



# LEGACY FAMILY OFFICE®



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LEGACY FAMILY OFFICE®

Legacy Family Office is built around your family and your needs, and intently focused on simplifying your complex financial matters. We help families preserve wealth across generations.

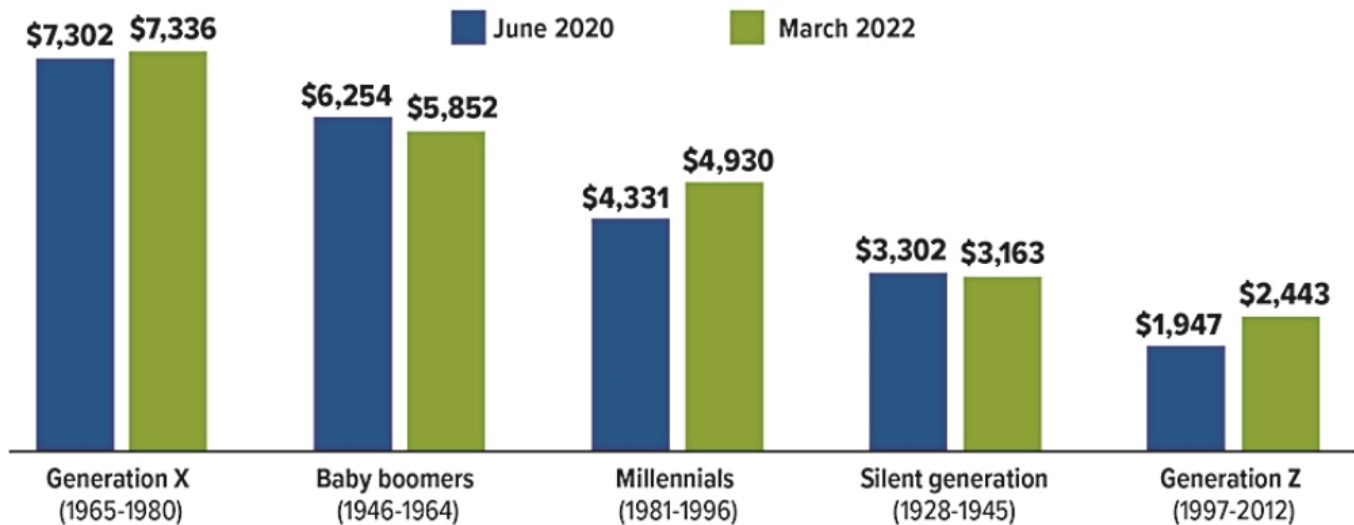
If you would like to discuss the unique challenges facing your family, please contact our experienced team at Legacy Family Office.

## Younger Generations See Fastest Growth in Credit-Card Balances

During the past two years, credit-card balances of younger generations have grown at a faster rate than for older generations. From June 2020 to March 2022, the average credit-card balance for Generation Z grew from \$1,947 to \$2,443 — more than a 25% increase. The average credit-card balance for millennials grew from \$4,331 to \$4,930 during that same period — close to a 14% increase.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, older generations spent the past two years paying down their credit-card debt, leading to a decline in their balances. The average credit-card balance of baby boomers dropped more than 6%, while the silent generation's average balance dropped more than 4%.

Average Credit-Card Balance by Generation



Sources: How Credit Card Usage Differs by Generation, Experian, September 13, 2022

# Donor-Advised Funds Combine Charitable Impact with Tax Benefits

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a charitable account offered by sponsors such as financial institutions, community foundations, universities, and fraternal or religious organizations. Donors who itemize deductions on their federal income tax returns can write off DAF contributions in the year they are made, then gift funds later to the charities they want to support. DAF contributions are irrevocable, which means the donor gives the sponsor legal control while retaining advisory privileges with respect to the distribution of funds and the investment of assets.

Donors can take their time vetting unfamiliar charities and exploring philanthropic opportunities. They can wait to take advantage of matching fund campaigns, have money ready to aid victims when disaster strikes, or build up funds over multiple years to make one large grant for a special purpose. Grants can generally be made to any qualified tax-exempt charitable organization in good standing.

Under current law, there are no rules about how quickly money in DAFs should be granted. However, legislation has been introduced — the Accelerating Charitable Efforts (ACE) Act — that would impose a 15-year limit on the donor's advisory privileges, among other changes. You may want to watch for future developments if you are interested in using donor-advised funds to execute a charitable giving strategy. (Any legislation passed in 2022 likely would not take effect until 2023.)

## Tax-Efficient Timing

Gifts to public charities, including donor-advised funds, are tax deductible up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash contributions and 30% of AGI for non-cash assets (if held for more than one year). Contribution amounts that exceed these limits may be carried over for up to five tax years.

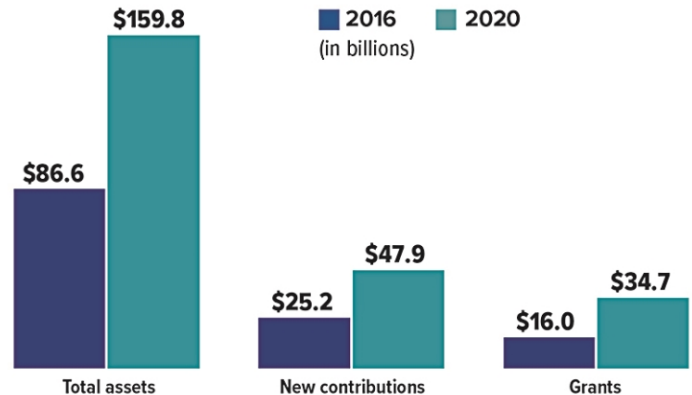
DAF contributions can be timed to make the most of the tax deduction. In an especially high-income year, for example, a larger contribution might keep a taxpayer from climbing into a higher tax bracket or crossing a threshold that would trigger Medicare surcharges or the net investment income tax.

Now that the standard deduction has been expanded (\$12,950 for single filers and \$25,900 for joint filers in 2022), many taxpayers don't benefit from itemizing deductions, including those for charitable donations. But with advance planning, it may be possible to bunch charitable contributions that would normally be donated over several years in a single tax year, ensuring that itemized deductions surpass the standard deduction.

A similar approach may appeal to pre-retirees in their peak earning years. Those who expect to be in a lower tax bracket and/or might claim the standard deduction during retirement might consider making deductible contributions to a donor-advised fund while they are still working.

## Growth in Donor-Advised Funds

Contributions to DAFs accounted for about 10.1% of total U.S. charitable giving in 2020.



Source: National Philanthropic Trust, 2021

## Gifting Appreciated Assets

Contributions to a donor-advised fund can be made with cash, publicly traded securities, and more complicated assets such as real estate, valuable art and collectibles, or a stake in a privately held business, offering a convenient way to gift appreciated assets. Fund sponsors typically have experience in evaluating and liquidating donated assets (a qualified appraisal may be needed). This way, a donor can make a single contribution to a DAF that eventually benefits multiple charities, including smaller organizations that are not able to accept direct donations of appreciated assets.

Giving appreciated assets to charity can provide lucrative tax savings. A donor may qualify for a tax deduction based on the current fair market value of the contribution while helping reduce capital gain taxes on the profits from the sale of those assets. This strategy may be helpful when family businesses or shares of privately held companies are sold, or any time a larger tax deduction is needed.

*DAFs have fees and expenses that donors giving directly to a charity would not face. All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.*

# Should You Consider Tax-Loss Harvesting?

Stock market losses can be rough on your portfolio's bottom line, but they may also offer the potential to reduce your tax liability and possibly buy shares at a discount. Whether this strategy — called tax-loss harvesting — is appropriate for you depends on a variety of factors, including your current portfolio performance, your long-term goals, and your current and future taxable income.

## Gains and Losses

When an investment loses money, it's often best to look beyond current performance and hold it for the long term. Sometimes, though, you may want to sell a losing investment, which could help balance gains from selling an investment that has appreciated or reduce your taxable income even if you do not have gains.

Capital gains and losses are classified as long term if the investment was held for more than one year, and short term if it was held for one year or less. Long-term gains are taxed at a rate of 0%, 15%, or 20% depending on your income. Short-term gains are taxed at your ordinary income tax rate, which may be much higher than your capital gains rate.

For tax purposes, capital losses are applied first to like capital gains and then to the other type of gains; for example, long-term losses are applied first to long-term gains and then to short-term gains. Up to \$3,000 of any remaining losses can then be applied to your ordinary income for the current year (\$1,500 if you are married filing separately). Finally, any remaining losses can be carried over to be applied to capital gains or ordinary income in future years. For most taxpayers, the biggest benefit comes when applying losses to short-term gains or ordinary income.

## Selling, Buying, and Washing

Some investors sell losing investments with the idea of harvesting the tax loss and then buying the same investment while its price remains low. In order to discourage this, the IRS has a *wash-sale* rule, which prohibits buying "substantially identical stock or securities" within 30 days prior to or after a sale. This also applies to securities purchased by your spouse or a company you own.

It is impossible to time the market, but under the right circumstances, harvesting a tax loss and then buying the same security at least 30 days later (i.e., after the wash-sale period) could potentially result in a lower tax liability when you sell that security later at a gain.

## 2023 Income and Capital Gains Tax Rates

Taxable income		
Income tax rate	Single filers	Joint filers
10%	Up to \$11,000	Up to \$22,000
12%	\$11,001 to \$44,725	\$22,001 to \$89,450
22%	\$44,726 to \$95,375	\$89,451 to \$190,750
24%	\$95,376 to \$182,100	\$190,751 to \$364,200
32%	\$182,101 to \$231,250	\$364,201 to \$462,500
35%	\$231,251 to \$578,125	\$462,501 to \$693,750
37%	Over \$578,125	Over \$693,750

Taxable income		
Long-term capital gains tax rate	Single filers	Joint filers
0%	Up to \$44,625	Up to \$89,250
15%	\$44,626 to \$492,300	\$89,251 to \$553,850
20%	Over \$492,300	Over \$553,850

This is most likely if you repurchase the security at a similar or lower price, and you are in a higher tax bracket at the time you take the loss than at the time you take the gain — for example, if you take the loss while working and sell when you are retired.

Any year in which your taxable income falls within the 0% capital gains rate is an opportune time to take gains, and any losses in that year would be applied to short-term gains or ordinary income. Keep in mind that capital gains and losses apply only when investments are sold in a taxable account.

Tax-loss harvesting is a complex strategy, and it would be wise to consult your financial professional before taking action. Although there is no guarantee that working with a financial professional will improve investment results, a professional can evaluate your objectives and available resources and help you consider appropriate long-term financial strategies.

*All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.*

# Building Financial Resilience

Inflation, roller-coaster markets, global events, and life circumstances can test anyone's fortitude. You may not feel ready to handle these pressure-filled times and might worry about the potential effects on your financial well-being. Fortunately, you can take steps to build the resilience you need to help handle the turbulence and hopefully emerge even stronger.

## Focus on the Foundation

Developing a new budget or reviewing an existing one may help reduce stress by reminding you that you still have control over many aspects of your personal finances. A budget outlines your income and expenses and shows how much money is coming in compared to how much money is going out. If you find that you are spending more than you realized, you can make adjustments.

An important companion to a budget is an emergency fund. When an unexpected expense comes up, you can use your emergency reserves to cover it, instead of dipping into long-term savings or racking up costly credit-card debt that could throw your budget off track at a time you can least afford it. Consider starting an emergency fund and build it up over time.

## Stress-Test Your Portfolio

When you're investing for retirement or another financial goal, assessing the potential impact of various scenarios may help you prepare for unexpected events. This may be done using computer

simulations to analyze how your portfolio might perform. Doing this at regular intervals may help take some of the emotion out of decision-making during stressful times, helping you address gaps and opportunities.

There is no assurance that a simulation will be accurate. Because of the many variables involved, you should not rely on simulations without realizing their limitations. All investing involves risk, and there is no assurance that any financial strategy will be successful.

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*It's better to look ahead and prepare, than to look back and regret.*

*Jackie Joyner-Kersey*

Source: BrainyQuote.com

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## Prepare for the Future

Of course, you're never going to be prepared for every financial scenario. But developing a written financial strategy and reviewing it periodically may help you thoughtfully navigate life's twists and turns. It documents and organizes the pieces of your financial picture, helping you stay focused on the future as you weather the current storms.

Building financial resilience is an ongoing process, and it's never too late to start. Becoming better positioned for downturns can help you feel more confident that you can handle whatever challenges come your way.

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