
DON'T LET APRIL SHOWER YOU WITH TAX WOES

The saying “*April showers bring May flowers*” has been around for as long as some of us can remember. Along with showers, April also brings the end of the tax season. This year, April 15 is Saturday, so the end date for filing federal taxes, or National Tax Day, is Tuesday, April 18. Maryland State income tax returns must be received by the next business day after April 15, which for 2017, is Monday, April 17.

A FEW TIPS FROM YOUR BALTIMORE CITY COMPTROLLER

- If you are uncertain about any part of your filing requirements, I encourage you to ask the Internal Revenue Service, the Maryland Comptroller, or your State of residence tax authority. You may also want to seek help from an accountant or other tax professional.
- Accounting and finance professionals can also help you realize the importance of living debt-free, saving and investing so that you are not forced to make changes to your W4 and MW507 forms that may not be in your best interest.
- Manage your money so it does not manage you. Sound financial planning is essential to living debt-free and handling money wisely. It is never a bad idea to seek help with managing your finances so that April does not shower you with tax woes.

WHAT'S YOUR STATUS? Congratulations are in order if you have completed your filing requirements for this year. If you have not, here are some of the items listed on the IRS and Comptroller of Maryland web pages that you may wish to consider.

FILING

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE – A Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, (certified volunteers) offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and assistance to limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE – The Comptroller of Maryland offers *Interactive Online Services* where you will find links to all of the online services for individual and businesses taxpayers as well as tax professionals. These services include individual and business taxpayers, compliance, and tax calculators.

HELP AND RESOURCES

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE – The website allows you to search for forms and publications, get free tax preparation help, offers tax relief for disaster victims, get an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, browse the directory of tax return preparers, amend or correct your return, check the status of your amended return, and offers Affordable Care Act filing tips.

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE – The Comptroller of Maryland offers a variety of taxpayer assistance including tax forms & instructions, 2016 instruction booklets, tax publications, tax law & regulations, local income tax rate changes, filing methods, and payment methods.

FRAUD/SUSPECTED FRAUD

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE – The IRS provides help with fraud, identity theft and phishing, getting help with identity theft, reporting suspected tax fraud activity, and reporting suspicious emails and scams.

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE – If you suspect that you are a victim of identity theft, and/or that a fraudulent Maryland or federal tax return was filed using your social security number, you may contact the Comptroller of Maryland and a representative will assist you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

IRS: Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time, unless otherwise noted. For Individuals: 800-829-1040; for Businesses: 800-829-4933. The website address is <https://www.irs.gov/>

MARYLAND: Telephone: 410-260-7980. The website address is www.marylandtaxes.com