Business taxes

**Business Taxes 2017: What You Should Know**

In the midst of your holiday celebrations and your New Year’s resolutions, don’t forget that you’ve also got your business taxes to pay at the beginning of 2017. Even though you go through the process every year, it’s difficult to feel prepared when it comes time to file. Make things a little easier on yourself this year by trying to prepare ahead of time instead of scrambling to gather receipts and reports at the last minute. Here are some things to remember that should help you out.

**Separate Business From Personal**

This is easier said than done because so many expenses often bleed over from one category to another, especially when you own a small business. You should be as diligent as possible about separating your expenses so that the IRS will allow you to maximize the deductions you take from your business taxes. If you aren’t sure what belongs in what category, make sure you hire someone to help with your filing.

**Categorize Expenses**

Before you head to your accountant with a garbage bag full of receipts, you need to get everything in order. Different categories are subject to different codes, so you need to make sure you’re not lumping everything together. For example, expenses incurred from work travel should be kept separate from the receipts you keep after a working lunch or dinner. Having everything in the right category will be really helpful when it’s time to file.

**Look for Credits**

While deductions are nice, the credits you get on your business taxes are even better. Your business could be eligible for a variety of different credits, ranging from healthcare costs to the installation of energy-efficient technology. Credits are applied after all the income and tax adjusting has been done, so qualifying companies stand to get a lot of money applied to their returns.

**Don’t Forget About 2018**

Since paying the IRS is never a great way to start the year, think about what you might do in 2017 that could ease your tax burden in another 12 months. One solution is to note the portions of your return that gave you the most trouble. Another solution, if you have a little extra capital, is to pay a portion of your 2018 taxes in advance. It’s like giving your future self a little gift.

If you aren’t careful, paying your business taxes will be harrowing event. If you take some time to go over these tips and make sure you’re prepared, filling out your tax returns could be relatively painless.