



## Prepare and File Your Federal and Virginia Income Tax Returns for Free

### **Available to over 2 million Virginia tax filers NOW**

Qualified taxpayers can prepare and electronically file their federal and state tax returns—for FREE—and without switching from one tax software product to another.

**WHAT IS IT?** The Virginia Free File is a public-private partnership between the Virginia Department of Taxation and several industry-leading private software companies. It enables eligible Virginians to use simple, state-of-the-art online tax preparation programs—donated by these companies—to prepare both state and federal tax returns for FREE. Virginia Free File is modeled after the IRS Free File program and Virginia is the 21<sup>st</sup> state in the country to sponsor a local program.

**WHO QUALIFIES?** Eligibility is different for each product offered through Free File. However, most Virginia residents qualify for these services. Eligible residents include those who had an income under \$58,000 AGI (adjusted gross income), those who served active duty military any time in 2010, and those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

**HOW DO PEOPLE FIND FREE FILE SERVICES?** Virginia Free File services are available online 24/7, January 14 through October 15, 2011 at [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov). Eligible Virginia residents can use Free File services anywhere they feel comfortable using the Internet; there is nothing to download or buy.

**WHY IS THIS A GOOD THING?** There are many benefits to Free File:

- **For the government.** Free File is FREE, no strings attached. There are no costs to the government to run this program or to taxpayers who are eligible to use the services. Electronically filed state returns allow the Virginia Department of Taxation to process returns and refunds faster.
- **For taxpayers.** The software products donated through Free File take the guess-work out of determining if filers are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other important tax credits. In addition, the products automatically transfer information from the filer's federal return to their Virginia return. This feature saves taxpayers time and helps them avoid errors that could occur when re-entering information. Free File empowers people by helping them prepare and file their own tax returns, thus giving them the incentive—and the tools—they need to control their finances. Finally, Virginia Free File is a consumer safety zone. The products do not include advertisements, cross-sells or up-sells; and refund anticipation loans are banned.

**PILOT PROGRAMS IN SIX COMMUNITIES** While using tax software can be as easy as using e-mail or Facebook, some people still feel better when someone is coaching them through the process. For those folks, there are pilot programs in Martinsville, Rocky Mount, Norfolk, Fredericksburg, Arlington and Richmond. At those locations filers can visit a local IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site to use one of the products available through Virginia Free File. Volunteer coaches are onsite to offer any help needed. The Virginia CASH Campaign and the Intuit Financial Freedom Foundation sponsor these assisted self tax preparation programs. For more information, including locations and hours, please see reverse or visit [www.VAFreeFile.org](http://www.VAFreeFile.org).

Visit [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov) to access Virginia Free File

**Pilot Program**  
**Assisted Self-tax Preparation and Filing**

**Free Tax Preparation and Filing ONSITE**

These organizations are providing taxpayers the opportunity to use one of the products available through Virginia Free File with the assistance of an onsite coach.

**Arlington County/Arlington**

Enterprise Development Group  
901 South Highland St  
February 8– April 12  
Tuesdays 6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Franklin County/Rocky Mt.**

STEP, Inc.  
200 Dent St.  
January 31– April 18  
Monday and Thursday evenings 4:00pm to 6:00pm

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**Norfolk**

STOP  
2551 Almeda Ave.  
January 27 – April 15  
Thursdays, 2:00pm to 8:00pm  
Fridays, 1:00pm – 7:00pm  
Designated Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

**Rappahannock County/Fredericksburg**

Rappahannock United Way  
3310 Shannon Park Drive  
January 24 – April 4  
Every other Monday evening, 5:00pm to 8:00pm  
  
The University of Mary Washington Tax Event  
1201 College Avenue  
Tuesday, March 8, 2:00pm to 6:00pm

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**Henry County, Martinsville**

United Way of Henry County & Martinsville  
The Liberty Fair Mall  
240 Commonwealth Boulevard, Space #50  
January 28 – April 15  
Tuesdays – Thursdays, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Fridays – Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Richmond**

Metro Cash  
The Fairfield Area Library VITA Site  
1001 N Laburnum Avenue  
February 5 – March 12  
Saturdays 9:00am to 1:00pm

**For more information, please visit [www.VAFreeFile.org](http://www.VAFreeFile.org).**