

VIDEO 1: Welcome to Columbus – Columbus City Tax Overview

Hello, and welcome to Columbus!

We're so glad you're here. As a new resident settling into our community, you may have questions about Columbus' municipal income tax — what it is, who pays it, and how it supports the services that make our city a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Did you know that most cities in Ohio, including Columbus, collect municipal income tax?

Those dollars fund essential city services that directly impact your quality of life.

Things like

- trash collection
- police and fire protection
- road maintenance
- and recreation and parks

So, once again, welcome to our community and know that we are here to help!

VIDEO 2: What Does a 2.5% Municipal Income Tax Mean?

So, what does it mean that Columbus has a 2.5% municipal income tax?

If you live in Columbus, you'll pay 2.5% on all the income you earn — no matter where you earn it.

If you don't live in Columbus but work here, you'll also pay 2.5% on the income you make inside the city.

This applies to wages from a job, income from running a business, and even gambling winnings.

If you earn it — it's usually taxable!

VIDEO 3: How Tax Credits Work Between Cities

What if you live in Columbus but work in another city? While not all cities allow full credit up to their tax rates...

Good news — Columbus gives you credit for the tax you pay there, up to 2.5%.

Let's take some Examples:

If you work in Dublin, where the tax rate is 2%, Columbus gives you credit for that 2%. You'd only need to pay the remaining 0.5% to Columbus.

If you work in Worthington, where the tax rate is also 2.5%, you'll get credit for the full amount — meaning you won't owe anything extra to Columbus.

In short, you'll never pay more than 2.5% total to Columbus for municipal income tax.

VIDEO 4: When Your Employer Doesn't Withhold the Full Amount

Sometimes your employer may not withhold the full 2.5% Columbus rate — for example, if you work in a city with a lower tax rate.

You can ask your employer to withhold the difference as a courtesy so you're fully paid up with Columbus.

Just keep in mind — it's voluntary.

If they don't, you're still responsible for filing and paying any amount owed.

In short - Stay ahead of tax time by checking your withholdings early — and adjusting if needed.

VIDEO 5: Do You Need to File a Return

Ok, we've talked about the tax rate and what counts as taxable income.

But do you need to file a return every year? Let's break it down.

For individuals with W-2 Income and you're a Columbus resident:

- If your employer already withholds the full 2.5% from your wages, you don't need to file a return.
- But if your employer doesn't withhold the full rate — or if you have additional income from a business or other taxable activity — you'll need to file.

When in doubt, file. It's the easiest way ensure you're in good standing with the City!

VIDEO 6: Filing Rules for Businesses

Let's talk about businesses.

All businesses in Columbus must file every year — whether they made a profit or a loss.

If you're a Columbus resident who owns a business, you must also file every year — even if the business is located outside Columbus or operates in multiple cities.

The good news: Columbus gives you credit for municipal taxes your business paid elsewhere, up to 2.5%.

Businesses must also withhold tax from employees' wages earned in Columbus and send those payments to the City regularly — quarterly, monthly, or semi-monthly, depending on the amount.

VIDEO 7: Filing Online with CRISP

We know taxes can feel complicated — but we're here to help.

The City of Columbus makes it fast, secure, and convenient to file using our online system, called CRISP.

At crisp.columbus.gov, you can:

- Confirm your tax jurisdiction,
- Make a payment,
- Or check your refund status — all in one place.

Visit crisp.columbus.gov and experience just how easy city tax filing can be!

And welcome to Columbus!