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charitable giving for many Americans.

Nov. 19, 2018

Tuesday, November 27, is [#GivingTuesday](#), when U.S. taxpayers are urged to consider donating to their preferred charities, after a long weekend of family, food, football, and shopping.

Charities are expected to receive fewer donations this year as a result of the new tax laws that, among other things, eliminated or sharply reduced the tax benefits of charitable giving for many Americans.

Since the standard deduction claimed by individuals or couples has nearly doubled, fewer people will itemize their deductions and you must itemize in order to deduct charitable contributions from your taxes. In light of these changes, the National Association of Enrolled Agents offers the following tax tips to help taxpayers maximize the impact of charitable contributions while complying with the new tax laws.

1. Bundle Your Donations

One way to surpass the new standard deduction of \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for couples is to save money over time and donate every two or three years instead of every year. One popular way to do this is by donating to a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF). Contributing to a DAF qualifies you to receive tax benefits now, enables your donation to grow tax free, and gives you the ability to decide later how you wish to make grants from that fund to qualified charities.

2. Retirees: Make a QCD from Your IRA

Taxpayers aged 70.5 years or older may make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA directly to a charity in lieu of taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from that IRA each year. Using a QCD enables one to reduce his

or her taxable income by the amount donated, up to 50 percent of one's adjusted

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Similarly, your college or university will appreciate your purchase of season tickets so you can entertain clients at campus sporting events. However, the cost of those tickets no longer qualifies as a business entertainment expense.

4. Don't Forget the Basics

Make sure the organizations to which you donate are tax-exempt. One way to be certain is by using the [tax exempt organization search tool](#) available on the IRS website. You may also confirm an organization's status by calling the IRS at 1-877-829-5500, but using their online tool is generally faster.

[Charity Navigator](#) is another great resource for learning about the financial health, accountability, and financial transparency of a given charity. Charity Navigator provides independent evaluations of more than 9,000 charitable organizations. They also provide lists of specific charities working to provide aid to those impacted by natural disasters. For example, click on these links to access lists of highly-rated organizations providing [relief for the California wildfires](#), for [Hurricane Michael](#), [Hurricane Florence](#), [Hurricane Lane](#), and for [Puerto Rico and other areas still recovering from Hurricane Maria](#).

Hire a Licensed Tax Professional

An enrolled agent or other licensed tax professional can help you maximize the impact of your charitable contributions by helping you understand the impact of the new tax laws. Visit the free "Find a Tax Expert" directory at [eaTax.org](#) to find an enrolled agent near you.

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