

# CHECKLIST OF ITEMS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR 2018 TAX RETURN

## 2018 Tax Year Key Individual Return Changes (2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act)

- Tax Brackets widened and generally reduced
- Standard deduction doubled
- Personal and dependent exemptions eliminated
- AMT phaseout and exemption increase (less taxpayers will be subject to AMT)
- Increase in child tax credit/addition of family tax credit
- Moving expense no longer a deduction (unless military)
- Alimony (for divorce and separation signed after 2018) no longer a deduction or income
- Itemized deductions
  - No longer limited due to income
  - State and local tax (income and property) capped at \$ 10,000.00
  - HELOC only deductible if used for acquisition indebtedness (home or improvement or addition not to pay personal expenses)
  - Mortgage interest only deductible on acquisition debt up to \$ 750,000
  - Personal casualty and theft losses eliminated unless federal disaster
  - Misc. deductions subject to 2% no longer deductible
- Kiddie tax—taxed at trust rates, no longer parents' rate
- Roth IRA recharacterization no longer allowed
- 529 plans can now be used to pay for private elementary and secondary school **tuition** (up to \$ 10,000 per beneficiary). Please note that for NYS purposes such distributions would not be considered qualified and therefore may trigger a recapture of the tax benefit on the NYS return.
- Pass-through businesses (Schedule C, Partnerships, S Corps) may be eligible for 20% business deduction
- Shared responsibility penalty eliminated for tax year starting 2019 (penalty still exists for 2018 returns)
- Tax Form (everyone uses 1040—no longer 1040EZ or 1040A)
  - 1040 for everyone (no longer 1040EZ or 1040A)
  - “Postcard” with 6 new schedules (Schedules 1 through 6)

**\*Note: Most of the changes above are not permanent and are expected to expire on December 31, 2025\***

**\*Note on NYS: Many taxpayers will no longer be itemizing their deductions for federal due to the increased standard deduction. Due to NYS election to not follow the federal law, you may still be able to itemize on your State return. See end of this checklist for NYS information\***

## 2018 Federal Key Amounts

### **2018 Standard Mileage Rates:**

- Business: \$ 0.545/mile
- Medical & Moving: \$ 0.18/mile
- Charitable: \$ 0.14/mile

**2018 Standard Deductions (DOUBLED FROM 2017):**

- Single or MFS: \$ 12,000.00
- MFJ or QW: \$ 24,000.00
- HOH: \$ 18,000.00
- If blind or age 65 or older, additional deduction per event:
  - MFS, MFJ or QW: \$ 1,300.00
  - Single or HOH: \$ 1,600.00

**Personal & Dependent Exemptions:**

- \$ 0.00 (tax law change)

**Personal Data/Helpful Information**

- Birth dates** of taxpayers *(if new client)*.
- Copy of last year's return *(if new client)*.
- Name, social security number and dates of birth for **new dependents**.
- For NYS returns, include a readable copy of the front and back of your **NYS Driver License** or **NYS non-Driver ID**.
- Changes to **marital status** or **address** during 2018.
- Permanent or total **disability** or **blindness** for taxpayer or spouse.
- Copy of any notices received from IRS or State.
- Direct Deposit of Refunds or direct withdrawal of amounts due:** account #, routing #, bank name, checking or savings *(please attach a voided check for checking accounts or a deposit ticket for savings account)*.
- Expected **substantial change** in income, deductions, or dependents for 2019.
- Indicate for each individual listed on your tax return the months in 2018 they had **health insurance**.

**Income**

- Income from employer — **W-2s**.
- Interest — **1099-INT**.
- Dividends — **1099-DIV**.
- Sale of Securities — **1099-B** *(see Stocks/Mutual Fund sales below)*.
- Annuities, pension, IRA, retirement plan withdrawals — **1099-R**.
  - **For those who are required to take their RMDs (required minimum distributions), indicate if any of the distributions went directly to Charity (Qualified Charitable Distribution). This will NOT be indicated on the 1099-R. The 1099-R will reflect the total amount distributed.**
- State tax refund — **1099-G** *(if we did your tax last year, we have that data)*. (NYS does not mail these out)
- Unemployment compensation — **1099-G (NYS does not mail these anymore — if you had unemployment, you will need to get the form online)**.
- Social Security income — **SSA-1099**.

- Commissions/Fees/Non-Employee Income — **1099-MISC**.
- Merchant Card/Third Party Network Payments — **1099-K** (*no place to report as of yet, but important for tax preparer to examine*).
- Proceeds from sale of real estate — **1099-S** (*see Real Estate below*).
- Education Savings Account or 529 Plan Withdrawals — **1099-Q**.
- Health Savings Account Withdrawals — **1099-SA**.
- Cancellation of Debt — **1099-A** or **1099-C**.
- Income from partnerships, trusts, estates, or S-Corps — **K-1**.
- Gambling or Lottery winnings — **W-2G**.
- Tip income not reported by your employer.
- Self-employment income (*see Schedule C worksheet*).
- Jury duty pay.
- Rental Real Estate income or Royalty income (*see Schedule E worksheet*).
- Other income not reported above.

### **Health Care Coverage Forms**

- Indicate each month you, your spouse and all dependents were NOT covered by health insurance.
- 1095-A** — for health insurance coverage in the marketplace. If you had coverage through the marketplace, **you must provide a copy of the form**. You may have to contact the exchange to get a copy.
- 1095-B** — for private health insurance coverage. (*provide, if received*)
- 1095-C**--for employer-provided (or offered) health insurance coverage. (*provide, if received*)

### **Stocks/Mutual Fund Sales — required information**

- Date security was purchased (*usually obtainable from broker or on 1099-B*).
- Purchase price (*cost-basis*) (*usually obtainable from broker or on 1099-B*).

### **Real Property**

- Sales or purchases of real property in 2018, provide **Closing Statement/Closing Disclosure**.
- For purchases of principal residence any time from April 9, 2008 to Dec 31, 2008 with the **first-time homebuyer credit**, you will continue to make your \$ 500.00 repayment (“recapture”) of this credit on your 2018 tax return. The credit is paid back over 15 years, and is interest-free. If the home is sold or is no longer your principal residence, the entire credit is recaptured in that year, not to exceed the gain, if any, on the sale. IRS has a tool that allows taxpayers to find the amounts remaining to be paid ([irs.gov](http://irs.gov) and search “first-time homebuyer credit account lookup”).
- Rental real estate**, provide rental income and expenses (*see Schedule E worksheet*).
- Real estate taxes** for principal residence and other real property (*vacation homes, vacant land*).
- Mortgage interest or points** paid. (*Usually reported on 1098*).

## Education — Teachers and Students

- Teachers/Educators** — provide out-of-pocket classroom costs.
- Student Loan Interest** paid (reported on 1098-E) (*Please note that these are usually available online and are not typically mailed*)
- College Tuition/Expenses** for taxpayers and/or dependents. Please provide the **year of school** (i.e. freshman, graduate school, etc.) and the **1098-T**. This will be in the name of the student, but if the student is a dependent, it should be included with the parent/guardian return. If available, in addition to 1098-T, also provide a transcript/receipt from school showing tuition paid. **Please note that we must have a copy of the 1098-T in order to take the credit this year. If you did not receive the form, you may want to contact the school.**
- Interest on Savings Bonds** redeemed by a taxpayer in order to pay for qualified education expenses may be excluded from income.
- 529 Plan Contributions** (up to \$10,000.00 for MFJ) **are deductible** on NYS returns, provided the contribution is to a **NYS 529 plan**. Please provide the statement showing the contribution so we can determine if it is deductible.
- Education Savings Account** or **529 Plan Withdrawals** (usually reported on 1099-Q).

## Itemized Deductions (used if higher than standard deduction):

- Medical/Dental** Expenses, including health insurance, long-term care insurance premiums paid, medical mileage, co-pays to doctors, etc. Medical and Dental expenses are deductible to the extent they exceed **7.5%** of adjusted gross income. (*See Medical Expense Worksheet*).
- State Income Tax Paid** or **Sales Tax**, whichever is greater (*for sales tax, you do not have to provide receipts or actual amounts unless you made significant/large purchases (i.e. cars, boats)*). (There is now a **\$ 10,000.00 OVERALL LIMIT ON DEDUCTION** for all State, Local and Property Taxes Paid)
- Property Taxes** paid on residence and/or other real estate. (There is now a **\$ 10,000.00 OVERALL LIMIT ON DEDUCTION** for all State, Local and Property Taxes Paid)
- Mortgage Interest** and/or points (*Form 1098*) (*New tax law limits the deduction of HELOC interest unless the debt is used for that home's improvement or home acquisition.*)
- Charitable Contributions** and/or mileage. For cash donations, you must retain for your records the bank record, credit card statement or written communication from the charity. For non-cash items, provide date of contributions, items contributed, and charitable organization name and address. (*See Charitable Expense Worksheet*).
- Casualty or Theft Losses**. Personal casualty losses **no longer deductible** under new law unless attributable to a federally declared disaster.
- Misc. Expenses subject to 2% of AGI**. Under new law, these are **no longer deductible** (these included unreimbursed employee business expenses; tax preparation fees; attorney fees if tax related; investment expenses (i.e. investment advisor fees, publications); job search costs; safe deposit rental fees; union dues; uniforms, etc.).
- Misc. Expenses not subject to 2% AGI**. These include: gambling losses only to the extent of reportable gambling winnings; claims repayments (social security/unemployment repayments).

## Child Care Expenses

- Amount paid to childcare provider in order for parent to work or go to school
- Provide care provider's **name, address and tax ID number**
  - If more than one child, amount paid must be separated for each child

### **Other Deductions/Credits**

- Retirement Plans — 2018 limits:**
  - **IRA Contribution limits:** under age 50: \$5,500; age 50 and over: \$6,500.\*
  - **SIMPLE Deferral limits:** under age 50: \$12,500; age 50 and over: \$15,500.
  - **401(k)/403(b) Deferral limits:** under age 50: \$18,500; age 50 and over: \$24,500
  - **SEP (self employed) IRA limits:** 20% of net SE income after ½ SE deduction, not to exceed \$54,000.00.
  - **Roth Contribution limits:** Same as Traditional IRA (but can only do one or the other or a combination up to higher of limit or income earned). Roth contributions are subject to income phase-outs.  
*\*IRA contribution is the lesser of actual compensation or the amounts above and deductibility is subject to phase-outs for Modified Adjusted Gross Income if covered by an employer retirement plan. Contribution can be made up to April 15, 2019 for 2018 tax year deduction.*
- Alimony Paid** include recipient's name and social security number. NOTE: Under new law, for divorce decrees/separation agreements executed after 2018, the amounts paid are no longer deductible and the amounts received are no longer reportable as income.
- Long Term Care Premiums** paid during 2018. If married filing joint return, please specify which spouse owns the policy and how much paid for each. If you do not meet the threshold to deduct medical expenses, you may be able to take advantage of the NYS long term care insurance credit.
- Military.** Indicate if you are a member of the military or a reservist. Many of the tax provisions outlined in the checklist have special rules if member of the military.
- Moving Expenses** for moving due to job change are no longer deductible under new law unless taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty.
- Adoption.** Expenses up to \$13,810 per child, associated with the adoption of a child. This is no longer a refundable credit meaning you only receive the credit up to your tax liability.
- Estimated/Quarterly Tax Payments** indicate date and amount paid for federal and state. Please note that payments made by January 15, **2019** are for the **2018** tax year and should be included.
- Active Volunteer Firefighter or Ambulance Worker Credit** — A NYS credit. Provide fire department name and address.
- Self-Employment Expenses** (e.g. mileage, home office expenses, insurance, self-employed health insurance, rent, materials, supplies, etc) (See Schedule C worksheet).
- Health Care Savings Account** — indicate contribution and distribution amounts (1099-SA), and whether made by taxpayer or employer. Also, if distributions are made, indicate if they were made for qualified medical expenses. (Over-the-counter medication is not a qualified medical expense unless specifically prescribed). HSA contributions can be made as late as April 15, 2019 and count for tax year 2018. The contribution (deduction) limits are:

- **Self-only coverage:** under age 55: \$3,450; age 55 and older: \$ 4,450
- **Family coverage:** under age 55: \$6,900; age 55 and over \$ 7,900

**Nursing Home Assessment Credit** — A NYS credit. Provide a copy of the nursing home bill showing the amount of the NYS assessment paid for the year.

### **NYS Taxpayers**

NYS has “decoupled” from the federal law meaning:

- NYS itemized deductions will not be subject to \$ 10,000 cap on State and local taxes paid
- NYS will not limit HELOC and mortgage interest
- NYS allows 2% Misc. deductions (unreimbursed employee business expenses; investment advisory fees; tax fees; job search costs, etc.)
- Alimony, regardless of when signed, is deductible and reportable
- Moving expenses are still a deduction for job-related moves
- Medical expenses are subject to 10% of AGI vs. 7.5% for federal
- No 20% qualified business income deduction
- Dependent exemption (\$ 1000.00 per child)
- 529 plan payments for primary and secondary not permitted on NYS returns (Distribution may trigger a recapture of the tax benefit on the NYS return)

### **NYS Key Amounts**

#### **2018 Standard Deductions:**

- Single or MFS: \$ 8,000.00
- MFJ: \$ 16,050.00
- HOH: \$ 11,200.00

#### **Dependent Exemptions:**

- \$ 1000.00 for each dependent

**Worksheets noted throughout this checklist can be found on website [www.HighFallsAdvisors.com](http://www.HighFallsAdvisors.com) by selecting “Tax Tools” under the “Client Resources” tab or by calling our office at (585) 935-5300.**