



News Release

PHOTO RELEASE: Comptroller Lierman and U.S. Rep. Hoyer Encourage Maryland Taxpayers to Sign Up for IRS Direct File

Comptroller and Rep. Hoyer emphasize the benefits of free online federal and state tax filing, tour VITA site in Prince George's County

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (February 28, 2025) — Comptroller **Brooke E. Lierman** and **U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer**, (D-MD) Thursday called on eligible Marylanders to file their federal and state personal income tax returns using IRS [Direct File](#) during a [press conference](#) in Prince George's County.

Both the Comptroller and Rep. Hoyer emphasized that Direct File is an easy and convenient online filing tool that saves users significant time and money when completing their tax returns. Maryland is one of 25 states participating in Direct File this year, and an estimated 30 million Americans, including 870,000 in Maryland, are eligible to use Direct File and Maryland's online filing tool, which is run by partners at Code for America.

“Direct File is just a better way to file your taxes,” said Comptroller Lierman. “This is a free tool built specifically with Marylanders in mind, to help them file their tax returns, to get their earned income tax credits, to get their child tax credits, and to help them get on with their lives. Almost one million Marylanders will be eligible to use Direct File, which means they will save time and money.”



Comptroller Lierman talks to a VITA worker about helping taxpayers file their tax returns.

The IRS reminds taxpayers they can check whether they qualify to use IRS Direct File with the agency's [eligibility checker](#). Users can import information directly from their IRS account into their federal return and receive support, if needed, during the filing process via the IRS's live chat. When the federal filing is complete, information from that return will transfer the information to the Maryland filing tool. Direct File is also available in English and Spanish.

“Direct File is a free, easy, accurate, and secure option for Americans to file their taxes,” Rep Hoyer said. “As House Majority Leader in the 117th Congress, I was proud to secure funding for Direct File in the Inflation Reduction Act, and I thank Comptroller Brooke Lierman for her leadership and effectiveness in implementing the program for taxpayers in our state. I look forward to our continued work together to expand this program and to lower costs for Marylanders and all Americans.”

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, who was among the federal partners to join the Comptroller last September for the announcement of Maryland's participation in the free online service, said this about Direct File:

"Filing taxes shouldn't be a time consuming or expensive process. That's why, through the Inflation Reduction Act, we provided new resources for the IRS to better serve Americans, including with initiatives like Direct File, which Marylanders have already used to file their taxes for free. As the Trump Administration threatens to dismantle this vital tool, we'll continue working to protect it so that more Marylanders can file their taxes directly, without cost," said Sen. Van Hollen.

Comptroller Lierman and Rep. Hoyer were joined by Secretary of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation Paul Monteiro Jr., Department of Human Services Deputy Secretary Gloria Brown Burnett, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Jared McCarthy, Prince George's County Councilmember Wanika Fisher, Robin McKinney, CEO of the CASH Campaign of Maryland, and Pablo Blank, director of Immigrant Integration for CASA.

"The partnership Code for America has with Maryland is making it possible for Direct File users to not only e-file their federal returns with the IRS but also have a seamless state return filing experience using our FileYourStateTaxes tool," said **Amanda Renteria, CEO of Code for America**. "This program expands taxpayers' access to vital tax benefits that yield greater economic stability, significantly reduces the amount of time it takes to complete a return, and eliminates the cost of filing altogether. Together, Direct File and FileYourStateTaxes embody all that tax filing should be: quick, free, and easy."

For individuals who are not eligible to use Direct File, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available across the state. Before the press conference Comptroller Lierman, Rep. Hoyer, and others toured the VITA site inside of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services and met IRS-certified volunteers who work with Marylanders one-on-one to complete their tax returns.

"We have been processing returns from our two sites thanks to the help of our newly certified Maryland Corps members. In Prince George's County's VITA site alone, the average federal refund was \$2,698 and the average return for the state was \$883," said **Deputy Secretary Gloria Brown-Burnett**. "We are elated to help those we serve keep more of their money at a time when it is needed most."

A large number of VITA sites are run by community partners like the CASH Campaign and CASA. The CASH Campaign of Maryland provides free tax preparation services for families and individuals who earned \$67,000 or less in 2024. Partners view Direct File as a tool that can expand access to free tax support across the state.

“This tax season, CASH and our partners will serve 20,000 eligible Marylanders across the state, putting more than \$30 million back into their pockets and the economy,” said **Robin McKinney, Co-Founder and CEO of the CASH Campaign of Maryland**. “But there are always people who can't access our services. That's one of the reasons IRS Direct File is such an important way for Marylanders to file both their federal and state taxes. It's easy and free to use. Thank you to Comptroller Lierman for her leadership in bringing IRS Direct File to Maryland, making us one of 25 states to offer this valuable free service.”

The deadline to file personal income tax returns or to request an extension is April 15, 2025.



Comptroller Brooke Lierman and U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer pose with local and community leaders following a press conference in Prince George's County Thursday to encourage Marylanders to use Direct File to file their federal and state tax returns.

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