

Thank you for your interest in making a charitable gift to the Portage County Public Library Foundation. The purpose of this letter is to provide a summary of some common ways which your gift can be made.

1. **Immediate Giving.** You can make a direct contribution of money or property to the Organization, which is available for immediate use for its charitable purposes. This is the simplest way to give for both you and the Organization. You may claim the value of the donation as a deduction against your taxable income. However, the tax benefit may be limited if you claim the standard deduction instead of itemizing on their federal return. Planning the timing of donations can help maximize the available tax benefits.
2. **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution.** This is a special type of immediate giving for those with an IRA requiring annual distributions. All or part of your required distribution is made directly to the Organization and avoids ever being counted towards your adjusted gross income for tax purposes. Because the income is not recognized, you enjoy the tax benefit without needing to itemize deductions.
3. **Structured Giving.** Instead of small annual gifts, you can make a larger upfront donation to a special type of private entity to hold and distribute the funds over time. A donor advised fund is a popular vehicle for this type of giving. The entire donation is deductible by the donor that year. In some cases, this may produce greater tax benefits to a donor than making an annual contribution and the Organization receives a similar amount of support each year.
4. **Testamentary Giving.** You can arrange for a charitable gift to be made upon your death through your will, trust, or a beneficiary designation. Organizations can be listed as the primary beneficiary, or as the recipient of a specific sum of money or property. It is also common for Organizations to be named as "contingent" beneficiaries in estate plans, meaning that if certain loved ones do not survive to receive the inheritance, the money goes to the Organization instead of a distant relative or the state who may otherwise receive it. Unless your estate will exceed the maximum deduction limits for the estate tax, testamentary giving has minimal tax benefits to you.

These are only the most common ways of making charitable gifts. There are many other vehicles through which gifts can be made. For example, private foundations, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts all can be very beneficial in certain circumstances. If the tax benefit associated with your planned gift is important to you, we encourage you to speak with your legal and financial advisors. They will be able to help identify strategies and requirements that are beyond the scope of this letter.

Thank you again for your interest in supporting the Portage County Public Library Foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Oathout".

Larry Oathout
Foundation Secretary