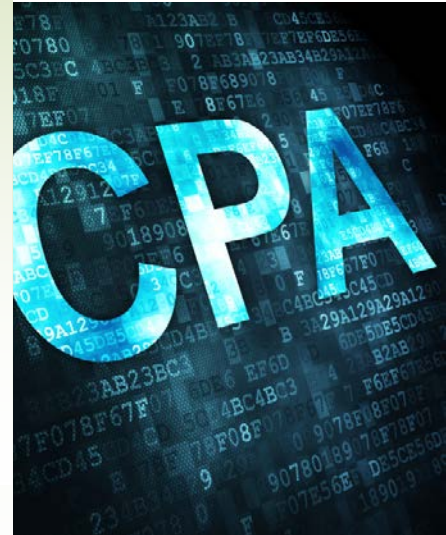


Business Tax Updates



Our Team

GJM
GORDON J. MAIER & COMPANY LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



Computer Support

Gordon J. Maier & Company, LLP is a reseller of Sage and Intuit accounting software packages. Our professional staff works closely with QuickBooks, Peachtree and Business Works, and are available for consulting, installation, and training.

More than 70 years of experience have taught us that an understanding of the structure and practices of your industry is critical to providing the services you need to reach your goals. Therefore, in addition to concentrating in specialized practice areas such as assurance, accounting and tax services, Gordon J. Maier & Company, LLP professionals also have in-depth experience and advanced training in specific industries. This industry foundation creates value in all of our professional services.

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“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value”. – Albert Einstein



Identity Theft

Tax payers should look out for these signs that a criminal stole information

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen social security number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.

Cybercriminals often leave very few signs of their intrusion. A taxpayer might not even realize that the cybercriminal stole data until a fraudulent tax return is filed with their information.

Here are some warning signs that you may have experienced a data theft:

- Client e-files a return and it is rejected by the IRS. The reason given is that someone already filed a tax return with the same social security number.
- Clients who haven't filed tax returns begin to receive taxpayer authentication letters from the IRS. These letters include the 5071C, 4883C and 5747C.
- Clients who haven't filed a tax return, but receive a refund.
- Clients receive tax transcripts that they did not request.
- Clients who created an IRS online services account receive an IRS notice that their account was accessed. They might also receive an IRS email saying their account has been disabled.
- Clients unexpectedly receive an IRS notice that an online account was created in their name.

If you encounter any of these signs, there is a form that can be filed with the IRS that will give you a PIN to file any future returns that will help protect you from fraudulent activity.

Tax Withholding

ALERT: IS YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING NOT ENOUGH?

It is Not Too Late to make changes for 2018. Avoid costly underpayment penalties with adjustments to your W-4. Many of our clients have noticed less federal withholding on their paychecks starting around February or March 2018. This was a result of a tax reform signed into law by the President of the United States. Unfortunately, employers did not require employees to fill out new W-4 forms detailing how much income to be withheld from their paychecks for federal tax purposes. The result could be dire consequences looming in the not so distant future. While there are various differences in tax deductions and tax credits for 2018 and prior years, the most prevalent differences are the increase in the standard deduction, the elimination of personal exemptions, the limit on state & property taxes paid, the limit on mortgage interest on primary residences only, and the increase of the child tax credit and its phase-out. The majority of most taxpayers will pay less tax in 2018, but that is not a guarantee that a majority of taxpayers will not owe come tax filing time. A basic and cost effective way to avoid the potential consequences of being under-withheld is using a withholding calculator.

For 2018, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service released a [withholding calculator tool](#) that you can use to determine if you have the right amount of federal income tax taken out of your paycheck in light of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act passed in December 2017. Unfortunately, neither the IRS nor employers require taxpayers/employees to use this tool. However doing so now may help you avoid surprises when you file your 2018 calendar year federal tax return in approximately four to six months from now. An example of such surprises are having too much or too little tax withheld from your paycheck or your spouse's paycheck.

To use the calculator with the best results, you will need your most recent pay stub, and it also will be helpful to have a completed copy of your 2017 federal tax return when entering the requested information. Upon completion, if you determine that you need to update your federal tax withholding due to the outcome, or need to make a change for any other reason, please do not hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, you can skip the use of the withholding calculator and contact us first!

Annually, our firm highly recommends estimating your tax burden after the third quarter of the current tax year as it is always better to be safe than sorry when dealing with Uncle Sam. Upon contacting us, we will provide you with recommendations for changing withholding or estimated taxes to avoid surprises and any interest or penalties that may result from not withholding enough tax. Please call us at 262-634-7108 to set up an appointment or visit our staff at any of our Gordon J. Maier & Company, LLP locations.