

# TAXfacts

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## 2004's MOST IMPORTANT TAX TIP: FILE YOUR RETURN ELECTRONICALLY!

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Go on-line to use **Ohio I-File**, phone it in with **TeleFile**, or choose the IRS **e-file** system. Electronic filing delivers benefits to you and all Ohioans:

- It *speeds up* tax refunds. If you are due a refund and choose the **direct deposit** option, the money will be in your bank account in 5-7 days.
- It *saves* taxpayer dollars. To process an electronic return, it costs \$1.15; paper returns cost \$3 each. The money saved is yours!
- Ohio I-File and TeleFile are *FREE!* (most e-file options will cost you a fee.)

### Ohio I-File

It's easy to file your state **individual income tax** return using Ohio I-File. I-File is also available for filing **school district income tax** returns, a feature that's new this year.



With I-File there's nothing to buy, and you can file from your home computer, 24 / 7. Find I-File on the Ohio Department of Taxation web site — [tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov) — and click on the Ohio I-File logo to start the filing process.

As you type in your information, Ohio I-File will make calculations for you and find the correct tax rate. Help is available from a question-mark prompt that provides instructions for each line on the tax return.

If you are due a refund, Ohio I-File gets it back to you fast. Be sure to choose the **Direct Deposit** option and the refund will be sent right to your bank account.

If you owe additional tax, there's a convenient **Ohio ePayment** option available that allows you to pay by electronic check or credit card and choose the date you want the payment made. You can also file a payment voucher and send the payment by April 15.

### IRS e-file



#### Using a Tax Preparer:

If you go to a tax preparer to have your state and federal taxes done, please request that your returns be filed electronically. This will ensure a rapid refund, or if you owe tax it offers checking account debit payment options. For a list of authorized *e-file* tax preparers in your area (by zip code), go to the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on the *e-file* logo. Then click on the link "e-file for Individual Taxpayers" and find the "Authorized e-file Provider" link.

#### Filing on Your Own:

To file your federal income tax return electronically you can purchase tax preparation software or use the IRS **Free File** program. This program will connect you to private vendors offering tax preparation software. Some vendors limit the Free File offer to lower-income taxpayers. Many charge an extra fee to file a state tax return.

(more)

## Ohio TeleFile

Ohio also has **TeleFile** available for selected taxpayers, those with less complicated returns. Taxpayers eligible for this electronic filing option will receive a TeleFile booklet in the mail that enables them to file their taxes over the phone.

## For More Information...

If you need instructions, forms or other Ohio income tax or school district income tax information, please visit the Ohio Department of Taxation web site or drop by any of our nine Taxpayer Service Centers around the state (find locations and directions at [tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov)).

You can also **E-Mail Us** from the ODT web site or call the toll-free taxpayer assistance line at 1-800-282-1780

from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Booklets with instructions and forms are available at many libraries, banks and post offices.

## Add it all Up...

Electronic filing is paying off.

- In 2002, 42 percent of taxpayers filed an electronic return, saving **\$1.5 million** in processing costs.
- In 2003, 47 percent filed electronically, saving **\$2.1 million**.
- In 2004, if 500,000 more taxpayers statewide file electronically, savings will be more than **\$3 million**.

**FILE ELECTRONICALLY – IT'S GOOD FOR YOU, IT'S GOOD FOR OHIO!**