



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Advice for Last-Minute Filers as Income Tax Filing Deadline Approaches

Saint Paul – The April 18 income tax filing deadline is less than two weeks away, and 36 percent of Minnesotans have not yet filed their 2010 income tax return.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers that filing electronically can greatly expedite refunds. It eliminates the hassle of calculators, finding forms and a last-minute trip to the post office. E-filing is safe, accurate, fast and easy.

So far this year, Internet e-filing is up nearly ten percent from last year, with most taxpayers receiving refunds in as little as 4 days. More than 1.4 million Minnesota taxpayers have already e-filed.

“The department expects 2.6 million income tax returns this year and has received 1.6 million so far,” said Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans. “Last year, Minnesota remained a national leader in electronic filing with nearly 2 million e-filed returns.”

Refund status information is available 24 hours a day through our online refund tracking system: <https://www.mndor.state.mn.us/WheresMyRefund>. Taxpayers can also call our automated refund tracking line at 651-296-4444 (metro) or 1-800-657-3676 (greater Minnesota).

The due date for filing state returns is extended this year to Monday, April 18 because the Emancipation Day holiday in Washington, DC falls on April 15.

E-file benefits

Free and low-cost options: For those who have not yet filed and are looking for a free or low-cost option, the Minnesota Department of Revenue’s website features several ways to electronically prepare and file tax returns. Nearly 7 out of 10 Minnesota taxpayers qualify for free e-filing. To find out if you qualify, visit our website at www.taxes.state.mn.us.

Increased accuracy: Electronic-filing software programs have step-by-step instructions and are designed to help filers receive all the credits they qualify for, which could lead to a larger refund.

Fast refunds: The state has received 1.4 million e-filed returns so far this year, with most of them taking less than 4 days to process. Taxpayers choosing direct deposit received their refunds even sooner. Paper returns filed after April 4 may take more than 30 days to process.

File now and pay later if you owe: If you owe tax, you can e-file and set the payment date for any time on or before April 18. Electronically paying your tax is a quick, paperless transaction.

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Other Important Reminders

Filing requirements: You must file a Minnesota income tax return if you are a Minnesota resident and are required to file a federal income tax return. If you are a part-year resident or nonresident of Minnesota, you must file if your Minnesota gross income was \$9,350 or more. Your 2010 Minnesota return must be electronically filed, postmarked by or brought to the Department of Revenue by midnight April 18, 2011.

Paying by credit and/or debit card: Keep in mind that an additional fee will be applied when payments are charged to credit cards.

Need more time? If you are unable to complete and file a return by the due date, you may avoid penalty and interest by paying your tax by April 18. Estimate your total tax and pay the amount you owe electronically, by check or credit/debit card. To avoid a late-filing penalty, you must file your return by midnight October 15, 2011.

Where to get help: If you can't find answers on the department's website, email the department at: indinctax@state.mn.us or call the taxpayer assistance line at 651-296-3781 or 1-800-652-9094 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Fridays.

Tax reciprocity: The income tax reciprocity agreement between Minnesota and Wisconsin was terminated beginning with tax year 2010. Minnesota and Wisconsin residents who worked in the other state during 2010 must file returns in both states.

Military tax relief and credits: Commissioner Frans reminds members of the military of Minnesota tax benefits for active military personnel and veterans. "With many soldiers serving our country and returning home from active duty, we must provide meaningful support for them," he said. "I urge them to take advantage of filing extensions and many other benefits."

For military tax filing extensions and other benefits: [military tax relief and credits](#)

Free Tax Assistance: Free tax assistance is provided to senior citizens, lower-income taxpayers, and people with limited-English proficiency. Go to the Department of Revenue's website or call 651-297-3724 or 1-800-657-3989 to find a free income tax preparation site near you.

For more information and tax forms, visit the department's website at www.taxes.state.mn.us.

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