

Everything you need to know about ...  
**Tax Planning and Preparation  
with OBBBA in Mind**



# A CPA CAN HELP YOU AVOID MISTAKES, PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Each year brings new questions and potential confusion about what is or isn't changing in the world of taxes. With busy schedules and competing priorities, most taxpayers simply don't have the time or resources to keep up with every state or federal tax change — big or small.

This tax year is especially challenging with the passing of a new federal tax bill, commonly known as OBBBA.

That's why it's now more important than ever to connect with a certified public accountant to ensure your affairs are in order every tax filing season. CPAs keep you in the loop about tax changes and other laws that affect their clients.

## WHAT IMPACT DOES THE OBBBA HAVE ON TAXES?

The OBBBA keeps the current tax rates and the larger standard deduction in place, raises the Child Tax Credit to \$2,200 per child (with annual increases for inflation) and adds a temporary \$6,000 tax deduction for seniors age 65 and older through 2028.

The law also changes how some deductions work and introduces a few new ones. For example, the limit on how much state and local tax you can deduct increases to \$40,000 from 2025 to 2029, but only for those below certain income levels. There are also new tax breaks for things like overtime, tips and interest on car loans for U.S.-made vehicles. At the same time, the IRS will get stricter in some areas — applying penalties to more types of tax refund mistakes.

In short, most everyday taxpayers are best served to consult a CPA to make sure you're navigating this changing tax landscape correctly.



## WHO ARE CPAS?

Certified public accountants, or CPAs, are the most trusted professionals when it comes to tax planning, business decision-making and retirement strategies. They are relied on for their keen analytical skills, objectivity and integrity.

When you work with a CPA, you can expect:

- A tax professional who meets strict educational requirements. You can verify your CPA's qualifications and, should an issue of quality or ethics ever arise, you can report it to the Minnesota Board of Accountancy.
- Expert advice on how major life changes or business decisions will affect your tax situation.
- Sound decision-making to minimize your tax burden, to avoid costly mistakes and to meet your financial goals.
- A partner protecting you and your family against tax fraud and the latest tax scams to protect your identity and tax return.



## THE CPA DIFFERENCE

Not all tax preparers can call themselves a certified public accountant. CPAs are highly regulated by state and federal agencies and must adhere to strict professional and technical requirements. CPAs also have special privileges to represent you to the IRS.

REQUIREMENTS	CPA	Non-CPA*
Education	A four-year degree with 120 or 150 college credits, depending on licensure pathway choice.	No educational requirements
Exam	16-hour exam covering tax regulations, business environment, financial reporting and audit/attestation	No exam required
Continuing education	120 hours of continuing professional education over a three-year period, of which 8 hours must be in ethics <sup>1</sup>	No continuing education required
Regulation	Regulated by their state board of accountancy. Check the Minnesota Board of Accountancy's online directory to find a CPA's certificate status.	No federal or Minnesota agency oversees unlicensed tax preparers

<sup>1</sup>For active certificate holders in Minnesota.

\*Non-CPA category excludes enrolled agents. Enrolled agents are licensed and monitored by the IRS and have their own education, testing and continuing education requirements.

## START PLANNING FOR TAX SEASON TODAY

Whether you're filing an individual or business return, a CPA is there to help protect your best interests — especially as tax laws continue to change. Connect with a CPA to talk through your financial situation, get answers to your questions and plan ahead to make tax time less stressful.

Don't wait to get started — contact a CPA today.



Elevate your impact.