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# Pre-liquidity Planning—the why and how

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# The current transfer tax system

## Overview

The current tax system is based on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (“TCJA”), which was made effective 1/1/18 and put in place temporary exclusion amounts that will expire on 12/31/2025. Following the expiration of that regime, exclusion amounts will revert back to those put in place by the American Taxpayer Relief Act (“ATRA”), made effective in 2013. The TCJA did not impact tax rates which will remain consistent and are governed by ATRA. Keep in mind:

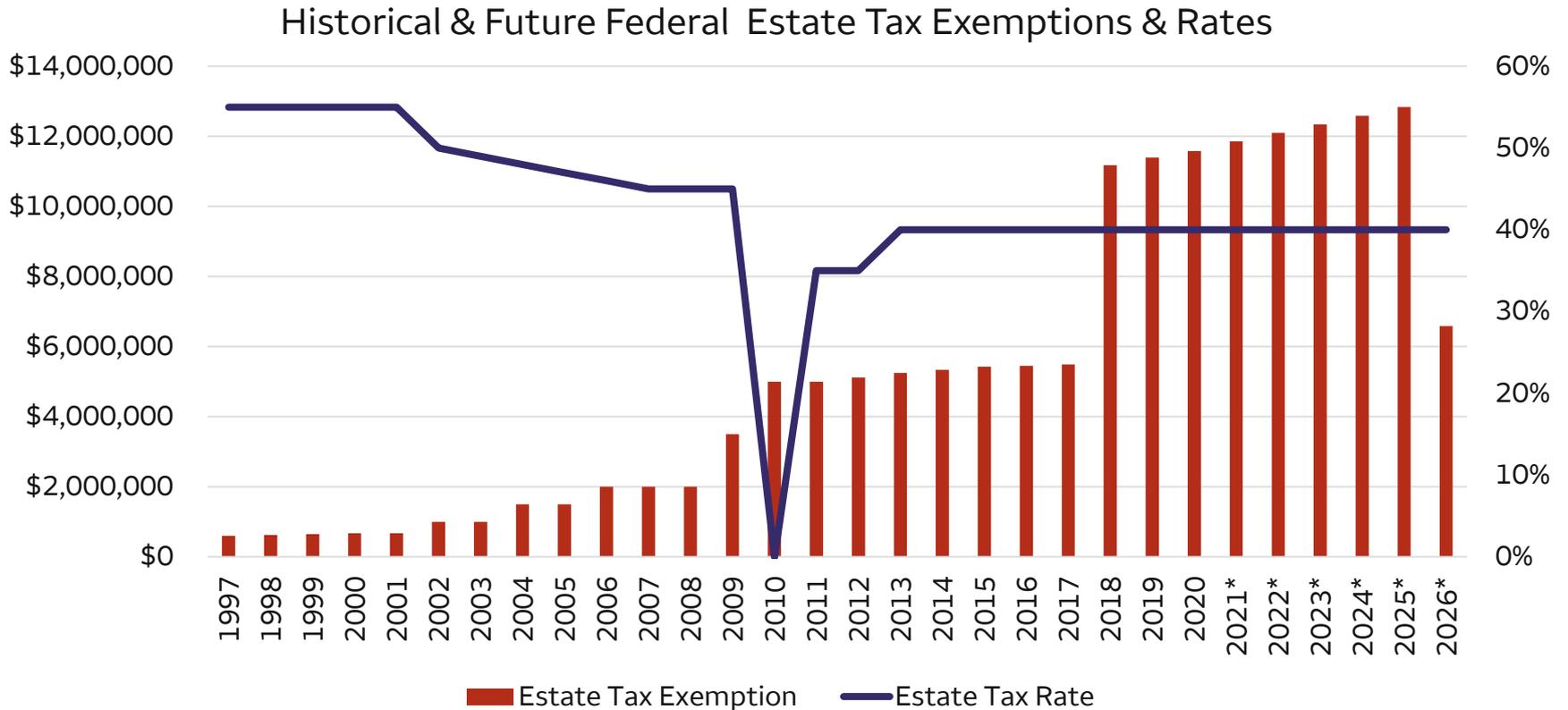
- The exclusion amounts will continue to increase with inflation in future years.
- Any estate or gift tax exclusion that is not used at the first spouse’s death is portable and may be used by or at the surviving spouse’s death

Tax year	Applicable credit amount (1)	Estate tax exclusion amount (2)(4)	GST exemption amount	Gift tax exclusion amount (2)	Marital deduction	Marginal estate and gift tax rates	GST tax rate	Annual exclusion gift amount (3)
2015	\$2,117,800	\$5,430,000	\$5,430,000	\$5,430,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$14,000
2016	\$2,125,800	\$5,450,000	\$5,450,000	\$5,450,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$14,000
2017	\$2,141,800	\$5,490,000	\$5,490,000	\$5,490,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$14,000
2018	\$4,417,800	\$11,180,000	\$11,180,000	\$11,180,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$15,000
2019	\$4,505,800	\$11,400,000	\$11,400,000	\$11,400,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$15,000
2020	\$4,577,800	\$11,580,000	\$11,580,000	\$11,580,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$15,000
2021	\$4,625,800	\$11,700,000	\$11,700,000	\$11,700,000	Unlimited	40%	40%	\$15,000

### Footnotes

1. Estate tax credit taken on the estate tax return corresponding to the estate tax exclusion amount.
2. Represents the basic exclusion amount. Under the portability rules, if the decedent is married, the applicable exclusion amount is the sum of the basic exclusion amount and the deceased spousal unused exclusion amount.
3. Annual exclusion gifts are adjusted for inflation in \$1,000 increments.
4. Some states also have their own estate tax and estate tax exclusion amount. In California, there currently is no state estate tax.

# Historical tax rates - estate tax and exemption



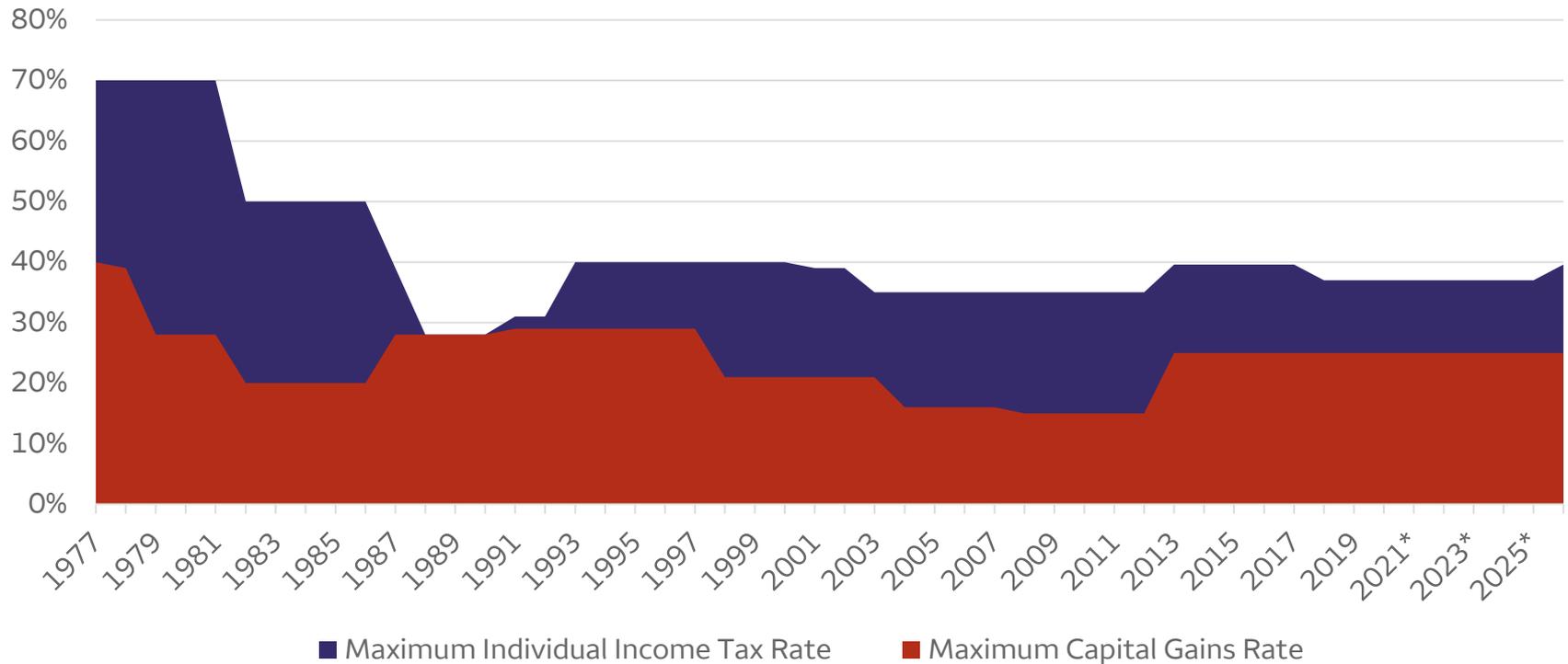
\*Projected exemption indexed for inflation

Sources: Tax Foundation; Brentmark Estate Planning Tools

<https://taxfoundation.org/federal-estate-and-gift-tax-rates-exemptions-and-exclusions-1916-2014>

# Historical tax rates – capital gains and individual income tax

## Historical Tax Rates



**Notes:** \*Projected exemption indexed for inflation; the maximum rates include the 3.8% tax on net investment income (2013-2026).

Sources: US Department of Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis (2016); Tax Foundation

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/tax-analysis/Documents/Taxes-Paid-on-Long-Term-Capital-Gains.pdf>

[https://files.taxfoundation.org/legacy/docs/fed\\_individual\\_rate\\_history\\_nominal.pdf](https://files.taxfoundation.org/legacy/docs/fed_individual_rate_history_nominal.pdf)

<https://taxfoundation.org/look-ahead-expiring-tax-provisions/>

# Estate tax minimization strategies

Consider the following strategies which may help to reduce your estate tax liability.

**Spend** - spend down your assets.

**Sell** - sell assets to family and friends.

- If you sell assets that are expected to appreciate, you have effectively transferred this future appreciation out of your estate. The value of this technique is compounded when the transferred asset can be sold at a discount (due to partial interest ownership, lack of buyers, etc.).

**Gift** - Gift assets out of your estate.

- Outright or in trust
  - Use annual exclusion
  - Use lifetime estate tax exclusion
  - Make educational or medical payments directly to an institution instead of an individual (unlimited)
  - Make taxable gifts - consider lifetime vs. Testamentary gifting costs
- ‘Leveraged’ gifting - compound the impact of the above outright/trust gifts in the following ways:
  - Gift discountable assets and entities (partial interests, unmarketable assets such as family business interests, etc.).
  - Gift assets to an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT) to purchase life insurance. With a properly structured plan, the proceeds can be used to pay your estate taxes.

**Donate** - donate assets to charity (some deduction limitations apply).

**Use a trust** - purchase investments and new business ventures in the name of a trust.

- Using a trust can keep assets out of your estate from the outset. If necessary, you can give or lend cash to the trust to get the business started or purchase the investment.

# The power of gifting

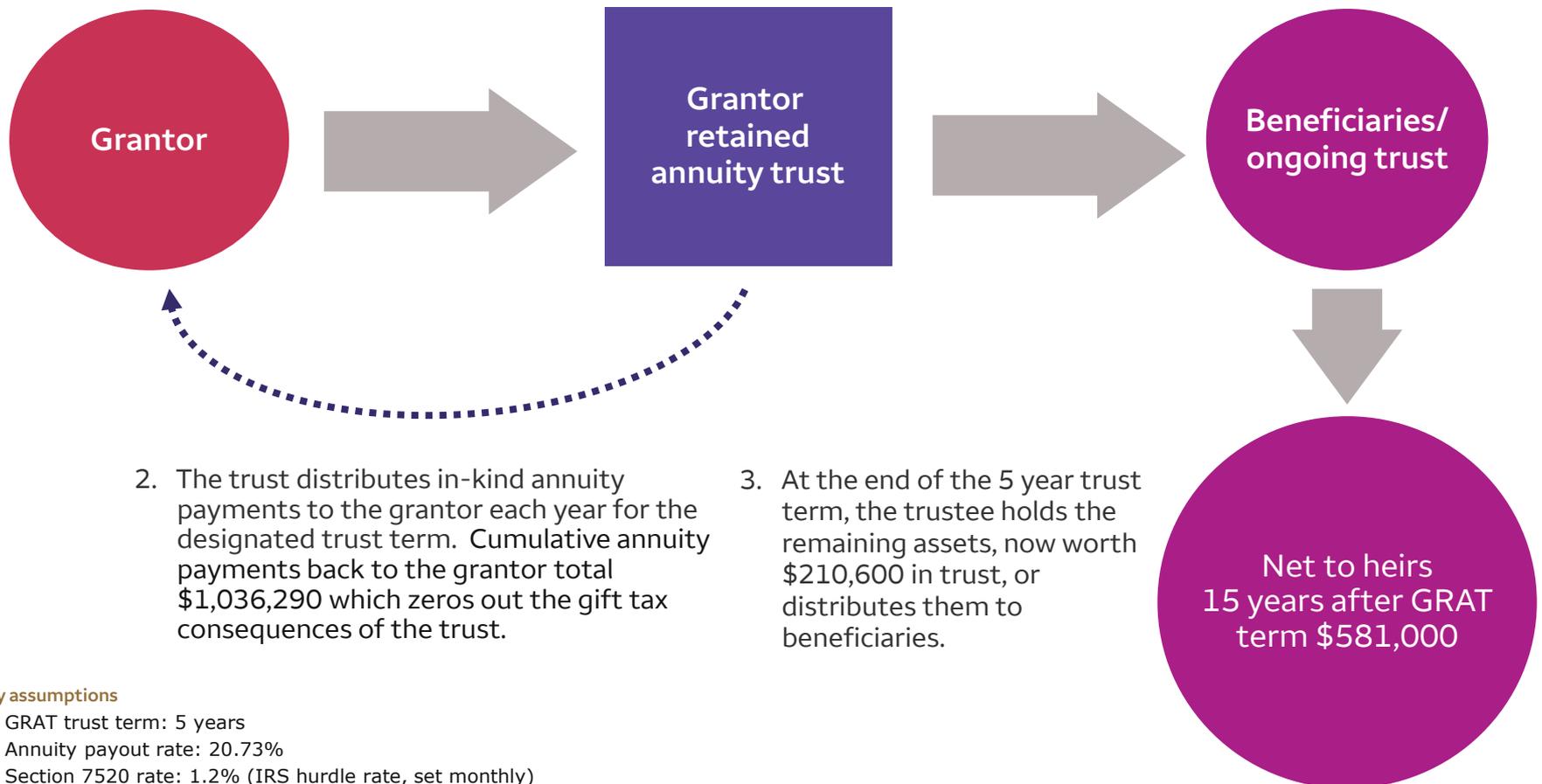
After tax (income) growth rate	Growth of \$11,700,000 over 10 years	Transfer tax savings (before income taxes) <sup>1</sup>	Growth of \$11,700,000 over 20 years	Transfer tax savings (before income taxes) <sup>1</sup>
3%	\$15,723,822	\$1,609,529	\$21,131,501	\$3,772,601
5%	\$19,058,067	\$2,943,227	\$31,043,583	\$7,737,433
7%	\$23,015,671	\$4,526,268	\$45,275,308	\$13,430,123
10%	\$30,346,787	\$7,458,715	\$78,711,749	\$26,804,700

1. Assumes a \$11,700,000 estate exemption and 40% federal estate tax rate. State estate taxes are not factored into savings.

# Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT) illustration

*In the example below, a shareholder passes stock appreciation above the IRS hurdle rate out of his estate to his beneficiaries with no gift, income, or estate taxes.*

1. Shareholder transfers \$1mm worth of shares or high growth potential assets to a 5-year GRAT.



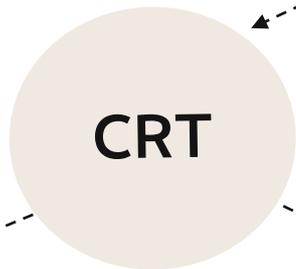
# Tax deferred exchange: the Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

*A CRT set up in anticipation of a liquidity event defers the tax on the sale of those shares and can be used to satisfy a lifetime charitable goal.*

*Below you will see an example of a shareholder who is saving \$1.35mm in income taxes and giving \$2mm to charity.*

- Shareholder with zero/low basis stock
- Assumed \$25mm value (of holding post transaction)
- Assumed 35% tax consequences upon sale of stock (Federal and state)
- Immediate income tax deduction for charitable contribution of \$250k
- Additional benefit: re-investment using full \$2.5mm value to create diversified portfolio

**In advance of transaction,  
Shareholder contributes  
shares worth \$2,500,000**



CRT sells shares into the M&A transaction (or into the public market post-IPO). No capital gains or income tax consequences at sale of the shares. Deferred tax savings of \$875k.

**Payout to charity at  
death of shareholder:  
\$2,032,700**

**Payouts back to the shareholder  
over trust term:  
\$3,847,400**

This information is provided for illustration and education purposes only. Wells Fargo & Company and its affiliates cannot provide legal and tax advice. In order to determine the specific legal and tax effect to you of any planning technique presented, please consult your own legal and tax advisors. This illustration assumes Unitrust payout rate 10.88%, Section 7520 rate 0.6%, NIMCRUT growth rate 3.5% - 4.5%. NIMCRUT income rate: 1.5% - 2.5%, NIMCRUT term - 20 years, Flip year: 10.

# Section 1202 stock gain exclusion: Allows for \$10mm exclusion

## Qualified Small Business Stock Requirements

In order to receive the Qualified Small Business Stock Exclusion, the following requirements must be met:

- The stock must be originally issued from a U.S. C corporation on or after August 10, 1993
- Before and immediately after issuance, the C corporation must have assets less than \$50,000,000
- The stock must be held by the owner for more than five years
- The C corporation must be engaged in an “active business”
- There must be documentation that the stock in question meets qualified small business stock requirements

# Stock options: consider an 83(b) election

Reasons to consider a section 83(b) election include:

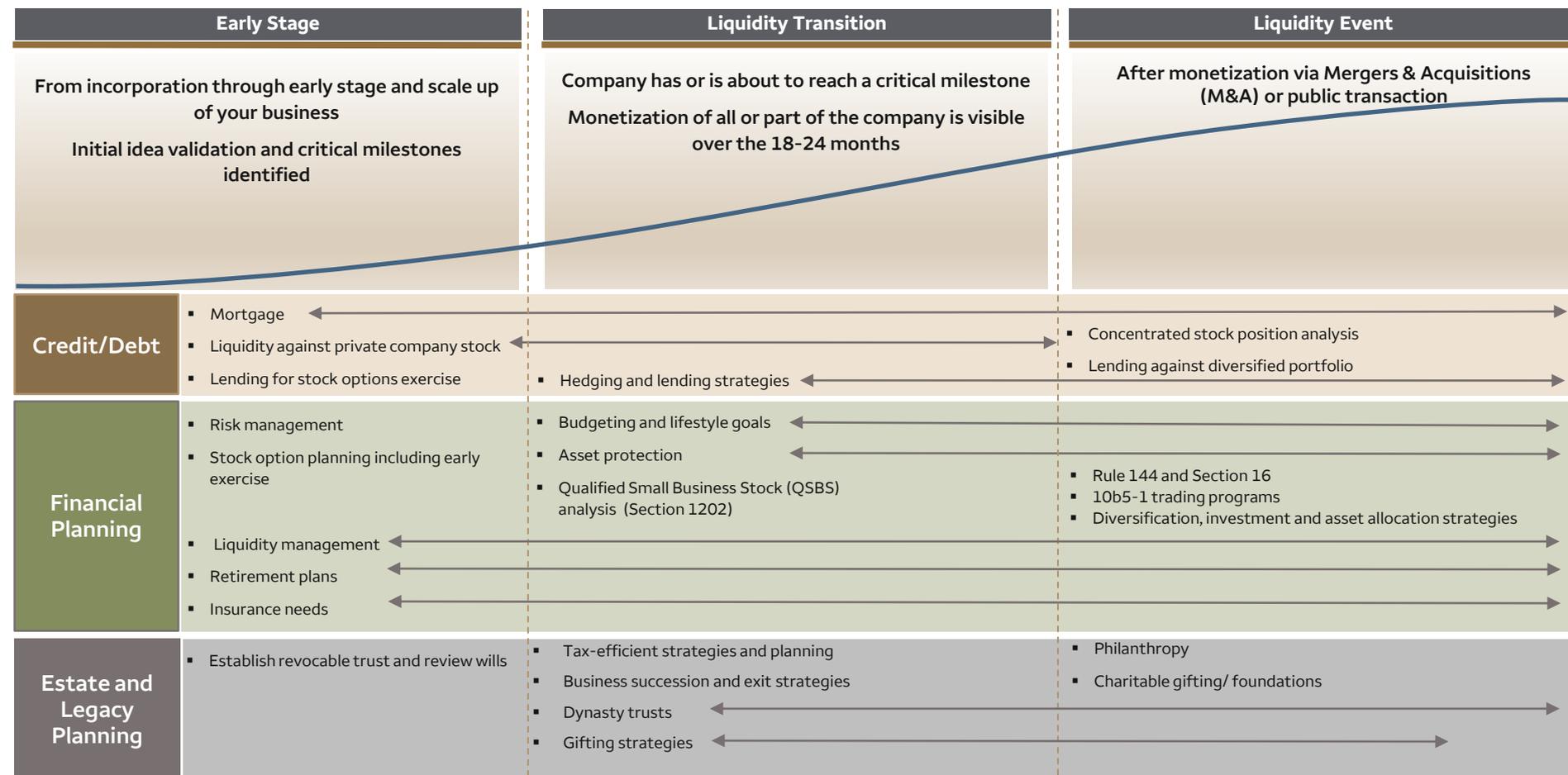
- Starts the QSBS holding clock;
- Immediate establishment of the shares' cost basis;
- Control over the timing of income recognition rather than waiting until the restrictions lapse at vesting; and
- Capital gain tax treatment will be achieved sooner.

Potential risks to making the 83(b) election, include:

- If the stock price declines before vesting, the employee likely would have paid more taxes than necessary;
- Because the tax must be paid when the award is granted, not vested, the employee will have to raise other funds to cover the tax withholding since the shares cannot be liquidated; and
- If the stock option/share is forfeited, the employee may not take a tax loss with respect to the forfeited awards, and would not be entitled to any refunds on the tax that had already been paid.

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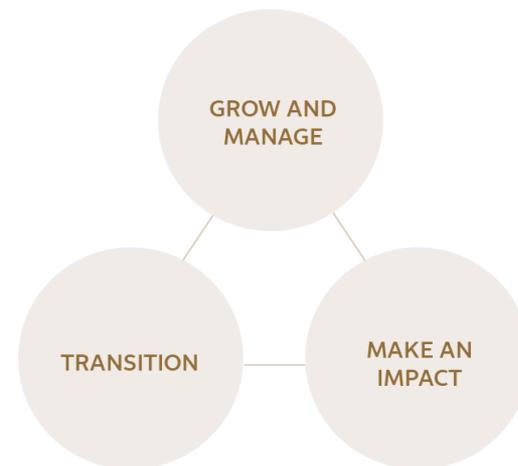
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\*Family Wealth Report | Clearview media 2019

\*\*Company data as of January 14, 2020 Wells Fargo Investment Institute, Inc. is a registered investment adviser and wholly-owned subsidiary of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., a bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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