

Possible Credits and Deductions for 2018

Despite many changes in the tax law, there are still some things that can reduce your taxes.

IRA (Retirement) Contributions:

Did you contribute to an IRA (not through payroll) or would you like to know about your options?

I/we have already made contributions:

Check this box if you want to know more:

Taxpayer \$ _____

Spouse \$ _____

tell me more!

Traditional Roth I don't know

Traditional Roth I don't know

Health Savings Account (HSA) Contributions:

If you have medical insurance with a high deductible (\$1,350 or more for a single plan or \$2,700 or more for a family plan) you may be able to save taxes by contributing to an account that you then use to pay medical expenses. If you have your insurance through your job you may want to ask your employer; you may already have one. Check this box if you want to discuss:

If you already put money in an HSA or plan to (NOT through payroll) how much? \$ _____

Teachers: You can still claim up to \$250 of out-of-pocket classroom or educational expenses. You can claim this if you worked 900 hours or more in a K-12 school. It can be a public or private school and you can be a principal or aid. Keep receipts!

I spent \$ _____ and my spouse spent \$ _____ on classroom supplies.

College Credits are still available. Please fill out the dependent credit form.

Dependents: They are not just your children anymore! Please take a look at that form to see if you qualify for any of those credits.

Charitable Contributions:

Vermont is giving a STATE credit for donations even if you use the standard deduction!

Cash, check or charge \$ _____ **In kind** \$ _____ **Volunteer miles:** _____

The same rules apply:

For money:

- Must have bank records **or** receipt and **must** be a qualified charity
- If \$250 or more, **must** have receipt that states: "no goods or services were provided."
- Does not include raffle tickets, dues, political donations or gifts to a person (such as through gofundme)

For "stuff":

- Items must be in "good" or better condition
- Must have receipt from organization AND
- Detailed list of items donated with values assigned by you
- If donated through a drop box, no receipt required BUT still need itemized list and maximum is \$250

Itemizing or Claiming the Standard Deduction

The new standard deductions are \$12,000 for a single person, \$18,000 for head of household and \$24,000 for a couple.

Because the standard deduction is so high, it is less likely that it will help you to “itemize” or to claim deductions for things like donations, property taxes, mortgage interest and medical expenses.

If you think there is a possibility your deductions are more than the standard, give us those figures or give us ballpark figures and we can tell you if it would be worth your while to gather your records.

The following figures are *BALLPARK* or The following figures are *EXACT*

Property Tax for any real estate you own \$_____ (For Vermont we still need a **copy of the bill** for your home! Please note that a printout or list of payments is not a copy of the bill.)

Mortgage interest—please bring us the forms.

Include second homes, campers or sail boats if they have a toilet and stove.

If you have a **home equity loan** or a **mortgage**, was any of the borrowed money used for something OTHER THAN buying or improving your home? Yes No Not Sure

Tax on Vehicles for NH, MA and CT residents \$_____

Medical Expenses: (Do **not include expenses paid** through your **Health Savings Account.**)

Health Insurance \$_____ (NOT Medicare paid through Soc. Sec. or insurance paid through payroll withholding.)

Long Term Care (nursing) Insurance \$_____

Medical Miles driven _____

Other than health insurance and miles, these do not have to be separated out.

Total \$ {

- Doctor bills not covered by insurance and co-pays \$_____
- Prescriptions \$_____
- Dental, eye care, hearing aid and batteries, other: \$_____
- Travel and/or lodging for medical treatment \$_____

 (up to \$50 per person per night as long as a second person is necessary to transport the patient. There is no deduction for meals.)

Some expenses are no longer deductible at all. These include:

- Moving expenses (except active duty military)
- Union Dues
- Job seeking expenses
- Unreimbursed expenses for your job such as
 - Mileage
 - Uniforms or uniform cleaning
 - Home office, even if required by your employer

(Note: This DOES NOT AFFECT self-employed taxpayers. They still may claim all their business expenses with a few limited exceptions.)