

Tax filing season opens February 12, 2021, but no need to wait.

The official opening day for filing your 2020 income and school district tax return is February 12, 2021. However, Ohio Tax Commissioner Jeff McClain is advising taxpayers that they don't have to wait until then.

“You can file your return using tax preparation software, but it won't be processed and you won't receive a confirmation that your return has been received until February 12th or later.”

The IRS pushed back opening day till the 12th to make computer programming changes to ensure the proper processing of federal stimulus payments issued as part of COVID-19 relief programs.

Commissioner McClain said Ohio taxpayers will find a few new changes that could impact the preparation of the state income tax return. Among those:

- The recent reduction of tax brackets from 8 to 6 brackets means that those with taxable non-business income of \$22,150 or less will pay no tax.
- For filers who are not requesting a refund, and who have no income tax (or school district income tax) liability, the form Ohio IT 10 is available for simplified filing.
- A new Ohio Educator deduction is available on Ohio Schedule A for school teachers to claim education related expenses in excess of those deducted on the federal return.
- The new Lead Abatement credit is available to taxpayers who have paid for lead abatement or removal and received a credit certificate from the Ohio Department of Health.
- The Campaign Contribution credit allows a deduction up to \$50 for a single taxpayer, or up to \$100 for a joint return, for contributions to candidates running for statewide office, or the Ohio General Assembly. It's not available for contributions to local or federal political campaigns.

For the fastest processing available, we recommend you submit your return electronically using our free I-File, or file using a commercial software product or tax preparer. As is true every year, but especially this year, paper returns take much longer to process than returns filed electronically.

The deadline for filing both your Ohio and federal tax return is April 15, 2021. As a reminder, a request for a filing extension does not extend your payment due date.

If you have additional questions or need assistance with your Ohio return, please visit tax.ohio.gov or call 1-800-282-1780, to speak with a taxpayer services representative.

(For additional information, contact Gary Gudmundson, Communications Director at 614-466-0099 or gary.gudmundson@tax.state.oh.us)