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IRS National Taxpayer Advocate's report for 2018

The IRS today reported that the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate has released to Congress the annual report for 2018.

The IRS release—[IR-2019-11](#)—states that the report of the National Taxpayer Advocate describes “challenges the IRS is facing as a result of the recent government shutdown and [recommends] that Congress provide the IRS with additional multi-year funding to replace its core 1960s-era information technology (IT) systems.” The report’s release was delayed because of the government shutdown.

The report to Congress:

- Identifies some 20 of the most serious problems taxpayers face in their dealings with the IRS
- Addresses the ability of taxpayers to obtain answers to tax law questions, return filing, notices, audits, collection actions and Tax Court litigation
- Discusses the effects of the recent government shutdown on IRS operations
- Includes legislative recommendation for Congress to provide “significantly more funding” to allow the IRS to replace its IT systems

According to the report, the IRS in FY 2018 collected approximately \$3.5 trillion on a budget of \$11.43 billion—a return on investment of about 300:1. In 2018, taxpayers filed about 152 million tax returns.

As part of the report, the National Taxpayer Advocate released the second edition of “The Purple Book”—presenting 58 legislative recommendations intended to strengthen taxpayer rights and improve tax administration. Many of the recommendations have been made in detail in prior National Taxpayer Advocate reports, but others are presented for the first time.

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