, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Individual Income Tax Season Begins January 26

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) today announced the start of the 2026 individual income tax filing season, beginning on Monday, January 26, 2026. The IRS and DOR will begin accepting and processing 2025 individual income tax returns on this date.

Filing Options

Wisconsin taxpayers have several options for filing their taxes:

1. **WisTax.** DOR's free online system allows users to file their Wisconsin state tax returns electronically. The platform is safe and secure, and in 2026, is open to all Wisconsin taxpayers, as long as they are full-year residents and possess a valid driver's license or Wisconsin ID. Other changes in 2026 include expanded features for individuals who claim the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Credit or need to amend their return.
2. **Software.** Numerous software options are available, ranging from basic to advanced. Each offers varying levels of guidance and support.
3. **Tax Preparer.** Enlisting the help of a qualified tax professional can be beneficial for those with complex tax situations and/or individuals who prefer personalized assistance.
4. **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).** The VITA program offers free tax preparation assistance to eligible taxpayers. Returns are prepared for free by community organizations and IRS-certified volunteers.

DOR Encourages Filing Electronically

In Fiscal Year 2024, 93.3% of Americans filed their individual tax returns electronically — a number that continues to grow every year. The benefits of filing your taxes electronically are:

1. **Protects your refund and your identity.** Paper checks are over 16 times more likely to be lost, stolen, altered, or delayed than electronic payments. It also provides a more secure transfer of your personal information and a confirmation email, so you know your tax returns have been filed.
2. **More accurate filing.** The software does the calculations for you, reducing the likelihood of errors.
3. **Speeds up refunds.** Filing electronically gives taxpayers faster access to refunds and are processed seven days quicker on average.
4. **Reduces costs** for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue which saves you tax dollars.
5. **If you are unable to file electronically,** mail your documents early to reduce your chances of getting a postmark date that is after the due date to avoid a late filing fee.

Where's My Refund?

"Where's my refund?" is the most frequently asked question DOR employees receive. DOR's [Where's My Refund tool](#) provides the quickest answer by allowing taxpayers to check the status of their Wisconsin state tax refund online. This tool tracks the progress of your refund, giving taxpayers instant access to the same information call center agents provide.

DOR's Customer Service agents can assist taxpayers who want to learn how to file and pay Wisconsin tax returns electronically. Individuals can call (608) 266-2486; businesses should contact (608) 266-2776.

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