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**The 1932 Club**  
 Bureau of Governmental Research  
 1055 Saint Charles Avenue, Suite 200  
 New Orleans, LA 70130

## Give for the Future

One way to avoid the new limitations on charitable deductions is to add a gift to your will or living trust or name the Bureau of Governmental Research as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account. A future gift also has no effect on your current finances and is easy to change if your needs or goals change. Best of all, these legacy gifts reflect your values, strengthen our mission, and demonstrate lasting care for the community we serve.



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Navigate the new rules with timeless generosity.

## BGR 1932 Club Legacy Newsletter

Spring 2026

*Estate Planning Resources for Friends of the Bureau of Governmental Research*

### 1932 Club Legacy Donor Profile



#### Norma Grace and Bob Sternhell

Norma Grace (former BGR Board Chair) and Bob Sternhell have been longtime BGR donors, and they recently made a gift using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA. We asked Norma to share a few words about their gift with BGR members.

#### Can you share the inspiration behind your gift?

*Bob and I decided to give now, rather than wait to make a legacy gift. We love BGR's mission and thought it would be more rewarding to see the impact during our lifetime.*

*Since it has been a good year for the stock market, a gift from our IRA made the most sense for us. We may still include BGR in our estate plans, but giving now feels more meaningful. BGR's work is needed today to strengthen local government and improve daily life in Greater New Orleans.*

#### How does this gift align with your hopes for BGR's future?

*We're encouraged by the changes taking place in New Orleans. And we love BGR's role in advancing real solutions to some of our biggest public policy challenges.*

*BGR relies entirely on donations and doesn't accept government funding. Giving now supports BGR's independent research that helps us all become more informed citizens.*

#### What should donors know about QCDs? And do you have advice for someone considering a QCD or another type of planned gift?

*It's simple and tax advantaged. The gift goes directly from our IRA to BGR tax free, which allows us to give more.*

*Talk with your financial advisor about the best option for you, whether it's a QCD, appreciated securities, a donor-advised fund grant, or an estate gift.*



## Adapting to Change, Maximizing Impact

The OBBBA introduced key changes that may affect how and when you give and the financial benefit of your generosity:

### 1. Higher standard deduction.

The high standard deduction (\$16,100 for single filers and \$32,200 for married filing jointly in 2026) means even fewer people will itemize deductions.

### 2. New “giving floor” for itemizers.

You can only deduct charitable contributions once they exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). For example, if your AGI is \$300,000, only gift amounts over \$1,500 are eligible for a deduction.

### 3. New cap on deductions for high earners.

If you’re in the top 37% tax bracket, the tax benefit for your charitable deductions is limited to 35%.

### 4. New deduction for cash gifts.

Even if you don’t itemize, you can deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for joint filers) for cash gifts to qualified charities, making even modest gifts more rewarding.

### 5. Continued deduction for seniors.

If you are age 65 or older, you can take an additional \$6,000 deduction, providing extra room in your budget to meet charitable goals.

## Smart Strategies for This Year and Beyond

Once you know the rules, you can plan to make the most of them. Here are some tax-savvy approaches to consider.

### Give Assets, Not Cash

If you will be impacted by the new giving floor or deduction limits, the double tax benefit of giving appreciated stock or real estate that you have held for longer than one year is especially valuable. It allows you to bypass the capital gains tax while deducting the full fair market value of the donated assets. The added capital gains tax benefit can more than make up for any limits on the charitable income tax deduction.

**EXAMPLE:** Wallace wants to give us \$5,000 this year. He is also considering selling shares of stock valued at \$5,000 (originally purchased for \$2,000). Wallace decides to donate the stock directly. This allows him to avoid paying the capital gains tax on the \$3,000 appreciation—a savings of \$450 in his 15% capital gains tax bracket. If he meets the 0.5%-of-AGI giving floor, he can also take a deduction for the full \$5,000 (subject to limitations).\*

### Give from Your IRA

If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or older, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA is one of the most tax-wise ways to give, whether you itemize or not. Because it reduces your taxable income directly, this gift is not affected by the new limitations on deductions. By transferring funds directly from your IRA to a qualified charity like ours, you can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) and pay no tax on the distribution up to \$111,000 (in 2026).

**EXAMPLE:** Marie, age 78, is required to take a \$10,000 taxable distribution from her IRA this year. Instead, she uses a QCD to distribute \$10,000 from her IRA directly to us. She pays no income tax on the \$10,000 transfer and satisfies her RMD.\*

### Give for Multiple Years in One Tax Year

Giving to a donor-advised fund (DAF) lets you give two or more years’ worth of gifts in one tax year, qualify for a deduction for the full amount, then recommend annual grants to charity. With the new limits on deductions, a DAF can be a strategic way to surpass the standard deduction (making itemizing worthwhile) and minimize the impact of the new giving floor. You also have the option to name us as the beneficiary of the DAF to receive any remaining funds after your lifetime.

**EXAMPLE:** After receiving an inheritance, Jordan contributes \$50,000 to a DAF. He claims the full deduction in that year (subject to limitations), then recommends grants of \$10,000 annually over the next five years to support our work. The DAF gives him flexibility, consistency, and the joy of seeing his gifts make a lasting impact.\*

Many families use DAFs to turn generosity into a family tradition by engaging younger generations in giving decisions. This can be a meaningful way to pass on your values and create shared experiences around philanthropy.

### A Legacy That Endures

When the winds shift and the tides change, generosity like yours becomes a steady beacon that lights the way for others. Rules may change, but the values behind your giving—care, compassion, and community—endure. Let us help you and your advisors explore thoughtful ways to carry those values forward. Contact us or use the attached reply card to request more information or a complimentary copy of our booklet, **Planning After the OBBBA: The Benefits of Donor-Advised Funds**. Together, we can plan today for a brighter tomorrow.



For Placement Only

(image from last newsletter)

Please tear off the card, fold in half, and tape closed to mail.

## Know more. Do more.

### We can help.

- Please send your free booklet, *Planning After the OBBBA: The Benefits of Donor-Advised Funds*.
- I am considering / have made (*circle one*) a future gift to you in my will or trust or through a charitable beneficiary designation (*circle one*).
- I'd like to start a confidential gift planning conversation. Please reach out.
- I would like to know more about \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for considering smart ways to help us change lives.

\*All examples are for illustrative purposes only.