

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

As we approach the new year, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation for supporting and trusting us with your tax and accounting needs. Although our services are in peak demand during tax season, we are available all year to meet with you and answer any additional questions that may arise.

As a small gesture of gratitude, we have enclosed a 2026 pocket calendar. In addition, you will find our annual checklist which you can use as a guide to gather your tax information.

Our website, www.rietschaccounting.com, is a great source of information! Details of the new tax changes highlighted on page 2 of this newsletter is available. You can also upload your tax documents using a link to a secure portal and download our newsletter & checklist.

Thank you again for a great year! Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday!

Rietsch, Souriall & Associates

TAX SEASON HOURS

DAY	CLINTON TWP	WATERLOO
MONDAY	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 7 PM
TUESDAY	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 5 PM
WEDNESDAY	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 5 PM
THURSDAY	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 5 PM
FRIDAY	9 AM - 5 PM	9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM - 1 PM	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED

Effective 02/02/26 - 04/14/26 only

Mandatory Electronic Payments

Effective 09/30/25, IRS & Social Security to No Longer Issue Paper Checks (with Limited Exceptions)

TAX REFUNDS. All tax refunds will be issued electronically or via prepaid debit cards (if you do not have a bank account).

PAYMENTS. After September 30, 2025, you must stop mailing paper checks to the IRS (including those for estimated tax payments).

If you have opted to receive paper checks in the past or have paid your taxes via check, please provide your banking information for direct deposit or electronic payment.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE MANDATE

- Individuals who do not have access to banking services;
- Certain emergency situations when electronic payments are not practical;
- Circumstances involving national security or law enforcement.

Tax information can be dropped off, mailed, emailed or faxed to our office.

Just a reminder...

If you choose to email, we advise that you securely upload your information using the ["Secure File Upload"](#) link on the main menu bar of our website.

In-person & virtual appointments are also available as well as evening & Saturday appointments; however, they fill up quickly so call early to reserve your spot!

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TAX APPOINTMENT . . .

- **Gather essential documents.** Print or email your tax preparer all electronic documents before your scheduled appointment to allow sufficient time to prepare your tax return during your allotted timeslot.
- **Account for life changes.** Examples include, but are not limited to, marriage, divorce, birth and death. These life changes may greatly impact the outcome of your tax return.
- **Prepare questions.** We encourage questions during your appointment. However, more in-depth tax planning questions may require an additional consultation after April 15.
- **Schedule early.** Appointment slots fill up fast; the earlier you contact our office, the more flexibility we have to accommodate your schedule.
- **Arrive on time.** As a courtesy to all of our clients & to ensure there is ample time to prepare your return & answer questions, we ask that you arrive on time. If you are running late, please call us to let us know.
- **New clients.** We prefer that your new client info sheet & prior two years' tax returns are provided before your scheduled appointment. If that is not possible, please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time to allow enough time to fill out paperwork and to have our administrative staff scan your tax returns into our system.

ATTENTION!

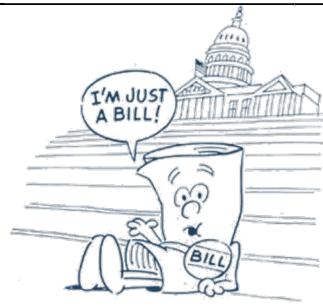
Last day to provide tax information to guarantee the preparation of your return on/before April 15, 2026 is
MARCH 20, 2026.

Information received after this date may require an extension.



ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Listed below is an overview of some of tax changes reflected in the One Big Beautiful Bill signed into law on July 4, 2025. Additional details regarding income limitations and other eligibility requirements can be found on our website.



AUTO LOAN INTEREST. Annual deduction of up to \$10,000 for qualified auto loan interest for new vehicles purchased for personal use after 12/31/24.

CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT. Permanent increase to child & dependent care credit from 35% to 50% of qualifying expenses for taxpayers with AGI of \$15,000 or less.

CHILD TAX CREDIT & CREDIT FOR OTHER DEPENDENTS. Increases nonrefundable child tax credit to \$2,200 per child under age 17 for tax year 2025. Also makes permanent the \$1,400 refundable child tax credit; the increased income phaseout thresholds of \$200,000 (\$400,000 for joint filers) and \$500 nonrefundable credit for other dependents.

CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVES. Terminates various clean energy incentives including, but not limited to new & previously owned clean vehicles; alternative fuel vehicle refueling property; energy-efficient home improvements; residential clean energy improvements.

DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE. Increases annual maximum excludable amount from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

FORM 1099 REPORTING THRESHOLD. Increases information-reporting threshold from \$600 to \$2,000 (indexed annually for inflation).

MONETARY CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. Taxpayers who do not itemize are eligible to claim a deduction of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for joint filers) for qualified monetary charitable contributions.



NO TAX ON TIPS. Temporary above-the-line deduction of up to \$25,000 for qualified tips received by taxpayer in an occupation that customarily & regularly receives tips.

NO TAX ON OVERTIME. Temporary above-the-line deduction of up to \$12,500 (\$25,000 for joint filers) for qualified overtime compensation (e.g. amount in excess of regular wage). Deduction only allowed if reported separately on W-2 (or Form 1099 for subcontractors).

SALT CAP. Temporarily increases limit of federal deduction for state & local income taxes (SALT) from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for 2025.

SCHOLARSHIP-GRANTING ORGANIZATION CREDIT. Provides a credit of up to \$1,700 for charitable contributions to scholarship-granting organizations.

SEC. 529 PLANS. Allows tax-exempt distributions to be used for additional education expenses in connection with enrollment/attendance at elementary or secondary school as well as distributions used for additional qualified higher education expense including qualified postsecondary credentialing expenses.

SENIOR DEDUCTION. A deduction of \$6,000 for each individual taxpayer age 65+.

TRUMP SAVINGS ACCOUNT. Savings account for minors with rules similar to Traditional IRAs, but have unique provisions until the year the child turns 18, at which time, the account is treated like a Traditional IRA.

WAGERING LOSS(ES). Losses from wagering transactions limited to 90% of losses. Deductible only to the extent of taxpayer's gains from wagering transactions.

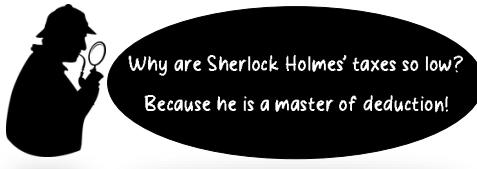
Government Shutdown & the 2026 Tax Filing Season

New Tax Law = New Tax Forms
A prolonged shutdown hinders implementation of recent tax changes.

Potential Tax Season Delay
Any delay in finalizing forms & system tests will force the IRS to push back the start of tax season.

Gift Limits

Calendar Yr	2025	2026
Annual Exclusion (person-to-person)	\$19,000	\$19,000
Lifetime Exemption (per person)	\$13,900,000	\$15,000,000



Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

To protect your tax information from fraud & tax-related identity theft, you can register for an IP PIN by visiting www.irs.gov/IPPIN.

An IP PIN is a six-digit number that changes each year & is needed to electronically file your tax return.

You can opt-out of the program only if participation was voluntary, and you were not a victim of identity theft.

