

# Supporting Evergreen Audubon with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

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 [evergreenaudubon.org/supporting-evergreen-audubon-with-qualified-charitable-distributions-qcds](https://evergreenaudubon.org/supporting-evergreen-audubon-with-qualified-charitable-distributions-qcds)

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We have launched the 2019 Evergreen Audubon Annual Appeal to raise money to support the activities and staff of the Evergreen Nature Center and support our ongoing programs. Did you know that if you are at least age 70 1/2 and have an IRA, you can use a unique strategy to make a charitable contribution and save on federal income taxes? You can use your required minimum distribution (RMD) to make a contribution to a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Most of us don't take the RMD from our IRAs until later in the year. If you haven't taken yours as yet, you can take advantage of the QCD strategy. You request that a distribution from your IRA be paid directly to a qualifying nonprofit like Evergreen Audubon. As a result, that IRA distribution is not taxed.

Although you are also required to take RMDs on 401(k), 403(b), 457 plans and others, you cannot use them for QCDs. If you want to apply them to a QCD, you will have to roll the monies into an IRA first. You'll need help from your financial advisor to do so.

QCDs are not included in your gross income. As a result, you can use this strategy to lower your income and possibly decrease the tax you pay. My tax accountant insists that I make all charitable contributions using QCDs this year, in part because of the increase in the standard deduction since 2018. For those of us who no longer have mortgages to pay, that makes it difficult to receive any tax credit for making charitable contributions.

Although you can't take a charitable deduction for a QCD, reducing your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) may give you a better tax benefit. We requested a set of checks from our IRA account so that we can mail our checks to our charities of choice. Of course, you can also ask your IRA representative to write a check for you. Just be certain your check clears before the last working day in December so that it counts for the current year. You might want to complete your charitable giving by the beginning of December, about the time of the Colorado Gives Day contributions.

I'm happy to talk to anyone about the QCDs. I think it's a great way to give to Evergreen Audubon and other charities and get a tax break as well. You just have to be a senior citizen!

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