



For Immediate Release
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October tax deadline sees record electronic filing

All nine tax check-off contribution funds exceed \$100,000

CHICAGO – The number of Illinois taxpayers who chose to file electronically on the extended October 17 income tax deadline increased 55 percent, another success for the Department of Revenue’s push towards electronic commerce. And all charitable contribution funds met the minimum requirement of \$100,000 in check-offs to stay on the 2006 State Income Tax form.

This year 8,365 taxpayers filed their returns in October, up from 5,407 last year. These taxpayers with complex returns had to pay tax due by April 15 but had until October 17 to file their returns.

“These numbers show that electronic filing continues to gain in popularity, particularly with taxpayers with complex tax returns,” said Revenue Director Brian Hamer. “I urge all taxpayers to take advantage of the ease, security and speed of electronic filing.”

For the year, the department received 2.4 million electronically filed income tax returns, an increase of 269,000 or 12.4 percent over the previous year.

Significant increases include:

- 254,000 returns came through the department’s free income tax Web File program, an increase of 26 percent.
- 59,000 electronic filers, one in six, who owed money when they filed and chose to have the department debit the money from their bank accounts.
- 1,139,000 electronic filers, more than six out of 10 taxpayers, had their refunds direct deposited into their bank accounts.

“The growth in use of these programs demonstrates that we are offering electronic services that taxpayers want,” Hamer said. “The department is developing a similar offering of electronic filing options for business taxpayers.”

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Electronic Tax and Check-offs/add 1

The following reflect interim figures through the end of October (prior to December final report).

Wildlife Preservation	\$243,605.19
Child Abuse Prevention	229,665.80
Alzheimer's Disease Research	193,210.43
Assistance to Homeless	185,478.55
Breast Cancer Research	265,290.91
Multiple Sclerosis	123,567.68
Military Family Relief	294,628.49
Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) Research	104,679.27
Illinois Veterans' Home	138,153.68

The General Assembly authorized eight additional funds for 2006 for support and research: Autism, Animal Population, Blindness, Epilepsy, Diabetes, Sarcoidosis, Brain Tumor and Colon Cancer. The 2005 tax forms will list 17 check-off options for taxpayers who wish to donate some of their refunds.