

Making Sense Of Investing

FINANCIAL FOCUS

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Maximize Your Charitable Giving With Tax-Efficient Strategies

You likely support charitable organizations because you care about the causes they serve. Aligning your giving strategy with current tax rules may help you maximize both the impact of your gifts and the benefits available to you.

Today's charitable-giving rules offer different benefits for itemizers and non-itemizers. In either case, maintaining records of your charitable contributions can help ensure you receive any tax benefits available to you.

- If you do not itemize, you may still qualify for a charitable deduction of up to $1,000 ($2,000 for married couples filing jointly) for qualifying cash gifts made directly to charity.
- If you itemize, charitable deductions are generally available only to the extent your contributions exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Because a portion of your charitable gifts may no longer be deductible, some taxpayers may find itemizing provides less tax benefit than it did in the past.

Reviewing your giving strategy alongside your broader tax plan can help you maximize the value of your charitable contributions.

Not every strategy below is appropriate for every donor. Your income, assets, tax situation and charitable goals will help determine which approaches may be most effective.

"Bunch" your charitable gifts into one year. Rather than making donations evenly each year, you may choose to concentrate several years' worth of charitable gifts into a single year. By combining charitable donations with other itemized deductions, you may be able to exceed the standard deduction threshold and receive a greater tax benefit in that year. Whether this approach makes sense depends on your tax situation and charitable goals.

Consider a donor-advised fund (DAF). A DAF allows you to make a charitable contribution, potentially receive an immediate tax deduction if you itemize and recommend grants to charities over time. It may also be funded with appreciated investments, allowing you to support charitable causes while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes that could result from selling those assets first.

Donate appreciated securities directly to a qualified charity. This can be a tax-efficient strategy. In some cases, you may avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction if you itemize.

Make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). If you are age 70½ or older, a QCD may provide additional benefits. You can transfer up to $111,000 directly from an IRA to a qualified charity in 2026. Because the distribution goes directly to the charity, the amount is excluded from your taxable income. If you are subject to required minimum distributions (RMDs), a QCD may also satisfy all or part of your annual RMD requirement.

Aligning your charitable goals with your overall tax strategy can help you maximize the impact of your giving while making the most of available tax benefits.

Some strategies, particularly QCDs and donor-advised funds, can be complex. Consult your tax advisor and financial professional before taking action. But if any of these techniques are appropriate for your situation, give them some thought — because helping a charitable group and getting tax benefits for doing so is a "win" for everyone.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing you a festive and joyful Thanksgiving surrounded by friends and family.

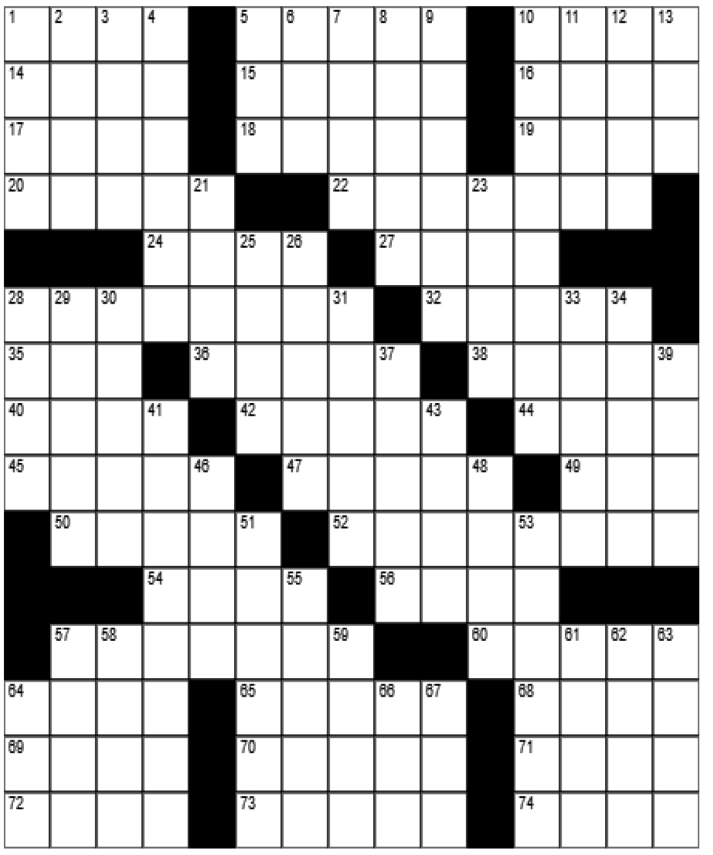


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Town Tribune Teaser

See Last Week's Answers, page 19



Across

1- Winglike parts; 5- Ralph of "The Waltons"; 10- Novelist Bagnold; 14- Vanished; 15- Religion of the Muslims; 16- Transport, mail; 17- Cake decorator; 18- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 19- Head of France; 20- ___ I can help it!; 22- Underwater missile; 24- Historical periods; 27- Beget; 28- Gaseous element; 32- Defective car; 35- Live and breathe; 36- Lady of the house; 38- Jeopardy; 40- Bishop of Rome; 42- Burton of "Roots"; 44- Comedian Carvey; 45- Lend ___ (listen); 47- Summary; 49- Allow; 50- Sealy rival; 52- Ball game; 54- Capone nemesis; 56- Don; 57- Sparkle; 60- Gridiron units; 64- Elvis ___ Presley; 65- Abnormal plant swelling; 68- Sleuth Wolfe; 69- Group; 70- Great reviews; 71- Transcript figs.; 72- Organs used for sight; 73- Entrap; 74- This, in Tijuana;

Down

1- Not "fer"; 2- Nuts; 3- Work without ___; 4- More spine-tingling; 5- Take the gold; 6- ___ was going to St. Ives...; 7- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?"; 8- Folded food; 9- TV chef Lagasse; 10- Highly regarded; 11- Can't do without; 12- Division preposition; 13- HST's successor; 21- Gift tag word; 23- Get ready; 25- I've Got ___ in Kalamazoo; 26- Exodus commemoration; 28- California wine valley; 29- Removes wrinkles; 30- Conical native American tent; 31- Umbilicus; 33- Some exams; 34- Dressed to the ___; 37- Long-tailed parrot; 39- Tardy; 41- Wages; 43- Speed contest; 46- AAA suggestions; 48- Ask for divine guidance; 51- Late bloomers; 53- Citrus fruit; 55- Family car; 57- Between white and black; 58- Isolated; 59- St. Petersburg's river; 61- Workout count; 62- "Darn!"; 63- Fair; 64- Candle count; 66- Sea, to Cousteau; 67- Peer Gynt's mother;

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