



THE GOOD NEWS REVIEW

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Tax Day April 18, 2023

Although we experience
Tax Day firsthand,
there's still plenty for
most Taxpayers to learn

Americans spend 6.5 billion hours doing Taxes each year.

The average person spends 13 hours and \$250 completing their 1040.

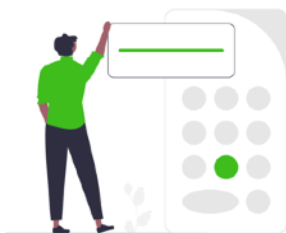
92% of Tax returns are expected to be filed electronically.

It is difficult reaching the IRS by telephone right now with only 10% of calls receiving live assistance and hold times averaging about 29 minutes.

There have been \$931 Billion in total payments made to the IRS to help Americans since the pandemic began.

The average Tax refund (as of February 24, 2023) is \$3079.

90% of refunds are issued in 21 days or less.



A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER...



Many of you know I was once a student of Credit Repair. What you might not know—my problems started when I couldn't qualify for a mortgage because of Tax Liens in my life and on my Credit. That was the beginning of my Credit journey.

My Tax bill was for more money than I could imagine paying. I felt lost and so embarrassed. Never before had I faced a situation like this.

I hired a Tax accountant to help me - she didn't help. I hired a Tax attorney to help me until the payments to the attorney were causing more stress and angst than the tax bill itself.

Feeling hopeless, I wanted to bury my head in the sand and hope for the best—although you and I both know Tax problems NEVER just disappear. I needed to find someone who would help me.

Here's what I did, I humbled myself and asked Jon for help.

- Ignoring my fear and with Jon by my side, I took the plunge and called the IRS directly. After hours on hold, I finally found someone who was kind, understood my situation, and was willing to help me.
- I requested my tax transcripts. (Do you know there is such a thing?)
- I set up a budget to determine how much I could actually pay and then agreed to a monthly payment plan. Finally, I had a resolution that put me back in control of my Taxes, my Credit, and my *life*.

Here's to asking for help and taking action. The smallest possible step forward works every single time! And, if you want my help, all you need to do is ask.

Connie, the Credit Lady



Who is Solomon Shapiro?

Living Better 101's Certified Credit Coach and Sales Manager



Certified Credit Coach, Educator, and Mentor, Sol knows firsthand the tremendous value of alleviating Credit problems.

A graduate of the Living Better 101 process, Sol is thrilled to assist students with our uniquely curated Education Program & Tools.

Sol's motto is **"Better Call Sol"** because he listens with empathy and concern. When the conversation requires an answer, he responds honestly and sincerely. Individuals who meet Solomon find him refreshing as he seeks to understand every student's unique situation to put a plan in place designed with the best possible solutions.

With Sol as your mentor and coach, you also have a friend for life.

The Interview

What Is The Ideal Experience For Your Student/Client?

I'm really happy when a student follows the steps of our Educational process and gets to graduate successfully. And, I'm equally pleased when they decide to enroll in our Continuing Education to monitor their long-term progress, because *"You can't manage what you can't measure"*.

How Do You Motivate Others?

I think motivation comes from within. So the best I can hope for is to set a good example. Afraid that I may fall short, I want my students and team to see that I strive for improvement in all important aspects of life.

What Do You Do Best?

I think my best trait is being positive. Almost every situation, email, or text can be viewed positively or negatively. If we seek to find the good in each other and our communication, we'll have a positive outcome.

What Is Your Biggest Success?

I would say patience has been a big success for me. Things usually work out if I'm just patient—of course, this often means putting in more work when progress isn't visible. A co-worker once said, *"If you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel, you're not at the end of the tunnel!"* Think about that and let it sink in. And seeing my children do well feels good, too.

What is Your Motto?

My motto is **"Better Call Sol"** for the best outcome with your Credit or Debt.

Current Passions?

Audiobooks have been a great way to enjoy "reading" more, especially while on the road. I also enjoy attending casino parties/fundraisers—playing for fun instead of for money.



TAXES CAN RUIN YOUR CREDIT



Do you know that paying Taxes can impact your Credit?



As the Tax Deadline approaches, it's important to know Tax Debt can impact your Credit. While Taxes themselves don't directly impact Credit Reports, failing to pay your Tax Bill or using Credit to pay your Tax Debt can indirectly hurt your Credit.

The Good News:

In 2018, Federal and State Tax Liens and other Tax related court judgments were removed from Credit Reports, which is awesome. The change was made as a result of a study by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that found many Tax penalties were not accurately reported, leading to unfair negative impacts on consumers. Although they no longer appear on Credit Reports, there's still a financial impact.

A few things:

- * Tax Penalties like Liens and Levies are all Public Records.
- * Lenders can find and use them to decide your financial future.
- * You want to avoid Tax penalties whenever possible.
- * If you can pay your Taxes on time and in full, **PAY THEM!** Just don't overextend yourself by going further into debt to pay them!

Taxes and Credit:

- * If you pay your Tax Bill with a high-interest-rate Credit Card, and can't keep up with the payments, the penalties for Late Payments can damage your Credit.
- * If you max out your available Credit to pay your Tax Bill, the high Credit Utilization can damage your Credit Score. It's not uncommon for a maxed-out Credit Card to drop a Credit Score by 45 points.
- * If you choose to pay your Tax Bill with a Personal Loan, and the repayment terms are more than you can afford, you can default, fall into Collections, and damage your long-term finances.



Although your Taxes may not directly affect your Credit Report, the indirect impact can be serious!

**If you receive a Tax Bill, don't ignore it!
Take action before it becomes a crippling Tax Debt.
Contact the IRS. Determine the best payment option,
and avoid falling into a worse financial trap!**

Pay Your Taxes!

After all the Tax Returns are filed, about 75% of Americans receive a Refund, and 25% receive a Bill.

In 2020, the average Tax Debt reached over \$16,000.

The most common causes for Tax Debt included "owing more than expected", "Unfiled Taxes", and "Divorce".

Not paying your Tax Bill on time may cause penalties, interest on penalties, a Tax Lien, an IRS Levy action, or in some cases, if the Debt goes totally unpaid, it's even possible to be banned from traveling internationally.

It's important to note that setting up an IRS Payment Plan does not trigger any reports to the Credit Bureaus.

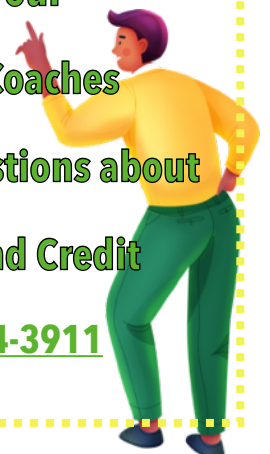
Contact our

Credit Coaches

for Questions about

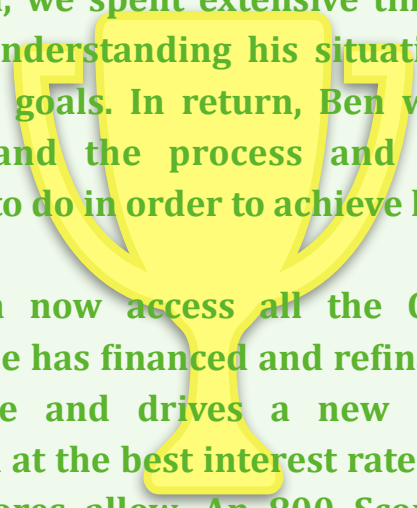
Taxes and Credit

(844)844-3911





When Ben entered the Living Better 101 program, we spent extensive time on the phone understanding his situation along with his goals. In return, Ben wanted to understand the process and what he needed to do in order to achieve his goals.



Ben can now access all the Credit he needs. He has financed and refinanced his mortgage and drives a new car—also financed at the best interest rates his high 700s Scores allow. An 800 Score is just around the corner from here.



Congratulations Ben!
This month we celebrate YOU!
4 total DELETIONS
3 items REPAIRED
367 Point Score INCREASE
New Car Mortgage Refinance

EQUIFAX

experian

TransUnion

Starting Scores

672

657

636

End Scores

788

772

772

Score Increase

116

115

136

It's What We Do! - Helping YOU achieve your GOALS AND DESIRES.

We Educate So Our Students May Graduate



Call us today for help in creating a plan with small but necessary steps for good CREDIT.

Call: (844)844-3911 | Text: (951)298-9422

Email: support@LivingBetter101.com | [Or contact us here](#)

