

IRS NEWS & INQUIRER

What's the Answer?

Q. *I didn't get a refund this year. I had to pay more. Too much more, I think. Am I missing some tax breaks and deductions that could cut my taxes?*

A. It is quite likely. Many taxpayers waste thousands of dollars in taxes they don't need to pay. The sad truth is, just putting the numbers in the right boxes, on the right forms is not enough. What is your tax preparer doing to make sure you have all the breaks and tax savings you deserve?

We believe **proactive** tax planning is the key to keeping more of what you make. And we scour your income and expenses for every available tax break and strategy without "gray areas" and "red flags".

Get FREE Tax Help

If you still have questions about your previously filed tax returns, bring them in to us. We will give you a second opinion **free**. We'll help you consider deductions which are often overlooked that may save you more tax dollars.

Call for your **FREE** analysis.

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What's Happening?

Get Your Loan From IRS.

The new housing law signed July 30, gives "first-time homebuyers" (those who have not owned a principal residence within the last three years) a refundable tax "credit" equal to 10% of the home's purchase price up to \$7,500. The "credit" is available for purchases from April 9, 2008 through June 30, 2009. But – if you take the "credit," you have to repay it, in equal installments, over the next 15 years. So it's really just an **interest-free loan**, not a true tax credit. It phases out for single and joint taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income greater than \$75,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

IRS Raises Mileage Allowance... *But What If You Spend More!*

The "mileage allowance" method lets you deduct a set amount per qualified mile driven. The IRS has just raised this from 50.5 cents to 58.5 cents, effective July – December, 2008. But that allowance is the same for every car on the road. AAA's recent survey reports actual costs ranging as high as 91 cents per mile for an SUV driven 10,000 miles a year. And those figures are based on gas at only \$2.94 a gallon.

If your cost to drive your car is more than 58.5 cents per mile, you may be able to use the "actual expense" method to claim what you actually spent. The "actual expense" method lets you deduct the "business use percentage" of all your actual expenses. This includes depreciation and interest (if you buy) or lease payments (if you lease), insurance, gas, maintenance and repairs, parking and tolls.

You may even be able to squeeze extra savings out of the mileage your employer reimburses. That's because you can deduct the difference between your actual cost and your employer reimbursements.

If you'd like us to show you how to get the most out of your car and truck expenses, please call us at 404-762-1030 or 1-877-819-4101 for an appointment to get your Free Personal Mileage Analysis.

Non-Itemizers Get a Deduction

AVAILABLE ONLY FOR 2008, if you claim the standard deduction instead of itemizing your deductions, you are permitted to claim an additional standard deduction for state and local property taxes paid. The deduction can't exceed the lesser of state and local property taxes actually paid or \$500 (\$1,000 for married filing jointly). 09/08