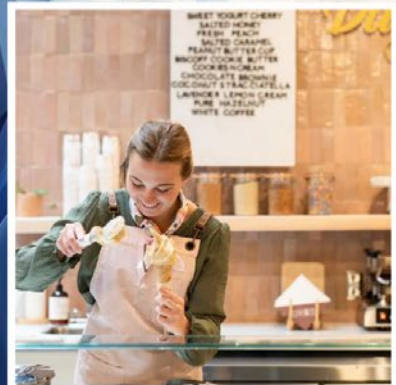




2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention
June 15-17, 2026 ★ Radisson Hotel, Bismarck ND



Moments
TOGETHER

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS

for Community Impact Showcase at Convention!



North Dakota Banks Make an IMPACT. Every Day.

From supporting local teams to giving back through time, talent, and resources—your communities feel it.

Now it's time to showcase it.



Send your photos and a short description by **June 1** to be featured at the NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention, June 15–17 in Bismarck.



Email to: lisa@ndba.com

Upcoming NDBA Events

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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April 2026

- 20-24 **GSB HR Management School**
- 27-29 **Tri-State Trust Conference** - Holiday Inn, Fargo

May 2026

- 19 **FDIC Directors College**, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck
- 19 **UMACHA Fraud Forum**, Fargo

June 2026

- May 31- **Dakota School of Banking** - University of Jamestown, Jamestown ND
- Jun 5 **University of Jamestown**, Jamestown ND
- 15-17 **NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention** - Bismarck ND

JULY 2026						
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AUGUST 2026						
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SEPTEMBER 2025						
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July 2026

- 19-31 **Graduate School of Banking at Colorado**
- 26-Aug 6 **Graduate School of Banking** - Madison WI

August 2026

- 18-20 **Virtual Fraud Academy**

September 2026

- 14-17 **Regional Member Meetings** - 4 Locations!
- 21-25 **GSB Financial Managers School**

OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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DECEMBER 2026						
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October 2026

- 1-2 **Ag Credit Conference** - Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo
- 6-7 **Security Seminar** - Bismarck & Fargo
- 12-16 **GSB Bank Cybersecurity School**
- 13 **Fraud Forum** - Bismarck
- 14 **Peer Group Consortium** - Bismarck
- 26-27 **IRA Seminar** - Courtyard by Marriott, Bismarck
- 28-29 **IRA Seminar** - Holiday Inn, Fargo
- 30 **HSA Workshop** - Holiday Inn, Fargo

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Mission Statement

Extraordinary Leadership for North Dakota Banks

NORTH DAKOTA
BANKERS
ASSOCIATION



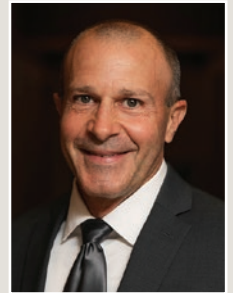
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BANKING ARTICLES



Fed Proposes Opening FedNow to Cross-Border Payments

The Federal Reserve has proposed a new rule to let banks and credit unions use intermediaries to send transfers through the FedNow payments service, which would allow for cross-border payments.

FedNow participants are currently not allowed to use intermediaries other than Reserve Banks. As a result, U.S. banks are unable to send payments to banks outside the country, according to the proposed rule.

The Fed is proposing to amend its regulations to allow the use of intermediaries that are not Reserve Banks, which would facilitate cross-border transactions. The proposed changes would align FedNow with the Fedwire Funds Service, which has permitted intermediaries for decades, according to the proposal.

The Fed is seeking public input on the proposed amendments. Comments are due within 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Read More: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/other20260408a.htm>

Cybercrime Losses Increased 26% In 2025

Americans lost nearly \$20.9 billion to cybercrime last year, representing a 26% surge from the year before, as scammers increasingly turned to cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence to facilitate their crimes, according to a new report by the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3.

The IC3 received more than one million complaints in 2025, up from roughly 859,000 in 2024. Investment fraud alone accounted for more than \$8.6 billion in losses last year. Business email compromises accounted for \$3 billion in losses, followed by tech/

customer support fraud at \$2.1 billion and personal data breaches at \$1.3 billion.

The elderly remain the primary target for fraudsters, with victims aged 60 or over reporting more than \$7.7 billion in losses. Victims aged 50-59 reported more than \$3.6 billion in losses, with younger age groups reporting less. The average loss among all victims was \$20,699. That average increased to \$62,604 when crypto was involved. Complaints involving cryptocurrency accounted for more than \$11 billion in total losses, a 22% increase from 2024.

For the first time this year, the IC3 report included a section on AI-facilitated fraud, which accounted for more than 22,000 complaints and nearly \$893 million in losses. "Scammers rely on pressure techniques to defraud Americans while deploying fake social profiles, voice clones, identification documents, and believable videos depicting public figures or loved ones," the agency said.

Read More: https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2025_IC3Report.pdf

FDIC Proposes Rulemaking to Implement GENIUS Act

The FDIC board has advanced proposed rulemaking to implement certain provisions of the GENIUS Act, including requirements for reserve assets, risk management, and stablecoin-related custodial and safekeeping services.

Enacted into law last year, the GENIUS Act established a regulatory framework for payment stablecoins. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency proposed rulemaking in February to implement the law. The FDIC proposal aligns with the OCC rule in many aspects, FDIC Chairman Travis Hill said.

Among other things, the FDIC proposal would amend its deposit insurance rules to prevent payment stablecoins from being eligible for pass-through insurance. At the same time, it would clarify

that tokenized deposits that satisfy the statutory definition of “deposit” would be treated no differently under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act than any other types of deposits. The rule also would establish the criteria the agency will use to determine whether an issuer violated the law’s prohibition on payment of yield or interest on stablecoins.

Hill said that as part of the public comment process, the FDIC is seeking feedback for 144 questions on GENIUS Act implementation. Comments are due 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/board/federal-register-notice-GENIUS-act-requirements-and-standards-fdic-supervised-permitted>

FDIC, OCC Finalize Rule to Remove Reputational Risk from Supervision

The FDIC and OCC have finalized a joint rule to remove the use of reputational risk from their supervisory programs.

The rule codifies a change that the agencies’ leaders previously instructed supervisors to make. It comes amid a Trump administration push to weed out policies that allegedly encouraged regulators to discriminate against cryptocurrency and other industries.

The rule also prohibits the agencies from requiring or encouraging institutions to close customer accounts or take other actions because of a person or entity’s political, social, cultural, or religious views or beliefs.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/board/federal-register-notice-prohibition-use-reputation-risk-regulators.pdf>

FDIC Rescinds Guidance on Representment NSF Fees

The FDIC has rescinded a 2023 financial institution letter that had stated that banks’ charging representment nonsufficient funds fees may be a deceptive or unfair practice under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

When a merchant submits a check or an Automated Clearing House transaction initiated by a customer, and the customer’s account does not have sufficient funds to cover the payment, the bank may return the item to the merchant and charge an NSF fee. The fee covers the cost to process the return and serves as a penalty to encourage responsible deposit account management. A merchant has the right to resubmit the transaction to the bank with the expectation that the customer will have money in his

account so that the transaction will be paid. If the account balance remains insufficient to pay the transaction, the bank may return it a second time and charge another NSF fee. A bank has no control over whether, or when, a merchant resubmits a transaction.

In 2021, FDIC examiners began scrutinizing account disclosures to determine whether they adequately – in the judgment of the examiner or agency – informed consumers that they could be charged representment NSF fees. If not, the FDIC began citing banks for a “deceptive” act or practice under section 5 of the FTC Act. In the FIL issued in 2023, the FDIC also stated that charging representment NSF fees also could be an “unfair” act or practice.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/news/financial-institution-letters/2026/fdic-rescinds-supervisory-guidance-multiple-representment>

FinCEN, Regulators Propose to Overhaul Bank Secrecy Act Compliance

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and banking agencies have proposed new rules to “fundamentally reform” compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act by setting standards for what financial institutions should include in their anti-money laundering programs.

The proposed rulemakings are part of what the Treasury Department said was a broader effort to modernize the AML/ countering the financing of terrorism regulatory and supervisory framework “to better achieve the purposes of the BSA.” Among other things, the rules would establish that only “significant or systemic failures” by a financial institution to implement a properly established AML/CFT program would warrant an enforcement action or a significant supervisory action.

“For too long, Washington has asked financial institutions to measure success by the volume of paperwork rather than their ability to stop illicit finance threats,” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. “Our proposal restores common sense with a focus on keeping bad actors out of the financial system, not burying America’s banks in more red tape.”

Read More: <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fincen-proposes-rule-fundamentally-reform-financial-institution-programs>

Proposed Rule Would Give States 'Wide Latitude' To Set Stablecoin Regulation

The Treasury Department has proposed a new rule to establish what factors it will consider when stablecoin issuers request to be subject to state regulation rather than federal regulation, as permitted under the GENIUS Act.

The GENIUS Act allows payment stablecoin issuers with a consolidated total outstanding issuance of less than \$10 billion to opt for regulation under a state-level regulatory regime, provided that the state's regime is "substantially similar" to the federal regulatory framework. The proposed rule would establish standards for determining whether a state framework meets those criteria.

The rule provides states with "wide latitude" to deviate from federal regulations while still remaining "substantially similar" to the federal framework, according to the text of the proposal. Also, the term "state-level regulatory regime" is broadly defined "to provide states with discretion to design their regimes using a mix of legislation, regulation and enforceable guidance as they deem appropriate."

Among other things, the rule would give states broad discretion in certain areas, such as capital standards, while setting uniform state and federal standards for reserve requirements and for anti-money laundering and sanctions program requirements.

Comments are due 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

Read More: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USTREAS/2026/04/01/file_attachments/3603657/Notice%20of%20Proposed%20Rulemaking%20GENIUS%20Act%20Broad-Based%20Principles%20for%20Determining%20Whether%20a%20State-level%20Regulatory%20Regime%20Is%20Substantially%20Similar%20to%20the%20Federal%20Regulatory%20Framework.pdf

FinCEN Proposes Rule to Pay Whistleblowers

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has proposed a new rule to provide financial incentives to people who report tips on Bank Secrecy Act and sanctions violations and other illegal activity.

According to the agency, the proposed rule would establish procedures for whistleblowers to share information about potential violations, including procedures for submitting award applications. Awards would range from 10% to 30% of collected monetary penalties for individuals if their tips lead to a successful enforcement action by the Treasury Department or the Department of Justice. The rule also would establish protections

for whistleblowers who provide information through the program.

FinCEN's whistleblower program was authorized by the Anti-Money Laundering Act and the AML Whistleblower Improvement Act, but the proposed rule would fully implement the program, according to the agency. FinCEN launched a new dedicated webpage for the program in February.

Read More: <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fincen-proposes-rule-pay-whistleblowers>

To view the website, visit: <https://www.fincen.gov/whistleblower-program>

FinCEN Issues Advisory for Financial Institutions on Medicare, Medicaid Fraud

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has issued a financial institution advisory on red flags related to alleged fraudulent healthcare schemes targeting Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal and state healthcare benefit programs.

The red flags are intended to help financial institutions detect and report suspicious activity associated with potential fraud in healthcare benefit programs. FinCEN is encouraging financial institutions to review whether their customers receive payments from Medicare administrative contractors or state-level agencies for healthcare benefit reimbursements. It also encourages institutions to use a risk-based approach to assess whether those payments are consistent with their customers' profiles. In addition, financial institutions are "strongly encouraged" to contact law enforcement about fraud schemes, the agency said.

"As no single red flag is determinative of illicit or suspicious activity, financial institutions should consider the surrounding facts and circumstances, such as a customer's historical financial activity, whether the transactions are in line with prevailing business practices, and whether the customer exhibits multiple red flags, before determining if a behavior or transaction is suspicious or otherwise indicative of a connection to healthcare fraud," the advisory states.

Read More: <https://www.fincen.gov/system/files/2026-03/FinCEN-Advisory-Health-Care-Fraud.pdf>

Lawmakers Introduce Deposit Insurance Reform Bills

Lawmakers in the House and Senate today announced the introduction of four bills to revise the deposit insurance framework, with a focus on noninterest-bearing transaction accounts.

The Main Street Depositor Protection Act would raise the deposit insurance coverage limits for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts from \$250,000 to \$5 million for certain banks and credit unions. The legislation was reintroduced in the Senate by Sens. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) and others, and introduced in the House as a companion bill by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.). The legislation was previously introduced last year in the Senate, although that bill proposed raising the limit to \$10 million.

In addition, Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee announced the introduction of three related bills. They are:

- Legislation to direct the FDIC and National Credit Union Administration to establish emergency transaction account guarantee programs to ensure the deposits that are maintained in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts. Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) is the sponsor.
- The Growing Deposit Insurance for the Future Act by Rep. Dan Meuser (R-Pa.). The bill would update the inflation adjustment applicable to deposit insurance and share insurance.
- A bill to require the FDIC and NCUA to study whether insurance coverage limits should be raised on covered transaction accounts. Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) is the sponsor.

To view the Hagerty/Alsobrooks bill, visit: <https://www.alsobrooks.senate.gov/news/press-releases/alsobrooks-hagerty-introduce-deposit-insurance-legislation/>

To view the House bill, visit: <https://financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=411070>

Cybersecurity, Fraud Top List of Risk Concerns Among Bank Boards, Executives

Cybersecurity and fraud are the top two risks that worry bank board members and executives in 2026, with concern about regulatory risk receding, according to a new survey on bank risks by Bank Director.

Ninety-two percent of bank board members and executives ranked cybersecurity as a top risk to their institutions, while 79% ranked fraud as a top risk. (Respondents could choose more than one answer.) Other top risks included credit (60%), strategic (42%) and interest rate risk (42%). Bank Director noted that the percentage of respondents citing regulatory risk as a top risk declined from 55%

last year to 28% this year as the Trump administration pursued a deregulatory agenda.

Most bank executives said that over the past year, their banks have improved training for bank staff about fraud and scams. Most respondents also said they regularly share with their boards the number of suspicious activity reports their institutions have filed, as well as the types of fraud and scams being reported by customers.

Read More: <https://www.bankdirector.com/article/2026-risk-survey-ai-exposes-threats-knowledge-gaps/>

Proposed Rule Would Facilitate 401(K) Plan Investments in Private Equity, Crypto

The Labor Department is proposing to allow 401(k) plan managers to rely on a new rule that provides a safe harbor for investing in a broader range of alternative assets, including cryptocurrencies and private equity.

President Trump last year directed the Labor Department to explore allowing the use of cryptocurrency and other alternative asset investments in ERISA-governed 401(k) and other defined-contribution plans. The rule proposed would establish “a process-based safe harbor” for 401(k) plan fiduciaries when they select designated investment alternatives, according to the agency.

Specifically, the rule establishes six factors for fiduciaries to consider, relating to performance, fees, liquidity, valuation, performance benchmarks and complexity. “When a plan fiduciary does so following the process described in the proposed regulation with respect to any of the six factors, its judgment regarding the factor or factors is presumed to have met the fiduciary’s duties under section 404(a)(1)(B) of ERISA,” according to the Labor Department.

“This proposed rule will show how plans can consider products that better reflect the investment landscape as it exists today,” Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer said. “This greater diversity will drive innovation and result in a major win for American workers, retirees and their families.”

Comments on the proposed rule are due 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Read More: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/03/31/2026-06178/fiduciary-duties-in-selecting-designated-investment-alternatives>



Consumers Increasingly Turning To AI For Financial Advice

Two separate bank surveys have found that an increasing number of consumers are turning to non-traditional sources, such as artificial intelligence, for advice on managing their finances.

A survey by Wells Fargo found that 40% of U.S. consumers have turned to “less traditional sources” for financial advice. Nearly one in five adults (19%) reported using AI, with that total doubling (38%) among Gen Z adults. Two-thirds of respondents said they acted on suggestions generated by AI, and of that subset, nearly all (90%) said those ideas were profitable or worthwhile.

The Wells Fargo survey also found that Gen Z turned to other non-traditional sources for financial advice, with 44% relying on YouTube videos, 34% turning to Instagram or TikTok, and 25% seeking advice from online communities.

To view the Wells Fargo Survey, visit: <https://newsroom.wf.com/news-releases/news-details/2026/Wells-Fargo-2026-Money-Study-Reveals-Americans-Redefining-the-American-Dream-Gen-Z-leaning-on-Parents-for-Financial-Support/default.aspx>

A separate survey by TD Bank found that most U.S. consumers are using AI tools, but they still prefer humans to make financial decisions. More than half of respondents (55%) reported using AI to aid their financial management decisions, with adoption rates highest among Gen Z (77%) and Millennials (72%) and growing steadily among Gen X (49%) and Boomers (30%).

Still, the TD Bank survey found that most people would rather have humans make the final call on financial decisions. Two-thirds of respondents were most comfortable when AI supports behind-the-scenes functions such as fraud detection (67%), tracking spending (66%) and calculating credit scores (66%), but trust “drops sharply” when asked whether to allow AI to make autonomous decisions for complex or high-stakes financial decisions.

Read More: <https://stories.td.com/us/en/article/nearly-80-of-americans-use-ai-tools-but-most-still-want-humans-making-financial-decisions-td-survey-finds>

ABA Fraudcast: How AI Is Supercharging Identity Fraud

Generative AI is making identity fraud and social engineering easier, cheaper and more scalable — especially through deepfakes, synthetic identities and other emerging AI-agent risks — so traditional ID verification is increasingly unreliable.

Discussing these challenges for banks on this episode of the AI Fraudcast with ABA’s Paul Benda are Jeremy Grant of the Better Identity Coalition and John Carlson, senior vice president for cybersecurity regulation and resilience at ABA.

Read More: <https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2026/03/aba-fraudcast-how-ai-is-supercharging-identity-fraud/>

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac Ease Certain Property Insurance Requirements

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are rolling back certain property insurance requirements for condominiums and single-family homes in response to “skyrocketing” insurance prices, the Federal Housing Finance Agency announced.

Fannie and Freddie will now accept actual cash value coverage on roofs for single-family homes and condos, according to the FHFA. The rest of the house must have replacement cost value coverage, which usually has higher premiums but more extensive coverage. The agency said the change is being made because full replacement roof coverage has become expensive and hard-to-find in many states.

FHFA said that Fannie’s and Freddie’s “maximum per-unit deductible” rule has been simplified, and that it has rescinded a 2024 rule clarification that slowed down insurance claims. The agency also made several other changes, such as expanding the “exempt from review” requirement to apply to new and established condos and retiring the 50% owner occupancy requirement for established condos.

Read More: <https://singlefamily.fanniemae.com/media/44986/display>

AARP Survey Finds Widespread Concern About Fraud

Nearly four in 10 U.S. adults say they have been victims of fraud, while many more say they worry about becoming victims, according to a recent survey by AARP.

Roughly one-third (30%) of respondents said their biggest fear about fraud is being targeted themselves, followed by losing money with no way to recover it (21%) and seeing a loved one victimized (15%). At the same time, one in six respondents answer calls (11%) or respond to texts (5%) from unknown contacts, and roughly half download free apps and take online quizzes on social media that can expose personal data, according to AARP.

Still, the survey found respondents are taking measures to protect

themselves. Respondents reported locking their devices with passwords or biometrics (85%), using protective software such as antivirus or call-blocking tools (65%), enabling automatic updates (61%), and recognizing common fraud tactics such as gift card payment demands (82%).

There remained a gap in fraud occurrences and reporting. The survey found that nearly three-quarters of victims contacted their financial institutions about fraud, but far fewer notified law enforcement or the Federal Communications Commission.

Read More: <https://www.aarp.org/press/releases/2026-04-08-Fraud-Remains-a-Top-Concern-for-Americans-New-AARP-Research-Shows/>

FDIC To Allow Private Equity Firms, Nonbanks to Bid on Failed Banks

The FDIC board has rescinded a 2009 policy that prevented private equity firms and other nonbanks from bidding on failed banks.

According to a board memo, the rescinded policy included “onerous and highly prescriptive measures” such as heightened capital standards and lengthy continuity of ownership requirements. The board also rescinded a Q&A on the policy.

“The FDIC recognizes that nonbank entities such as private equity firms can play a significant role in the resolution process, given their ability to access and deploy significant pools of capital,” the agency said in the memo. “Given the increased speed with which a bank failure may occur, in part driven by the advancement of technology and ongoing evolution of the financial system, these impacts could, in turn, result in considerably increased costs of resolution and risk to the Deposit Insurance Fund.”

FDIC Chairman Travis Hill previously announced the agency was pursuing the policy change, arguing that opening up the bidding process could potentially soften the blow to the DIF following a bank closure. Also, at the American Bankers Association’s Washington Summit earlier this month, he said the FDIC is working with other banking agencies to possibly create an emergency exception that would enable a nonbank to rapidly set up a shelf charter to bid on a failed institution following a sudden failure.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/board/federal-register-notice-rescission-statement-policy-qualifications-failed-bank-acquisitions>

FSOC, Treasury Launch Effort to Support Financial Sector AI Adoption

The Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Treasury Department’s Artificial Intelligence Transformation Office have announced the launch of the AI Innovation Series, a new private-public initiative to support financial sector adoption of AI by reviewing federal regulations.

According to a statement, the series will consist of four roundtables bringing together financial institutions, technology firms, regulators and other stakeholders “to explore the highest-value AI use cases and identify practical approaches to scaling innovation while preserving safety and soundness.” No dates were provided for the roundtables.

“We are optimizing regulation to support growth for both Main Street and Wall Street: moving from a posture focused on constraint toward one that recognizes failure to adopt productivity-enhancing technology as its own risk,” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. “The Treasury Department will continue evaluating regulatory frameworks and enforcement policies to enable the U.S. financial sector’s leadership in AI adoption while preserving national security and long-term economic resilience.”

Read More: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0421>

White House Releases National AI Policy Framework

The White House has released a national policy framework that calls on Congress to take several actions to support the safe deployment of artificial intelligence, including supporting law enforcement efforts to fight fraud and scams and passing federal legislation to preempt state regulation of the technology.

The three-page document outlines a series of broad policies for Congress to consider. Among the proposals, it suggests Congress refrain from creating a federal rulemaking body for AI and instead support the development of sector-specific AI applications through existing regulatory bodies. It also encourages Congress to preempt state AI laws “that impose undue burdens,” except in cases such as police powers traditionally retained by states and land-use laws that regulate infrastructure.

The framework urges Congress to require AI platforms to take steps to protect children, and to augment existing law enforcement efforts to protect seniors and other vulnerable populations from scams and fraud.

Read More: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/03.20.26-National-Policy-Framework-for-Artificial-Intelligence-Legislative-Recommendations.pdf>

Public Misconceptions Remain About Improving Credit Scores

Most U.S. adults are seeking to maintain or improve their credit scores in 2026, but there remain many misconceptions about how they can do that, according to a new survey by credit scoring firm FICO.

The survey found that 83% of respondents said they're seeking to improve or enhance their credit scores this year. However, two-thirds of respondents (67%) incorrectly believed their income factors into their scores or are unsure whether it does. Nearly three in four (72%) respondents incorrectly believed that carrying small balances on credit cards helps improve credit scores or are unsure if it does.

One of the biggest misconceptions is how many Americans underestimate the effects of paying less than their minimum credit obligations, according to FICO. Nearly one in four respondents (24%) said they made less than their minimum payments or skipped a payment in the past 12 months because of inflation. At the same time, roughly the same amount (23%) said they opened new credit cards in the past year to create financial cushions.

To view the survey, visit: <https://www.fico.com/blogs/informed-borrower-opportunity-meeting-america-s-demand-credit-knowledge>

Tech Industry Giants Sign Voluntary Agreement to Fight Scams, Fraud

Google, Meta, Amazon and other tech industry giants recently signed a voluntary accord pledging to take “proactive actions” to fight fraud and scams on their platforms and increase cooperation with law enforcement to identify financial fraud.

The seven-page document lists several voluntary principles and actions the signatories agree to take to fight fraud, including enforcing anti-scam policies in a “timely manner” and increasing public education efforts. The accord also calls on governments to formally declare scam prevention a national priority.

The ABA has called on social media companies to do more to protect their users from scams, and it supports the SCAM Act, which would require social media companies to verify advertisers' identity, implement systems to detect fraudulent advertisements, and investigate and remove fake ads. ABA has noted that while banks have taken numerous measures to protect consumers, social media companies do little, if any, vetting of the ads that appear on their platforms.

The accord urges policymakers to “review and harmonize” existing regulatory frameworks. However, it also seeks “Good Samaritan” liability protections to shield companies “acting in good faith to prevent or disrupt scams from undue civil or criminal liability or regulatory penalties.”

Other signatories include Adobe, OpenAi, Microsoft, Target and LinkedIn.

To learn more, visit: <https://services.google.com/fh/files/newsletters/industryaccord.pdf>

Fed Commissions Independent Review of Silicon Valley Bank Failure

The Federal Reserve has hired an external firm to conduct a review of the Silicon Valley Bank failure, Fed Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman said.

During an interview with Fox Business Network's “Mornings with Maria,” Bowman said the failure was the result of supervision and bank management. The external review is “to ensure that we don't repeat the same mistakes going forward.” Reuters reported her comments.

The Fed previously conducted its own review of the failure in 2023. That review laid much of the blame for the bank's failure on bank management, but it also faulted the Fed supervisors for not identifying issues quickly enough and being too slow to act when they did find problems.

Bowman has pushed for an independent external review since 2023, arguing it was needed to provide relevant data before moving ahead with a regulatory response.

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“

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701.328.5852 or bndvaluation@nd.gov.

BND
Bank of North Dakota



From the CORNER CHAIR

Bernie Sinner | NDBA CHAIR | BankNorth, Casselton



April is the time of year when we truly appreciate the power of changing seasons. Warmer temps and longer days draw us outdoors, bring communities back together, and seem to lift everyone's spirits a little higher. Even during uncertain times, spring has a way of reminding us that optimism can still win the day.

This is also the season when many of us shift our focus from reflection to action. We put our pencils down from evaluating the year behind us and sharpen them again to identify new opportunities for the year ahead. For all the business bankers and support teams reading this column, you know renewal season brought its share of challenges this year. Yet this is also the time when we earn our loyalty points with customers by helping them navigate important decisions and position themselves for success in 2026.

Spring is the season when many of our customers are figuratively, and in some cases literally, planting the seeds for another business cycle. In the same way, we as bankers are planting seeds of our own by investing in personal growth, developing our teams, and finding new ways to strengthen our communities through the shared resources of talent and treasure.

As always, our Association stands ready to support us in those efforts. Several great opportunities highlighted in this issue include:

Convention Registration is Open

Registration is now open for the 2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention. This year's event will feature a jam-packed schedule of speakers, networking opportunities, and activities you will not want to miss. See page 20 for details and registration information.

Financial Literacy Month

April is Financial Literacy Month, and April 23 marks Teach Children to Save Day. The ABA offers many helpful resources for banks interested in participating and making an impact in their communities. See page 34 for more details.

Recognizing Our NDBA Business Partners

Included with this issue is the Directory of Endorsed Business Partners and Associate Members. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize these businesses and thank them for their continued dedication, involvement, and support of NDBA.

As the season changes around us, I encourage you to embrace the momentum that spring naturally brings. Whether you are helping customers prepare for the year ahead, investing in your own professional growth, or finding new ways to engage in your community, the work we do now helps shape the success that follows.

Just as in the fields around us, the seeds we plant this season help determine the harvest we will enjoy in the months ahead.

Warm regards,

Bernie Sinner



Rob Nichols
President and CEO
American Bankers Association
nichols@aba.com



WASHINGTON UPDATE



Banking Can Bridge the Political Divide

We all recognize the political divisions in this country, and the difficulty in getting Republicans and Democrats to agree on the time of day much less substantive policy issues.

But as bankers who attended ABA's recent Washington Summit in the nation's capital learned, once you drill down past the headlines and the noise on cable news shows, you'll find that not only is bipartisan cooperation still possible when it comes to bankin – it's happening.

During the Summit, bankers had the opportunity to hear from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and what came across consistently was a commitment to ensuring that we have a strong, resilient banking sector that encourages economic growth and helps consumers and businesses thrive and prosper.

As freshman Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.) – who has emerged as a bipartisan dealmaker in her first several months on the job – observed on the Summit stage: "Our varying backgrounds often color how we see things, but that doesn't mean we can't come together and do great things."

At ABA, we agree with this statement – in fact, it's been the bedrock of our approach to advocacy over the years. And if you look at the current session of Congress, you'll see several examples of bipartisan cooperation on banking issues.

One great example is the SCAM Act that is currently moving through both chambers of Congress, co-sponsored by Sens. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) and Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) in the Senate and Reps. Lou Correa (D-Calif.) and Dan Meuser (R-Pa.) in the House.

This bill, which has strong support from both ABA and the state associations, takes aim at the widespread problem of

fraud perpetrated through social media. The bill requires companies like Meta to take reasonable steps to identify and remove fraudulent ads from their platforms since we know that's where so many scams start.

The support for this bill from both sides of the aisle is a clear indication that lawmakers recognize the need to respond to the fraud crisis facing Americans. The SCAM Act is a commonsense solution that will protect American consumers, and we're working hard to ensure it becomes law. Please support this effort by visiting aba.com/TakeAction and urge your lawmakers to cosponsor the bill today.

Members of Congress in both parties have also come together in recent days on housing reform legislation, as well as bills that would make it easier for banks to access Federal Home Loan Bank resources to help fund community development projects, increase asset thresholds to make it easier for banks to qualify for an 18-month exam cycle, and crack down on credit repair scams.

I say it often: the intermediation of capital, improving access to housing, as well as the protection of Americans from growing threats like fraud and scams, aren't Democratic issues, or Republican issues. They're American issues.

At ABA, our longstanding approach to advocacy has always been – and will remain – militantly bipartisan, and throughout much of our nation's history, banking issues remained above the political fray. I don't know if we can ever return to that, but we will continue to work with anyone in Washington – regardless of party – who appreciates the critical role America's banks play in the country and shares our view that all Americans benefit from a clear, consistent bank policy environment that promotes economic growth and prosperity for all.



Education Events

For more information regarding these educational opportunities, visit www.ndba.com or contact Dorothy Lick, SVP of Education, North Dakota Bankers Association, 701.223.5303.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Tri-State Trust Conference	April 27-29	Holiday Inn, Fargo	Trust officers, trust attorneys, CTFAs, and CFPS.
FDIC Directors College	May 19	Radisson Hotel, Bismarck	Presidents, CEOs, senior management staff, lenders, marketing team members and sales managers.
UMACHA Fraud Forum	May 19	Bell Tower, Fargo	This event brings together local law enforcement, guest speakers, and your industry peers for an interactive discussion focused on fraud awareness, prevention, and response.
Dakota School of Banking	May 31-June 5	University of Jamestown	Attendees are generally first- or mid-level managers seeking advancement in their banks and careers. However, others who would benefit from exposure to the banking industry and increased familiarity with the individual components that make up a bank are also encouraged to attend.
NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention	June 15-17	Bismarck	Presidents, CEOs, senior management staff, lenders, marketing team members and sales managers.
Regional Member Meetings	September 14-17	Grand Forks, Fargo, Washburn, Minot	All NDBA Members!
Ag Credit Conference	October 1-2	Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo	Both entry-level and experienced ag lenders will gain valuable information.
Bank Security Seminar	October 6 October 7	Holiday Inn Bismarck Holiday Inn Fargo	Security officers/ directors, operations managers, auditors, HR directors, legal staff, loan officers, disaster recovery managers, collection staff and fraud investigators.
NDBA Peer Group Consortium	October 12 October 13	Welcome Party - TBD Consortium - Bismarck	Those involved in individual peer groups are encouraged to attend.
IRA Essentials	October 26 October 28	Courtyard, Bismarck Holiday Inn, Fargo	IRA Essentials gives attendees a solid foundation of IRA knowledge. This is a beginner's session; no previous IRA knowledge is assumed.
Advanced IRAs	October 27 October 29	Courtyard, Bismarck Holiday Inn, Fargo	This is an advanced session; previous IRA knowledge is assumed.
HSA Workshop	October 30	Holiday Inn, Fargo	This is a beginner's session; no previous HSA knowledge is assumed.



OnCourse Learning Webinars

EVENT	DATE
Control Your Workday A Focus and Execution Workshop	04/21/2026
Integrating ESG Into Risk Management for Banks and Credit Unions	04/21/2026
Cash Flow Analysis Workshop Part 4	04/21/2026
The Seamless Customer Experience Keys to Cross Selling Workshop Part 2	04/22/2026
BSA AML and OFAC Compliance Part 3	04/22/2026
Bank Accounting Deferred Income Taxes 2 Part Series	04/23/2026
CRE Lending Training Program Part 2	04/23/2026
Coaching Effectiveness for Managers and Supervisors	04/23/2026
CRE Lending Training Program	04/23/2026
Lending Basics for Bank Managers and Support Personnel	04/27/2026
Bank Accounting Deferred Income Taxes Part 2	04/28/2026
Basic Bankruptcy for Bankers	04/28/2026
Demystifying Trusts Establishing Deposit Accounts and Loans	04/29/2026
Compliance Management System Workshop Part 2	04/30/2026
A Bankers Responsibility FCRA and FACT Act	05/04/2026

EVENT	DATE
Feedback and Coaching	05/05/2026
Debit Cards Everything You Need to Know	05/05/2026
Bank Accounting Complex Transactions 4 Part Series	05/06/2026
Bank Accounting Complex Transactions Part 1	05/06/2026
Call Report for Beginners 5 Part Series	05/06/2026
Call Report for Beginners Part 1	05/06/2026
Developing a BSA AML Training Program	05/07/2026
Branch Manager Best Practices Leading an Exceptional Branch	05/07/2026
Bank Accounting Complex Transactions Part 2	05/08/2026
Service Member Issues	05/08/2026
ACH Origination Becoming a Productive and Compliant ODFI	05/11/2026
IRA Beneficiary Workshop	05/12/2026

NDBA offers convenient bank training and access to timely topics through a variety of webinars.

For more information, [click here](#).

Thank You to NDBA's Valued Associate Members and Endorsed Business Partners

As we prepare to welcome bankers and industry partners to the **2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention**, June 15-17 in Bismarck, we pause to recognize the partnerships that make it all possible.

This event, and so much of what we do throughout the year, simply wouldn't happen without the continued support of our incredible associate members, and endorsed business partners.

Their commitment to the banking industry is evident in every interaction, every solution offered, and every event they help bring to life. From sponsoring key moments at convention to supporting educational programming and engaging with NDBA members, their presence adds meaningful value.

To our associate members and endorsed business partners - thank you. Your partnership, engagement, and belief in this industry make us stronger, and when we come together with a shared purpose, we truly are **Stronger Together.**

"Business is built on relationships - trust, respect, and connection are the true currency of success."



ACCOUNTING/CPA FIRMS

Brady Martz
Cain Ellsworth & Company, LLP
Eide Bailly LLP
Forvis Mazars
Widmer Roel PC

AG REAL ESTATE

Farmers National Company

ARCHITECTS

HTG Architects
WCRG Architecture & Construction

AUCTION SERVICES

Pifer's Auction & Realty
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
Steffes Group

BANK FINANCIAL INFORMATION

S&P Global Market Intelligence

BOLI

NFP Executive Benefits

BROKERAGE/INVESTMENTS

Colliers Securities LLC
D.A. Davidson & Co.
PNC Capital Markets
UMB Bank

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Scenic Sign Corporation
Works24

COMPLIANCE

Brady Martz
Compliance Alliance
Superior IRA & HSA
UMACHA
Vantage Point Solutions

CONSULTING

Blanchard Consulting Group
Cornerstone Advisors
Eide Bailly LLP
Keenan & Partners
ND Small Business Development Centers
Rebecca Undem, LLC
SRM
Teremark CIO, LLC

CORE PROCESSING

Computer Services, Inc. (CSI)
Fiserv
Jack Henry

CORRESPONDENT BANKS

Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines
Merchants Bank
United Bankers' Bank

DEBIT PROCESSING & NETWORK

SHAZAM

DEBT COLLECTIONS

United Accounts, Inc.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Bank Holding Company Association
Dale Carnegie Training of ND & NW MN
UMACHA

EQUIPMENT

Bankers Equipment Service
Edge One LLC

FRAUD PREVENTION

GoodLabs Studio

HOTELS

Delta Hotels by Marriott Fargo
Holiday Inn Fargo
Radisson Hotel Bismarck

INFORMATION SECURITY

Arctic Wolf
Continuous
Integris
SBS CyberSecurity, LLC

INSURANCE SERVICES

Allied Solutions
AmTrust Financial
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Brown & Brown
IntraFi
Midwest Bankers Insurance Services, LLC
ND Banks Benefit Trust
The Title Team
Travelers Insurance

INVESTMENT BANKING

The Baker Group
Mickelson & Company
Piper Sandler & Co.
TruStar Advisors

LAW FIRMS

ABST Law
Conmy Feste Ltd.
Dakota Law Group

Fredrikson & Byron P.A.
Serkland Law Firm

LOAN SERVICES

BHG Financial Institutional Network
Brady Martz
CapFirst Equipment Finance, Inc.
Capstone Banktech/Capital Express
Kinetic Leasing, Inc.
Lewis & Clark Development Group
MBFC – North Dakota Division

MORTGAGE SERVICES

First Class Mortgage
North Dakota Housing Finance Agency

NETWORK SUPPORT

Network Center, Inc.

OFFICE SUPPLIES & FURNITURE

Business Essentials
ODP Business Solutions

RISK MANAGEMENT

DataVerify Flood Services
Hurley & Associates

SBA LENDING

Dakota Business Lending
Lake Agassiz Development Group
Lewis & Clark Development Group
U.S. Small Business Administration

SECURITY

NewVision Security and Fire
Rochester Armored Car

TECHNOLOGY

ABM Technology Group
Arctic Wolf
BEK Communications
Dakota Carrier Network (DCN)
Integris
Marco Technologies
NBID, LLC
NetCenter Technologies
SEAM (Secure Enterprise Asset Management, Inc.)
UKG

TRUST-RELATED PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Heartland Trust Company

BOLD = Endorsed Business Partner



2026 NDBA Peer Group Meeting Schedule

All Virtual via TEAMS (unless otherwise noted)



Audit

Facilitator: Jayson Goyne – Bravera Bank
• April 13 | 10:00 am



Chief Credit Officer (CCO)

Facilitator: Steve Larson – Gate City Bank
• March 3 | 2:00 pm
• May 12 | 2:00 pm
• August 11 | 2:00 pm
• November 18 | 2:00 pm



Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Facilitators: Shane Husar – BankNorth
• April 21 | 10:00 am



Collateral Valuation

Facilitator: TBD
• TBD



Communications & Marketing

Facilitators: Karly Schefter – First Western Bank & Trust
Kristin Jaeger – Cornerstone Bank
• April 16 | 10:00 am



Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

Facilitator: Kristin Kupfer – Starion Bank
• March 31 | 10:00 am
• June 23 | 10:00 am



Compliance

Facilitators: Lynne Michels – Stock Growers Bank
Lisa Steinolfson - Koda Bank
• April 23 | 10:00 am



Credit Analyst

Facilitators: Victoria Ripplinger – Bank of North Dakota
Tara Copp – United Valley Bank
• March 3 | 10:00 am
• June 9 | 10:00 am



Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

Facilitator: Jeremy Skoglund – Western State Bank
• April 16 | 2:00 pm



Fraud

Facilitators: Kim Lazur – Alerus
Jacob Rued – First Western Bank & Trust
Heidi Schumacher – Border Bank
• February 10 | 9:30 am
• May 21 | 9:30 am
• August 18 | 9:30 am



Front Line Operations

Facilitators: Olivia Wheeler – Bank Forward
Jenni Rime – TruCommunity Bank
Melissa Liebenow – BankNorth
• April 15 | 10:00 am
• June 24 | 10:00 am



Human Resources (HR)

Facilitators: Natalie Murch – BankNorth
Amy Otterson – Bank Forward
• April 15 | Postponed (next meeting TBD)



Information Technology (IT)

Facilitators: Allen Huber – BankNorth
Jona Ziemann – Western State Bank
• April 2 | 10:00 am



NDBA Fraud Forum

October 13 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Bismarck - Location TBD



2026 NDBA Peer Group Consortium

- **Welcome Reception:** October 13 | 5:30-7:30 pm
Location TBD
- **Consortium:** October 14 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
National Energy Center of Excellence – Bismarck



[More Information](#)

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2026 NDBA SERVICE AWARDS



CELEBRATING DECADES OF DEDICATION

Help us honor the professionals who have dedicated decades to North Dakota banking at these two events:

- ★ 2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention June 17 | Bismarck ★
- ★ 2026 Regional Member Meetings September 14-17 | Four Locations ★

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Bank employees with 20, 30, 40, or 50 total years of service (can be with multiple banks)

HOW TO NOMINATE

Complete the application form at www.ndba.com

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jolene
jolene@ndba.com
701.223.5303 Ext. 58

The Program

STRONGER Together

General Sessions Wednesday, June 17



Shifting Sands: How Global Economic Policy Will Create Opportunities & Risks

Thomas Landstreet
Economist | Analyst | Investment Practitioner

9:00-9:50 am

Diamond Sponsor: First PREMIER Bank



Understanding Digital Assets in Banking

Ryan Miller
ABA Policy Expert | Compliance Professional

10:15-11:00 am



Shaping a Nation

Clay Jenkinson as President Thomas Jefferson
Humanities Scholar | Author | Educator

1:05-2:00 pm

Platinum Sponsor: Cornerstone Bank



Living Unlimited

Lt. Col. Dan Rooney
Fighter Pilot | Founder & CEO Folds of Honor

3:25-4:15 pm

Diamond Sponsor: Bank of North Dakota



Creating Hope-Fueled Impact

Rebecca Udem
Author | Consultant | Speaker

2:10-3:00 pm

PLUS ...



ABA Update

Kenneth Kelly
ABA Chair
Chairman & CEO
First Independence Bank

10:00-10:15 am



Fraud Panel

Hear from NDBA and SDBA leaders as they discuss a key issue impacting banks.

11:10-11:55 am



Regulatory Update

Lise Kruse
Commissioner
ND Department of
Financial Institutions

3:10-3:25 pm

Visit ndba.com to register

Moments
★ TOGETHER ★

MONDAY NIGHT

Welcome to Bismarck Party

ND Gateway to Science Center | 1600 Canary Ave, Bismarck
June 15 | 6:00–8:00 pm

Start the convention in style at the Welcome to Bismarck Party at the North Dakota Gateway to Science Center. With sweeping views of the Missouri River, this stunning, state-of-the-art venue provides the perfect backdrop for an evening of great food, lively conversation, and reconnecting with friends and colleagues from across the Dakotas.



TUESDAY NIGHT

Red, White & Blue Bash in the Exhibit Hall

Radisson Hotel Ballroom
June 16 | 6:00–8:30 pm

It's time to celebrate! Wear your favorite casual red, white, and blue threads and join us for a lively evening with more than 50 business partners showcasing innovative products and services. Enjoy great food, fresh ideas, and a celebratory atmosphere – with some fun accessories to help you show your patriotic pride.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The Final Scoop

Ice Cream Reception | Radisson Hotel Mezzanine
June 17 | 4:15–5:00 pm

One last treat before we say goodbye. Join us in the Radisson Mezzanine for The Final Scoop — featuring handcrafted ice cream from Cows & Co. Creamery.



★★★ STRONGER
Together ★★★

Ready to Register!

Visit ndba.com for event information and registration information.



Fraud Academy

AUG 18 - 20, 2026 | HYATT REGENCY, LEXINGTON KY

Consider this a **warning** to bad guys everywhere:

Fraud Academy is back,
and we're very, very angry.

REGISTER ONLINE AT FRAUDACADEMYHQ.COM



AG CREDIT CONFERENCE

October 1-2 | Fargo

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



REGIONAL MEMBER MEETINGS

September 14-17

Grand Forks, Fargo, Washburn and Minot



Dakota School of Banking

May 31 - June 5, 2026 • University of Jamestown • Jamestown ND

**Early
Application
Deadline:
April 3, 2026**

Questions?

Please call Dorothy Lick,
DSB administrator, at
701.223.5303 or email
dorothy@ndba.com.

For more information and to
apply, visit www.ndba.com.



Apply Now!

Women Lead Symposium

July 30, 2026 | Virtual Event

aba.com/WomenLead



American
Bankers
Association

CO-SPONSORED BY:



Empower your leadership journey and elevate your career at the **Women Lead Symposium**, a virtual half-day event hosted by the American Bankers Association (ABA) designed for women in banking at every stage of their career.

Whether you're an emerging leader or a seasoned professional, this event gives you the tools, perspectives, and connections to drive meaningful growth — for yourself and your bank.

Pete Burgard

Merchants Bank
Rugby



APRIL 2026

BANKER
YOU SHOULD KNOW



NDBA's *Banker You Should Know* for April is **Pete Burgard**, Senior Vice President and Loan Officer at Merchants Bank in Rugby.

Pete was nominated by his former colleague, Kasey Okke, who highlighted Pete's deep commitment to farming and ranching, his community and his bank. In his nomination, Kasey wrote, "Pete is a farmer and rancher himself and understands what every one of his customers is going through on a daily basis."

Cody Melgaard, Merchants Bank President added, "Pete is an outstanding leader whose experience shows in every decision he makes."

Pete has been involved in NDBA, participating in NDBA Ag Credit Conference in the fall and serving on the NDBA Agriculture Committee.

What first inspired you to pursue a career in banking?

Pete: I graduated from NDSU with a degree in Ag Econ and went back home to farm. I milked cows and raised cattle until 2009, when I transitioned to crop insurance adjusting.

Pete went on to say, "In 2010, an old college friend – who was president at Merchants Bank – asked if I'd be interested in coming on as a loan officer trainee. I thought about it for a couple

of months and finally said, 'I can do that'." Five years later, his part-time role turned into a full-time banking career.

How have you seen the banking industry change during your career?

Pete: The evolution of more online banking products and how most clients are using it for their everyday use.

What's the most fulfilling part of your job?

Pete: I have helped a few young farmers get started with beginning farmer loans from Bank of North Dakota or FSA and have mentored them over the years.

That commitment to his customers is something his team sees every day. As Kasey Okke noted in his nomination, Pete's ability to understand what his customers are going through "on a daily basis" makes him an invaluable resource for both clients and coworkers.

What's one accomplishment in your career you're especially proud of?

Pete: I'm especially proud of how some of my clients have succeeded and how valuable a role I have played in the team aspect of how things are accomplished at our bank.

Kasey echoed that sentiment, noting Pete is a "true professional and can be called upon for anything happening at the bank."

What's something people would be surprised to learn about you?

Pete: I still have cattle and get in on calving every year. When I'm at the ranch I wear my pliers on my belt every day.

After graduating from NDSU in 1986, Pete went back home and bought the farm from his parents (he milked cows and had 115 beef cows) and has been involved in farming and ranching ever since.

If you weren't a banker, what career could you see yourself in?

Pete: If I were not a banker, I could see myself as a delivery driver or mailman. I like to go on these daytrips to see the countryside and look at the scenery.

Who has been a role model or mentor in your life or career?

Pete: The man who hired me at the bank and the great staff that were here when I started. Their guidance and experience in shaping my leadership and decision making were great resources to my success today.

“

Pete's character, dedication, and willingness to support our team makes him an invaluable influence and a true role model.

– Cody Melgaard
President, Merchants Bank

”

That influence is reflected in how Pete now supports others. As Kasey noted, Pete is often the go-to team member when a question needs answering or a loan package needs review.

What's one piece of advice you'll never forget?

Pete: Be kind to everyone and treat everyone with respect. Always have an open door, sometimes people just need another point of view.

That mindset aligns closely with how Cody describes Pete's leadership – rooted in respect, fairness, and a willingness to support others.



Pete and Kim with grandchildren, Nora, Olivia and Carson



Pete and son, Travis



Pete and granddaughter, Olivia



Merchants Bank Staff

If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Pete: Always state the facts, be professional in your job and when customers are for advice, share from your personal experience.

That straightforward, experience-driven approach is something his team relies on daily. As Cody Melgaard shared, Pete's leadership consistently reflects confidence, fairness, and professionalism.

What impact do you hope to make in your organization or community?

Pete: I hope to have a positive impact in the community as a trusted leader serving in a professional role or personal one. People want to see you at local functions supporting them in any way possible whether it is fundraising events, church functions, sporting events, or farmer meetings. It is all about being present and offering any type of support where needed.

Kasey shared that Pete is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, supporting women's care centers and seminarians through fundraising efforts. Pete also prepares the annual memorial mass supper in November for deceased Knights of Columbus where Christian Mothers and the CYO students also are in attendance.

How do you define success?

Pete: Never did I think when I started this job 15 years ago, it would have turned into what it is today. I feel I have helped several clients achieve their goals and developed

“

Be kind to everyone and treat people with respect.

– Pete Burgard
Merchants Bank

”

relationships with each and everyone of them.

Pete want on to say, "They appreciate the fact that you take an interest in their business and know what they are talking about." One of Pete's greatest sources of pride is seeing his sons return to the ranch to work alongside him. Together, they've expanded the operation, building something that will support their families for years to come.

Pete's dedication to his clients, his team, and his agricultural roots reflects the very heart of community banking. As a trusted advisor and respected leader in the Rugby community, he continues to make a meaningful difference both in and out of the bank—making him a truly deserving recipient of this recognition... a **Banker You Should Know!**

Pete involved in the Rugby community – Tallest guy, tallest arrangement.





UMACHA
SHARING KNOWLEDGE.
CREATING PEACE OF MIND.

North Dakota Fraud Forum

* May 19, 2026 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm CT *

Fraud is constantly changing—and staying ahead takes connection and collaboration. Join industry peers, law enforcement, and experts for an in-person forum focused on fraud awareness, prevention, and response, presented by **UMACHA**.

You'll Learn How To:

- Spot current fraud trends impacting financial institutions
- Strengthen prevention & response strategies
- Work effectively with law enforcement
- Use tools and resources from UMACHA, FRPA and Nacha



FRAUD FORUM

Register for this Event:



<https://tinyurl.com/NDFraudForum>



Bell Tower, Fargo ND

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Nip Seasonal Allergies In the Bud

Springtime allergies are an annual nuisance for many people. As plants begin to bloom and people start to cut their grass more frequently, allergy sufferers nationwide start sniffing and sneezing. If this sounds familiar, you may have seasonal allergies, which are symptoms that occur at specific times of the year, typically when allergens are released into the air. The most common spring allergy trigger is tree pollen, which peaks from March to May. What's more, mold growth blooms both indoors and outdoors, making it almost impossible to escape allergy triggers.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 1 in 4 adults experience seasonal allergies from pollen from trees, grass and weeds.

Similar to other types of allergies, seasonal allergies develop when your body's immune system detects and then overreacts to a foreign substance it thinks is harmful. For some, allergy symptoms may consist of sneezing a couple of times a year. But for others, seasonal allergies can cause congestion, a runny, itchy or stuffy nose, watery eyes, headaches and

more for weeks or months at a time. To reduce your allergies, consider the following strategies:

- Wash your bedding every week in hot water to help keep pollen under control.
- Take a shower after spending time outdoors, as pollen can stick to your hair, skin and clothing.
- Limit the number of throw rugs to reduce dust and mold. Also, opt for washable rugs.
- Clean your floors often with a vacuum that has a HEPA filter.
- Change your air conditioner and heating HEPA filters often.

Treatment for most allergies is available both over the counter and by prescription. If your allergy symptoms are severe or chronic, you may need a series of allergy shots. Contact your doctor or ask for a referral to an allergist to determine which seasonal allergy treatment option is best for you.

The Impact of Chronic Stress

Stress is defined as a “state of worry or mental tension” often brought on by a difficult situation. It’s a natural reaction to perceived threats. Stress can be a good thing in small doses; it’s the body’s way of handling sudden demands and challenges.

Stress responses can enhance your focus, increase energy and promote quick responses. However, frequent and long-term chronic stress can negatively impact your health.

Stress triggers are deeply personal, and each person experiences this feeling differently. While stress is a normal part of life that comes and goes as you

navigate various life circumstances (e.g., getting a new job or presenting a project), chronic stress is different. It’s characterized by prolonged and constant feelings of pressure and anxiety. Chronic stress can contribute to feelings of anxiety and depression, issues with high blood pressure, a weakened immune system, sleep disturbances and digestive issues. If left unchecked, it can have a long-lasting impact on your physical and mental well-being.

If you’re experiencing symptoms of chronic stress, reach out to your health care provider or employee assistance program for guidance and support.

Cutting Down on Added Sugars

Sugar is woven into the modern diet—often in ways that aren’t obvious. While naturally occurring sugars can be part of a balanced eating pattern, added sugars are a different story. The [2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) (DGA) reflects mounting research that reducing added sugars can improve metabolic health and lower long-term disease risk.

The DGA recommends limiting added sugars as much as possible and advises that a single meal contain no more than 10 grams of added sugar.

Cutting back doesn’t have to happen overnight. Small, consistent changes can make a meaningful difference, so start with these strategies:

- **Rethink your beverages** by swapping sugar-sweetened drinks for water, sparkling water, unsweetened tea and coffee served black or with minimal sweetener.

- **Choose whole, fresh fruit** over fruit juice.
- **Build meals around whole foods**, including vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, healthy fats and whole fruits.
- **Reduce sweetness gradually** to make it easier to adapt without feeling deprived.
- **Read nutrition labels carefully**, checking both total sugars and added sugars.

Reducing added sugar is not about eliminating all sweet foods or striving for perfection, but about awareness and balance. Occasional treats can fit into a healthy eating pattern, but daily habits matter most. Meal planning, mindful grocery shopping and paying attention to labels can help you stay within recommended limits. Over time, cutting back on added sugars may improve energy levels, weight management and overall health.

Recipe of the Month

Avocado Black Bean Taquitos

Makes: 5 servings

Ingredients

- 1 ripe, fresh avocado (halved, pitted, peeled and mashed)
- ½ cup low-sodium canned black beans (rinsed)
- ½ Tbsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 10 (6-inch) corn tortillas
- 1 cup rainbow cherry tomatoes (chopped)
- ½ cup red or yellow bell peppers (seeded and diced)
- 1 Tbsp. fresh jalapeno (seeded and minced)
- 1 Tbsp. onion (minced)
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro leaves (chopped)
- ½ cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt

Preparations

1. Using a fork, mash the avocado and black beans together in a bowl. Stir in the cumin, garlic powder and salt.
2. Spread approximately 2 Tbsp. of the mixture onto a corn tortilla, dividing equally between 10 tortillas. Roll tightly to form 10 taquitos.
3. Place taquitos into the air fryer at 400 F for 5 minutes. When the timer goes off, flip and put back into the air fryer for 5 more minutes. Depending on the air fryer, you may need to decrease the time to 3 to 4 minutes per side.
4. While the taquitos are cooking, combine the cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeno, onion, cilantro and lime juice in a small bowl to make fresh pico de gallo.
5. Once the taquitos are golden brown and crispy, remove from the air fryer and top with fresh pico de gallo and Greek yogurt.

Nutritional Information

(per serving)

Total calories	181
Total fat	6 g
Protein	7 g
Sodium	300 mg
Carbohydrate	27 g
Dietary fiber	7 g
Saturated fat	1 g
Total sugars	13 g

Source: MyPlate





ND

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May 2026 Webinars

Embrace your emotional health with a live webinar led by Learn to Live's clinical team.

***NEW* When We Say We're Fine, But We're Not: Tools for Mental Exhaustion:** How often do you find yourself reflexively saying, "I'm fine" while moving through your days on autopilot? Maybe you don't want to admit, or even realize, how exhausted you actually are. What if you can find a way to really mean it the next time you tell someone you're fine? In this webinar, the Clinical Team will offer practical tools to recognize mental exhaustion before you hit empty, reintroduce meaningful activities into your routine, and help you ask for support when you need it. With a few small changes, you might be able to turn off autopilot and prevent mental exhaustion to live with more intention.

[Thursday, May 7th: 12-12:30pm CT/1-1:30pm ET](#)

[Wednesday, May 20th: 12-12:30pm CT/1-1:30pm ET](#)

What is Anxiety and What Can I Do About It? Do worried thoughts command all your attention and steal your joy? Or does your body tell you that you're troubled with an upset stomach, trembling hands, and sweat on your forehead? Even when they seem like they're coming out of nowhere, these can be symptoms of anxiety. The Learn to Live Clinical Team will help you better understand anxiety and introduce you to evidence based strategies that can help improve your well-being.

[Wednesday, May 13th: 2-2:30pm CT/3-3:30pm ET](#)

The Price of Silence: How to Talk about Mental Health: If you are struggling with anxiety, depression, or a related concern, you know that is when you feel the least like discussing what you are going through. Join us as we discuss effective strategies, guidance in seeking help, and ways we can support those close to us who may be struggling.

[Friday, May 15th: 11-11:30am CT/12-12:30pm ET](#)

Building Stronger Social Connections for a Healthier Life: Research shows that connectedness is a key factor for health, but our connections with others are slipping. The Learn to Live Clinical Team will help you explore your own factors for connectedness and discuss ways to remove the barriers that keep you isolated.

[Thursday, May 21st: 12-12:30pm CT/1-1:30pm ET](#)

To Register:

Click the link for the webinar of your choice and use the access code **BLUEND**. Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom.

If you cannot attend a live session, you can still register to receive a link to the recording.



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Please contact info@gsb.org with any questions.

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ask the Regulators



Capital Requirements Revisions: An Industry Briefing

Tuesday, May 5 | 1:00 pm CT

Registration:

Registration is open now at www.askthefed.org. During the session, the agencies will respond to questions submitted in advance from bankers. Please email questions in advance of the session to asktheregulators@stls.frb.org. Questions received by April 28 will receive priority.

About Briefing:

What's changing in bank capital requirements? Hear directly from the FDIC, Federal Reserve, and OCC as they break down proposed updates to the risk-based capital framework—including impacts for community, regional, and large banks.



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Contact NDBA's [Dorothy Lick](#) with questions.



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Apps that round up your purchase

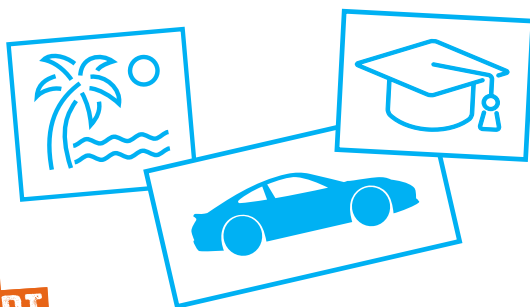
- There are apps that will round up your purchases and put the rest into savings. For example, if you spend \$12.35 eating lunch somewhere, the app would add 65 cents to your savings account (rounding it up to \$13.00).

Make Small, Frequent Deposits



Research shows people prefer to make smaller, more frequent additions to their savings rather than larger ones all at once.

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BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

Community Bank Bond Portfolios Are Finally Turning the Corner



Ryan W. Hayhurst
Managing Partner & President
The Baker Group

For more than a decade, community bank bond portfolios languished under the weight of the Fed's zero interest rate policy, or ZIRP. Portfolios filled with higher yielding that matured or got called, saw their yield slowly erode as the average bank portfolio yield fell from more than 5% in 2007 to less than 2% in 2021. In fact, bank holdings of low-yielding bonds (I'll define that as less than 2%) have exceeded their holdings of high-yielding bonds (greater than 4%) for the last 13 years. But the Fed's aggressive tightening cycle of 2022-23 and the subsequent surge in bond yields have helped banks turn the page on the era of low yielding bonds.

For the first time since 2012, the percentage of bonds yielding 4% or more has surpassed the percentage yielding less than 2% (see chart). It's a crossover that most bankers didn't dare imagine just a few years ago. And it represents both a milestone worth celebrating and a call-to-action portfolio managers can't afford to ignore.

How We Got Here

To understand where bond portfolios stand today, it helps to rewind to the era before the financial crisis. In 2007, nearly 90% of the bonds held by community banks carried yields above 4%. Rates were high, yield was plentiful and the idea that the Federal Reserve could actually cut rates to zero was considered crazy.

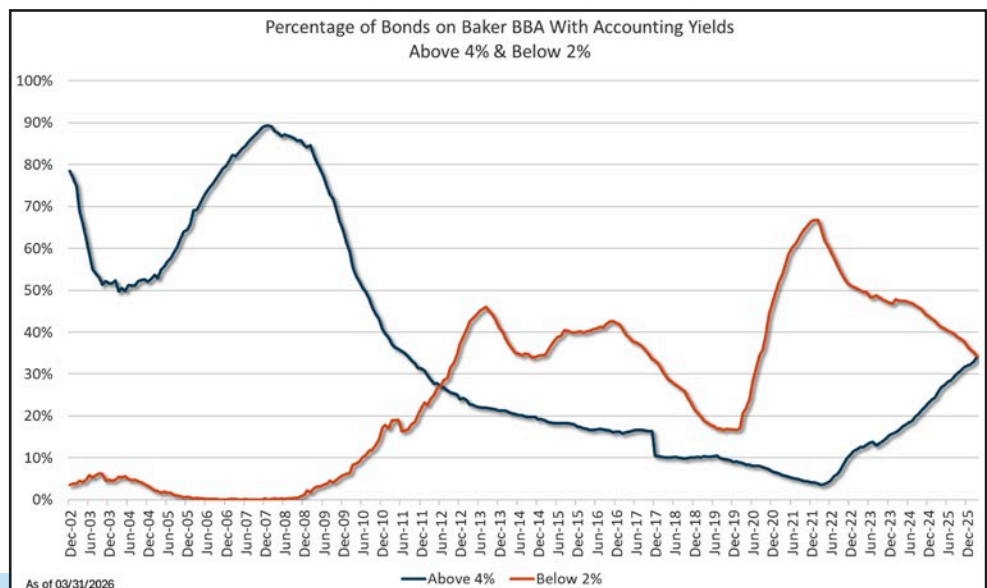
Then came 2008. The Federal Reserve slashed rates to zero in response to the financial crisis and kept them there for years. As higher-yielding bonds matured, got called, or prepaid ahead of

schedule, banks reinvested the proceeds into a market offering historically low yields. By 2012, the percentage of sub-2% bonds owned by banks had surpassed the share of bonds yielding more than 4% — and it stayed that way for more than a decade.

The pain was compounded further when rates finally did rise sharply in 2022-23. Banks sitting on portfolios stuffed with 1-2% bonds watched their unrealized losses balloon, constraining capital, complicating balance sheets, and limiting strategic flexibility. It was, for many institutions, the worst of both worlds.

The Crossover Moment

But along with unrealized losses came significantly higher reinvestment opportunities and the same forces that once worked against banks are now working in their favor. Low-yielding bonds have continued to mature while the 2021-23 surge in bond yields opened a window — one that many proactive banks took advantage of aggressively — to purchase bonds at yields that



hadn't been available since before the financial crisis. Data from more than 600 community banks on The Baker Group's Baker Bond Accounting (BBA) system now shows that high-yielding bonds have finally reclaimed the lead, exceeding holdings of low-yielding bonds for the first time in over 13 years.

The banks that moved decisively during that window are the ones seeing the strongest improvement in their yields today. The message is clear: activity matters. The more bonds a bank has purchased over the last three years, the better their portfolio composition looks right now.

The Corner Isn't the Finish Line

Turning the corner is meaningful — but it's not the moment to ease off. The Federal Reserve has already cut rates by 175bp and ultimately wants to lower rates to around 3% once the threat of higher inflation subsides. Any further rate cuts and subsequent slide in bond yields may give way to reinvestment opportunities that look more like the post-2008 era than the post-2022 era. We've seen this movie before, and banks that hesitated last time spent years wishing they hadn't.

The good news is that most institutions still have meaningful options today. The question is whether they'll act on them and act quickly enough to matter.

Keep the Momentum Going

If your portfolio still carries a heavy concentration of sub-2% bonds, or if you simply want to press the advantage while the rate environment still allows it, there are some concrete steps you can take today.

Deploy Cash – Many banks are still holding excess liquidity at the Federal Reserve or in overnight instruments. This may have seemed like the best option when the yield curve was inverted and cash yielded more than bonds, but that has changed. The yield curve is positively sloped once again and banks can earn 50-150bps more yield by deploying cash into the bond portfolio. Every dollar sitting in cash is a dollar that could be working harder in the investment portfolio for years to come. Extending even a portion of that liquidity into intermediate-term, higher-yielding securities locks in today's rates before the market moves away from you. It's the lowest friction move available and a natural place to start.

Consider Bond Restructurings (Swaps) — Selling low-yielding securities at a loss and immediately reinvesting into higher-yielding alternatives, often called a bond swap, is one of the most effective tools available for accelerating the improvement in your portfolio's yield profile. Yes, it means realizing a loss today. But if the math works, you recoup that loss through higher earnings in

a relatively short period and emerge with a meaningfully better portfolio. With today's rate environment still offering yields well above historical averages, the spread between what you're selling and what you're buying can make the numbers very compelling.

Build a Systematic Reinvestment Discipline — Rather than waiting for the "perfect" moment to buy, consider a disciplined reinvestment program that consistently deploys cash flows from maturing bonds, calls, and prepayments into new purchases at current yields. Consistency compounds over time, and staying active keeps your portfolio moving in the right direction even when markets feel uncertain.

Update Your Investment Policy and ALCO Process — Perhaps the most durable thing you can do is embed this momentum into your institution's governance. Make sure your investment policy explicitly allows tax-loss swaps when the earn-back math is favorable and the new securities improve your overall risk metrics. Many policies are silent on this, which creates unnecessary hesitation at exactly the wrong moment. Portfolio managers can also add a quarterly "portfolio refresh" item to every ALCO agenda: review the investment portfolio and ensure performance is meeting or exceeding your expectations. If it isn't, set a realistic target for the next twelve months and take action. What gets measured gets managed, and making this process a standing agenda item ensures the progress you've made doesn't quietly erode between cycles.

The Bottom Line

The improvement you're seeing in community bank yields isn't just a chart, it's a roadmap. It shows that the banks willing to act during a challenging rate environment are building portfolios that will serve them well for years. Turning the corner is a real achievement. Staying on course after you've turned the corner is the harder discipline, and the more important one. The window is still open. Make the most of it while the opportunity remains.

Ryan W. Hayhurst serves as a Managing Partner and President of The Baker Group. Since joining the firm in 1991, he has led the design and implementation of investment and asset/liability strategies for financial institutions. He also plays a central role in the ongoing development of the firm's proprietary software, which helps clients manage both their investment portfolios and overall interest rate risk.



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October 14-16, 2026



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AGENDA:

Wednesday, October 14

Golf (included)

Thursday, October 15

Breakfast, Seminar, Lunch, Dinner/Cocktails (included)

Friday, October 16

Breakfast, Seminar

ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms is available at Omni Hotel. The special room rate will be available until **September 14, 2026** or until the room block is sold out. Hotel price: \$239 + fees/tax.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Financial institutions' CEOs, CFOs, investment officers, board members, and those who are directly or indirectly responsible for financial management functions will benefit from this seminar.

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Managing Funding, Liquidity and Capital | [click here](#)

June 1, 2026 – July 3, 2026

Member Price: \$795 (with text)

A summary of the bank funding types, liquidity issues and management of capital. Learn what funding is used by banks; how liquidity needs may be addressed by storing liquidity on the balance sheet or by securing additional funding; and bank capital's purpose, regulatory requirements and the effect on profitability.

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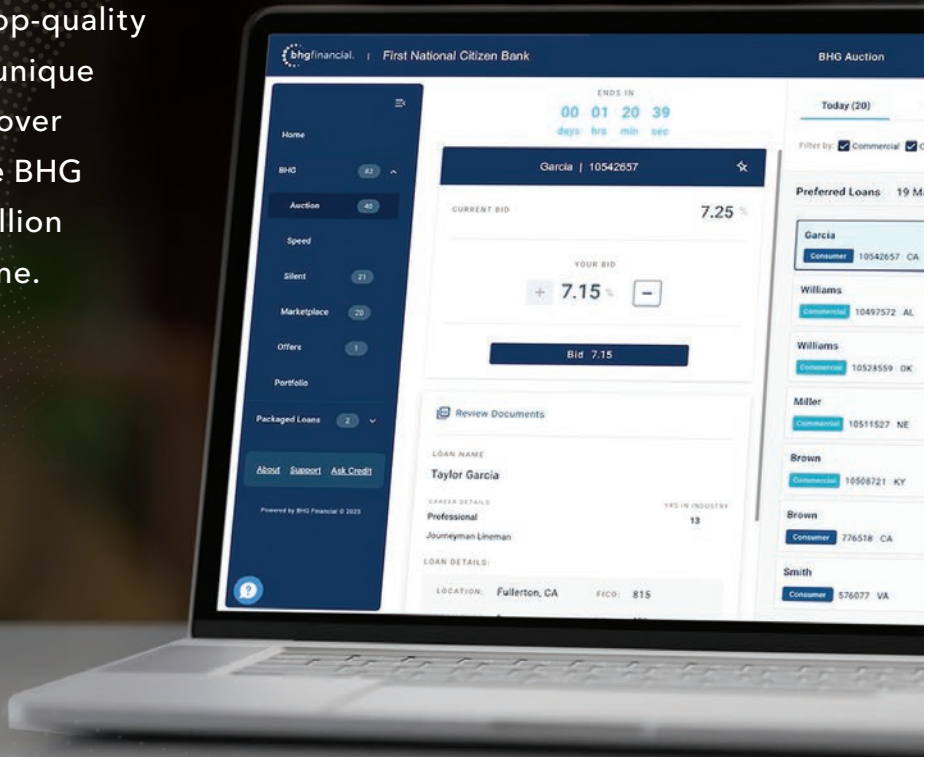


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Next Session: May 4-7, 2026



BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

White House Cyber Strategy (March 2026):

Key Takeaways for Federal Agencies and Critical Infrastructure

Jon Waldman
President
SBS CyberSecurity



Objectivity note: This article is not a political statement and does not promote any agenda. It provides a practical, fact-based summary of recent federal cybersecurity guidance.

The White House released "President Trump's Cyber Strategy for America" on March 6, 2026, to guide federal cybersecurity priorities. This breakdown highlights major takeaways and their implications for federal agencies, contractors, and regulated critical infrastructure.

Key Takeaways for Cybersecurity Leaders

- Cybersecurity is treated as a lever of national power, not just an IT or compliance responsibility. Deterrence, disruption, and resilience are emphasized alongside defense.
- Federal modernization priorities (zero trust architecture, post-quantum cryptography, cloud adoption, and AI-driven security) are likely to cascade into regulatory expectations and contractor requirements.
- Streamlined regulation signals less emphasis on checkbox security, with sustained focus on measurable outcomes, resilience, and recoverability.
- Critical infrastructure organizations and their adjacent vendors face heightened expectations around supply-chain security, third-party risk management, and outage recovery.
- Compared to the 2023 National Cybersecurity Strategy, the 2026 approach shifts emphasis from

market-shaping and prescriptive baselines toward speed, deterrence, and public-private execution, creating both opportunity and execution risk.

What This Strategy Signals

The strategy frames cybersecurity as central to national strength and emphasizes speed, proactive action, and deterrence, including the use of the full suite of U.S. government cyber capabilities, both defensive and offensive.

It also highlights modernization across federal networks – including zero trust architecture, post-quantum cryptography, cloud transition, and AI-powered cyber solutions – while hardening critical infrastructure and supply chains and reducing reliance on adversary vendors.

Why This Strategy Matters

The strategy is short by design and sets direction through six policy pillars that guide follow-on actions and resourcing:

- Shape adversary behavior
- Promote common sense regulation
- Modernize and secure federal government networks
- Secure critical infrastructure
- Sustain superiority in critical and emerging technologies
- Build talent and capacity

For regulated industries — especially financial services and other critical infrastructure — national strategies typically become real through downstream mechanisms: regulator expectations, sector guidance, procurement requirements, and contract clauses.

The strategy explicitly calls out the energy grid, financial and telecommunications systems, data centers, water utilities, hospitals, defense critical infrastructure, and adjacent vendors.

How SBS Strengthens Resilience and Readiness

SBS CyberSecurity helps regulated organizations and federal contractors turn strategy into action. Services include consulting and regulatory readiness support, TRAC risk assessment tools, and technical testing such as penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, purple teaming, and red teaming.

By translating the strategy's priorities into practical steps, SBS helps organizations strengthen resilience, meet regulatory expectations, and prepare for dynamic cybersecurity risks.

This blog was originally published on sbscyber.com.

SBS helps business leaders identify and understand cybersecurity risks to make more informed and proactive business decisions. For more information, contact Cole Kratovil at 605-270-7925 or cole.kratovil@sbscyber.com.

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AI is already in your environment: employees experiment, vendors embed AI into products, and customers interact with AI-driven services. Without governance, these activities introduce compliance, security, and reputational risk. A Virtual Chief AI Officer (vCAIO) brings the structure and oversight needed to manage these risks and turn AI into a strategic advantage.



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Contact us for a free, confidential conversation when you or someone you know would like to discuss the best ways to give back. We have helped thousands of North Dakotans make a difference in their communities and can suggest ideas on the most tax-wise ways to do so. Learn more at www.NDCF.net.



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Brady Martz is expanding its financial institutions services with the addition of **Banker's Compliance Consulting** effective March 1.

Since 1993, Banker's Compliance Consulting has built a reputation for taking complicated regulations and turning them into plain English. Their team provides comprehensive on- and off-site compliance reviews, consultation, and a vast library of resources.



Ryan Bakke, CPA
FI Industry Leader, Principal

"This acquisition aligns closely with Brady Martz's priorities by deepening our expertise, enhancing the client experience, and fueling the Firm's long-term growth. We are excited about the expertise and diversification the Banker's Compliance Consulting team brings to our firm and to our clients. Their commitment to breaking down the complexities of industry regulations fits seamlessly with our culture and reinforces our shared focus on practical, client-centered service."



Connect with Ryan today to discuss your journey to a brighter financial future.

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IntraFi is not an FDIC-insured bank, and deposit insurance covers the failure of an insured bank. A list identifying IntraFi network banks appears at <https://www.intrafi.com/network-banks>. Certain conditions must be satisfied for “pass-through” FDIC deposit insurance coverage to apply. Deposit placement through an IntraFi service is subject to the terms, conditions, and disclosures in applicable agreements. Deposits that are placed through an IntraFi service at FDIC-insured banks in IntraFi’s network are eligible for FDIC deposit insurance coverage at the network banks. The depositor may exclude banks from eligibility to receive its funds. Although deposits are placed in increments that do not exceed the FDIC standard maximum deposit insurance amount (“SMDIA”) at any one bank, a depositor’s balances at the institution that places deposits may exceed the SMDIA before settlement for deposits or after settlement for withdrawals or be uninsured (if the placing institution is not an insured bank). The depositor must make any necessary arrangements to protect such balances consistent with applicable law and must determine whether placement through an IntraFi service satisfies any restrictions on its deposits. To meet the conditions for pass-through FDIC deposit insurance, deposit accounts at FDIC-insured banks in IntraFi’s network that hold deposits placed using an IntraFi service are titled, and deposit account records are maintained, in accordance with FDIC regulations for pass-through coverage.

BANK



HAPPENINGS

associate

HAPPENINGS

Grafton

First United Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of **Russell Carignan** as a VP commercial/ag banker and crop insurance agent. Carignan brings with him over 30 years of banking experience and has a strong background in relationship banking, finance and crop insurance. His broad expertise and leadership in the banking industry make him a valuable addition. Carignan holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of North Dakota and is also a graduate of the North Dakota School of Banking.



Russell Carignan

Mitchell SD

Vantage Point, a national consulting firm serving financial institutions, today announced the acquisition of McCormack and Associates, Inc. (MAi), an Oklahoma-based banking consulting firm. The acquisition expands Vantage Point's Banking Division and enhances service capabilities for clients in Oklahoma, Texas, and beyond.

The transaction brings together two firms with shared cultures, values, and a strong commitment to the banking industry. MAi's experienced audit and compliance professionals join Vantage Point's growing team, increasing depth of expertise while maintaining the trusted relationships MAi clients rely on.

Vantage Point is also expanding its industry engagement through membership in the Oklahoma Bankers Association and the Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma, reinforcing its commitment to regional industry partnerships.

Vantage Point serves financial institutions nationwide with audit, compliance, and credit consulting, as well as critical business services including IT, cybersecurity, and marketing. The firm also provides specialized services such as environmental reviews, offering clients stability, breadth of service, and long-term partnership.

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The cost is \$25 to run in two consecutive issues of the Bulletin and be posted on NDBA's website for 6 weeks.



Internal Auditor
Bismarck, ND



Full job description and to apply: [click here](#).

Are you a detail-oriented risk professional with a strong understanding of audit principles and standards? Starion Bank is seeking an **Internal Auditor** to support the effectiveness of our risk management, governance, and control environment.

This role is ideal for someone who enjoys evaluating processes, identifying risk, partnering with stakeholders, and providing objective assurance to Executive Management and the Audit Committee.

Location: On-site in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Why Starion Bank?

As a growing community bank, Starion Bank values strong relationships, integrity, and sound risk management practices. We offer a collaborative and professional environment where employees are empowered to make an impact while supporting the safety, soundness, and success of the organization.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with the completion of risk assessments of business processes across the Bank.
- Complete internal audits in accordance with the approved audit schedule.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls, accuracy of financial records, and efficiency of operations.
- Make reports and recommendations for corrective actions.
- Coordinate external audits and examinations.
- Ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and procedures.

Qualifications:

- Three to five years of auditing experience preferred.
- Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, economics or a related field preferred.
- General understanding of banking laws, regulations, and processes.
- Working knowledge of audit principles and standards.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong proficiency with Excel, Word and data analytics.
- Ability to work independently, multitask, and work cooperatively with others.

What We Offer:

- Competitive Salary: Your hard work deserves great pay!
- Comprehensive Benefits: Including health, life, dental, vision, and a health savings account.
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- Work-Life Balance: Paid vacation and holidays.

Join a team recognized as the "Best of the Best" by Independent Bankers magazine and one of the "50 Best Places to Work" by Prairie Business magazine!

Ready to Make a Difference?

If you're ready to take the next step in your career and be part of a community-focused bank, apply today at www.starionbank.com!

Apply now and become a vital part of our team!

Starion Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.

Chief Risk Officer Bismarck ND



Full job description and to apply: [click here.](#)

Bank of North Dakota (BND) is seeking a Chief Risk Officer to play a key role in advancing the Bank's mission of supporting agriculture, commerce, and industry across the state. Working alongside North Dakota's financial institutions, BND fuels economic development and serves as the central depository for state funds—making a meaningful impact in communities statewide.

At BND, your work matters and your contributions are valued. We offer an incentive plan along with a comprehensive benefits package, including fully paid family health insurance, generous paid leave, flexible work-life balance options, retirement plans, an infant-at-work program, tuition reimbursement, and more. Be part of something bigger—join the Bank that helps North Dakota thrive.

As Chief Risk Officer, you will provide strategic leadership for the Bank's independent Risk Management Service Area, including Enterprise Risk Management, Internal Audit, Compliance, Credit Review, Vendor Management, Procurement, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, Insurance, and Information Security oversight. You will serve as a key advisor to the President and Advisory Board, ensuring effective identification, measurement, and mitigation of risk while supporting the Bank's long-term objectives.

In this role, you will oversee the Bank's risk framework, internal audit execution, and compliance testing to ensure strong controls and regulatory alignment. You will also provide oversight of credit review, vendor risk, procurement, insurance, and business continuity planning, while partnering with NDIT to support a unified information security function and governance structure.

You will participate in executive-level decision-making as a member of key committees, contribute to strategic planning, represent the Bank before legislative and state entities, and assist in managing the biennial budget. You will also lead risk strategy related to fintech initiatives—identifying emerging risks, developing mitigation strategies, and ensuring a balance between innovation, security, and compliance.

As part of the executive leadership team, you will lead and mentor Risk Management staff, promote professional development, and foster a culture of accountability, transparency, and proactive risk awareness, while supporting organizational initiatives aligned with the Bank's mission and values.

Qualified candidates will have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, economics, or a related field, along with at least ten years of progressive experience in risk management or related areas, including fintech risk. A minimum of five years of leadership experience managing and developing professional staff is also required.

Business Banking Associate Manager Bismarck ND or Remote (ND Resident)



Full job description and to apply: [click here.](#)

Bank of North Dakota (BND) is seeking a Business Banking Associate Manager to lead a team supporting participation, direct, economic development, and legislatively directed lending programs that help strengthen communities across North Dakota.

This role provides team leadership, coaching, and workflow coordination while ensuring high-quality loan documentation and responsive service to internal and external partners. The position collaborates closely with business bankers, credit analysts, loan servicing staff, and financial institution partners to support efficient and accurate lending operations.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a business-related field and 5+ years of commercial, agricultural, or residential lending administration experience, including experience leading or developing staff.



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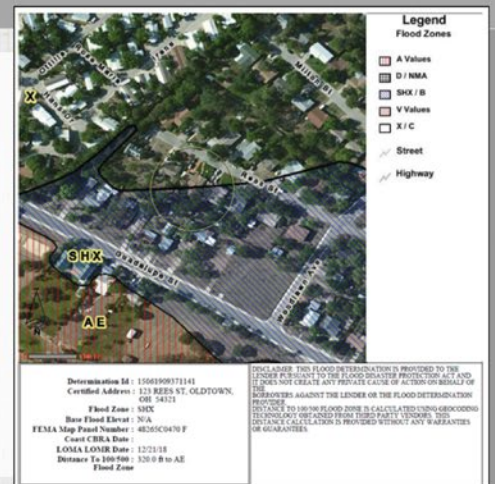
Flooding **Outside** Special Flood Hazard Areas



Seeing is believing. A visual representation of a building location in relation to the **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)** can be a valuable aid in conveying the need for flood insurance, when structure(s) are within the SFHA, or to help borrowers make an informed decision when the structure(s) are outside the SFHA.

Risk Factor

It's estimated that approximately **40%*** of all properties not located within a **SFHA** will flood at some point. So with this in mind, one can see why it would be important to understand how close all structures on a property lie in relation to the *nearest SFHA*. In many of these instances a standard Flood Hazard Determination Form for a property does not give enough detail to the borrower or lender, and may leave them unaware of the potential risk of flooding the property faces.



Quick & Accurate

By utilizing an **aerial Map Copy**, the lender can see the distance to the next hazardous zone from any structure on the property. Due to the nature of the risk, it's important that lenders review accurate and easy-to-read maps. A **clear Map Copy** provides beneficial information regarding *nearby SFHAs* that may not directly affect the primary structure or structures.



 **HIGHLY ACCURATE FLOOD ZONE DETERMINATIONS**

The benefits to ordering an easy-to-read **aerial Map Copy** along with your flood zone determination extend beyond just being able to see the multiple structures on a property and can significantly reduce the risk for the borrower and lender. If you are not using a vendor who can provide you with an **aerial Map Copy** along with your flood zone determination, reach out to **DataVerify Flood Services**. We can provide the digital lift that lenders and borrowers need to work through all the uncertainties surrounding SFHAs.



Contact your Flood Services experts today at **800-841-0662** or learnmore@dataverifyflood.com.



*<https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance/why>



NDBA ENDORSED BUSINESS PARTNERS

NDBA is pleased to partner with companies involved in the banking industry. Endorsed business partners are approved by the NDBA Services Board based on the caliber of a company and its products and services.

Win for North Dakota Banks

- Use the buying power of North Dakota banks working together through the association
- Build long-lasting relationships with companies that have a record of success
- Learn from industry experts that support, speak, and exhibit at NDBA events

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