

Tax-Free Charitable IRA Gifts Signed into Law

President Obama signed into law the Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act of 2015, which retroactively reinstates the provision for tax-free charitable gifts from IRAs for 2015 and makes the provision permanent going forward. This is important news, because the law which allowed individuals to make tax-free charitable gifts from an IRA expired at the end of 2014.

If you have been considering a tax-free rollover gift from your IRA to Washington University, you may find the information below helpful. Since the approval of the IRA rollover came so late in the year, you may want to contact your financial advisor to wire transfer funds.

Under the new law:

- You must be 70½ years of age or older when the distribution is made.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Washington University.
- The provision has been made permanent. You may make tax-free transfers from your IRA to a charity or charities totaling up to \$100,000 for 2015 and each calendar year going forward. Your spouse may also be eligible to make such gifts up to \$100,000 from his/her IRA.
- The law is retroactive to January 1, 2015, so if you made a direct transfer in 2015 from your IRA to Washington University prior to passage of the new law, that transfer will qualify as a tax-free IRA rollover gift.
- If you have not taken your 2015 required minimum distribution from your IRA, a charitable rollover gift from your IRA if made by December 31, 2015 will count toward your minimum distribution requirement.
- Gifts from an IRA may *only* be used to make an outright gift to a qualified public charity, such as Washington University. IRA assets cannot be used to fund a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, a donor advised fund, or a private foundation.

For further information and wire transfer instructions, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at **800-835-3503** or **314-935-5373**, via email at plannedgiving@wustl.edu, or visit our website at plannedgiving.wustl.edu. As a reminder, please consult your tax and legal advisors before making a charitable gift.

Thank you very much for your support of Washington University.