

Free File in South Carolina

2010 FTA
EFile Symposium

Free File Numbers

- South Carolina's 3rd year
- Free File Numbers
 - 35,137 returns through March, 2010
 - 31,738 through March, 2009
 - +10.71%
- FFA Indicator in specs

Promoting Free File

- Get more Free File products on board
 - Stuck on 4 (Intuit, OLT, TaxSlayer, and TaxHawk)
- Promote On Line Filing
 - Booklets
 - State Employee Pay Stubs
 - Website - always listed on line providers
 - Twitter feed...”Go to www.sctax.org to see if you qualify for FREE federal and South Carolina filing of your individual income tax return”



Efile Poster

- **More than 1.5 million South Carolinians can't be wrong!**
- That's right...over 1.5 million taxpayers filed their South Carolina individual income tax returns electronically last year. EFile is environmentally friendly PLUS you get your refund back FAST. It can take as little as 10 days (if you elect to use direct deposit) to get your refund back from the South Carolina Department of Revenue.
- Go to www.sctax.org and click on Free File to see if you qualify to file both your federal and South Carolina return for FREE! You can file both returns for FREE ONLY IF 1) you meet the qualifications and 2) you access the tax preparation software from the SC DOR website. Even if you don't qualify for FREE filing, you can access tax prep software to efile both your federal and South Carolina returns for less than \$10.
- **So, go GREEN and get GREEN!**

Hurdles

- Taxpayers go to irs.gov select free product that does not support South Carolina
- No advertising budget
 - Banner ads everywhere
- Taxpayers find out the hard way – can't file for free or can't file state return for free

Comments from Taxpayers

- "...despite the exhortation from the tax commissioner, I find that I cannot electronically file my return free of charge. There are no options for free filing at my income level. Plus, I refuse to pay for tax preparation software when my return is so simple."

Comments from Taxpayers

- “I see that you no longer send out income tax return forms to each taxpayer because you want to cut down on paperwork. I am 100% for that also. However, if you would prefer to have people e-file their returns, why is there not a way to do this directly to you at no cost no matter what the income is. The way you have it set up is not fair to everyone at all. Why should we be forced to make online companies rich to have them complete a return that we are able to complete ourselves and pay them just to e-file it for us. I hope that by next filing season you have taken care of this and made it a fair way for all of us to save the state some trouble and money by allowing everyone to e-file directly to the state no matter what your income level is.”

FTA Free File Team

- FTA
- Free File Alliance members
- States
- What is it going to take?
 - A cooperative effort of all involved
 - Open, honest perhaps brutally honest exchanges