The tactic of “bunching” charitable gifts into a donor-advised fund allows a donor to maximize tax benefits under the new tax laws. Because every donation to a donor-advised fund is tax deductible, this strategy allows individuals to exceed the recently increased standard deduction in the year a donation is made into a donor-advised fund.

In these simplified examples, a married couple filing jointly, who typically make $5,000 a year in charitable gifts, benefit from bunching a single $15,000 donation into a donor-advised fund every three years. This means the couple can itemize in years one and four and take the standard deduction in the years between while still meeting their philanthropic goals. Each year, they can request grants be made from their donor-advised fund to preferred nonprofit organizations as they typically would.