



Gifts of Retirement Assets



A Tax-Wise Way to Give

Did you know you can create a legacy at St. Lawrence University without changing your will or parting with any assets now? You can designate St. Lawrence University as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts and benefit from one of the most tax-wise ways to support the organization you care about.

Making a gift of retirement plan assets, IRAs, 401(k), 403(b), and other qualified plans, is easy to do. You do not need to modify your will or living trust. You can name St. Lawrence University as the sole beneficiary or as one of several. This allows you to make a gift while still providing for family members or other loved ones. At your passing, that portion of left-over funds will be paid to the St. Lawrence University in a lump sum, totally tax-free. In the meantime, the funds remain available to you should you need them to meet your own needs, and, if family circumstances change, you can adjust the portion allocated to St. Lawrence University.

Besides Tax Savings, a Gift of Retirement Assets Has Other Advantages:

- It is easy to arrange. You simply request a beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator. There is no need to change your will or living trust.
- You can designate St. Lawrence University as beneficiary of whatever portion you choose. For example, it might be 10 percent or 35 percent of the account. If you have otherwise provided for heirs, you could leave the entire balance to St. Lawrence University.
- The gift is revocable. You retain full control of your retirement funds should you need them, and you can change beneficiaries at any time.

Taxation of Retirement Plan Assets

Retirement assets are considered 'non-probate assets' and generally pass outside of the will or living trust. However, they are still considered to be a part of an individual's estate and the fair market value of these assets, along with all other estate assets, will be subject to possible state and federal estate taxes.

Every dollar your heirs (other than your spouse) receive from retirement accounts would be subject to income tax (unless the distribution derives from a Roth IRA). Depending on the size of the estate, retirement funds, like other estate assets, may be subject to estate tax. However, distributions from retirement accounts to a charity are subject to neither income tax nor estate tax.

Example of Using an IRA to Make a Gift

Option 1

Give \$250,000 from your general estate assets to St. Lawrence University and the IRA to your children.

Income tax savings	\$0
Net cost of gift	\$250,000

Option 2

Give the IRA to St. Lawrence University and other assets to your children.

Estimated income tax savings (assuming a 35% combined federal and state tax rate for the children)	\$87,500
Net cost of gift (\$250,000 - \$87,500)	\$162,500

General rule: Upon death, it is better to make charitable gifts with IRAs and qualified retirement funds and give other assets such as cash, securities, and real estate to heirs.

Outright Gifts of Retirement Assets

If you are over 59 ½ years of age, you might also consider an outright gift from your IRA or 401(k) or 403(b) plan. While the withdrawal will typically be a taxable event, your charitable deduction would offset the taxable income, provided you itemize your deductions and can claim the full deduction in the year you make the gift.

Make a Tax-Free Gift with an IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 ½ or older, consider this gift from your traditional IRA account [401(k) and 403(b) accounts are not eligible]. Your gift must be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to St. Lawrence. This IRA charitable rollover, also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), will not be included in your taxable income and will offer all of the tax benefits of an itemized deduction even if you no longer itemize your deductions. If you are age 72 or older and must take your required minimum distribution (RMD), a QCD can satisfy your RMD without increasing your taxable income. You can give up to \$100,000 per year this way.

***Due to the SECURE Act, please know the following:**

- Anyone born before July 1, 1949 can make an IRA Charitable Rollover gift in 2020 or later and count their gift towards their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The required age for both is 70½. There is no change.
- Anyone born on or after July 1, 1949 can make an IRA Charitable Rollover gift once they are age 70½. However, they won't have an RMD for their gift to count towards until the year they turn age 72. For example, someone born on July 1, 1949 will have an RMD beginning in 2021 but will be able to make an IRA Charitable Rollover gift in 2020.



I'm here to answer questions and help. Please contact me at 315-229-5026, kterrell@stlawu.edu, or visit www.plannedgifts.stlawu.edu.

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St. Lawrence University

The only exceptions to the possible double-taxation are distributions from a Roth IRA or distributions attributable to contributions of after-tax dollars to other types of IRA. Because everyone's situation is different, we encourage you to seek professional legal, estate planning, and financial advice before deciding on a course of action. This information does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice.



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