

April 2023 Issue

Community News

Common Tax Questions, Answered for 2023

Tax Day is less than two weeks away, which means it's officially crunch time for your taxes. The deadline to file your federal income tax return for 2022 is April 18.

Do I have to pay to file my taxes?

An estimated 70% of U.S. taxpayers qualify to file their federal taxes for free through a government program called IRS Free File. If your adjusted gross income is \$73,000 or less, you can access free guided tax prep on a name-brand site. All you have to do is answer a set of questions — the tax preparer will do the calculations and file your taxes without charging you. (You may be eligible to file your state taxes for free, but details vary by provider.)

Above that \$73,000 income threshold, the IRS provides free fillable forms you can complete yourself. This requires a bit of knowhow, though.

Luckily, there are free options outside the IRS Free File program. TurboTax and H&R Block both offer free services for simple returns, though be careful clicking around: It's easy to get upcharged. Other providers, like Cash App Taxes, don't charge fees.

Is it too late to decrease my taxable income?

Taxpayers can make 2022 contributions to an individual retirement account, or IRA, until the April 18 deadline.

You're able to contribute up to \$6,000 (\$7,000 if you're 50 or older) to all of your IRAs for 2022. Some traditional IRA contributions are tax-deductible, so you may qualify to bring down your taxable income for 2022 — in turn, decreasing your tax burden.

I'm getting a tax refund. How long before I get paid?

If you're anxious to get your cash, you can track your tax refund

by using the IRS's appropriately-named Where's My Refund? tool. You'll need to input your Social Security number, tax filing status and precise refund amount. The tool updates once a day, usually overnight, so there's no need to check every hour or anything.

Why does my refund seem smaller this year.

The average refund amount is down 11% year over year, according to IRS filing statistics. At this time in 2022, the typical refund came out to \$3,263; right now, it's just \$2,903. It might be a bummer to get less money back, but financial experts say that getting a small refund is not technically a bad thing.

What if I need help with — or extra time to do — my taxes?

There's a ton of free tax help available, including from the IRS itself. If you make under \$58,000, speak limited English or have a disability, check out the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program; if you're 60 or older, look into the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program. Separately, there's AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, which provides assistance to anyone for free but focuses on taxpayers over 50 with low to moderate income.

If you're looking at the calendar and thinking to yourself "there's no way this is gonna get done," you can request an extension on your taxes. But remember: This only gives you an extra six months to file. Anything you owe is still due on April 18.

To learn more about managing your taxes visit WCCU's Financial Education Center at westerlyccu.com/taxes.

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY ALL YEAR!

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ENTER TO WIN \$750!¹

Share how WCCU has helped you to be entered!

GET \$750 CASH BACK²

on a Fixed Rate Mortgage.

FREE STAINLESS STEEL TRAVEL MUG²

when you open a **NEW** eChecking Account!
Plus, Earn 4% APY² on balances up to \$20,000.

UP TO \$750 OFF CLOSING COSTS⁴

on Commercial Mortgages & Refinancing.

Visit westerlyccu.com/75th or any branch for more info

Offers as of 4/1/2023 are subject to change and not valid for WCCU Board Members, Employees, and their families. 1) No purchase necessary. Winner will be selected at random by 6/15/2023. By submitting a comment, the entrant agrees to release their first name, city/state, and comment for advertising or other purposes in media or format, online or offline, now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission, or notification. 2) Annual Percentage Yield (APY) shown of 4.00% APY is for balances \$0 - \$19,999.99. Balances of \$20,000 or greater will earn 0.50% APY. To receive the higher rates, members must use their debit card a minimum of 10 times per month as a PIN or signature based transaction, sign up and activate eStatements, and complete 1 or more direct deposit or ACH transfers per month totaling a minimum of \$500. If account does not meet the criteria, the monthly rate will be 0.10% APY. Travel Mug offer is valid until 6/30/2023 or while supplies last. 3) Subject to credit approval. Not valid for adjustable-rate mortgages or closing costs. \$750 will be given as a check at closing. Applies to mortgage applications dated between 4/1/23 to 6/30/23. 4) Subject to credit approval. Not available for Express Business Loans. Up to \$750 will be applied to fees at closing. Applies to commercial mortgage applications dated between 4/1/23 to 6/30/23. Article adapted from "10 Common Tax Questions, Answered for 2023" 4/6/23, by Julia Glum, msn.com.

What's New at WCCU!

Free Homebuyer Tips & Sips

Tip Topics include:

- ✓ Steps to buying a home
- ✓ How to get pre-qualified
- ✓ The application process
- ✓ Mortgage Programs

Enjoy complimentary food
& a drink ticket for attending!

5.10.23 • 5:30pm – 7:30pm

30 Min. Presentation & 30 Min. Q&A

Whalers Brewing Company

1174 Kingstown Rd. | Wakefield RI 02879

RSVP by 5.5.2023 at
westerlyccu.com/tips23



Celebrate Financial Literacy Month!



Give your child a head start.

It is never too early to start teaching your child the importance of saving money. WCCU offers many accounts & resources to teach children, teens & adults responsible money management.

- Money Mammals Savings* (Ages 0-10)
- Young Adult Share Savings* (Ages 11-17)
- Free Checking* (Ages 14-17)

Plus, parents, teachers, and kids of all ages can access fun free online, financial literacy games, activities, and more.

[Visit westerlyccu.com/youth](http://westerlyccu.com/youth) to learn more!

*Those under the age of 18 must have a Parent or Guardian on the account.

Complimentary Virtual Seminars

Below is a schedule of upcoming topics:

April 17: Understanding Medicare

May 2: Income for Life

[Register at westerlyccu.com/seminars](http://westerlyccu.com/seminars)

WCCU Donates \$200,000

#WCCUCares: WCCU donated \$200,000 to help the Westerly Hospital provide additional services and improve the patient experience. The credit union has been among the hospital's most loyal strategic philanthropic partners for more than 30 years.

"We are grateful to WCCU for supporting Westerly Hospital for many years and for this significant contribution to our organization," said Patrick L. Green, president and CEO of Westerly Hospital. "This gift will support the hospital as we look to make significant upgrades."

[Visit westerlyccu.com/news](http://westerlyccu.com/news) to learn more!



Westerly Community Credit Union

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