

The new 1040: Two pictures are worth 1,000 words

One of Congress' sales pitches for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was that you'd be able to file your income taxes on a postcard. Never mind that filing your taxes on an actual postcard would mean that anyone who handles the mail could see your most intimate financial details.

The IRS has now released a draft of the 2018 Form 1040. And while computing your taxes may indeed be simpler, mostly because of the almost doubled standard deduction, the form, like the draft of the [W-4](#) that preceded it, is anything but simple.

Oh, and you will need an envelope.

Three forms into one

The draft 1040 is intended to take the place of the long-form 1040, and its two shorter siblings—the 1040-A and the 1040-EZ.

Form 1040 (2017)

Tax and Credits

36 Amount from line 37 (deducted gross income) **38**

37 You were born before January 2, 1953. 61 and 62 **Total taxes checked** **39a**

38 spouse was born before January 2, 1953. 61 and 62 **Total taxes checked** **39b**

39 If your spouse has a separate return or you were a dual-status alien, check here **39c**

40 **Standard deduction** **41**

41 If you are a filer, check box 1, 2, or 3. **42**

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98 If you are a filer, check box 1, 2, or 3. **99**

99 If you are a filer, check box 1, 2, or 3. **100**

Form 1040 (2017)

Income

7 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. (Attach Form(s) W-2) **7**

8a Taxable interest. Attach Schedule B if required. **8a**

8b Tax-exempt interest. Do not include on line 8b. **8b**

9a Ordinary dividends. Attach Schedule B if required. **9a**

9b Qualified dividends. **9b**

10 Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes. **10**

11 Alimony received. **11**

12 Business income or loss. Attach Schedule C or C-EZ. **12**

13 Capital gain or loss. Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here. **13**

14 Other gains or losses. Attach Form 4797. **14**

15a IRA distributions. **15a**

15b Taxable amount. **15b**

16a Pensions and annuities. **16a**

16b Taxable amount. **16b**

17 Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S-corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedule E. **17**

18 Farm income or loss. Attach Schedule F. **18**

19 Unemployment compensation. **19**

20a Social security benefits. **20a**

20b Taxable amount. **20b**

21 Other income. List type and amount. **21**

22 Combine the amounts in the far right column for lines 7 through 21. This is your **total income**. **22**

23 Educator expenses. **23**

24 Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-based government officials. Attach Form 2106 or 2106-EZ. **24**

25 Health savings account deduction. Attach Form 8889. **25**

26 Moving expenses. Attach Form 5803. **26**

27 Deductible part of self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE. **27**

28 Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans. **28**

29 Self-employed health insurance deduction. **29**

30 Penalty on early withdrawal of savings. **30**

31A Alimony paid. **31A**

31B Deduction. **31B**

32 Student loan interest deduction. **32**

34 Tuition and fees. Attach Form 9817. **34**

35 Domestic production activities deduction. Attach Form 990. **35**

36 Add lines 23 through 35. **36**

37 Subtract line 36 from line 22. This is your **adjusted gross income**. **37**

And here's a copy of the IRS' draft.

Form 1040 Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service **2018** OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

Simplified U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Married filing separate return Qualifying widow(er) Head of household

Your first name and initial Last name Your social security number

Standard deduction: Someone can claim you as a dependent You were born before January 2, 1954 You are blind

Spouse or qualifying person's first name and initial (see Inst.) Last name Spouse's social security number

Standard deduction: Someone can claim your spouse as a dependent Your spouse was born before January 2, 1954

Home address (number and street), P.O. box, see instructions. Apt. no. Full-time student Full-time military member Full-time teacher Full-time caregiver Full-time caregiver for (see Inst.): You Spouse

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, attach Schedule 6. Full-year health care coverage (see Instructions)

Dependents (see instructions) (1) First name Last name (2) Social security number (3) Relationship to you (4) Child tax credit (5) Credit for other dependents

Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and accurate. I am not aware of any information that would cause me to believe that this return or any information on it is incorrect. I am not a preparer who has any knowledge that the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see Inst.)

Joint return? See instructions. Keep a copy for your records. Your signature Date Your occupation Spouse's signature Date Spouse's occupation

Paid Preparers Print/type preparer's name Preparer's signature PTIN Firm's name Firm's EIN Check it: 3rd Party Designee Self-employed

For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 11320B Form **1040** (2018)

Form 1040 (2018) Page **2**

1	Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form W-2	1	
2a	Tax-exempt interest	2a	
2b	Taxable interest	2b	
3a	Qualified dividends	3a	
3b	Ordinary dividends	3b	
4a	IRAs, pensions, and annuities	4a	
4b	Taxable amount	4b	
5a	Social security benefits	5a	
5b	Taxable amount	5b	
6	Additional income and adjustments to income. Attach Schedule 1	6	
7	Adjusted gross income. Combine lines 1 through 6	7	
8	Enter the standard deduction; otherwise, attach Schedule A	8	
9	Qualified business income deduction (see Instructions)	9	
10	Taxable income. Subtract lines 8 and 9 from line 7. If zero or less, enter -0-	10	
11	Tax (see instructions). Attach Schedule 2 if required	11	
12	If your only nonrefundable credit is the child tax credit and/or credit for other dependents, enter the total here; otherwise, attach Schedule 3	12	
13	Subtract line 12 from line 11	13	
14	Other taxes. Attach Schedule 4	14	
15	Total tax. Add lines 13 and 14	15	
16	Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099	16	
17	Refundable credits: a EIC (see Inst.) b Sch 8812 c Form 8863 d Other payments or refundable credits from Schedule 5		
18	Add lines 16 and 17. a through d. These are your total payments	18	
19	If line 18 is more than line 15, subtract line 15 from line 18. This is the amount you overpaid	19	
20a	Amount of line 19 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	20a	
20b	Routing number	20b	
20c	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings		
20d	Account number		
21	Amount of line 19 you want applied to your 2019 estimated tax	21	
22	Amount you owe. Subtract line 18 from line 15. For details on how to pay, see instructions	22	
23	Estimated tax penalty (see instructions)	23	

Form **1040** (2018)

So instead of filing one two-page form (assuming you didn't itemize your deductions), you'll still be filing one two-sided 1040, plus several other schedules, plus schedules to the schedules, if you itemize or you have self-employment income.

The six new schedules are available at the IRS' draft form [web page](#).

The IRS says that only 8% of taxpayers file on paper. But even e-filers will need to be aware of these changes.

If you care to put your two cents in, the IRS is taking comments through July 29. Email **WI.1040.Comments@IRS.gov**.