



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FILING YOUR 2025 TAX RETURNS

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### EXPANDED DROP-OFF SERVICES

Each year it becomes more challenging for us to have enough in-person appointments to accommodate all of the taxpayers who want to use our service. To address this, WEII is expanding its drop-off services in 2026 and encouraging **taxpayers who have simple returns—and especially taxpayers who reside in or near Detroit Lakes**—to drop off their returns instead of scheduling an in-person appointment.

**Using our drop-off services is easy, efficient, and will allow us to increase our capacity and serve more taxpayers faster.** To use our drop-off services, you will meet with one of our Intake Specialists for approximately 30 minutes to complete your intake documents and share copies of your IDs and tax forms. Once your intake is complete, one of our tax preparers will call you with any questions related to your tax situation and to schedule an appointment for you to come back and meet with us to review and sign your completed return. Drop-off returns will generally be ready for your signature within 7 to 10 business days. **No appointment is necessary to meet with our Intake Specialists—just stop by our Detroit Lakes office at 718 Washington Avenue on Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays from 1pm to 4pm between January 28 and April 10.** Bring along your photo ID, Social Security card, and all of your tax documents and we'll help with the rest. **Drop-off services are also available at our Shooting Star Casino site—just stop by during open site hours and we'll take care of you!** Drop-off services are not available at our First Lutheran Church site.



### IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Our **Shooting Star Casino site will be closed for in-person appointments on February 23, 24, 25, and 26.** However, **the site will be open on Monday, February 23 and Wednesday, February 25 from 12pm to 4pm for drop-off services only. No appointment is necessary.**

**Also note that WEII sites in Mahnommen and Detroit Lakes are closing before the April 15 filing deadline this year.** The Shooting Star Casino site will close on April 8 and the First Lutheran Church site will close on April 9. **Tax site staff will be unavailable from April 10 through April 17** due to an out-of-state training conflict. **Tax site staff will be available again beginning April 20** at the WEII office in Detroit Lakes.

Keep in mind that if you have balances due on your tax returns and your return is not filed by April 15, penalties and interest will accrue. **If you expect to have a balance due return, please plan ahead so that your return can be filed no later than April 10.**



### FEDERAL CHANGES

**If you received overtime pay in 2025,** please bring your final paystub to your tax appointment. It may be helpful in calculating any income deductions for overtime pay.

**If you received tip income in 2025,** please bring records of tips received (e.g., included on your W2 or, if self-employed, a written record). It may be helpful in calculating any income deductions for tip income.



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### FEDERAL SHIFT TO “CHECKLESS” TRANSACTIONS

Beginning in late 2025, the federal government began shifting to an electronic-only system for payments to and from federal agencies such as the US Treasury and Internal Revenue Service. This change is designed to increase efficiency and prevent fraud, but it isn't an easy change for everyone—especially for people who don't have a bank account or easy access to a banking institution.

The electronic-only system does not appear to be completely in place yet and no one is 100% certain when it will be. All we know is that taxpayers expecting federal tax refunds will—at some point—no longer be able to request a “paper check” and taxpayers owing a balance on their returns will—at some point—no longer be able to pay their balances by check or money order.

Because of this, WEII recommends that all taxpayers visiting its tax sites establish some type of electronic account that can receive direct deposit payments or be used to make electronic payments in the event of a balance due. When you come to your tax appointment, you should bring along your account's routing number and the account number. If you are receiving a refund, the refund will be directed to your bank account electronically. If you owe a balance, you can schedule a payment from your account to the US Treasury—but if paying your balance is a hardship, our preparers can visit with you about other payment options.



### LOCAL BANKING INSTITUTIONS

If you do not currently have a bank account, here are some local banking institutions that may be able to help you with setting up an account. WEII is providing this list for informational purposes only and is not providing any endorsement or guarantee of any of the institutions listed.

#### Mahnomen:

Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union—800-322-7228

United Community Bank—218-935-5251

#### Bagley:

First National Bank—218-694-6233

National Bank of Commerce—218-551-7340

#### Ogema:

Deerwood Bank—218-983-3241

#### Detroit Lakes:

Bell Bank—218-844-3000

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union—218-844-5540

Midwest Bank—218-847-4771

\*Waubun—218-473-2191

\*Callaway—218-375-4501