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Up to 1,650 euros in tax benefits for donations to political parties starting 2026

Donations and membership fees to recognized political parties will get more tax breaks in the future. Anyone who donates 3,300 euros can reduce their taxes by 1,650 euros a year—regardless of their personal tax rate, explains an executive director of the Federal Payroll Tax Support Association (Lohnsteuerhilfeverein) in Berlin.

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The increase will apply first time for the 2026 tax year. Previously, the maximum amount eligible for direct tax deduction had been set at up to 1,650 euros in donations per year since 2007 - resulting in a maximum tax reduction of 825 euros.

Direct tax credit will be two times higher

In the coming years, the tax office will allow 50 percent of donations and membership contributions to political parties- up to 3,300 euros - as a credit from the assessed income tax, up to a maximum of 1,650 euros. Married couples and registered domestic partners who file a joint tax return can claim twice the amount.

Additional deduction as personal expense

In addition to the 3,300 euro, an additional 3,300 euros can be claimed as personal expenses. These reduce the taxable income and, depending on the individual tax rate, further reduce the tax liability. Thus, in 2026, a total of 6,600 euros can be deducted for political donations, and up to 13,200 euros for jointly assessed couples.

The previous maximum amounts still apply for the 2025 tax return. From a maximum of 1,650 euros in donations and membership contributions one half is available as a direct credit from the income tax due - up to a maximum of 825 euros. An additional 1,650 euros is deductible as personal expenses. Married couples and registered domestic partners can claim twice that amount.

As mentioned, the higher deductible donations will take effect starting with the 2026 tax return.

Source:

Federal Payroll Tax Support Association, press release of 30 March 2026.

Keywords

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