



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



Dear Neighbor,

In December, I sent out an email announcing a new option taxpayers can choose to receive their Personal Income Tax Returns. In recent weeks, you may have also heard radio messages for the new prepaid card option. As you fill out your personal income tax forms this tax season, please keep in mind that there are a number of options available to receive your tax returns.

The [New York State Department of Taxation and Finance](#) now offers prepaid cards to taxpayers at no cost – providing individuals with a convenient and secure alternative to paper checks. [Prepaid cards](#) serve as a way to pay bills securely and make purchases online, via telephone and at retail locations. The first cash withdrawal at a bank is free and the entire balance can be withdrawn at that time.

Taxpayers will continue to have the option of receiving their refunds by check or direct deposit. Those who choose the prepaid cards over paper checks or direct deposit are not required to have a bank account and no credit check is required. Cardholders are protected against fraudulent charges and lost or stolen cards will be replaced at no charge. Residents who make online bill payments or purchases may find the ease and expediency of the prepaid card an attractive option.

Please visit the Department of Taxation and Finance [website](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

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