Make the Most of Your Bitcoin

In 2013, Alex began working for a small start-up that was focused on leveraging a new technology called Bitcoin. As a developer and co-founder, he opted to be paid in bitcoin. At the time, one bitcoin was worth $100.

In 2015, he realized his bitcoin appreciated to 4x the value of when he got it. Wanting to make a significant contribution to the cancer center that helped his father battle lymphoma, Alex knew that if he sold some of his bitcoin now, he would have to pay tax on the appreciation since he acquired it two years ago. Then he heard that Fidelity Charitable® could accept bitcoin as a charitable contribution.

Potential benefits of contributing bitcoin directly to Fidelity Charitable®

- Provide more money to charity
- Minimize capital gains tax exposure
- Take a tax deduction
Maximize Your Charitable Giving

He made a contribution of bitcoin in-kind, which was worth about $160,000 at the time, to Fidelity Charitable®, as opposed to selling the bitcoin and donating the after-tax proceeds.

Fidelity Charitable, a tax-exempt public charity sold the bitcoin without having to pay any capital gains tax. In addition, Alex would generally be entitled to claim a fair market value tax deduction for the contribution.¹ As a result, Alex is able to support his favorite charities by way of grant recommendations and he could claim a higher deduction than if he only donated the after-tax proceeds of his sale of the bitcoin.

Reach Rewarding Results

Due to these tax efficiencies, with his Fidelity Charitable Giving Account®, Alex was able to dedicate an additional $11,310 to charitable use.²

Alex reduced his tax obligation by: $63,360

Additional amount dedicated to charity: $11,310
Supporting Charities is Simple, Effective, and Accessible

Alex realized that by contributing bitcoin to Fidelity Charitable he could lessen his capital gains exposure and claim a higher tax deduction than if he sold the bitcoin and donated the after-tax proceeds. Furthermore, after the bitcoin contribution was accepted, Fidelity Charitable sold the bitcoin and allocated the cash proceeds to Alex’s Giving Account® without fees being taken from the proceeds. This enabled Alex to recommend a sizeable grant to the cancer center. He also realized that he would have additional funds available for a grant recommendation next year to his alma mater. Alex was pleased with the ease and efficiency that was made possible by using his Giving Account® and contributing bitcoin electronically.

Interested in doing something like this?

If a donation scenario like Alex’s sounds like it could fit your personal situation, know that Fidelity Charitable has the experience and technical expertise to help. Fidelity Charitable can:

- Simplify the process of contributing long-term appreciated assets
- Help achieve the most favorable tax consequences with the greatest charitable impact
- Guide the entire asset contribution process
- Work with you and your advisors to determine which assets might be best to contribute

To learn more, please contact your financial advisor or Fidelity Charitable at 800-262-6039.

Information provided is general and educational in nature. It is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, legal or tax advice. Content provided relates to taxation at the federal level only. Availability of certain federal income tax deductions may depend on whether you itemize deductions. Rules and regulations regarding tax deductions for charitable giving vary at the state level, and laws of a specific state or laws relevant to a particular situation may affect the applicability, accuracy, or completeness of the information provided. Charitable contributions of capital gain property held for more than one year are usually deductible at fair market value. Deductions for capital gain property held for one year or less are usually limited to cost basis. Consult an attorney or tax advisor regarding your specific legal or tax situation.
By The Numbers

Donating Versus Selling

Value of Alex’s bitcoin

$ 160,000

Original purchase price
$40,000

Alex’s federal long-term capital gains rate
23.8%

Alex sells his bitcoin and donates the proceeds

Fair market value of bitcoin
$160,000

Long term capital gains tax paid
$28,560

Charitable contribution
$131,440

Alex donates his bitcoin directly to Fidelity Charitable®

Fair market value of bitcoin
$160,000

Long term capital gains tax paid
$0

Charitable contribution
$160,000

Alex reduced his tax obligation by:

$ 63,360

Additional amount dedicated to charity:

$ 11,310

1. In order to claim a charitable income deduction for a contribution of bitcoin greater than $5,000 a donor will be required to obtain a valuation to substantiate their claimed deduction.
2. Assuming a contribution of 400 bitcoin. Alex’s tax basis assumed to be $100/bitcoin. If Alex sold 400 bitcoin for $160,000, he would have $120,000 in capital gains and would pay $28,560 in tax.
3. Amount of the proposed donation is the fair market value of the appreciated property held more than one year that you are considering to donate.
4. Assumes no unrelated business taxable income (UBIT) and top ordinary income tax rate of 39.6% for valuing charitable deduction.
5. This assumes all realized gains are subject to the maximum federal long-term capital gain tax rate of 20% and the Medicare surtax of 3.8%. This does not take into account state or local taxes, if any.

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Fidelity Charitable is the brand name for Fidelity® Charitable Gift Fund, an independent public charity with a donor-advised fund program. Various Fidelity companies provide services to Fidelity Charitable. The Fidelity Charitable name and logo, and Fidelity are registered service marks, of FMR LLC, used by Fidelity Charitable under license. Giving Account is a registered service mark of the Trustees of Fidelity Charitable.