Increased charitable deductions from the OBBBA

Richard W. Evans and Ike Brannon July 29, 2025

In our first report we estimated the change in annual charitable contributions for a permanent charitable deduction for nonitemizers: \$10,000-joint/\$5,000-single and \$1,000-joint/\$500-single. Our analysis estimated the larger deduction limit would result in roughly \$40 billion per year in extra donations, and the smaller deduction limit would result in approximately \$11 billion per year in extra donations. Neither of these estimates included the potential negative effect on charitable contributions of a 0.5 percent of AGI floor on itemized deductions.

Our back-of-the-envelope analysis is that the **currently enacted policy (effective 12/31/2025) would increase charitable deductions by \$19 billion per year from 2026 onward.** This incorporates the diminishing elasticity as the deduction limit increases as well as the small negative (disincentive) effects of the 0.5 percent of AGI floor (and the one percent floor on corporate donations).

We note that the disincentives of the 0.5 percent of AGI floor and the one percent floor on corporate donations that come into effect on 12/31/2025 might cause high net worth individuals and businesses to accelerate planned gifts into 2025.

Table 1. Statistics of enacted and alternative charitable deduction policies

			1
			Ike/Rick
			Change in
			charitable
			contributions
	JCT 10-year	Ike/Rick	per year
	cost (-) or	10-year cost (-)	(starting in
Provision	revenue (+) ^a	or revenue (+)	2026)
Permanent and expanded	-\$73.8 Billion	-\$73 Billion	+\$19 Billion
reinstatement of partial			
deduction \$2,000/\$1,000			
for charitable			
contributions of			
individuals who do not			
elect to itemize			
0.5% of AGI floor on	+\$63.1 Billion	+\$75.5 Billion	
deduction of			
contributions made by			
individuals			
1.0% floor on deductions	+\$16.6 Billion	Not available	
of charitable			
contributions made by			
corporations			
Permanent and expanded		-\$36.1 Billion	+\$40 Billion
reinstatement of partial			
deduction \$10,000/\$5,000			
for charitable			
contributions of			
individuals who do not			
elect to itemize			
Permanent and expanded			+\$11 Billion
reinstatement of partial			
deduction \$1,000/\$500			
for charitable			
contributions of			
individuals who do not			
elect to itemize			

^a JCT 10-year cost estimates come from "Estimated Revenue Effects Of A Manager's Amendment To The Tax Provisions To Provide Reconciliation Of The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget In The Senate Relative To Present Law," June 18, 2025. All the charitable deduction policies addressed in the Table are effective after 12/31/2025.