

# 2026 Tax Planning Quick Reference Guide



## FEDERAL INCOME TAX RATES

Single		Married, filing jointly		Married, filing separately		Head of household (HOH)		Estates, trusts and unearned income of children	
\$0-\$12,400	10%	\$0-\$24,800	10%	\$0-\$12,400	10%	\$0-\$17,700	10%	\$0-\$3,300	10%
\$12,401-\$50,400	12%	\$24,801-\$100,800	12%	\$12,401-\$50,400	12%	\$17,701-\$67,450	12%	\$3,301-\$11,700	24%
\$50,401-\$105,700	22%	\$100,801-\$211,400	22%	\$50,401-\$105,700	22%	\$67,451-\$105,700	22%	\$11,701-\$16,000	35%
\$105,701-\$201,775	24%	\$211,401-\$403,550	24%	\$105,701-\$201,775	24%	\$105,701-\$201,750	24%	\$16,001 or more	37%
\$201,776-\$256,225	32%	\$403,551-\$512,450	32%	\$201,776-\$256,225	32%	\$201,751 - \$256,200	32%	The amount used to reduce the net unearned income on a child's return subject to the "kiddie tax" is \$1,350.	
\$256,226-\$640,600	35%	\$512,451-\$768,700	35%	\$256,226-\$384,350	35%	\$256,201-\$640,600	35%		
\$640,601 or more	37%	\$768,701 or more	37%	\$384,351 or more	37%	\$640,601 or more	37%		

## FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS AND CREDITS

### Standard deductions

Single	\$16,100
Married, filing jointly	\$32,200
Head of household (HOH)	\$24,150
Married, filing separately	\$16,100

### Additional standard deduction for taxpayers who are age 65+ or are blind:

Single or HOH	\$2,050
All other statuses	\$1,650
Temporary Additional Senior Deduction (per person age 65+, through 2028, subject to income phaseouts)	\$6,000

### Child tax credit

The refundable portion of the credit cannot exceed \$1,700 for a qualifying child.

### Long-term care premium deductibility limits

For HSA reimbursement or Section 213 medical deduction (subject to income limits)

Attained age before end of tax year	Limit
40 or less	\$500
More than 40 but not more than 50	\$930
More than 50 but not more than 60	\$1,860
More than 60 but not more than 70	\$4,960
More than 70	\$6,200

## OTHER FEDERAL TAX RATES

### Rates for long-term capital gains and qualified dividends

Capital gains rate/ filing status	Single filer (income amount)	Married, filing jointly (income amounts)
0%	\$0-\$49,450	\$0-\$98,900
15%	\$49,451-\$545,500	\$98,901-\$613,700
20%	\$545,501 or more	\$613,701 or more

### Net Investment Income Tax

Applies to the lesser of (a) net investment income or (b) modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) exceeding:	3.8%
• Single or head of household	\$200,000
• Married, filing jointly	\$250,000
• Married, filing separately	\$125,000
• Qualifying widow(er) with a child	\$250,000

### Federal gift and estate tax

Gift tax annual exclusion	\$19,000
Annual exclusion for gift to noncitizen spouse	\$194,000
Estate tax exclusion amount	\$15,000,000
Lifetime gifting exclusion amount	\$15,000,000
Highest gift tax rate	40%
Highest estate tax rate	40%
Highest generation-skipping transfer tax rate	40%

### Social Security

Annual cost-of-living adjustment	2.8%
Maximum earnings (during working years) subject to FICA tax	\$184,500
Income <sup>2</sup> causing Social Security benefits to be taxable:	
• Single or HOH	
– 50% taxable	\$25,000-\$34,000 MAGI
– 85% taxable	More than \$34,000
• Married, filing jointly	
– 50% taxable	\$32,000-\$44,000 MAGI
– 85% taxable	More than \$44,000

Maximum earnings (from a job) between age 62 and normal Social Security retirement age before Social Security benefits are reduced \$1 for every additional \$2 earned

## CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

### IRA

IRA contribution (under age 50)	\$7,500
IRA contribution (50 and older)	\$8,600
IRA deduction phaseout (qualified plan participant):	
• Single or HOH	\$81,000-\$91,000
• Married, filing jointly	\$129,000-\$149,000
• Married, filing separately	\$0-\$10,000
• Spousal IRA deduction phaseout	\$242,000-\$252,000

### Phaseout of Roth IRA contributions eligibility

Single	\$153,000-\$168,000
Married, filing jointly	\$242,000-\$252,000
Married, filing separately	\$0-\$10,000

### SEP

SEP contribution limit is the lesser of 25% of compensation, or	\$72,000
Minimum compensation for SEP participant	\$800

### SIMPLE

SIMPLE elective deferral (under age 50)	\$17,000
SIMPLE elective deferral (50 and older)	\$21,000
SIMPLE elective deferral (ages 60-63)	\$22,250

### Retirement plans

401(k), 403(b), <sup>3</sup> 457 <sup>a</sup> and SARSEP elective deferral (under 50)	\$24,500
401(k), 403(b), <sup>3</sup> 457 <sup>a</sup> and SARSEP elective deferral (50 and older)	\$32,500
401(k), 403(b), <sup>3</sup> 457 <sup>a</sup> and SARSEP elective deferral (ages 60-63)	\$35,750
Total contribution limit on additions to defined contribution plans	\$72,000
Annual benefit limit on defined benefit plans	\$290,000
Highly compensated employee threshold	\$160,000
Maximum compensation taken into account for qualified plans	\$360,000

### Health savings accounts (HSAs)

Individual limit (under age 55)	\$4,400
Family limit	\$8,750
Catch-up contribution (55 and older)	\$1,000