

# Which Filing Status is Right for You?

## Single



- › Single (Not Married)
- › No dependents
- › Your standard deduction is \$12,550



## Head of Household



- › Single (Not Married)
- › Have a qualifying dependent (can be a child or parent)
- › Provided over 50% of household expenses

- This status allows a number of the same deductions and credits as Married Filing Jointly.
- Your standard deduction also increases from \$12,550 (single) to \$18,800.

## Married Filing Jointly



- › Married (by December 31)

- By filing jointly, you may qualify for deductions and credits not available to other filing statuses.
- Your standard deduction doubles to \$25,100.

## Married Filing Separately



- › Married (by December 31)

- Most couples don't benefit from filing Married Filing Separately, but there are certain circumstances where filing separately might make sense, such as:
  - You and your spouse are separated and/or divorcing and no longer wish to file jointly.
  - You want to distance yourself from your spouse's risky and potentially unethical approach to filing taxes.
  - You want to protect your refund against seizure for back taxes or child support owed by your spouse.
  - Your standard deduction is \$12,550 for each spouse.

## Qualifying Widow(er)



- › Did not remarry
- › Provided over 50% of household expenses
- › Home is principal home for the qualifying child
- › Claim exemption for the qualifying child
- › Qualified to file Married Filing Jointly with your spouse in the year your spouse died

- You're eligible for the same standard deduction as Married Filing Jointly - \$25,100.