

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015 TAX FILING YEAR

DEADLINE: The tax filing deadline is **Monday, April 18, 2016**. There will be no late filing penalty charge assessed if the return is in our office by 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, April 18**, in the city drop box at Mason Municipal Center, e-filed, or postmarked on or before April 18, 2016.

E-file

ONLINE TAX TOOL with E-FILING: Calculate your taxes online. Beginning February 17, 2016, an online tool to help you calculate your tax return will be available at www.imaginemason.org. You will need the account number found near your name and address on the letter that you received in early January and the last 4 digits of the primary account holder's social security number. Even if you used the tax tool last year, you will need to activate your online tool account (setting up a new password and PIN) the first time you log in to file. You may also upload copies of your W-2(s), federal return and schedules, etc. If you meet the criteria, you will be given the option of e-filing your tax return (be sure to click the button to submit the e-filing); otherwise, please remember to print and mail the return with the appropriate attachments.

**EZ
E-file**

EZ TAX FORM for W-2 ONLY INCOME with E-FILING: The EZ form is a PDF document. Use it to fill in your 2015 tax year information, attach your W-2s and Federal Form 1040 via a link, and file your form electronically. You may also choose to print it to forward to the Tax Office with your W-2s and 1040.

ESTIMATED PAYMENTS: Please remember that 90% of your 2015 tax liability is due by January 31, 2016. You can make estimated payments via the Online Tax Tool. You may also mail or make a payment at Mason Municipal Center. If needed, blank vouchers are available online at www.imaginemason.org.

ENCLOSURES: When sending your return to the tax office, please include your W-2(s), a copy of page one of your Federal Form 1040, and all applicable schedules (C, E, and F). The Mason Tax Ordinance requires the first page of the Federal Form 1040 to ensure that all taxable income is reported to the city and that any nontaxable income is not included on the city return. Additional federal schedules may be required to support items listed on the Mason return. Examples include Schedule E (Supplemental Income and Loss), which includes income from partnerships, S Corporations, rentals, estates and trusts; Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business); and Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses). Please remember to include copies of returns filed with other cities to receive credit for taxes paid to or to indicate refunds issued by other cities, as applicable.

TAXABLE WAGES: The income in Box 5 of the W-2 is generally the amount taxable to the City of Mason. If Box 5 is blank, please consult the General Information sheet or call our office at 513-229-8535.

ROUNDING: Please round the numbers on your tax return to whole dollar amounts. We do not collect, refund, or carry over amounts under \$3.00.

ASSISTANCE: We are located at the customer service counter on the first floor of Mason Municipal Center, 6000 Mason-Montgomery Road. Our phone number is 513-229-8535. **We will gladly prepare your City of Mason Income Tax Return free of charge**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or during the extended hours listed below.

MASON TAX OFFICE EXTENDED HOURS

Saturday, April 9	8:00 a.m. to noon
Monday, April 18	8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL TAX LAW CHANGES TAKE EFFECT TAX YEAR 2016

The State of Ohio has made significant changes to the Ohio municipal income tax laws (Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code).

Below are the significant changes for residents.

Individual Estimated Payment Due Dates: Beginning January 1, 2016, your individual quarterly estimated tax payments are due April 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15 of each year.

Taxable Income: For tax year 2016, all income from prizes, awards, sweepstakes, and other income associated with any lottery winnings, gambling and sports winnings, or other similar games of chance are taxable.

Payment and Overpayments Thresholds: Beginning tax year 2016, the threshold is \$10.