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**Per Executive Order 14247, you can NO LONGER make FEDERAL PAYMENTS by PAPER CHECK effective 9/30/2025!!! This includes tax return payments, estimated payments, & extension payments. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Online payments** can be accepted via card, digital wallet, or bank account at [irs.gov/payments](https://irs.gov/payments). **Direct Pay** is the recommended way as it lets you pay with no fees, and with your bank account as you would with a regular check. An IRS account is NOT required to make payments online.

**Here are some notes when making your 2026 Federal Estimated payments online:**

1. You will need to choose the following in Step 1:
  - a. "Reason for Payment" will be "Estimated Tax"
  - b. "Apply Payment To" will be "1040ES (for 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ)"
  - c. "Tax Period for Payment" will be "2026"
2. In Step 2, the "Tax Year for Verification" should be the year of the most recent tax return filed. In this case, it *should* be "2025." You can fill out the rest of this step in accordance with your "2025" tax return.
3. Step 3 asks for your payment details.
4. Step 4 will have you review and accept the Authorization Agreement, review and confirm the information you have entered, and supply an electronic signature.
5. Step 5 is submitting payment and information.
6. Make sure to keep a copy of the receipt!!

**NOTE:** Online estimated payments for the federal CAN be scheduled in advanced with or without an IRS ID.me account. However, if you would like to adjust these scheduled payments, you will need to have an account created. With the ID.me account, you can schedule, cancel, and adjust your estimated payments.

This is a screenshot of the IRS Direct Pay website, Step 1 of 5. The page title is "Direct Pay" with a link to "Have questions or need additional information? | Español". A progress bar shows "Step 1 of 5". The main heading is "Tax Information". Below it, there is a text box: "Select the appropriate payment type and reason for your payment. Information about payment types can be found by clicking the help icon (?). If you are making more than one type of payment or making payments for more than one tax year, submit each of them separately." To the right, there is a "Business Taxes?" section: "All business tax payments should be made through the IRS Direct Pay Business Payments Portal." Below this are three dropdown menus: "Reason for Payment" (selected: Estimated Tax), "Apply Payment To" (selected: 1040ES (for 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ)), and "Tax Period for Payment" (selected: 2026). A "CONTINUE >" button is at the bottom.This is a screenshot of the IRS Direct Pay website, Step 2 of 5. The page title is "Direct Pay" with a link to "Have questions or need additional information?". A progress bar shows "Step 2 of 5". The main heading is "Verify Identity". Below it, there is a text box: "Direct Pay verifies your identity using information from your 1040 filing history. Please provide the following information from a 1040 tax return you filed for one of the years listed in the Tax Year for Verification drop down menu." Below this is a note: "Note: the Tax Year for Verification you enter here does not have to match the tax year for your payment." Below the note is a dropdown menu for "Tax Year for Verification\*" (selected: 2024). To the right of the dropdown is a green information icon and a text box: "You chose 2024 as your tax year for verification. Enter information from your 2024 1040 tax return in the fields below." Below this is another text box: "The information you enter must match the information from your tax return for the tax year you selected above."