

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVENUE

Information Bulletin #32
Income Tax
December 2022
Effective Date: Upon Publication
(Replaces Bulletin #32, dated July 2008)

SUBJECT: General Information on Local Income Taxes

REFERENCES: [IC 6-3.6](#)

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Apart from technical, nonsubstantive changes, this bulletin has been revised to reflect the replacement of the various county income taxes in effect prior to 2017 with a single local income tax, as well as to reflect the repeal of the county credit for the elderly and disabled.

INTRODUCTION

In 1973, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation that provided each county the option of adopting a County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT). Legislation was enacted in 1984 that provided each county the option of adopting an alternative county income tax, the County Option Income Tax (COIT). A third income tax, known as the County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT), was enacted in 1987 that could stand alone or be supplementary to the first two.

CAGIT was enacted to provide the adopting counties with additional funds, to be used in part for property tax relief. COIT was enacted to provide counties with additional funds, part of which are used to: (1) replace the amount, if any, of the property tax revenue lost due to allowing an increased homestead credit within the county, and (2) make distributions of distributive shares to the civil taxing units of a county. CEDIT was enacted to allow counties to raise funds for local economic development projects.

However, in 2015, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation that replaced the CAGIT, COIT, and CEDIT with a single Local Income Tax (LIT), consolidating the taxes and various purposes of the taxes into one tax type and one set of statutes. LITs became effective beginning with the 2017 tax year.

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE AND COUNTY OF WORK

The taxpayer's county of residence is determined as of January 1 each year. For purposes of county tax, an individual's county of residence is determined by the county where the taxpayer maintains their home.

The taxpayer's county of principal business or employment is also determined as of January 1 each year. An individual's county of principal business or employment is that county where the taxpayer receives the greatest percentage of their gross income from salaries, wages, commissions, fees or other income of this type. If an individual is self-employed, the county of principal business or employment is that county where the individual's principal place of business is located. If an individual has two or more sources of income from two or more counties, the principal source will be evidenced by the percent of income received from each county and the percent of time spent in each county.

CHANGE IN COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OR COUNTY OF WORK WITHIN THE TAXABLE YEAR

The county of residence and county of principal business or employment determined as of January 1 each year are fixed as of that date for local income tax purposes for the entire tax year. Any change in an individual's county of residence or county of principal business or employment during the year will not affect the county for which they are liable for local income tax. Form WH-4 establishes, for withholding purposes, the taxpayer's county of residence or county of principal business or employment. If an individual moves or changes their place of employment or business during the year, a new WH-4 must be completed. Completion of a new WH-4 will serve only to establish the county of residence and county of principal business or employment for the ensuing year.

INCOME SUBJECT TO LOCAL INCOME TAX

At this time, all counties in Indiana have enacted a LIT. Residents of an Indiana county are subject to that county's local income tax at the tax rate imposed by that county on their entire adjusted gross income. The adjusted gross income for LIT purposes will be the Indiana adjusted gross income.

If an individual resides outside the State of Indiana, but the individual's principal place of business or employment is in an Indiana adopting county, the adjusted gross income derived from the Indiana adopting county is subject to county tax at the same rate as resident taxpayers. Reciprocal agreements between the State of Indiana and other states do not apply to the taxpayer's liability for county tax. In addition to compensation or self-employment income, an individual is subject to LIT on any other income derived from the county of principal business or employment. This includes business profits and losses from ownership partnerships and S corporations, sales or exchanges of property from the principal place of business or employment, and any other income derived from the county of principal business or employment.

The only deductions allowed from principal business or employment income are those that directly apply to the production of income from one's principal location of business or employment. They do not include Indiana deductions that are not related to the production of income.

The following deductions are considered directly related to the production of principal business or employment income:

- Ordinary and necessary business expenses attributable to the income from a county taxpayer's principal place of business;
- Reimbursed employee business expenses to the extent that they are deductible in computing Indiana adjusted gross income and that are attributable to the income from a county taxpayer's principal business or employment;
- Payments to self-employed retirement plans and an IRA attributable to income from a county taxpayer's principal business or employment, to the extent such payments are deductible in computing Indiana adjusted gross income, and are deductible in arriving at the county adjusted gross income subject to tax;
- Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists and fee based government officials;
- One-half self-employment tax;
- SEP, SIMPLE and qualified plans; and
- Self-employed health insurance deduction.

TAX RATES

Three general categories of LIT rates are available for a county to enact. A county may enact an expenditure rate of up to 2.5% (2.75% for Marion County) subject to the provisions of [IC 6-3.6-6](#). In addition, a county may enact a rate of 1.25% for purposes of property tax relief as permitted under [IC 6-3.6-5](#). Also, various counties are authorized to enact special purpose LIT rates for purposes specified under [IC 6-3.6-7](#).

Under LIT, the cumulative resident CAGIT, CEDIT, and COIT tax rates in effect as of May 1, 2016, continued in effect for each county as the new, singular LIT rate for periods starting January 1, 2017. In addition, if a county passed a LIT rate after July 1, 2016, but before November 1, 2016, that rate was effective October 1, 2016, or January 1, 2017, depending on when the county passed an ordinance changing its LIT rate.

Effective July 1, 2016, the following rules apply to the effective date for a rate change based on the date of the county's passage of the appropriate ordinance:

- (1) If a county changes its LIT rate between January 1 and August 31 of a calendar year, the revised rate goes into effect on October 1 of that calendar year.
- (2) If a county changes its LIT rate between September 1 and October 31 of a calendar year, the revised rate goes into effect on January 1 of the next calendar year.
- (3) If a county changes its LIT rate between November 1 and December 31 of a calendar year, the revised rate goes into effect on October 1 of the next calendar year.

If, under (1) and (3) above, a rate changes on October 1 of a given year, a county taxpayer will be subject to tax at a rate equal to the sum of 3/4 of the pre-October 1 LIT rate and 1/4 of the post-September 30 LIT rate for the year in which the rate changes. For the following year, a county taxpayer will be subject to LIT at the new rate.

Under CAGIT and COIT prior to their repeal, separate resident and nonresident rates were prescribed by law. There is no separate LIT rate for resident or nonresident taxpayers. The taxpayer pays the full rate of tax even if the taxpayer is a nonresident.

LOCAL INCOME TAX WITHHELD

The State copy of the Federal Wage and Tax Statement, Form W-2, usually indicates the amount, if any, of LIT withheld. A separate line on the individual income tax return is provided to take credit for local taxes withheld.

CREDIT FOR TAXES PAID TO LOCALITIES OUTSIDE OF INDIANA

A credit against county tax is available to taxpayers who earn income from sources outside Indiana and who are also subject to a local income tax in another state. The credit is the least of: (1) the amount of local income tax actually paid to the locality in the other state; (2) the amount of income taxed by the locality outside of Indiana multiplied by the Indiana local income tax rate to which the taxpayer is subject; or (3) the actual amount of county income tax due. Out-of-state local income taxes may not be claimed as a credit against Indiana state income taxes. For more details, please consult Income Tax Information Bulletin #115, available online at in.gov/dor/legal-resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/income-tax-information-bulletins/.

A copy of the tax return filed with the out-of-state locality must be attached to the Indiana return in order to substantiate the credit claimed. When no return is required by an out-of-state locality, a copy of the W-2 form or other form showing tax withholdings (e.g., a K-1) showing the local tax withheld must be attached to the return.

Nonresidents of Indiana may not claim this credit against their Indiana county tax liability. If a taxpayer has income derived from more than one out-of-state locality, the credit shall be computed separately for each locality. On a joint return, the husband and/or wife should compute the credit separately. Applying the above limitations, any excess credit of one spouse cannot be used to reduce the county tax liability of the other spouse.

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact the Tax Policy Division at taxpolicy@dor.in.gov.

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Commissioner

Posted: 04/26/2023 by Legislative Services Agency
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