

Patricia Lancaster, CPA, CFP®

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Checklists

Click to Download one of our checklists. Please share any checklist you find useful. Thanks!



Super useful checklist to ensure you bring all the relevant information to your tax prep appointment!



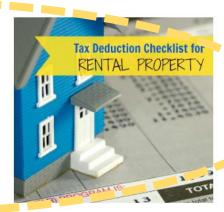
Let's ensure that you have all the information need to complete your return and never miss a single deduction



Tax Bill passed on Dec. 22, 2017.







AGENDA

- I. IRS Perspective
- 2. What's My Tax Rate
- 3. Deductions & Tracking Expenses
- 4. Realtor's Expense Tracker (Excel)
- 5. Form 1099
- 6. Estimated Tax Payments
- 7. Mileage & Home Office
- 8. Business Entity: Sole Proprietor vs LLC or S-Corp

IRS PERSPECTIVE

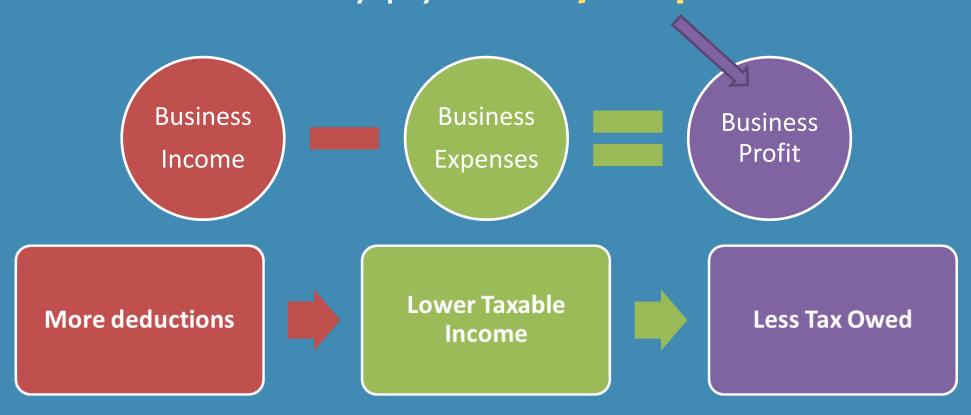
- You are a small business owner.
- You are responsible for:
 - ☐ Record keeping.
 - ☐ Complete, accurate, and timely filed tax return.
 - ☐ Computing and Paying your taxes (quarterly).

LANCASTER CPA PERSPECTIVE

- You have access to strategies that regular employees do not have.
- Gone are the days when you could self-prepare your tax return.
- Tax planning takes place throughout the year RELATIONSHIP!

PAY TAXES ONLY ON YOUR PROFITS!

You do not pay tax on your total commission check.
You only pay tax on your profit!



WHAT'S MY TAX RATE?

You do not pay tax on your total commission check. You only pay tax on your profit!



TAX TABLE 2018-2025

Under the new tax bill, all tax brackets were widened and every tax rate was decreased 2-4%

	Income	Tax Rate	Income Levels fo	r Those Filing As:
	<u>2017</u>	2018-2025	Single	Married-Joint
	10%	10%	\$0-\$9,525	\$0-\$19,050
ſ	15%	12%	\$9,525-\$38,700	\$19,050-\$77,400
L	25%	22%	\$38,700-\$82,500	\$77,400-\$165,000
	28%	24%	\$82,500-\$157,500	\$165,000-\$315,000
	33%	32%	\$157,500-\$200,000	\$315,000-\$400,000
	33%-35%	35%	\$200,000-\$500,000	\$400,000-\$600,000
	39.6%	37%	\$500,000+	\$600,000+

HOH (WITH ONE KID)

SINGLE (WITH TWO KIDS)

Realtor Commission (1099-NEC)

- Expenses
- = Realtor Profit (Sch C)

\$125,079

- **\$ 34,214 27%**
- =\$ 90,865

\$36,869

- <u>- \$ 8,131</u> 22%
- = \$28,738

AGI (Adj Gross Income)

- Standard Deduction for HOH
- QBI Deduction
- = Taxable Income

\$ 84,445

- \$ 18,800
- \$ 13,129
- =\$ 52,516

\$ 37,580

- **-** \$ 12,550
- \$ 5,006
- =\$ 20,024

Fed Tax
State Tax

\$17,691 12% \$3,068 5%

\$1,138

\$5,265

5%

12%

DEDUCTIONS & EXPENSE TRACKING

- ILLEGAL: Tax Evasion
- LEGAL & Ethical: Tax Avoidance
- Open a separate checking account for your business.
- Every expense you fail you track is worth a minimum of 32% back in your pocket.

\$100 worth of receipts = \$32 in tax savings

RECORDKEEPING

- If audited, you will have to produce receipts, not just bank records.
- Keep tax records for 3-6 years since the IRS can look back up to 3 years (in most circumstances).

OTHER COMMON DEDUCTIONS

- Advertising
- Business Coaching
- Business Travel (be careful)
- Car (Mileage deduction)
- Car Loan Interest (portion)
- Cell Phone (portion)
- Client Gifts (\$25/yr per client)
- Continuing Ed
- E&O Insurance

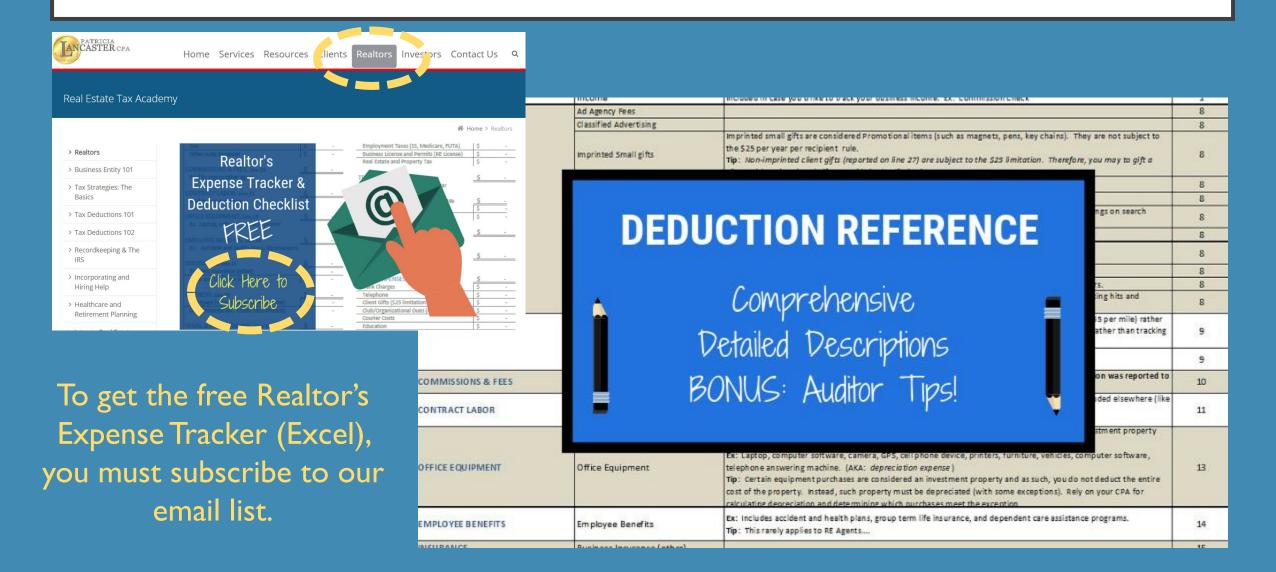
- Home Internet (portion)
- Home Office
- Legal and Accounting/Tax
- Listing, Staging, Selling
- Meals
- Office/Broker Fees
- Professional Dues (MLS, SUPRA)
- Software, Business Apps
- Supplies

MEALS

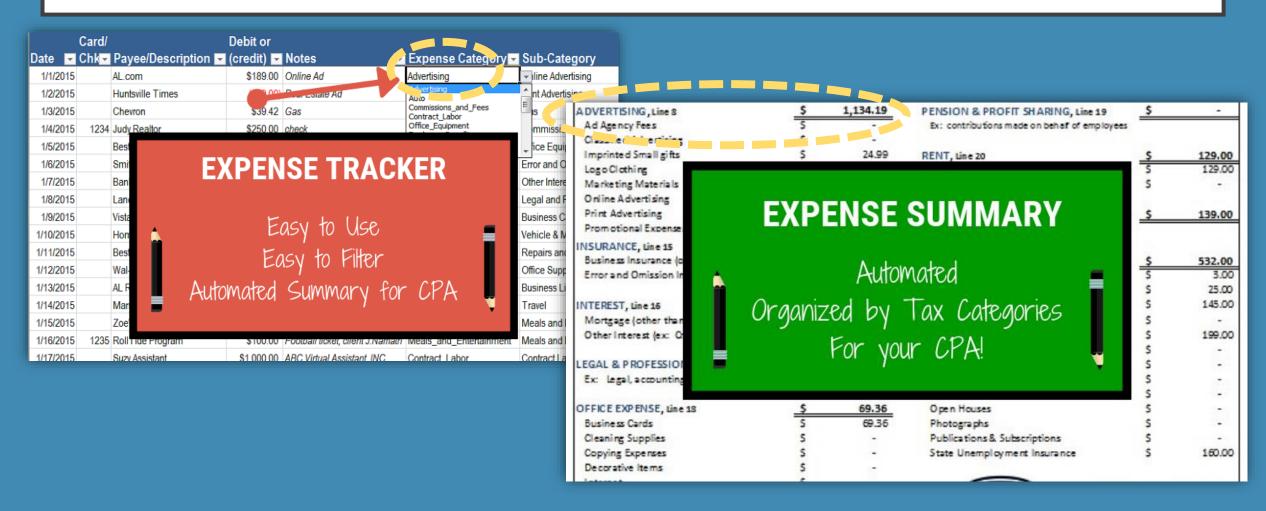
• Meals are ONLY deductible when you are taking a potential client or business associate for a meal. In other words, you paid and the receipt will show 2+ meal items.

• Colleagues dining "dutch" is not and never has been deductible – even if you discuss business the entire meal.

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Any Expense keyed into the "Expense Log" will automatically flow into the "Summary for CPA"

Form 1099: Due Jan 31st

Did you pay any contractor \$600+ this year?

DUE JAN31

PAYER'S name, street address, city of	VOID CORRE	CIED	OMB No. 15
or foreign postal code, and telephone			
Tina Turner Realt	or		202
121 Main St			Form 109
Madison AL 3575	8	1 Nonemployee compe	ensation
	1	\$ 601	
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	2	
XX-XXXXXX	XX-XXXXXX		
RECIPIENT'S name		3	
ABC Photographe	r LLC		
Street address (including apt. no.)		4 Federal income tax w	vithheld
123 Sesame St			
		\$	
City or town, state or province, count Huntsville, AL 35			
	FATCA filing requirement		
			6 State/Payer

Form W-9



Form 1099-NEC

Form 1099: Due Jan 31st

- Failure to file the form could result in a penalty as much as \$1,000 per each omitted, late, or incorrect 1099-Misc.
- Also, copies of 1099s and summary returns are due to the IRS (Form 1096) and the State (Form-96) by January 31st.
- The problem you may encounter is those subcontractors that don't want you to issue them a 1099. Make sure you get them to fill out a W-9 form before you issue them a payment.

Departr	W-9 October 2018) ment of the Treasury Revenue Service	Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certificat • Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest inf		Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.
		on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. Isregarded entity name, if different from above		
Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	3 Check appropriat following seven to following seven to following seven to follow the following followin	a box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check or oxes. It proprietor or C Corporation S Corporation Partnership C LC y company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) he appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner for LS. Federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Inructions) ► street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. Requ	Certain en instruction Trust/estate Exempt pu Do not check of the LLC is amber LLC that	counts maintained outside the U.S.)
	6 City, state, and Z 7 List account num			
Par		ver Identification Number (TIN)	0-1-1	
backu reside	ip withholding. For int alien, sole prop is, it is your employ	propriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a rietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other reer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see <i>How to get a</i>	Social security number of the security number	-
	er To Give the Red	more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see What Name and uester for guidelines on whose number to enter.	Employer identificat	ion number

https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf

ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS: You owe it once you are profitable!!

ilo	only if you are making a payment of estimated tax by c	back or money order. Mail this	Calendar year-	-Due April 17, 2018			
ou	cher with your check or money order payable to "Unite al security number and "2018 Form 1040-ES" on your on. Enclose, but do not staple or attach, your payment w	d States Treasury." Write your check or money order. Do not send	Amount of estin by check or money order.	nated tax you are paying CHECK IT OFF			
	Your first name and initial	Your last name	You	ur social se IT'S DUE!			
	If joint payment, complete for spouse	Voucher 1: A					
ype	Spouse's first name and initial	Spouse's last name	Spo	ouse's social			
Print or type	Address (number, street, and apt. no.)						
	City, state, and ZIP code. (If a foreign address, ent	Voucher 3: S					
	Foreign country name	Foreign province/county	For	eign postal			

QETP PENALTIES

- I. Not Filing
- 2. Not Paying
- 3. Underpaying

Filing QETPs

Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments (QETP) for Small Business Owners (SBO)



What is QETP?

Quarterly estimated tax is the method used to pay Social Security, Medicare, and income taxes because you do not have an employer withholding these taxes for

you. Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals is used to figure these taxes. To determine the amount you should remit with each voucher, I highly recommend that you consult your CPA.

2 When are QETP Due?

Each quarter, profitable SBOs file QETPs with both the IRS and their State via four vouchers (Form 1040-ES).

Voucher	Due Date	Federal Voucher	State Voucher
1 st Payment	April 15	Pg. 11	Pg. 1
2 nd Payment	June 15	Pg. 11	Pg. 3
3 rd Payment	Sept 15	Pg. 11	Pg. 3
4th Payment	Jan. 17	Pg. 9	Pg. 3

3 How to file Federal QETP voucher(s):

3.1 Print, Complete, and Mail the respective voucher according to the applicable quarter. For example, print page 11 and complete voucher 1 for your first QETP due April 15th. CLICK HERE for Federal QETP Vouchers.

Mail your federal QETP Voucher.

Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 931100 Louisville, KY 40293-1100

3.2 Or, Pay Federal Estimated Tax ONLINE: The service is free if you use your banking information: Vendors charge a fee if you utilize your credit card.

4 How to file State voucher(s):

4.1 Print, Complete, and Mail the respective voucher acco 5 and complete voucher 1 for your first QETP due April Mail your State QETP Voucher.

Alabama Department of Revenue





CALCULATOR

Estimated	Tax	Payment Voucher
payment of estimated tax by	check or money order. Mail this	Calendar year
money order payable to "Unit "2018 Form 1040-ES" on you	ted States Treasury." Write your r check or money order. Do not send	Amount of est by check or money order.
nitial	Your last name	Ye
plete for spouse		
and initial	Spouse's last name	Sp
eet, and apt. no.)		
ode. (If a foreign address, e	nter city, also complete spaces below.)
е	Foreign province/county	Fo
	payment of estimated tax by money order payable to "Unit 2018 Form 1040-ES" on your apple or attach, your payment nittial splete for spouse and initial eet, and apt. no.)	splete for spouse and initial Spouse's last name eet, and apt. no.) ode. (if a foreign address, enter city, also complete spaces below.

Mileage

MILEAGE DEDUCTION

WORTH \$0.54 PER MILE



Pat Lancaster, CPA, CFP

1,000 miles per month (12K/yr) = \$6,480

1,500 miles per month (18K/yr) = \$9,720

2,000 miles per month (24K/yr) = \$12,960

"MILEAGE is likely your largest deduction so make sure you are keeping a mileage log."



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ed with using a personal vehicle for business ion on your business drives. However, the IRS has

 The IRS allows you to choose between two methods for D's, the Standard Method is the most advantageous, which is with your CPA about your unique tax position. Regardless of ge log. Finally, you are not permitted to switch between

:osts you incur each year to operate your car (gas, oil changes, your car's business use percentage (as determined by your he Standard method is simpler and requires less

s mile vou drive.

track of how many miles you drive; you do not track actual

an't deduct actual car operating expenses or depreciation. me only additional expenses you can deduce are (3) interest on a car loan (2) Personal property tax; auto

				Odometer Readings		Expenses		- 1
Date	Destination (City, Town, or Area)	Business Purpose	Start	Stop	Miles this trip	Type (Gas, oil, tolls, etc.)	Amount	- 1
								- 1
								- 1
								- 1
								ď
								- 1
								- 1
	Weekly Total							- 1
	Total ar-to-Date							- 1

The Rules for Deducting Mileage

On your tax return, your accountant must list the total miles for each of the following categories: Business, Commuting, and Other (personal). See Schedule Cexcerpt below. Therefore, it's important to track total miles (in addition to business miles). We recommend that you routinely record your odometer throughout the year.

Schedule C Excerpt:

Down		
Part	Information on Your Vehicle. Complete this part only if you are claiming car or truck expenses on and are not required to file Form 4562 for this business. See the instructions for line 13 to find out if y file Form 4562.	
43	When did you place your vehicle in service for business purposes? (month, day, year)	
44	Of the total number of miles you drove your vehicle during 2014, enter the number of miles you used your vehicle for:	
а	Business b Commuting (see instructions) c Other	
45	Was your vehicle available for personal use during off-duty hours?	☐ No
46	Do you (or your spouse) have another vehicle available for personal use?	☐ No
47a	Do you have evidence to support your deduction?	☐ No
b	If "Yes," is the evidence written?	☐ No

- 1. Business: Deductible.
 - Ex: Overnight business travel, Listing Appointment, Sales Appointment, Post Office, Bank, Office Max, Client or Business Luncheon.
 - Business travel to and from your Home Office is generally deductible. A home office is most beneficial for deducting mileage.
 - Business travel to a temporary business location is generally deductible if the duration is less than one year. Ex: Builder's agent at a "model home".
- 2. Commuting: Never Deductible.
 - Generally speaking, all of your travel is either Business or Other (personal) if you have a home office. Many Realtors have a broker office where they work on a regular basis. Depending on your unique circumstances, your mileage to and from your broker's office may be business (deductible) or commuting (not deductible). Talk with your CPA.
- 3. Other (Personal): Never Deductible.
 - Almost no one can claim 100% business use of their vehicle. Your mileage to the grocery or church is not deductible just because you passed out your business card or spoke with a potential new client.

It works until you're audited.

If you claim a large percentage of your vehicle as business (60% or greater), you better make sure you have an excellent mileage log to back it up. Why? Look again at the Sch C excerpt above - Line 47a-b. By checking the box "yes", you have certified that you kept a mileage log – which is exactly what the IRS needs to disallow your mileage deduction in an audit when they request your mileage log. You may check the box "No", but then you don't get to claim the mileage deduction.

registration fee - car tag

\$0.585 / BUSINESS MILE (JAN-JUNE 2022) \$0.625 / BUSINESS MILE (JULY-DEC 2022)

1,000 miles per month (12K/yr.) = \$7,020

1,500 miles per month (18K/yr.) = \$10,530

2,000 miles per month (24K/yr.) = \$14,040

Part	Information on Your Vehicle. Complete this part only if you are claiming car or truck expenses on liand are not required to file Form 4562 for this business. See the instructions for line 13 to find out if you file Form 4562.	
43	When did you place your vehicle in service for business purposes? (month, day, year) ▶ / /	
44	Of the total number of miles you drove your vehicle during 2014, enter the number of miles you used your vehicle for:	
а	Business b Commuting (see instructions) c Other	
45	Was your vehicle available for personal use during off-duty hours?	No
46	Do you (or your spouse) have another vehicle available for personal use?	■ No
47a	Do you have evidence to support your deduction?	☐ No
b	If "Yes," is the evidence written?	☐ No

SCHEDULE C EXCERPT

Table 5-2. Daily Business Mileage and Expense Log Name:

			Odometer Readings			Expens	es
Date	Destination (City, Town, or Area)	Business Purpose	Start	Stop	Miles this trip	Type (Gas, oil, tolls, etc.)	Amount
			in the second se		15		
	Weekly Total						
Ye	Total ar-to-Date						

Source: IRS Publication 463, Cat. No. 11081L, Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses

IRS Example of a Mileage Log

STANDARD MILEAGE RATE: How it works:

- You deduct \$0.56 (2021) for every business mile you drive.
- It requires less record-keeping; you only keep track of how many miles you drive; you do not track actual expenses gas, maintenance, repairs, etc...
- If you choose the standard mileage rate, you cannot deduct actual car operating expenses (gas, oil change, repairs, etc.) or depreciation.
- The only additional expenses you can deduct are:
 - ✓ Interest on a car loan
 - ✓ Personal property tax; auto registration fee car tag.

WARNING:

Regardless of the mileage method you choose (Standard v. Actual), the IRS still requires you to keep a mileage log!

SOLE PROPRIETOR VS S-CORP OR LLC

Forming an LLC or S-Corp is an ENORMOUS tax and accounting decision. There is no one-size-fits all response. Consult a reputable, knowledgeable CPA BEFORE you do this.

Ask an Attorney:

"What can an LLC do for me as a REALTOR that my Error & Omission insurance cannot do?"

CONSULT:

KATIE@PATRICIALANCASTER.COM

(256) 325-3654

Katie: \$75 per hour

(Maximizing Realtor Business Deductions, QuickBooks)

Tiffany: \$150 per hour

(S-Corp, Partnership, LLC, Real Estate Investing)

Pat: \$200 per hour

(Like Kind or 1031 Exchange, Self-Directed IRA, Retirement Planning)

MY CHECK LIST:

☐ Set up a SEPARATE bank account (and/or credit card) for your business. ☐ Carefully review the Realtor Deduction Reference so you know what you're entitled to deduct. ☐ Keep a mileage log. ☐ Pay estimated tax EVERY quarter as soon as profitable. ☐ Don't forget to file Form 1099's in January. Don't DIY this. □ DO NOT form an LLC or S-Corp without consulting a CPA FIRST. Get accounting and bookkeeping fees up front. (Profit \$100K) ☐ You should be in contact with your CPA ROUTINELY throughout the year for tax planning.