TAX PLANNING Reference guide 2026

MOLIN CPA
ADVANCED TAX STRATEGIES

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2026 TAX PLANNING REFERENCE GUIDE

Disclaimer

This material should not be interpreted as tax, legal, or accounting advice. Consult with a licensed professional about your specific tax requirements. Each financial & tax situation is unique.

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Gift Tax Annual Exclusion

This amount is the maximum you can give a single person without having to report it to the IRS.

IRS Taxable Income Brackets

You pay increasing income tax rates as your income rises. Top income earners are subject to the highest marginal tax rates.

Standard Deductions & Business Mileage

In addition to standard deductions, the IRS allows qualified taxpayers to deduct vehicle mileage related to business use.

Reasonable Comp Analysis

Determining a reasonable shareholder salary and officer compensation is an important function of S-Corp tax advisory.

Payroll Taxes in Review

Payroll taxes include both employer and employee portions, consisting of taxes like Social Security, Medicare and Unemployment.

Bonus Depreciation & Section 179

Taking accelerated deductions on the cost of eligible business property in the first year.

Net Investment Income Tax

This income can be money that you made from your investments including interest, dividends, capital gains and rental income,

Long Term Capital Gains

Generally, if you hold an asset for more than one year before you sell it, your capital gain or loss is “long-term”.

Retirement Contribution Limits

Common retirement account types can include IRAs, Roth IRA, 401(k), SEP, SIMPLE, & Defined Benefit plans.

Social Security Wage Limit

The Social Security Wage Limit is the maximum amount of annual earnings on which you must pay Social Security Taxes.

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LIMITS FOR COMMON DEDUCTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

DEDUCTIONS,EXEMPTIONS & EXCLUSIONS	2025	2026
HSA Contribution Limits		
Single HSA	$4,300	$4,400
Family HSA	$8,550	$8,750
Annual Exclusion for Gifts	$19,000	$19,000
Business Mileage (per mile)	70 cents	72.5 cents

GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	2025		2026	
	Maximum Section 179	Bonus Eligible?	Maximum Section 179	Bonus Eligible?
6,000 lbs and under	$12,400	Yes	$20,400	Yes
6,001 lbs to 14,000 lbs	$31,300	Yes	$31,300	Yes

Note about Section 179

Qualifying property can be financed or paid for with cash, and must be put into service before December 31st of the applicable tax year.

ROTH IRA CONTRIBUTION LIMITS	2025	2026
ROTH IRA (under age 50)	$7,000	$7,500
Roth IRA (50 and older)	$8,000	$8,600
Phaseout of ROTH IRA contribution eligibility		
Single	$150,000-$165,000	$153,000-$168,000
Married, Filing Jointly	$236,000-$246,000	$242,000-$252,000

RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITS	2025	2026
SEP (Up to 25% of wages)	$70,000	$72,000
Solo 401(k) (under age 50)	$70,000	$72,000
SIMPLE (under age 50)	$16,500	$17,000
SIMPLE (50 and older)	$20,000	$21,000
401(k) (under age 50)	$23,500	$24,500
401(k) (50 and older)	$31,000	$32,500

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IMPORTANT RATES FOR TOP EARNERS

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RATES FOR LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	2025		2026	
	Single Filer (income amount)	Married, Filing Jointly (income amounts)	Single Filer (income amount)	Married, Filing Jointly (income amounts)
0%	$0 - $48,350	$0 - $96,700	$0 - $49,450	$0 - $98,900
15%	$48,351 - $533,400	$96,701 - $600,050	$49,451 - $545,500	$98,901 - $613,700
20%	$533,401 or more	$600,051 or more	$545,501 or more	$613,701 or more

PAYROLL TAXES	2025	2026
FICA	15.3%	15.3%
Employee Share	7.65%	7.65%
Employer Share	7.65%	7.65%
FUTA (Up to $7,000 base)	0.6%	1.8%

SOCIAL SECURITY WAGE LIMIT	2025	2026
Income Threshold	$176,100	$184,500

TOP MARGINAL FEDERAL TAX RATE	2025	2026
Top Marginal Federal Tax Rate	37%	37%
Single	$626,351 or more	$640,600 or more
Married, Filing Jointly	$751,601 or more	$768,600 or more

NET INVESTMENT INCOME TAX (3.8%)	2025	2026
Married, Filing Jointly	$250,000	$250,000
Single	$200,000	$200,000