

IRS: Act Now To File, Pay, Or Request An Extension

With the April 15 tax deadline fast approaching, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that there is still time to file their federal income tax return electronically and request direct deposit for any refund due. Taxpayers can avoid interest and some penalties by filing their tax return, and if they owe, paying the full amount due by the deadline.

Use IRS.gov for the quickest and easiest information

IRS.gov is available 24 hours a day and offers a variety of tools and resources to help taxpayers meet their tax obligations.

- Let Us Help You. This page provides tips, tools, and answers to frequently asked tax questions.

- IRS Individual Online Account. Taxpayers can securely view tax account information, manage payments, check the status of refunds, and communicate with the IRS.

No-cost electronic filing options

Filing electronically reduces errors because tax software performs calculations, flags common mistakes, and prompts users for missing information. Most taxpayers qualify to file electronically at no cost, and when they choose direct deposit, they usually receive their refund within 21 days.

- IRS Free File and Fillable Forms. Qualified taxpayers with income of \$89,000 or less in 2025 can use IRS Free File to prepare and file their federal tax returns. Taxpayers who are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use IRS Free File Fillable Forms, regardless of income.

- MiTax. Military members and some veterans can use the Department of Defense program MiTax for free return preparation and electronic filing.

- IRS-certified volunteers. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs provide free basic tax preparation to eligible individuals in communities nationwide.

Payment options for taxpayers who owe

Taxpayers can make payments directly from a checking or savings

account using their IRS Individual Online Account. Other electronic payment options include IRS Direct Pay, debit or credit cards, digital wallets, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, and electronic funds withdrawal.

Taxpayers who cannot pay the full amount owed by the tax deadline should pay what they can now and apply for an online payment plan. Most applicants receive immediate notification of approval or denial, without having to call or write to the IRS.

Unable to file by the April 15 deadline

Individuals who cannot file their tax return by April 15 can request an automatic extension of time to file. An extension to file is not an extension to pay; taxpayers must estimate and pay any taxes owed by the deadline to avoid penalties and interest. Taxpayers can request an extension by:

- Making an electronic payment using Direct Pay, a debit card, a credit card, or a digital wallet, and indicating the payment is for an extension.

- Filing a Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, using IRS Free File, regardless of income.

- Mailing Form 4868 PDF if filing an extension on paper. The form must be completed and postmarked by the tax deadline and mailed to the address listed in the instructions.

Taxpayers serving in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty areas, living outside the United States, or affected by certain disaster declarations may be eligible for additional time to file and pay. Taxpayers should check their eligibility before the tax deadline.

More information

Publication 594, The IRS Collection Process

Publication 6103, Get Help with Tax Debt

Both publications provide details on payment options and plans for paying a tax balance over time.

WABA Home & Garden Show Scheduled

The Western Area Builders Association (WABA) is pleased to announce its annual Home and Garden Show will take place on April 10-11 at the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston, North Dakota. Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

The WABA Home and Garden Show offers attendees the chance to connect with skilled tradespeople, real estate and mortgage professionals, and maintenance experts while exploring the latest in home products including fencing, siding, gutters, windows, saunas, spas, landscaping products and more. Children will get their very own hard hat to collect vendor stickers on. The show will also feature door prize drawings and a 50/50 raffle on both days.

WABA Home and Garden Show is excited to announce Susie Q's Ice Cream Truck will be parked in the Kid Zone with sweet treats for sale. Attendees are invited to check out an interactive activity hosted by the Spring Lake Nature Center called "Getting Prehistoric," which will guide kids (and kids at heart) through what lurks below the surface

and once roamed topside in North Dakota. Miss North Dakota Kennedy DeLap will be assisting in the Kid Zone on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, as well. Other Kid Zone attractions include an interactive activity and demonstration with the Alexander Robotics Team and the United Way Spin Art booth, where power tools and paint become one-of-a-kind mini masterpieces.

The Home and Garden Show will also be the 2026 season debut event for Nico's Tamales! Their food truck will be inside the Raymond Center in the Kid Zone both Friday and Saturday. Stop in to try old favorites and some new menu items they will be testing out.

The Home and Garden Show will operate from noon to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. For more details about the WABA Home and Garden Show, visit the event page on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WABAHomeAndGardenShow> or the Western Area Builders Association's website at <http://www.westernbuilders.com>.

Minuteman III ICBM To Be Exhibited At ND Heritage Center & State Museum

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck will soon be displaying a prominent tribute to the state's enduring role in America's nuclear deterrence. U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) announced he has secured a decommissioned Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, which will be a prominent addition to the museum's new Military Gallery, now under construction and scheduled for completion in late 2027.

The Minuteman III, one of the most recognizable symbols of the nation's strategic nuclear arsenal, strengthens the museum's mission to tell the story of North Dakota's contributions to national defense through immersive exhibits, artifacts, and interactive displays.

As the first North Dakotan to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), Cramer worked with the U.S. Air Force and Northrop Grumman to secure the missile for public display, offering visitors a rare, up-close look at a cornerstone of America's defense infrastructure.

First deployed in the 1960s, the Minuteman III has undergone nearly six decades of continuous service and modernization. Approximately 400 Minuteman III missiles remain operational across three U.S. bases, including Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. As chair of the SASC Airland Subcommittee and co-chair of the Senate Defense Modernization Caucus, Cramer has championed Minuteman III's next generation replacement, the LGM-35A Sentinel, visiting Hill Air Force Base in Utah which supports

the Minuteman program and is the proving ground for Sentinel. The Sentinel program is slated to begin replacing the Minuteman III fleet in 2030, modernizing the nation's land-based nuclear deterrent.

"The Minuteman III is now over 50 years old," said Cramer. "It demonstrates the might of this country like no other weapon before. It's not just a weapon, it's an attitude, and that's why the North Dakota Military Gallery is so important. It's been an honor to be part of the project."

"Recognizing and remembering those who have served our nation are among the most important and solemn roles of the State Historical Society of North Dakota," said Bill Peterson, State Historical Society director.

North Dakota has long played a central role in the nation's nuclear enterprise. During the Cold War, the state was home to one of the largest concentrations of nuclear weapons in the world. Minot Air Force Base remains the only installation in the United States to support two legs of the nuclear triad, with the 91st Missile Wing overseeing one-third of the nation's Minuteman III ICBMs alongside the 5th Bomb Wing's B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

Grand Forks Air Force Base also served as a cornerstone of national security throughout the Cold War. Home to the 321st Strategic Missile Wing, the base oversaw a vast network of 150 Minuteman missile silos and fifteen launch control centers strategically positioned across the region.

Cramer is a consistent voice for strengthening and modernizing North Dakota's defense capabilities. His leadership has brought senior defense officials to Minot Air Force Base to observe its mission firsthand, reinforcing its critical role in safeguarding national security.

NDSGA Applauds \$100M Expansion Of Farm Financial Stability Loan Program

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) applauds the North Dakota Industrial Commission's decision to add \$100 million in funding to the Bank of North Dakota's 2026 Farm Financial Stability Loan Program. The Industrial Commission oversees the Bank of North Dakota and is made up of Governor Kelly Armstrong, Attorney General Drew Wrigley, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

With this action, total support available to producers now reaches \$500 million when combined with the 2026 Grain Inventory Loan Program.

"North Dakota producers continue to face real challenges, and we are encouraged to see state leaders step up with practical solutions," said NDSGA President Justin Sherlock of Dazey. "These decisions matter to farm families, and supporting them needs to remain part of our routine, alongside our work on national policy."

The 2026 Farm Financial Stabil-

ity Loan Program is designed to assist producers with operating shortfalls from 2024 or 2025. Funds can be used to replenish working capital, restructure debt, or address other financial needs. The program is available through local lenders and will remain open through June 30, 2026, or until funding is fully committed.

NDSGA emphasizes the importance of continued collaboration between state leaders, lenders, and agricultural organizations to ensure producers have access to tools that support long-term stability.

For more information on the loan programs, visit the Bank of North Dakota at bnd.nd.gov.

NDSGA is a statewide, not-for-profit, member-driven organization. It conducts legislative activities in Bismarck, ND, and Washington, DC, to improve the sustainable prosperity of its members and the entire soybean industry. The North Dakota organization is one of more than twenty-five affiliated with the American Soybean Association (ASA).

North Dakotans Reminded To Call Before You Dig

Governor Kelly Armstrong has proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month in North Dakota. In recognition, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) is reminding everyone of the potential dangers and consequences of digging without first clicking or calling 8-1-1, North Dakota's Call-Before-You-Dig number.

"Spring is here, and with it comes a surge of outdoor projects. Before any digging, the North Dakota Public Service Commission has an essential reminder: always call 811 first," said Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, who oversees the damage prevention portfolio. "This simple step is one of the most effective ways to prevent dangerous and costly accidents. Underground utility lines, whether gas, electric, communications, water, or sewer, are closer to the surface than many people realize. Striking one can create serious safety hazards and contribute to billions of dollars in damage each year. By making a quick call to 811, you're protecting yourself, your property, and your community. Safe digging starts with knowing what's below, don't take the risk."

North Dakota law requires anyone conducting an excavation to notify 811 at least two business days in advance of digging. This is a free service to homeowners and farmers working on their own property/land. Personnel will be sent to mark the locations of the underground facilities, typically within a couple of days. The markings are valid for 21 days after they are placed as identified on your excavation notice ticket.

This process is coordinated through North Dakota One Call. The PSC's role is to enforce the requirements of the state's damage prevention laws and act when violations are reported to the Commission. The PSC can levy a fine up to \$25,000 per violation depending on severity.

Each year North Dakota's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to call 811 to have underground facilities located prior to digging. Since 2009, the PSC has received and processed 364 complaints related to violations of the Call-Before-You-Dig law. In total, approximately \$473,000 in fines have been assessed against companies or individuals who have violated the law. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be severe including explosions resulting in injury or death, service interruptions or damage to the environment.

The significant residential and business growth occurring throughout North Dakota and the increased demand for pipeline infrastructure to support the energy industry have dramatically increased demand for the One-Call Program.

Safe Digging Month is endorsed each April by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the Common Ground Alliance and the North Dakota One-Call Board. For more information about 8-1-1 and begin your excavation notice, visit the North Dakota One-Call Board's website at www.ndonecall.com. For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at www.commongroundalliance.com.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

Make-A-Wish® ND Invites Community To Celebrate World Wish Month This April

This April, Make-A-Wish® North Dakota is inviting communities across the state to come together in celebration of World Wish Month, a global observance honoring the life-changing impact of a wish and the people, known as WishMakers, who make those wishes possible.

World Wish Month is celebrated every April in honor of Chris Greicius, the first child to receive a wish, whose wish was granted on April 29, 1980, now recognized worldwide as World Wish Day. Throughout the month, Make-A-Wish North Dakota will host a variety of community outreach events, fundraisers, and awareness activities designed to inspire hope, celebrate generosity, and invite new supporters to join the mission.

In recognition of this April celebration, Governor Kelly Armstrong and Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney have issued proclamations acknowledging the impact of Make-A-Wish and the important role community members across North Dakota play in granting wishes. During World Wish Month, buildings and landmarks throughout Fargo will shine blue, the signature color of Make-A-Wish, as a visible show of support for wish kids and their families as well as the community that surrounds them. The brave blue lighting serves as a reminder of the hope and joy that wishes bring to children facing critical illnesses.

"World Wish Month is about helping people see themselves in our mission," said Billi Jo Zielinski, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish North Dakota. "Every wish granted is made possible by a community of donors, volunteers, medical partners, and businesses who believe in the power of hope."

Throughout April, community members can support Make-A-Wish North Dakota by participating in the following events and fundraisers:

Community events happening across North Dakota include:

- April 1-30: Culver's Star Sale Participating Culver's locations in Bismarck, Fargo, Mandan, Minot, and Williston will sell blue paper stars for \$1 each with proceeds coming back to the local chapter.
- April 13-19: Deek's Pizza fundraiser

Locations in Fargo, Grand Forks, and West Fargo will donate a percentage of sales to Make-A-Wish North Dakota.

- April 21: Slim Chickens Fundraiser

Participating locations in Fargo, Minot, and Williston will donate a portion of sales from 5:00-7:00 p.m. when you mention Make-A-Wish North Dakota.

- April 29: Sandy's Donuts Fundraiser (Fargo and surrounding areas) A portion of sales of the Make-A-Wish Donut will benefit the local chapter. You can pre-order your donuts by visiting sandydonuts.com starting April 1.

In addition to these events, Make-A-Wish North Dakota will engage

volunteers, medical providers, donors, and wish families through special outreach activities, appreciation efforts, and storytelling initiatives throughout the month.

As part of World Wish Month, Make-A-Wish North Dakota is participating in the national WishMaker Mosaic, an interactive initiative that brings together photos of WishMakers from across the country.

Community members are encouraged to snap a photo at events or on their own and submit it to the mosaic, where each image becomes part of growing digital display representing the many individuals who make wishes possible. The mosaic continues to build throughout April, highlighting the collective impact of communities nationwide. To view the mosaic, you can visit wishmaker.org/mosaic. Photos can also be shared on social media with the hashtag #WISHMAKERSWANTED and by tagging Make-A-Wish North Dakota on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.

The public is encouraged to visit wish.org/northdakota to learn more about World Wish Month, find ways to participate, and discover how they can become a WishMaker by donating, volunteering, or spreading the word.

FOCUS:
Community Involved

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of North Dakota newspaper readers believe that they have a responsibility to help shape the future of their communities.

For more information, contact your local newspaper representative.

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