

# PPA Perspectives

## Tax Benefits from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)



In a major win for estate planners and high-net-worth families, Congress passed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA) on July 4, 2025, making permanent the elevated federal estate tax exemption that was originally introduced under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). This legislation ensures that more estates can pass wealth to heirs and charitable causes without triggering federal estate taxes.

### What Changed?

Before the OBBBA, the estate tax exemption was set to drop dramatically in 2026 — from \$13.99 million per person to approximately \$5 million (with an inflation adjustment). The new law prevents that sunset and instead:

- Raises the exemption to \$15 million per individual (or \$30 million for married couples)
- Indexes the exemption for inflation annually starting in 2027
- Maintains the 40% tax rate on estates exceeding the exemption

This means individuals can transfer up to \$15 million tax-free at death or during life, and couples can shield up to \$30 million from federal estate tax with proper planning.

### Why Does It Matter?

**1. Greater Flexibility in Estate Planning:** With higher exemptions, families can make larger lifetime gifts, fund trusts, and support charitable causes without worrying about triggering estate taxes.

**2. Charitable Giving Opportunities:** The elevated exemption allows donors to make substantial charitable bequests while still preserving wealth for heirs. This is especially impactful for those who want to support universities, hospitals, or community foundations.

**3. Dynasty Trusts and GST Planning:** The generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax exemption is now aligned with the \$15 million threshold, enabling robust multi-generational planning.

**4. No Sunset Provision:** Unlike previous tax laws, the OBBBA does not include a built-in expiration date. While future Congresses could change the law, the current exemption is considered “permanent” under existing legislation.

### What Should Your Next Steps Be?

1. Schedule a meeting with our firm to review your estate plan to ensure it reflects the new exemption levels.
2. Consider lifetime gifting strategies to take advantage of the elevated thresholds.
3. Update charitable bequests to maximize impact while minimizing tax exposure.

The OBBBA opens the door to powerful legacy planning. Whether you’re focused on family, philanthropy, or both, now is the time to act. Call us today to update your estate plan and take full advantage of the new law.

### What Sets Us Apart

#### ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (AMP)

Annual Fee Program to cover changes to your estate planning documents.

#### DOCUCLUB, LLC

24/7 Access to your Advance Directive for Health Care

### Register for Our Seminars



*Helping people to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to them.*



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Georgia's Estate Planning and Elder Law Center™



# Happy Birthday, Charles!

## *A Letter from Charles: Turning 60 (And Still Rolling)*

On July 6th, I turned 60.

I know — it's hard to believe. Feels like just yesterday I was signing the lease on our first office space and praying the phones would ring. Now, nearly three decades later, I find myself surrounded by an incredible team, a thriving firm, and a future that looks brighter than ever.

Over the years, my personal mission has remained the same: *helping people be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to them.* That simple idea has guided every client conversation, every decision, and every case we've taken on. It's also why I founded this firm back in 1996: to make a lasting difference in people's lives.

If you've worked with me for more than five minutes, you've probably heard me say, "*It's all good!*" That's not just a catchphrase — it's a mindset. Even when life gets bumpy (and it does), I try to remember that gratitude and perspective go a long way.

Now that I've entered what I call the "4th quarter" of life (but let's be clear: there's still plenty of game left), my core values have taken deeper root:

- Be a good steward of all that has been entrusted to me.
- Have a positive impact on everyone I encounter.
- Be at peace with everyone.
- Enjoy the fruits of my labor.
- Be a perpetual learner.

You won't find me "retiring." That word doesn't sit right with me. I've got too much fuel in the tank and too much to offer. But I am working differently now — more focused, more intentional, and yes, with a little more time carved out to enjoy the journey.

To our clients, thank you for trusting us. To our team, thank you for carrying the torch. And to those wondering what 60 feels like — it feels like purpose, perspective, and a touch more appreciation for a good cup of coffee and a quiet morning.

Here's to the next chapter. It's all good.

— Charles



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# PPA Team Making Summer Memories

## PPA Book Club

Our team recently finished Ina Garten's memoir *"Be Ready When the Luck Happens."* This is a wonderful book that offers lessons drawn from Ina's personal and professional journey, such as one of our favorites:

*"If you love it, you'll be really good at it. And don't worry about whether you make money. Just do it!"*

We also wanted to test our skills in the kitchen by recreating some of Ina's favorite dishes. Here you can see "Steakhouse Steaks with Roquefort Chive Sauce" beautifully prepared by Brittany Douglas!

If you would like to read along with us, our next book is *"The Let Them Theory"* by Mel Robbins. Let us know what you think!



**Brittany Carson and her husband, Reed, on the Pacific Coast Highway heading to Big Sur.**



### Photos:

*Top Left: Charles and Lane Pyke, 2025  
Bottom Left: Suzanne Presley, Lane Pyke, and a PPA favorite, Frances Gresham, celebrating Charles' 60th birthday, 2025*



**Suzanne Presley touring the beautiful Amalfi Coast on a "cousin trip" to Italy.**

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# About Charitable Bequests

Every fall, fans across Georgia rally behind their **college football teams** with unwavering loyalty — donning school colors, cheering from the stands, and proudly supporting alma maters through thick and thin. That same passion for your team and community can extend beyond game day. Just as you invest in your team's future with every ticket, donation, and cheer, you can champion the causes you care about by including **charitable bequests** in your estate plan. It's your chance to make a lasting impact — one that goes far beyond the final whistle.

A charitable bequest is a gift made through your will or trust to a nonprofit organization. It can take several forms:

- **Specific bequest:** A set dollar amount or asset.
- **Percentage bequest:** A portion of your estate.
- **Residual bequest:** What remains after other distributions.
- **Contingent bequest:** A gift triggered by specific conditions.

## Why include charitable bequests?

1. **Leave a Legacy** - Your legacy lives on through your support of organizations that align with your values.
2. **Support Causes You Believe In** - Whether its education, healthcare, or the environment, your bequest can make a lasting impact.
3. **Tax Advantages** - Charitable gifts can reduce estate taxes, benefiting both your beneficiaries and the chosen cause.
4. **Inspire Others** - Your generosity can set an example to loved ones to consider their own legacy and charitable giving.

Charitable bequests are a powerful way to give back and ensure your legacy reflects what matters most to you. Whether it's supporting education, healthcare, the arts, or your favorite alma mater, your estate plan can be a lasting tribute to your values.

Call us today to update your estate plan to include a cause that matters to you. Let's make sure your legacy is as impactful as your life.



## Photo:

UGA fans, Brittany Douglas and husband, Matt!

## For Inspiration:

*"The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience."*

*"All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost."*

*"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind."*

*"It's easy to believe in something when you win all the time. The losses are what define a man's faith."*



## Upcoming Seminars

### **Newnan:**

September 23rd, 2025  
October 23rd, 2025  
11:30 am and 6:30 pm  
The Newnan Center  
1515 Lower Fayetteville Road  
Newnan, GA 30265

### **Peachtree City:**

September 18th, 2025  
October 28th, 2025  
11:30 am and 6:30 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn  
2010 North Commerce Dr  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

## Why College Parents Love DocuClub

Parents know that, even though starting college is a big step towards establishing their independence, your college aged children still depend on you for everything! Unfortunately, the law doesn't always view things that way.

Did you know that once your child turns 18, you can no longer make medical or financial decisions for them - even in an emergency? The good news is that a few simple documents can fix this. As part of your estate plan, we will help you draft these documents and ensure that they meet your family's specific needs. And through the DocuClub LLC app and web portal, we make it easy for you and your loved ones to have access to these documents 24/7, so in case of an emergency, you can take necessary action on behalf of your child.

To learn more or to signup with DocuClub, visit [www.DocuClubLLC.com](http://www.DocuClubLLC.com), download the app from the app store (search: Pyke, Presley & Associates App), or contact Joanna Burns, Client Services Coordinator, at 678.902.0838 or [JBurns@PykePresley.com](mailto:JBurns@PykePresley.com).

## Did You Know?

- *In the last 29 years, PPA has worked with clients to draft more than 15,000 estate plans comprising cumulative assets totalling over \$5 billion dollars.*
- *Our staff has an average of 15.6 years of experience in tax, legal, and financial matters.*
- *PPA has planted more than 1200 trees in memory of our deceased clients over the last 5 years.*

Register for One of Our Upcoming Seminars!





September 2025

# PPA Happenings



## PPA Is Ready for Some Football!

One thing all PPA clients know is that we love our football! Here are some members of the PPA family representing their favorite teams:

- Pearl Godleski, daughter of Matt Godleski, is a future Bulldog!
- Tiffany Smith and Joanna Burns enjoyed the 2024 UGA vs GA. Tech game.
- The Pyke family, circa 2007, are still a house divided.
- Supporting UGA is a family affair for Brittany and Reed Carson and his parents, Michael and Libby Carson - all UGA grads.

*Is it time to review your Estate Plan?*

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