



Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-4P
Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments
Frequently Asked Questions

The IRS released a revised Form W-4P (*Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments*) on January 1, 2023 that includes substantial changes to the federal income tax withholding elections available, as well as changes to the calculation the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) performs to determine the amount to be withheld.

A significant change to Form W-4P is that filers are no longer able to adjust their withholding by electing a specific number of withholding allowances. The IRS now offers new input fields to account for other income, tax credits and deductions which can increase or decrease the amount that will be withheld from your benefit payment.

Form W-4P includes instructions from the IRS on how to complete the form. The ERS does not offer tax advice nor is the ERS responsible for information entered on Form W-4P. Consult a tax professional to discuss the impact of tax withholdings on your benefit payment. For more information, visit the IRS website: irs.gov.

1. Am I required to file a new tax withholding election form even if I do not intend to change my tax withholding election?

No. Your current withholding election will remain in effect until you submit a new Form W-4P. Please note that should the amount withheld from your pension differ due to a change in your tax withholding election, tax withholding tables, or other dues amounts, you will receive a mailed statement from the ERS detailing the deductions.

2. Should I have taxes withheld from my payment?

The ERS does not offer tax advice. Consult a tax professional to discuss the impact of a tax withholding on your benefit payment.

3. What steps are required to be completed on the updated Form W-4P?

The required steps are Step 1 (a, b, & c) for personal information and Step 5 for a signature. The IRS does not allow electronic signatures on Form W-4P. An individual may optionally complete Steps 2, 3, and 4 if it applies to you and your personal financial situation.

4. Am I required to provide my full Social Security Number (SSN)?

Yes, the IRS requires a full and correct SSN for your Form W-4P to be considered valid.

5. What happens if I choose to complete Steps 2, 3, and 4 but my additions do not total correctly?

Please make sure to provide accurate amounts in Steps 2, 3, and 4 as the ERS will not recalculate the fields for you. The ERS will input the amounts as indicated in steps “2(b)(iii)”, “3”, “4(a)”, “4(b)”, and “4(c)”. The ERS will not be responsible for any information provided that is used to determine your withholding.

6. How do I choose for no taxes to be withheld on Form W-4P?

You can choose not to have federal income tax withheld from your benefit payments by checking the box in the “No Withholding” section on Form W-4P in the space below Step 4(c). Then, complete Step 1(a), 1(b), and 5. See the **“Choosing not to have income tax withheld”** section on page 2 of the W-4P under **General Instructions**.

7. Can I mail, email, or fax copies of my Form W-4P to the ERS?

No, emailed, faxed, or paper reproductions of the Form W-4P are not valid. The ERS will only process a change to your Federal Tax withholdings when a valid Form W-4P containing an original signature is received in our offices.

8. What happens if I do not provide a valid tax withholding preference?

The ERS is required to initiate withholding of taxes from your benefit payments as if your filing status is Single with no adjustments or continue your current withholding election until a valid Form W-4P is received. See **“Note”** under the **Specific Instructions (continued)** on page 3 of the Form W-4P.

9. What happens if my Form W-4P is submitted incorrectly?

The ERS will not process the submission, and the form will be returned to the sender with a letter explaining that it has not been processed.

10. How will a new Form W-4P be processed in relation to any previously filed Form W-4Ps?

The most recently submitted Form W-4P will supersede any previously submitted tax withholding preferences and will be applied independent of previous submissions.

11. I recently submitted a Form W-4P however the new deduction is too much or too little from the amount I was expecting. How do I adjust the deduction?

You will have to submit a new Form W-4P to ERS to be processed. The new Form W-4P, once received, will supersede any previously submitted tax withholding preferences.

12. How long will it take for my tax withholding to change?

Please allow 4 to 8 weeks for your tax withholding election to take effect. You will be mailed a statement from the ERS if there is a change in your direct deposit payment amount.

Step 1: Enter Personal Information	(a) First name and middle initial	Last name	(b) Social security number
	Address		
	City or town, state, and ZIP code		
	<p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Single or Married filing separately</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married filing jointly or Qualifying surviving spouse</p> <p>Head of household (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.)</p>		

TIP: Consider using the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App to determine the most accurate withholding for the rest of the year if you: are completing this form after the beginning of the year; expect to receive your payments only part of the year; or have changes during the year in your marital status, number of pensions/jobs for you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly), dependents, other income (not from jobs or pension/annuity payments), deductions, or credits. Have your most recent payment statements/pay stubs from this year available when using the estimator. At the beginning of next year, use the estimator again to recheck your withholding.

Complete Steps 2–4 ONLY if they apply to you; otherwise, skip to Step 5. See pages 2 and 3 for more information on each step, when to use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App, and how to elect to have no federal income tax withheld (if permitted).

TIP: To be accurate, submit a new Form W-4P for all other pensions/annuities if you haven't updated your withholding since 2021 or this is a new pension/annuity that pays less than the other(s). Submit a new Form W-4 for your job(s) if you have not updated your withholding since 2019.

Complete Steps 3-4(b) on this form only if (b)(i) is blank **and** this pension/annuity pays the most annually. Otherwise, do not complete Steps 3-4(b) on this form.

Step 3: Claim Dependent and Other Credits	If your total income will be \$200,000 or less (\$400,000 or less if married filing jointly):			
	(a) Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,200	3(a)	\$	
	(b) Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500	3(b)	\$	
	(c) Add other credits, such as foreign tax credit and education tax credits. Enter the total here	3(c)	\$	
	Add the amounts from Steps 3(a), 3(b), and 3(c). Enter the total here	3	\$	
Step 4: Other Adjustments	(a) Other income (not from jobs or pension/annuity payments). If you want tax withheld on other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. This may include interest, taxable social security, and dividends . . .	4(a)	\$	
	(b) Deductions. Use the Deductions Worksheet on page 4 to determine the amount of deductions you may claim, which will reduce your withholding. (If you skip this line, your withholding will be based on the standard deduction.) Enter the result here . . .	4(b)	\$	
	(c) Extra withholding. Enter any additional tax you want withheld from each payment . . .	4(c)	\$	

No withholding I request that no withholding be withheld from my payments. See *Choosing not to have income tax withheld* on page 2

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about any future developments related to Form W-4P, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW4P.

Purpose of form. Complete Form W-4P to have payers withhold the correct amount of federal income tax from your periodic pension, annuity (including commercial annuities), profit-sharing and stock bonus plan, or IRA payments. Federal income tax withholding applies to the taxable part of these payments. Periodic payments are made in installments at regular intervals (for example, annually, quarterly, or monthly) over a period of more than 1 year. Don't use Form W-4P for a nonperiodic payment (note that distributions from an IRA that are payable on demand are treated as nonperiodic payments) or an eligible rollover distribution (including a lump-sum pension payment). Instead, use Form W-4R, Withholding Certificate for Nonperiodic Payments and Eligible Rollover Distributions, for these payments/distributions. For more information on withholding, see Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Choosing not to have income tax withheld. You can choose not to have federal income tax withheld from your payments by checking the box in the *No withholding* section. Then, complete Steps 1(a), 1(b), and 5. Generally, if you are a U.S. citizen or a resident alien, you are not permitted to elect not to have federal income tax withheld on payments to be delivered outside the United States and its territories.

Caution: If you have too little tax withheld, you will generally owe tax when you file your tax return and may owe a penalty unless you make timely payments of estimated tax. If too much tax is withheld, you will generally be due a refund when you file your tax return. If your tax situation changes, or you chose not to have federal income tax withheld and you now want withholding, you should submit a new Form W-4P.

When to use the estimator. Consider using the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App if you:

1. Are submitting this form after the beginning of the year;
2. Have social security, dividend, capital gain, or business income, or are subject to the Additional Medicare Tax or Net Investment Income Tax;
3. Receive these payments or pension and annuity payments for only part of the year; or
4. Have changes during the year in your marital status, number of pensions/jobs for you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly), number of dependents, or changes in your deductions or credits.

TIP: Have your most recent payment statements/pay stubs from this year available when using the estimator to account for federal income tax that has already been withheld this year. At the beginning of next year, use the estimator again to recheck your withholding.

Self-employment. Generally, you will owe both income and self-employment taxes on any self-employment income you (or you and your spouse) receive. If you do not have a job and want to pay these taxes through withholding from your payments, use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App to figure the amount to have withheld.

Payments to nonresident aliens and foreign estates. Do not use Form W-4P. See Pub. 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities, and Pub. 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens, for more information.

Tax relief for victims of terrorist attacks. If your disability payments for injuries incurred as a direct result of a terrorist attack are not taxable, check the box in the *No withholding*

section. See Pub. 3920, Tax Relief for Victims of Terrorist Attacks, for more details.

Specific Instructions

Submit a **separate Form W-4P** for each pension, annuity, or other periodic payments you receive.

Step 1(c). Check your anticipated filing status. This will determine the standard deduction and tax rates used to compute your withholding.

Step 2. Use this step if you have at least one of the following: income from a job, income from more than one pension/annuity, and/or a spouse (if married filing jointly) that receives income from a job/pension/annuity. The following examples will assist you in completing Step 2(b).

Example 1. Taylor, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Taylor also has a job that pays \$25,000 a year. Taylor has no other pensions or annuities. Taylor will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(i) and in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Taylor also has \$1,000 of interest income, which she entered on Form W-4, Step 4(a), then she will instead enter \$26,000 in Step 2(b)(i) and in Step 2(b)(iii). She will make no entries in Step 4(a) on this Form W-4P.

Example 2. Casey, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Casey does not have a job, but receives another pension for \$25,000 a year (which pays less annually than the \$50,000 pension). Casey will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(ii) and in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Casey also has \$1,000 of interest income, then he will enter \$1,000 in Step 4(a) of this Form W-4P.

Example 3. Sam, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Sam does not have a job, but receives another pension for \$75,000 a year (which pays more annually than the \$50,000 pension). Sam will not enter any amounts in Step 2.

If Sam also has \$1,000 of interest income, she won't enter that amount on this Form W-4P because she entered the \$1,000 on the Form W-4P for the higher paying \$75,000 pension.

Example 4. Alex, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Alex also has a job that pays \$25,000 a year and another pension that pays \$20,000 a year. Alex will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(i), \$20,000 in Step 2(b)(ii), and \$45,000 in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Alex also has \$1,000 of interest income, which he entered on Form W-4, Step 4(a), he will instead enter \$26,000 in Step 2(b)(i), leave Step 2(b)(ii) unchanged, and enter \$46,000 in Step 2(b)(iii). He will make no entries in Step 4(a) of this Form W-4P.

If you are married filing jointly, the entries described above do not change if your spouse is the one who has the job or the other pension/annuity instead of you.

 **Multiple sources of pensions/annuities or jobs.** If you (or if married filing jointly, you and/or your spouse) have a job(s), do NOT complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on Form W-4P. Instead, complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on the Form W-4 for the job. If you (or if married filing jointly, you and your spouse) do not have a job, complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on Form W-4P for **only** the pension/annuity that pays the most annually. Leave those steps blank for the other pensions/annuities.

 **Social security number and other requirements for credits and deductions.** You (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) must have the required social security number to claim certain credits and deductions. For additional eligibility requirements for these credits and deductions, see Pub. 501, Dependents, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information.

Specific Instructions (continued)

Step 3. This step provides instructions for determining the amount of the child tax credit and the credit for other dependents that you may be able to claim when you file your tax return. To qualify for the child tax credit, the child must be under age 17 as of December 31, must be your dependent who generally lives with you for more than half the year, and must have the required social security number. You may be able to claim a credit for other dependents for whom a child tax credit can't be claimed, such as an older child or a qualifying relative.

For additional eligibility requirements for these credits, see Pub. 501, Dependents, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information. You can also include **other tax credits** for which you are eligible in this step, such as the foreign tax credit and the education tax credits. Including these credits will increase your payments and reduce the amount of any refund you may receive when you file your tax return.

Step 4.

Step 4(a). Enter in this step the total of your other estimated income for the year, if any. You shouldn't include amounts from any job(s) or pension/annuity payments. If you complete Step 4(a), you likely won't have to make estimated tax payments for

that income. If you prefer to pay estimated tax rather than having tax on other income withheld from your pension, see Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals.

Step 4(b). Enter in this step the amount from the Deductions Worksheet, line 17, if you expect to claim deductions other than the basic standard deduction on your 2026 tax return and want to reduce your withholding to account for these deductions. This includes itemized deductions, the additional standard deduction for those 65 and over, and other deductions such as for qualified tips, overtime compensation, and passenger vehicle loan interest; student loan interest; IRAs; and seniors.

Step 4(c). Enter in this step any additional tax you want withheld from **each payment**. Entering an amount here will reduce your payments and will either increase your refund or reduce any amount of tax that you owe when you file your tax return.

Note: If you don't give Form W-4P to your payer, you don't provide an SSN, or the IRS notifies the payer that you gave an incorrect SSN, then the payer will withhold tax from your payments as if your filing status is single with no adjustments in Steps 2 through 4. For payments that began before 2026, your current withholding election (or your default rate) remains in effect unless you submit a new Form W-4P.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to provide this information only if you want to (a) request federal income tax withholding from pension or annuity payments based on your filing status and adjustments; (b) request additional federal income tax withholding from your pension or annuity payments; (c) choose not to have federal income tax withheld, when permitted; or (d) change a previous Form W-4P. To do any of the aforementioned, you are required by sections 3405(e) and 6109 and their regulations to provide the information requested on this form. Failure to provide this information may result in inaccurate withholding on your payment(s). Failure to provide a properly completed form will result in your being treated as a single person with no other entries on the form; providing fraudulent information may subject you to penalties.

Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and territories for use in administering their tax laws. We may

also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.

Step 4(b)–Deductions Worksheet (Keep for your records.)



See the Instructions for Schedule 1-A (Form 1040) for more information about whether you qualify for the deductions on lines 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, and 3b.

1	Deductions for qualified tips, overtime compensation, and passenger vehicle loan interest.	
a	Qualified tips. If your total income is less than \$150,000 (\$300,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified tips up to \$25,000	1a \$ _____
b	Qualified overtime compensation. If your total income is less than \$150,000 (\$300,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified overtime compensation up to \$12,500 (\$25,000 if married filing jointly) of the “and-a-half” portion of time-and-a-half compensation	1b \$ _____
c	Qualified passenger vehicle loan interest. If your total income is less than \$100,000 (\$200,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified passenger vehicle loan interest up to \$10,000	1c \$ _____
2	Add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c. Enter the result here	2 \$ _____
3	Seniors age 65 or older. If your total income is less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 if married filing jointly):	
a	Enter \$6,000 if you are age 65 or older before the end of the year	3a \$ _____
b	Enter \$6,000 if your spouse is age 65 or older before the end of the year and has a social security number valid for employment	3b \$ _____
4	Add lines 3a and 3b. Enter the result here	4 \$ _____
5	Enter an estimate of your student loan interest, deductible IRA contributions, educator expenses, alimony paid, and certain other adjustments from Schedule 1 (Form 1040), Part II. See Pub. 505 for more information	5 \$ _____
6	Itemized deductions. Enter an estimate of your 2026 itemized deductions from Schedule A (Form 1040). Such deductions may include qualifying:	
a	Medical and dental expenses. Enter expenses in excess of 7.5% (0.075) of your total income	6a \$ _____
b	State and local taxes. If your total income is less than \$505,000 (\$252,500 if married filing separately), enter state and local taxes paid up to \$40,400 (\$20,200 if married filing separately)	6b \$ _____
c	Home mortgage interest. If your mortgage indebtedness is less than \$750,000 (\$375,000 if married filing separately), enter your home mortgage interest expense (including mortgage insurance premiums)	6c \$ _____
d	Gifts to charities. Enter contributions in excess of 0.5% (0.005) of your total income	6d \$ _____
e	Other itemized deductions. Enter the amount for other itemized deductions	6e \$ _____
7	Add lines 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, and 6e. Enter the result here	7 \$ _____
8	Limitation on itemized deductions.	
a	Enter your total income	8a \$ _____
b	Subtract line 4 from line 8a. If line 4 is greater than line 8a, enter -0- here and on line 10. Skip line 9	8b \$ _____
9	Enter: { • \$768,700 if you're married filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse • \$640,600 if you're single or head of household • \$384,350 if you're married filing separately }	9 \$ _____
10	If line 9 is greater than line 8b, enter the amount from line 7. Otherwise, multiply line 7 by 94% (0.94) and enter the result here	10 \$ _____
11	Standard deduction.	
Enter:	{ • \$32,200 if you're married filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse • \$24,150 if you're head of household • \$16,100 if you're single or married filing separately }	11 \$ _____
12	Additional standard deduction. If you (or your spouse) are 65 or older.	
Enter:	{ • \$2,050 if you're single or head of household • \$1,650 if you're married filing separately • \$1,650 if you're a qualifying surviving spouse or you're married filing jointly and one of you is under age 65 • \$3,300 if you're married filing jointly and both of you are age 65 or older }	12 \$ _____
13	Cash gifts to charities. If you take the standard deduction, enter cash contributions up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if married filing jointly)	13 \$ _____
14	Add lines 12 and 13. Enter the result here	14 \$ _____
15	Add lines 11 and 14. Enter the result here	15 \$ _____
16	If line 10 is greater than line 15, subtract line 11 from line 10 and enter the result here. If line 15 is greater than line 10, enter the amount from line 14	16 \$ _____
17	Add lines 2, 4, 5, and 16. Enter the result here and in Step 4(b) of Form W-4P	17 \$ _____