



## Getting Started with QCDs

If you're at least 70 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years old, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also referred to as a charitable IRA rollover, is a smart and easy way to support Mass Audubon.

### How does Qualified Charitable Distribution Work?

- If you have an IRA or Roth retirement account and you are at least 70.5, you can request a charitable donation directly from that account to Mass Audubon. This gift is not taxed, and if you are 73 or older it applies toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- Individuals can distribute up to \$100,000 per year through qualified charitable distribution; this maximum donation cap is not restricted by household or joint filing status.
- Furthermore, starting in 2024, this \$100,000 maximum will be indexed for inflation. QCDs must be directed to a 501(c)(3) charity and not to a private foundation, supporting organization, or Donor Advised Fund.

### What are the Benefits?

- Smart, efficient, and immediate support for Mass Audubon and our work to protect nature for people and wildlife.
- While withdrawals from a retirement account are subject to income tax, QCDs are not.
- Can be used to fulfill charitable pledges.
- Simple to complete: just ask your retirement plan administrator.
- Reduces and may entirely fulfill RMD.
- Can potentially create tax and Social Security benefits even for those who don't itemize by lowering your taxable income and tax bracket status.
- A great way to use a retirement plan if you don't currently need the income.



## How Does it Work?

### In order to make a charitable IRA Rollover/QCD:

1. Ask your retirement plan administrator or go online to your IRA to make a distribution to Mass Audubon. Use the following sample language, or our sample letter online.

Dear [Name of Administrator]:

Please accept this letter as my request to make a direct charitable distribution from my Individual Retirement

Account [Account Number.]

Please issue a check in the amount of: [\$ amount] (not to exceed \$100,000.00), payable to:

Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc.  
208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773  
Tax Identification #04-2104702

2. Your financial institution may need Mass Audubon's:
  - a. **Legal Name:** Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc., 208 Great Rd., Lincoln, MA 01773
  - b. **Tax ID:** 04-2104702
  - c. **Beneficiary Status:** Nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status
3. Fill out a form with your plan administrator or make the request online through your account.
4. You will need to report QCDs as part of your federal taxes.
5. Let us know that you've given us a gift! Use the following sample language, or simply send us an email:

I am delighted to inform Mass Audubon that I have made a request for a qualified charitable distribution from my retirement account. This gift is payable in the amount of \$[] from [name of my plan trustee/administrator]. I would like my gift to be used for [general operating, a specific sanctuary or program, etc.]

6. Understand that if you make more than \$100,000 a year in individual charitable distributions from a retirement account, anything over that amount is subject to income tax.

## Further Questions & More to Consider

If you're interested in making a planned gift but aren't sure that a QCD is right for you, please reach out. We'd be happy to talk with you about your wishes and help you explore the many options available for gift planning. Many plans allow you full control and use of your assets during your lifetime, and there are also options which would pay you an income during your lifetime.

Visit [massaudubon.plannedgiving.org](https://massaudubon.plannedgiving.org) for more information or contact us directly.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for considering Mass Audubon in your estate plans.

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### Contact the Gift Planning Department

Betsy Townsend, *Director of Gift Planning*  
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781-259-2136

Planning your estate and legacy for future generations, including your charitable interests, takes careful evaluation. We encourage you to consult with your Advisors, as Mass Audubon does not provide individual legal or tax advice.

