

## Department of Revenue

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Deadline to file individual income taxes coming up and Arizona Department of Revenue has suite of support programs**

The deadline to file 2016 individual income taxes is April 18<sup>th</sup> and the Arizona Department of Revenue has a number of support resources in place to assist taxpayers.

- ✓ **E-File.** Visit the Department of Revenue's EServices page to [see the list of software providers](#) certified to submit electronically filed returns with the department. The department is encouraging tax filers to e-file their individual income taxes.

Advantages of electronically filing include being easier, more secure, and a faster process than paper returns.

- An e-filed return will be processed within 12 business days,
- A paper return takes 6-8 weeks to be processed.

Last year, more than 2.6 million taxpayers or 80 percent of individual tax filers, used electronic software to file their taxes – an increase of about 4.5 percent from the 2015 e-filing level.

- ✓ **Free File Alliance.** Low income taxpayers and active duty military personnel can take advantage of a partnership between the state of Arizona and private sector companies that provide free state and federal tax preparation with e-filing services to qualified Arizona taxpayers.

The Arizona Free File Alliance is a public-private partnership between the Arizona Department of Revenue and a consortium of tax preparation software companies. Participating tax software companies use individual criteria to determine taxpayer eligibility; most eligible Arizona taxpayers have a lower-income, are active duty military, EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) eligible, seniors, or students.

Arizona Free File Alliance allows taxpayers to choose from multiple free file offerings and directs them to a private company's website where they can use the free service to prepare and file their returns electronically. To take advantage of this program start by using this [link](#) on the Arizona Department of Revenue website.

- ✓ **Online Forms.** Arizona also offers fillable forms that are online versions of tax forms designed for taxpayers who prefer to prepare their own returns. Arizona forms and instructions are available to print at [www.azdor.gov/forms](http://www.azdor.gov/forms)

If someone needs assistance and does not have a computer or cannot afford a tax preparer:

- ✓ **AARP Tax-Aide Program.** AARP Tax-Aide offers free assistance to help individuals electronically file federal and Arizona state returns. The AARP Tax-Aide is dedicated to assisting senior citizens, and low-to-middle income taxpayers file their personal income tax returns for free.

For more information on AARP Tax-Aide, go to [http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/).

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

Certified volunteers will provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other community locations.

For more information on VITA, go to <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.

After you file:

- ✓ **Where's My Refund?** Taxpayers can check on the status of their refunds by clicking the "Where's My Refund?" link in [www.azdor.gov](http://www.azdor.gov).
- ✓ **Direct Deposit.** Direct deposit is an easy and convenient way to get your refund. You can put your banking information on your tax return and have your refund deposited into your bank account and not have to worry about receiving your refund check in the mail. Direct deposit is available to you whether you file your return electronically or by mail.

**For more information** on tax filing season and Department of Revenue resources, taxpayers can go to [www.azdor.gov](http://www.azdor.gov)

**This year's tax filing deadline is April 18<sup>th</sup>**, because the usual deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday and Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> is an observed holiday in Washington D.C.

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