



# Your Money

## Free Online Tax Preparation Ideal For Simple Returns

(NAPSA)—Shelby H. is a 26-year-old professional from Santa Monica, CA, who recently started doing her own taxes. Shelby is one of the estimated 80 million Americans who have a fairly simple tax return.

Now more than ever, taxpayers like Shelby are looking for ways to save money on tax preparation while ensuring they get the biggest refund possible. One of the easiest ways to save this year is to go online. Online tax preparation is easy, accurate, convenient and, for the majority of taxpayers with simple returns, free.

Some things to consider before you go online to prepare your taxes:

- **Look for free options:** Free online tax preparation websites are a great option for people with simple tax returns. Taxpayers can prepare and e-file their federal tax return at no cost. TurboTax.com, the leading online tax preparation website, even includes free help and downloadable audit support tools in its free product.

- **Do your homework:** Not all online tax preparation websites are created equal. Check out the website's privacy policy and select one that will not share or sell your personal information for marketing purposes.

- **Try before you buy:** Look for a website where you only pay when you're ready to print or electronically file your tax return. This allows you to prepare your return, get familiar with the product and even run "what if" scenarios before you pay a dime.

- **Don't sweat security:** The best online tax preparation web-



**Free tax preparation websites can help boost refunds—but they're not all created equal.**

sites have industry-standard security protocols to protect your personal and financial information.

- **Don't wait until the last minute:** As April 15 approaches, the traffic at popular online tax sites can increase.

- **E-file:** If you're preparing your taxes online, electronically file your taxes online, too. E-filing is easy and the fastest way to get a refund, in as little as eight days when you use direct deposit.

"TurboTax Free Edition is an awesome product for novice do-it-yourselfers like me. The step-by-step instructions made everything so easy. I'm no longer intimidated by doing my own taxes," said Shelby. "Plus, being able to use a free service is a lifesaver. The money I used to pay to someone else to prepare my taxes can now go to buy gas and groceries."

For more information on free tax preparation, go to [www.turbotax.com](http://www.turbotax.com).