NORTH DAKOTA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

A publication for members of the North Dakota Bankers Association.

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"How beautifully the leaves grow old!"

John Burroughs

Pembina Gorge west of Walhalla

In this issue:

- From the Corner Chair
- The Future of Banking and the Network Effect
- Live Well. Work Well.
- New Associate Members
- And much more!

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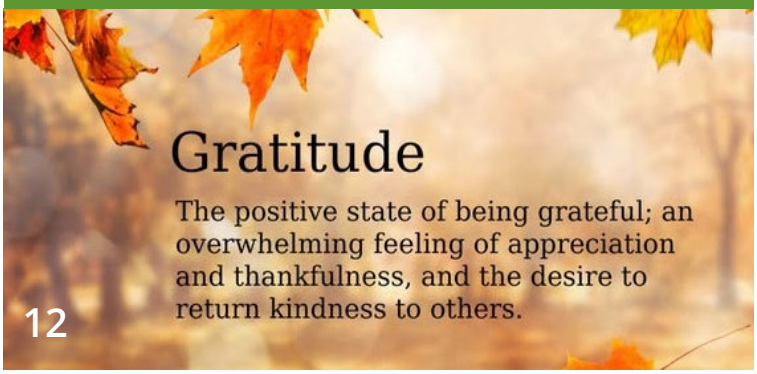
Events at a Glance

For More Information:

Visit www.ndba.com
Or Contact
Dorothy Lick, SVP of Education
701.595.7757 or dorothy@ndba.com

FEBRUARY 2027	**22**	**NDBA Legislative Social**	ND Heritage Center, Bismarck
	23	**Bank Management Conference**	Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck
	24	**Breaking into Banking 101**	Virtual
MARCH 2027	**8-10**	**ABA Washington Summit**	Washington DC
	24	**Breaking into Banking 201**	Virtual
APRIL 2027	**21-22**	**Opening New Accounts**	Fargo & Bismarck
	26-28	**Tri-State Trust Conference**	Holiday Inn, Fargo
JUNE 2027	**6-8**	**SDBA/NDBA Annual Convention**	Sioux Falls, SD
OCTOBER 2027	**7-8**	**Ag Credit Conference**	Clarion Hotel, Bismarck

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Mission Statement

Extraordinary Leadership for North Dakota Banks

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NDBA STAFF

Rick Clayburgh
President and CEO
rick@ndba.com

Jackie Bauer
Business and Database Coordinator
jackie@ndba.com

Angi Day
Manager NDBBT
angi@ndba.com

Lisa Dolajak
Communications and Marketing Coordinator
lisa@ndba.com

Jolene German
Administrative Assistant
jolene@ndba.com

Dorothy Lick
SVP of Education
dorothy@ndba.com

Tara McFadden
SVP of Strategic Partnerships
tara@ndba.com

NDBA GENERAL COUNSEL

Tracy Kennedy
tracy@ndba.com



Wrigley Joins Support of FCC Robocall Mitigation Database Proposal

Attorney General Drew Wrigley joined a coalition of 49 state attorneys general in expressing support for the Federal Communications Commission's Robocall Mitigation Database proposal while urging the agency to require better vetting of the information that telecommunications providers submit.

All voice service providers must register in the RMD and submit information on their practices to prevent the transmission of illegal calls over their networks. The FCC is proposing to bolster the database by, among other things, requiring entities to file more specific information on their efforts to prevent the transmission of illegal calls, creating a more robust pre-screening process for RMD submissions, and limiting exemptions from filing requirements.

In a letter, the attorneys general said they supported strengthening the database but believed that the FCC could go further. To start, the commission should ensure that all information available to the public through the RMD is thoroughly reviewed and determined to be accurate and complete, they said. The attorneys general also encouraged the FCC to use technological tools to vet new entrants to the RMD and determine their relationships with bad or questionable actors.

In addition, the attorneys general encouraged the adoption of a "knew or should have known" standard "to heighten accountability of those providers that choose to look the other way and not become familiar with their obligations," and take other steps to avoid repeat offenders.

The attorneys general "endorse those measures that would allow the RMD to move closer to becoming the flagship tool envisioned by the FCC: a trustworthy resource of fully vetted, accurate, and complete filings that can serve as the centerpiece of both law enforcement's and industry's common fight against illegal calls," they said.

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Democrats Outline Proposed Agendas for House Financial Services Committee

Top Democrats on the House Financial Services Committee are pledging to place greater emphasis on housing policy and tackle financial fraud as they seek their colleagues' support for committee leadership in the upcoming Democrat-controlled Congress.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) – who is currently ranking member – and Rep. Sean Casten (D-Ill.) are seeking to lead the committee next year. In letters to House Democrats obtained by Punchbowl News, both outlined their plans for the committee should they be elected chair.

Waters is proposing to rename the committee the "Committee on Housing and Financial Services" and "build on the bipartisan success of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act by expanding affordable housing programs and reforming mortgage finance." She is also proposing to tackle so-called "junk fees" like overdraft and late fees, restore and independently fund the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, rein in "predatory lending" and prediction markets, pursue policy to mitigate fraud, bolster community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions, establish "tough but fair rules" for "legitimate" crypto ventures, and prevent the Trump administration from "weakening" the Community Reinvestment Act.

In his letter, Casten said the committee needs to "lower housing and insurance costs, protect consumers from fraud, scams, and the risks posed by crypto and prediction markets, and secure the financial system from the next crisis." He also called for "methodically" investigating President Trump's business ventures and policy actions.

Court Partially Rolls Back California Climate Reporting Laws

A federal appeals court has narrowed the scope of a pair of California laws that require companies, including financial institutions, to report greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks.

In 2023, California lawmakers passed two bills requiring certain businesses in the state to disclose a wide range of greenhouse gas emissions. Senate Bill 253 requires businesses with total annual revenues exceeding $1 billion to report Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. SB 261 requires companies with total annual revenues exceeding $500 million to biennially publish a report on climate-related financial risks, including measures to address the risks.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and several business groups challenged the laws, claiming they violate the First Amendment. A district court ruled in favor of the state. However, in a decision released Monday, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that SB 253's reporting requirements for Scope 3 emissions were unlawful given that businesses do not have direct control over the emissions, which result from using supply chains. The appeals court upheld reporting requirements for Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which businesses have more control over.

The appeals court also struck down SB 261 in its entirety because, by forcing companies to report climate risks, the state was compelling protected, noncommercial speech. "Applying strict scrutiny, the panel held that even assuming overcoming information asymmetries and reducing emissions are compelling state interests, SB 261 fails on tailoring grounds because the state could have employed less restrictive means to accomplish its goals," the majority ruled.

In related news, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency recently urged California regulators to clarify that national banks and federal savings institutions are not required to comply with climate disclosure rules, citing federal preemption. The OCC also said the laws would impose undue burden, particularly on smaller banks; harm California customers and disrupt customer relationships; and raise constitutional concerns.

Banking Agencies Release CRA Data on Small-Business, Small-Farm Lending In 2025

The total number and value of small-business and small-farm loans made by financial institutions subject to the Community Reinvestment Act decreased in 2025 compared to the previous year, the Federal Reserve, FDIC and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said in their annual report on CRA lending data.

A total of 720 lenders reported data about originations and purchases of small loans – $1 million or less – to businesses and farms in 2025, compared with 732 institutions the previous year, according to the joint agency report. The agencies noted that CRA data provides a useful snapshot of lending to small businesses and small farms, but it is not meant to be comprehensive.

About 9 million small-business loans totaling more than $291 billion were reported in 2025. The total number of loans decreased by 1.6% from 2024, while the number of loans originated declined by 2%. The dollar amount of small-business loans originated increased by 4.7%.

As for small-farm loans, about 198,000 small-farm loans were reported for 2025, totaling about $15.6 billion, an increase of about 0.07% in the number of loans and 7.5% in the dollar amount of loans in 2025 from 2024.

The agencies also examined community development lending among the 731 institutions that reported activity in that area. Lenders with assets that met or exceeded the mandatory reporting threshold – $1.609 billion in 2025 – extended the vast majority of reported community development loans, reporting a combined total of nearly $185 billion, a 35% increase from 2024.

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Financial Stability Board Finalizes 'Sound Practices' for AI Adoption

The Financial Stability Board has finalized a list of 12 sound practices to guide the adoption of artificial intelligence by banks and other financial institutions.

FSB first proposed the list in June to help board members and senior management at financial institutions as they consider business strategy, technology adoption and risk management in an AI environment. They are meant to serve as "a practical toolkit that financial institutions can tailor to their specific context and risk profile and integrate into existing frameworks, including those for cyber and third-party risk," the board said in a statement.

The finalized principles can be lumped into two groups, according to FSB. The first set emphasizes the importance of organization-wide AI governance as financial institutions adopt the technology. The second set establishes a comprehensive framework for managing risks throughout the AI lifecycle, from AI development to deployment.

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FinCEN Identifies Alleged Student Aid Fraud Following Alert

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has identified more than $270 million in suspicious financial activity potentially linked to fraud against federal student aid programs, according to the Treasury Department.

In July, FinCEN issued an alert urging financial institutions to be vigilant in identifying and reporting suspicious activity connected to fraud schemes targeting Office of Federal Student Aid programs. Treasury said financial institutions have filed nearly 100 suspicious activity reports involving possible student aid fraud since then, with FinCEN identifying more than 20,000 potentially suspicious transactions since February.

FinCEN has referred its findings to federal investigators "to pursue potential fraud schemes targeting federal student aid programs and help ensure those responsible are held accountable," Treasury said.

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Studies Gauge Fraud Costs for Banks, Financial Services

Every $1 of fraud now costs U.S. financial services firms $5.47, up from $4 in 2021, according to new research by LexisNexis. At the same time, a separate study by PYMNTS.com found that U.S. financial institutions now spend more than $2 to stop every $1 lost to fraud.

The LexisNexis survey measured fraud losses in impacts to operations, compliance, consumer trust and more. Half of respondents said that in the past year, fraud had a significant impact on their businesses by eroding customer trust, with 44% also citing fraud losses as having a significant impact.

Websites and mobile apps accounted for nearly 70% of fraud losses, and 96% of institutions reported more fraud targeting mobile channels, according to LexisNexis. In addition, financial institutions estimated that AI-generated techniques contributed to 19% of fraud losses in the U.S.

The PYMNTS.com study estimated that losses per financial institution reached $1.92 million in 2026, up 8% from $1.78 million in 2024. Investment in fraud prevention – which includes spending on staff, software and outsourced fraud services – rose from $1.67 million per institution in 2024 to $4.35 million in 2026.

"So, financial institutions now spend $2.27 to stop every $1 that still gets through, more than double the $0.94 they spent in 2024," according to the study.

The study found that large banks cut their estimated fraud losses by nearly half during the time period studied. Estimated losses for regional and community banks and credit unions increased slightly, from $950,000 per institution to $1.05 million. Nonbank financial technology firms experienced the greatest increase in fraud losses, from $800,000 to $2.84 million per institution.

→ **View the LexisNexis survey**
→ **View the PYMNTS survey**

Google To Use ABA Resource to Verify Financial Services Ads

Google has announced the upcoming U.S. rollout of a verification program for financial services ads appearing on its platform, with the company using an American Bankers Association registry to ensure ads come from legitimate banks.

Starting early next year, Google will expand its Financial Services Verification program to the U.S. and Canadian markets, according to a company blog post. Financial services firms wanting to advertise on Google will need to seek verification through the program, which is currently in place in 42 countries.

Google will use an ABA registry to verify authorized banks before ads run in the U.S. The company is working with the Canadian Bankers Association on a similar effort there.

ABA has long called on social media companies and other online platform providers to verify advertisers' identity and implement systems to detect fraudulent ads. In a statement, Paul Benda, EVP for risk, fraud and cybersecurity at ABA, called Google's announcement an important step toward preventing bad actors from impersonating banks and scamming Americans out of their hard-earned money.

"We have worked closely with Google to develop the protocols needed to verify legitimate bank advertisers, and we look forward to seeing the system in operation in the coming months," Benda said. "We will continue to encourage technology and social media companies to partner with America's banks to protect consumers from fraud and scams."

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OCC Finalizes Stablecoin Rule with Narrow Payment-Of-Interest Prohibition

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has finalized a rule to enforce the Genius Act with a narrower prohibition on payment-of-interest than the agency originally proposed, although it expects to issue future rulemaking on the subject.

The Genius Act passed last year by Congress created a regulatory framework for payment stablecoins, including a prohibition that prevents issuers from offering yield or interest for stablecoins. The banking agencies have proposed regulations to implement the law, with the OCC the primary regulator of nonbank stablecoin issuers.

The banking associations have noted that payment stablecoins are distributed through exchanges and intermediaries — not directly by issuers — which would allow those firms to skirt the payment-on-interest prohibition. Earlier this year, they urged OCC to strengthen its proposed language to enforce the prohibition. Instead, the agency did the opposite in its final rule, removing language that would have presumed certain transactions with affiliates and related third parties violated the prohibition.

"Because payment stablecoins are a nascent market, the OCC does not believe that it is appropriate to impose a rebuttable presumption with respect to the yield prohibition at this time," the agency stated in the final rule.

Still, as the payment stablecoin market develops, "the OCC anticipates that it will gain sufficient experience with identifying prohibited transactions to allow it to propose a rulemaking clarifying the yield prohibition that does not have the disadvantages noted above," it said.

In addition to the final rule, the OCC finalized a related rule to allow bank subsidiaries and other stablecoin issuers to request waivers from certain Genius Act requirements, and it finalized the reporting forms issuers must submit.

"We are providing a clear, practical framework for payment stablecoin innovation, with strong standards for reserve backing, redemption, and risk management," Comptroller of the Currency Jonathan Gould said. "The OCC is drawing on its longstanding supervisory expertise to support responsible growth and innovation for this new industry."

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Reminder: CISA Urges Organizations to Immediately Patch Vulnerabilities Found In Many Websites

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is urging organizations to immediately patch two critical vulnerabilities found in a programming language used by many websites.

According to a CISA alert, organizations should identify and inventory systems running any version of PHP, then apply a patch immediately, prioritizing internet-facing systems. Organizations that cannot update immediately, or that continue to use PHP 8.1 or earlier unsupported versions, should take PHP-based systems offline until they can be patched or updated.

The PHP vulnerabilities were found using artificial intelligence. CISA said that while it has not observed any exploitation of the vulnerabilities, they pose a risk to organizations if left unpatched.

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Treasury Proposes Rule to Bar Large Institutional Investment in Single-Family Homes

The Treasury Department proposed a rulemaking to prevent large institutional investors from purchasing single-family homes, as required by housing legislation recently passed by Congress.

Among its many provisions, the ROAD to Housing Act bans large institutional investors from purchasing homes unless the purchase qualifies as an "excepted purchase," such as purchases made for build-to-rent programs. A large institutional investor is defined as an investor that has direct or indirect control over at least 350 homes.

Penalties for violating the law can range from $1 million to three times the purchase price of the property involved.



President Issues Additional Orders Intended to Lower Housing Costs

President Trump issued new directives through executive order seeking to lower the costs of single-family homeownership and mortgages. The order directs the Federal Housing Finance Agency director to reduce homeowners' refinancing costs by expanding FHFA's existing title insurance waiver pilot into a permanent program. The director also is directed to consider waiving appraisals, income re-verification, and other documentation requirements for limited cash-out refinances as well as reducing or eliminating loan-level price adjustments.

The EO orders FHFA to create a pilot program to proactively cancel borrowers' mortgage insurance premiums once they have satisfied their equity requirements based on the current market value, according to a White House statement.

The FHFA pilot program will only apply to mortgages made after its establishment, according to the executive order. It will periodically review single-family mortgage loans owned, guaranteed or securitized by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration by using automated valuation models and other available data to assess current market value, then identify borrowers who appear to satisfy equity and other requirements for cancellation of mortgage insurance.

In addition, the order establishes the Task Force on Manufactured Housing Innovation and directs the secretaries of Agriculture and Veterans Affairs to reduce interest rates on single-family home loans made by their respective departments.

Fannie Mae Posts Updates to Its AI and Cybersecurity Requirements

Fannie Mae recently updated its AI and cyber security requirements. The agency published the new requirements to its Supplemental Bulletin 26-01, which become effective on Jan 18.

The revised guide changes all AI references to SI — "super intelligence" — per the Trump administration's preference. The bulletin, however, stipulates that the updated terminology "is not intended to alter the scope, meaning, or applicability of the requirements."

Among the new requirements is a 36-hour cybersecurity incident reporting window requiring companies to provide Fannie Mae with "prompt" details about the incident, including the event date, details of actions taken and if the event caused suspension of business operations.

Additional requirements were added for the development and use of SI systems, including establishing SI risk assessments, data governance standards, model training and testing controls, and monitoring SI for security risk.

While Fannie Mae does not require an indemnification agreement like Freddie Mac, the updated bulletin makes companies responsible for ensuring third-party vendor compliance. The bulletin also updated the requirement that a company's business continuity plan ensure the ability to recover from disruption of a relationship with a third-party that is "material to business conducted with Fannie Mae." It also replaced threat assessment and continuity plan requirements with business impact analysis and added a requirement that a business continuity plan includes a communication strategy around incident response, removing a previous requirement specific to a crisis management plan.

The update also removed the requirement for companies to conduct an annual threat risk assessment, as well as removed the requirement for a business continuity plan to be "formally socialized" with company leadership. It also eliminated the requirement for companies to establish contingencies for fourth-party vendors.

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SAVE THE DATE



NDBA Legislative Social

February 22, 2027

ND Heritage Center • Bismarck

NDBA Bank Management Conference

February 23, 2027

Bismarck Hotel • Bismarck

NORTH DAKOTA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

More details to come!



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March 8-10, 2027

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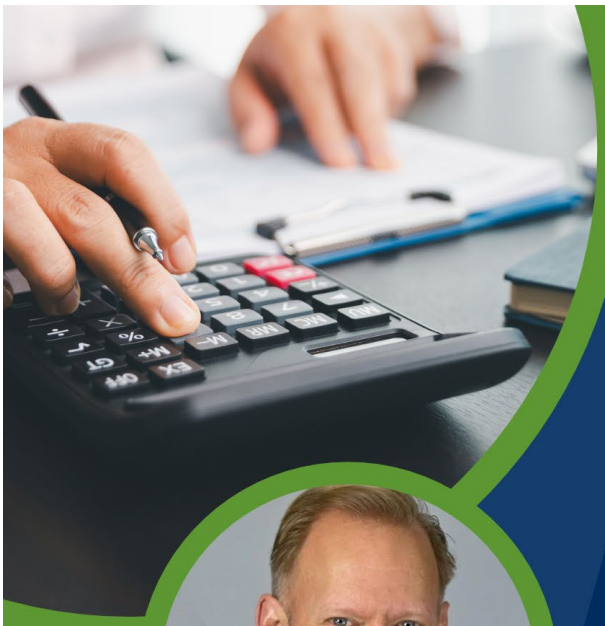
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February 24 | Virtual via Zoom

Breaking into Banking 201
Analyzing Repayment Sources
March 24 | Virtual via Zoom

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A sincere expression of appreciation takes only a moment, but it can stay with someone far longer.

Gratitude Worth Sharing

November naturally invites us to reflect on what we are thankful for. But gratitude is most meaningful when it moves beyond reflection and becomes something we share.

In banking, the pace of our work can make it easy to move quickly from one responsibility to the next. There is always another customer to help, decision to make, deadline to meet, or challenge to solve. Thanksgiving gives us a reason to pause and recognize the contributions that might otherwise go unspoken.

It may be thanking an employee whose steady work keeps the bank moving forward, a colleague who offered support at the right time, or a customer who has trusted your bank for generations. It may be recognizing a volunteer who quietly serves the community or a family member whose encouragement makes demanding days more manageable.

None of us does this work alone. Every strong bank is supported by people who bring their skills, judgment, care, and commitment to work each day. Their impact is not always measured in a report, but it can be seen in the confidence of a customer, the progress of a coworker, and the strength of a community.

As bankers, we also have the privilege of witnessing generosity in action. We see

neighbors support local causes, businesses invest in their communities, and people step forward when someone needs help. These acts may not receive much attention, but together they say something important about who we are as North Dakotans.

This Thanksgiving season, I encourage each of us to make gratitude visible. Say the words. Write the note. Recognize the effort. Let someone know that what they do matters. A sincere expression of appreciation takes only a moment, but it can stay with someone far longer.

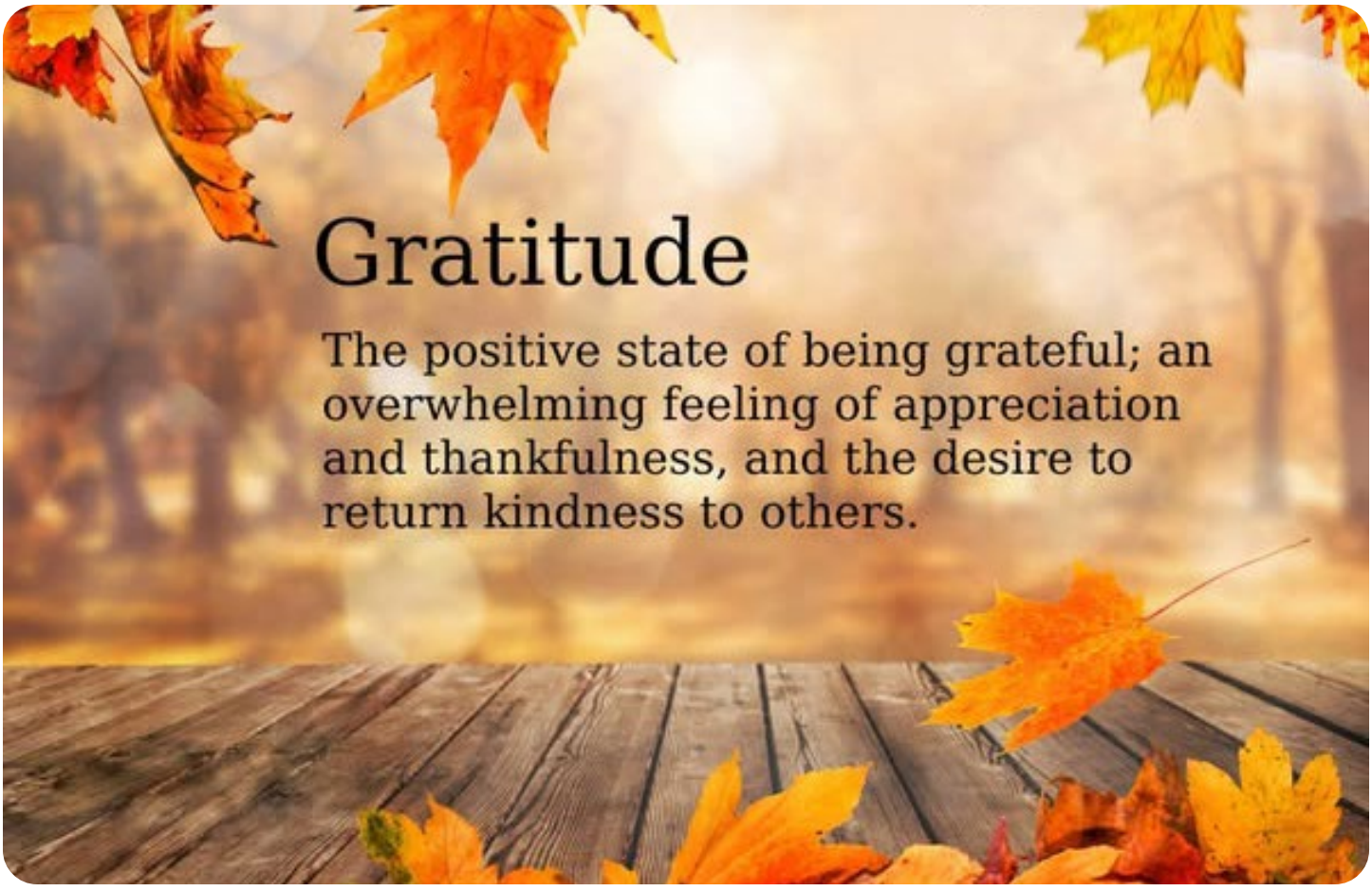
I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the North Dakota Bankers Association and for the bankers across our state who lead with integrity, serve with purpose, and make a difference in ways both large and small.

Wishing you, your families, and your bank teams a very happy Thanksgiving. May the season bring time to slow down, enjoy the people around you, and share the gratitude that too often goes unspoken.

Warm regards,

Jamie Nelson

Jamie Nelson
Chair, North Dakota Bankers Association
President & CEO, TruCommunity Bank



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UPCOMING NDBA EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
NDBA Legislative Social	**February 22, 2027**	ND Heritage Center, Bismarck	Presidents, CEOs, senior management and directors.
NDBA Bank Management Conference	**February 23, 2027**	Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck	Presidents, CEOs, senior management and directors.
Breaking into Banking 101: Fundamentals of Commercial Lending	**February 24, 2027**	Virtual via Zoom	New credit analysts, lenders, and underwriters, as well as bankers who don't do credit analysis but need a working knowledge of the process.
ABA Washington Summit	**March 8-10, 2027**	Washington DC	NDBA offers a $750 stipend to help with the travel expenses of one person from each NDBA member bank to attend in person. Email ndba@ndba.com or call 701.223.5303.
Breaking into Banking 201: Analyzing Repayment Sources	**March 24, 2027**	Virtual via Zoom	Credit analysts, lenders, portfolio managers and others who need skills in financial statement analysis and writing credit documents.
Opening New Accounts: Documentation & Compliance	**April 21, 2027** **April 22, 2027**	Fargo Bismarck	Customer contact personnel, supervisors and officers whose responsibilities include opening or managing new accounts.
NDBA Tri-State Trust Conference	**April 26-28, 2027**	Holiday Inn, Fargo	Trust officers, trust attorneys, CTFAs, and CFPS.

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

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ONCOURSE LEARNING WEBINARS

OnCourse Learning

TRAINING	DATE
Loan Structuring Workshop Part 3	11/23/2026
Loan Structuring Workshop Part 4	11/24/2026
Regulation E: Navigating Disputes, Investigations, and Compliance	11/24/2026
Fair Lending Essentials	12/1/2026
Understanding Dormant Accounts and the Escheatment Process	12/1/2026
Bi-Monthly Compliance Briefing - December	12/2/2026
Understanding the Role of the Notary Public	12/2/2026
Board Packet Contents: Maximizing Effectiveness	12/3/2026
Car Interest Reporting and Deductions	12/3/2026
Opening New Accounts Training Program	12/4/2026
Loan Structure, Documentation, and Compliance	12/7/2026
IRA Beneficiary Workshop	12/8/2026
Performance Appraisals That Work	12/8/2026
Call Report: Current Matters and Looking Ahead into 2027	12/9/2026
Key Ratio Analysis: Calculating and Interpreting the Numbers Correctly!	12/9/2026
2026 Vendor Management: All-Day Streaming	12/10/2026
BSA and OFAC Year End Wrap Up	12/10/2026
FDCPA 101: What to Expect and How to Stay Compliant	12/10/2026

TRAINING	DATE
IRS Information Reporting: Rules and Forms	12/11/2026
Excel Explained: What's New in Microsoft 365	12/14/2026
Deposit Year End Wrap Up	12/15/2026
Exposing Invisible Risk: Safeguard Your CECL Model from Validation Failure	12/15/2026
Community Bank HMDA Workshop	12/16/2026
Motivating and Managing Your Team	12/16/2026
HMDA and Its Data Points	12/17/2026
Suspicious Activity Reporting - Writing a Good Narrative	12/17/2026
Cannabis Update: Marijuana and Hemp 2027	1/4/2027
Banking Compliance Essentials: Building Confidence from Day One	1/5/2027
Writing Effective Business Reports	1/5/2027
Commercial Lending Training Program	1/6/2027
Who Did What Now? Stablecoin, Agentic AI, and the Future of Payments	1/6/2027
BSA/AML Officer Winter Update	1/7/2027
Financial Statement Analysis- Reading the Numbers Correctly!	1/7/2027

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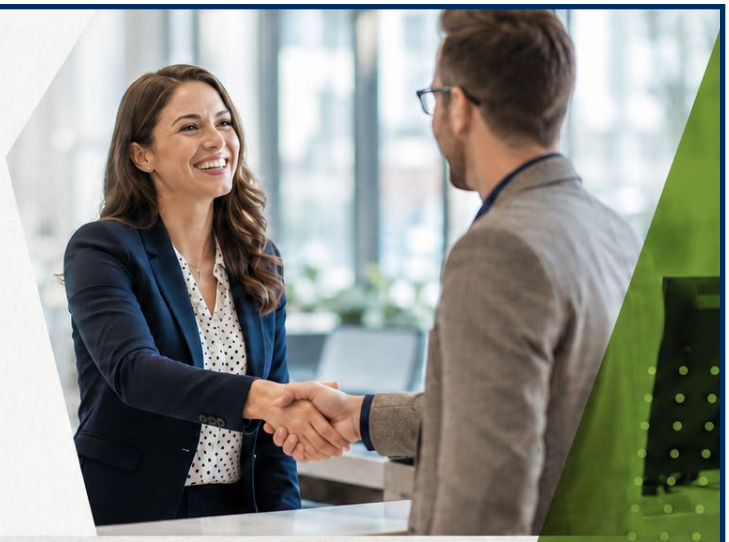
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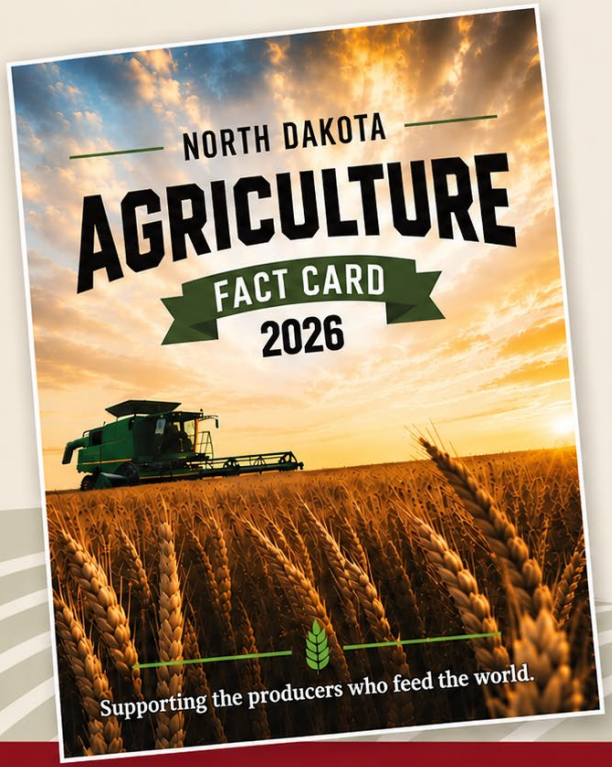
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BANKCHAIN ALLIANCE

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Kimberly Askwith
Interim CEO
BankChain Alliance

The Future of Banking and the Network Effect

Banks of every size must stand together to build the future of banking on their own terms.

Banking has always depended on trusted networks, from partnerships and payment systems to shared standards. As technology reshapes the payment landscape and how money moves, those connections matter more than ever. Banks must work together to shape the future of banking while remaining the trusted center of the customer relationship.

At BankChain Alliance, we are building a tokenized payments network owned, designed and governed by banks and state bankers associations. At the core of who we are is our belief in the “network effect”: the principle that a network grows stronger as more participants join, contribute and connect.

Announced in August 2026, BankChain Alliance now includes 44 state banking associations, including North Dakota, representing an ecosystem of nearly

4,000 banks with $26 trillion in assets. More than 100 individual banks signed up within weeks of membership applications opening in early October.

That momentum shows strong demand for a shared, industry-led approach.

Customers rarely ask for banking tools by name, but they do expect faster, seamless payments with the safety and trust of the regulated banking system. As more banks connect, they can bring modern payment capabilities to more communities while keeping the bank at the center of the relationship.

Why banks belong at the center

BankChain Alliance brings together banks of all sizes to share their knowledge of customers, markets and operations. Banks of every size have an equal voice at the table and the North Dakota Bankers Association, with Dorothy Lick's leadership and support, has played an important role in launching BankChain Alliance. Here, members, not vendors, decide which problems deserve investment, how tools work and how standards apply. That keeps decisions about our customers, products that add value and risk management at the forefront of everything we do.

Through individual membership, North Dakota banks can be part of helping to shape BCA's product roadmap, governance, standards and use cases.

Building the future together

Banks of every size must stand together to build the future of banking on their own terms.

North Dakota bankers have an opportunity to help determine how the network is governed, which standards guide it and which capabilities reach the market first. Your participation will ensure the priorities of North Dakota banks, customers and communities are represented as BankChain Alliance moves toward launch in 2027.

The network effect turns individual strength into collective leadership. Every institution that joins gives BankChain Alliance greater reach, deeper insight and a stronger ability to deliver modern banking infrastructure at scale. At BankChain Alliance, banks can shape what comes next. Join us.

Kimberly Askwith is interim CEO of BankChain Alliance. For more information, visit bankchainalliance.com.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

NDBA and SDBA will host a free webinar on **November 23** to provide additional information about the BankChain Alliance.

Date: Monday, November 23, 2026
Time: 2:00-3:00 pm CT
To register for the webinar: **click here**.

Prior to the webinar, please visit the **BankChainAlliance website** To review membership information, including an online application and dues calculator.

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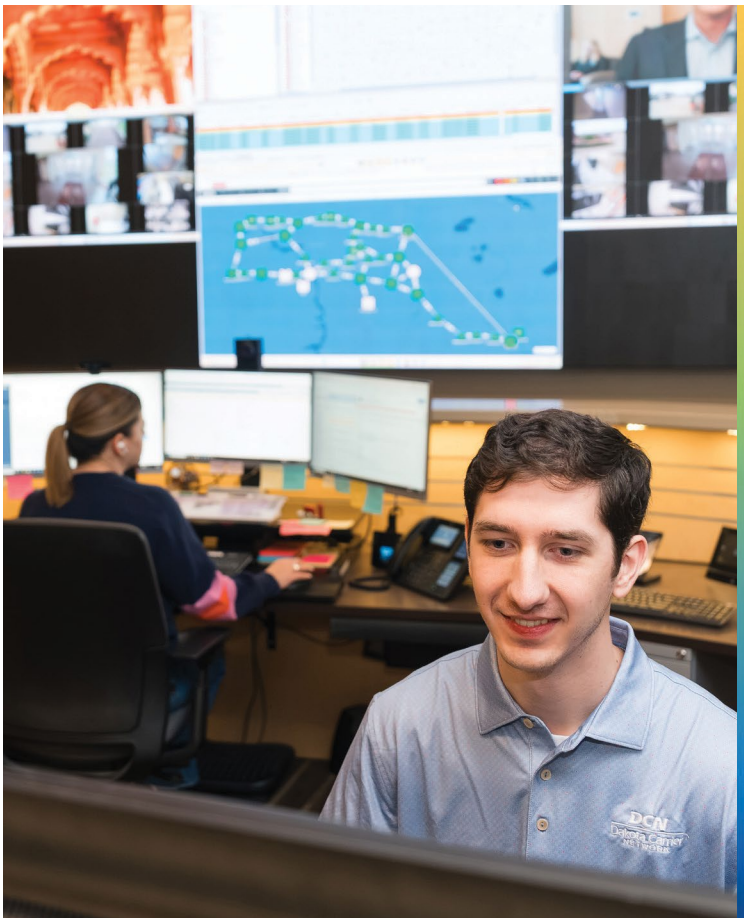
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Live Well, Work Well

November 2026

The Right Way to Catch Up on Sleep

November is recognized as National Sleep Comfort Month, a time to focus on healthier sleep habits and the factors that affect rest. It's also a good moment to address a common question. After a week of short nights, does sleeping in on the weekend actually help?

First off, many adults try it. A survey of nearly 8,000 adults found that nearly half regularly sleep in on weekends, and the need is real. Adults generally need seven to nine hours of sleep each night, yet the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 3 adults don't get enough.

Missing sleep creates what experts call sleep debt, the gap between the sleep the body needs and the sleep it receives.

Catching up does work, but only partially. Evidence points to a sweet spot of about one to two extra hours, and studies have linked weekend catch-up sleep among short weekday sleepers to a lower risk of heart disease, dementia and metabolic syndrome. A weekend does not erase a week of short nights, however. Research has found that even six nights of short sleep can impair the body's ability to regulate blood sugar, and one small study suggests that recovering from a single lost hour can take up to four days. Sleep specialists say recovery takes days to weeks, not a weekend. As such, several habits can make catching up more effective:

- Add 30 to 60 minutes to your nightly sleep until you feel rested, instead of relying on one long lie-in.
- Keep a consistent bedtime and wake time, aiming for at least seven hours of sleep.
- Take an afternoon nap of under 30 minutes, as longer naps can leave you feeling sluggish.
- Keep the bedroom cool, dark and quiet, and avoid screens, alcohol and heavy meals close to bedtime.

Individuals who stay tired despite getting enough sleep may wish to speak with a healthcare provider. Conditions such as sleep apnea, insomnia and restless legs syndrome can interfere with rest, and each can be treated.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to be exhaustive, nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as professional advice. Readers should contact a health professional for appropriate advice. © 2026 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.

Eat Fruit for Heart Health

Fruit is one of the simplest ways to support heart health. Eating fruit may help lower several key risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure and inflammation.

Fiber is one reason why fruit is beneficial for your heart. The soluble fiber in fruit dissolves in water and forms a gel in the gut that traps cholesterol, which the body then excretes. Cardiologists note that the typical American diet contains very little fiber, so fruit can help close that gap.

Potassium is a mineral that helps ease tension on blood vessel walls and counter the effects of too much sodium. Researchers have reported that eating plenty of whole fruit may reduce the risk of developing high blood pressure. The vitamins and antioxidants in fruit may also reduce inflammation, which is linked to cardiovascular disease.

Furthermore, berries are a leading choice for their fiber, with raspberries offering the most. Blueberries contain anthocyanins, the plant pigments responsible for their color, which studies suggest can improve blood flow. Apples and watermelon are also among the fruits cardiologists recommend.

To reap the heart-healthy benefits of fruit, try to choose a variety of whole fruits, so you're getting a range of nutrients. Also, opt for fresh fruit since cooking or baking can reduce nutrient content. Fruit juice should also be limited, as it lacks the fiber found in whole fruit and can cause a sugar rush. Individuals managing a health condition or taking medication should speak with a healthcare provider before making major dietary changes.

Start Planning Now to Lower Holiday Financial Stress

While the holiday season often brings joy and togetherness, it can also cause financial stress for many individuals. Holiday costs tend to stay lower for households that begin planning and setting money aside early, whether the spending goes toward gifts, decorations, meals or travel.

The 2026 Holiday Shopping Survey revealed that 58% of Americans feel greater financial concern heading into the holidays than last year.

Experts recommend creating a holiday spending plan that sets a realistic budget, accounts for hidden costs such as shipping and wrapping, and prioritizes essential purchases to avoid unnecessary debt. Several steps can make the plan easier to follow:

- List every expected holiday cost, including gifts, shopping, entertainment, food, drinks and travel.
- Shop early to spread costs across months.
- Watch for sales and compare prices.
- Tighten discretionary spending a little each week and build a holiday fund ahead of time.
- Set a dollar limit for each person and track spending against the budget.
- Review spending weekly so adjustments can happen before holiday events.
- Pay with cash or debit to avoid interest charges that linger after the holidays.

Keeping these tips in mind can help households stay on budget and head into the holiday season with less financial stress.

Recipe of the Month

Roasted Root Vegetables

Makes: 6 servings

Ingredients

- 1 sweet potato (chopped)
- 1 rutabaga (chopped)
- 1 onion (chopped)
- 1 potato (chopped)
- 2 carrots (chopped)
- 1 turnip (chopped)
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 oz. reduced-fat Parmesan cheese
- ¼ oz. garlic powder
- ¼ oz. ground sage
- ¼ oz. dried rosemary

Preparations

1. Heat oven to 350 F.
2. Evenly spread all the vegetables on a baking sheet or baking dish. Drizzle the oil and seasonings over the vegetables. Toss to combine. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until all vegetables are tender.
3. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.

Source: USDA

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December 2026 Webinars

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

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Managing Holiday Stress: While this time of year may truly be the most wonderful for a lot of people, there's many that find the holidays to be one of the most stressful times. If you're feeling overwhelmed this season, Learn to Live can help. Join us as our clinical team explains holiday stressors, how to alleviate them and allow ourselves to experience more joy!

Friday, December 11th: 12-12:30pm CT / 1-1:30pm ET

Grief: Coping with Loss: We all encounter loss in life. We lose friends, jobs, opportunities, and yes, loved ones. Grief is the process of working through our loss, which may look different for each person. In this webinar, our clinical team will explore the four tasks of the grief process that we all experience and how we can grieve well.

Wednesday, December 16th: 12-12:30pm CT / 1-1:30pm ET

Retrain Your Brain: The Case for Gratitude: Research shows that strengthening the gratitude muscle can lower stress and improve mood. Building this muscle actually feels good! Our Clinical Team will explore ways to strengthen your gratitude muscle and retrain your brain with practical ideas.

Friday, December 18th: 11-11:30am CT / 12-12:30pm 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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Associate Members

These associate members were approved in October during the fall joint NDBA and NDBA Services Board meetings.

FRANKLIN INVESTIGATIONS INC.

Contact: Jon Hennings **franklininvestigationservices.com**
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NDBA encourages member banks to utilize the products and services provided by NDBA Associate Members. Each Associate Member is approved by the NDBA Board of Directors.

If you should have any questions or would like more information on the North Dakota Bankers Association's Associate Members, please contact Tara McFadden at 701.370.8901 or tara@ndba.com.

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Human Resource Management School ▪ April 12-16, 2027

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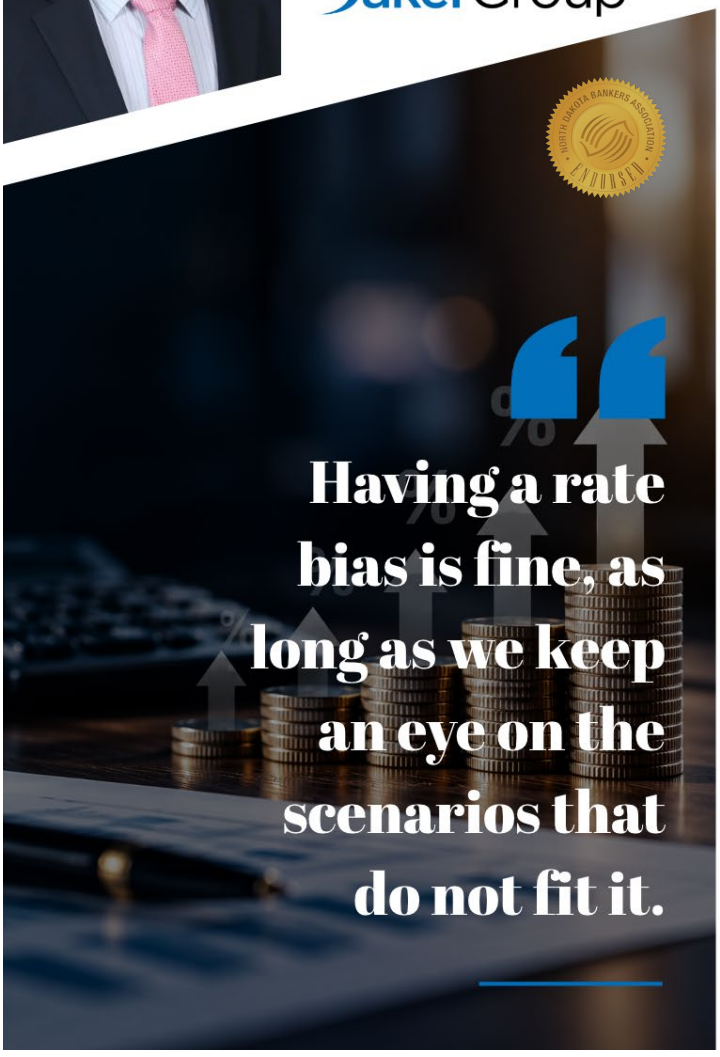
Strategy Over Speculation in Interest Rate Risk, Revisited



Luke Mikles

Senior Vice President
Financial Strategies Group

The BakerGroup



Nearly a year ago, I wrote an article that opened with this observation: “There are three things I try to avoid talking about at dinner: religion, politics, and where interest rates are headed.” The last twelve months are a pretty good reminder of why. At the time, the Fed had already cut rates by 150 basis points, and it felt like a foregone conclusion that it would keep cutting. The only real question was how fast those cuts would come. But events took an unexpected turn. A conflict in the Middle East broke out, inflation stalled out above the Fed's 2% target and started to creep back up, and in September 2026 the FOMC raised the federal funds target rate by 25 basis points. It was the first hike since 2023, followed by longer-term Treasury rates. The 10-year Treasury climbed from about 4.1% last December to around 5.3% in early October, its highest level since 2002.

We will always want to understand why rates move one direction or another, but we also need to prepare our balance sheet to handle all outcomes. Every balance sheet has some kind of rate bias, and there is nothing wrong with that. A deliberate bias lets us position the balance sheet for the rates we expect. Going into this year, a bias toward falling rates made sense to a lot of people, including the FOMC. The problem comes when that bias becomes the only scenario that we pay attention to, and we downplay the risks everywhere else.

Picture a community bank in late 2025. The ALCO had a reasonable plan. Rates had been falling and everyone expected more cuts to follow in 2026, so the bank leaned into it. It put excess cash to work in longer-term, fixed-rate loans and kept its CDs short so funding costs would come down as rates fell. The Earnings at Risk (EAR) report backed up the plan. Earnings looked better in every falling rate scenario, and the committee spent most of the meeting discussing only those select scenarios.

The bank's Economic Value of Equity (EVE) told a different story. If rates went up instead, the value of

the bank's balance sheet would take a bigger hit than it had in years. EVE was starting to push against policy limits, but rising rates felt like a long shot, so the conversation moved on.

In 2026, oil prices jumped, inflation picked back up, and long-term rates climbed. The balance sheet had not changed, but the risk profile had. Each quarter, the rising rate numbers got a little worse as asset duration extended. By the time the Fed hiked in September, the bank was up against its EVE limits, and the ALCO was having the conversation it skipped a year earlier, with fewer options to work with by then.

This bank may be hypothetical, but our data shows how common this pattern was. Across all institutions that use The Baker Group's Interest Rate Risk Monitor (IRRM®), about two out of every three saw their exposure to rising rates increase between March and June of 2026.

So, what would a better year have looked like? The strategy in place was a reasonable one for the rate outlook at the time. The ALCO simply needed to give the scenarios it did not expect as much attention as the one it did. That starts with looking at both earnings and the value of the balance sheet, in both directions, even if one of them seems unlikely to happen. The ALCO should also have decided ahead of time what the bank would do if EAR and EVE started to hit their policy limits. With that plan in place, the bank would have already known its next steps when rates started climbing in 2026.

All that being said, we also do not want to overcorrect the other way. The market is now talking about hikes into 2027, and repositioning the entire balance sheet around rising rates would just leave us with a bias in the other direction. Instead, we should focus on adjustments at the margin, whether that is the cash flow structure of bond purchases, the term and structure of new loans, or the term of new funding, and document those decisions in our ALCO minutes. Even if the decision is to stay the course, it shows the shift was noticed and discussed.

Interest rate risk management comes down to being prepared for wherever rates go. Having a rate bias is fine, as long as we keep an eye on the scenarios that do not fit it, because as the last twelve months showed, things can change fast.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Prepare for Every Scenario.** Banks should evaluate both rising and falling interest rate scenarios rather than relying solely on market predictions.
- **Monitor Both Earnings and Value.** Reviewing Earnings at Risk (EAR) and Economic Value of Equity (EVE) helps identify vulnerabilities before they reach policy limits
- **Prioritize Strategy Over Speculation.** Make measured balance sheet adjustments, establish action plans, and document ALCO decisions to stay prepared for changing rates.

Luke Mikles is a senior vice president in the Financial Strategies Group at The Baker Group. He joined the firm in 2019, serving in the Interest Rate Risk Department. In 2023, Luke moved to the Financial Strategies Group, where he assists institutions with the risk management process and speaks at Baker's educational seminars across the country. Luke holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in energy economics from the University of Central Oklahoma.

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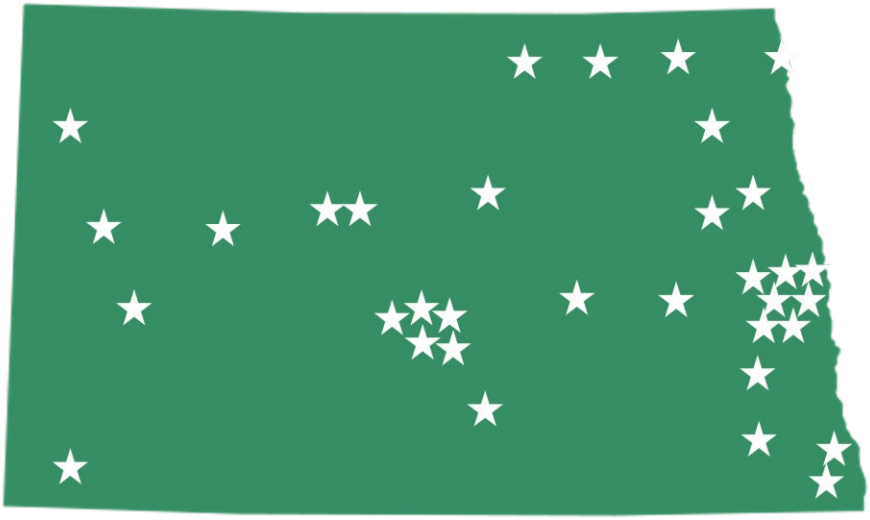
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Year-End Risk Review for Financial Institutions



Lindsey Hull
Senior Content Strategist
SBS CyberSecurity



Year-end planning gives financial institution leaders an opportunity to look ahead, but it should also include a clear-eyed review of what remains unfinished. Before budgets reset and attention shifts to next year's priorities, banks and credit unions should know whether their controls have been independently evaluated, their technical defenses have been tested, and their vendor management program reflects their current third-party risk.

An IT audit, network security assessment, and vendor management review answer different questions. Together, they can provide a more complete view of the governance, technical, and third-party risks surrounding your institution.

Prove It: Have You Independently Validated Your IT Controls?

Policies, procedures, and internal risk assessments are important, but documentation alone does not establish that controls are designed appropriately or operating as intended. Independent validation can help leadership understand whether the institution's information technology and information security practices align with its risk profile, applicable guidance, and internal expectations.

An IT audit evaluates the governance and controls surrounding the institution's technology environment. Depending on the scope, it may examine areas such as information security governance, access management, change management, business continuity, incident response, technology operations, and vendor oversight.

The most useful audit does more than identify findings. It gives management practical insight into what is working, where controls may need attention, and which improvements should be prioritized.

Before year-end, ask:

- Has our IT environment received the independent audit coverage required by our risk-based audit plan?
- Did the audit scope reflect changes to our systems, services, vendors, and operations?

- Have findings and recommendations been assigned to accountable owners?
- Can management clearly explain the status of remediation to the board or appropriate committee?
- Are there unresolved issues that will follow us into the new year?

Prove it. Make sure the confidence you have in your controls is supported by current evidence.

Test It: Have You Evaluated Your Technical Defenses?

An IT audit and a network security assessment are complementary, but they are not interchangeable. An audit evaluates governance and controls. A network security assessment examines technical defenses and looks for weaknesses within the environment.

That distinction matters. A policy may require secure configurations, timely patching, restricted access, and network segmentation. Technical testing helps determine whether those expectations are reflected in the systems and devices within scope.

Depending on the engagement, network security testing may include vulnerability scanning, penetration testing, configuration reviews, and other methods selected according to the institution's environment and objectives. The results can help technology and security teams prioritize remediation, while giving executives and risk leaders clearer context for decisions about resources and residual risk.

Before year-end, ask:

- Has our current network environment been independently assessed?
- Did the scope account for material changes made during the year?
- Were findings validated and prioritized according to risk?
- Are remediation responsibilities and target dates documented?
- Do leaders understand the business implications of the most significant technical weaknesses?

Test it. Confirm that the controls described on paper are supported by the way your environment is configured and protected.

Check It: Does Your Vendor Oversight Reflect Your Current Risk?

Financial institutions rely on third parties for technology, data processing, operations, communications, and other important functions. The institution may outsource an activity, but it retains responsibility for overseeing the risks associated with that relationship.

A vendor management review can evaluate whether the institution's program provides an effective, risk-based approach to vendor selection, due diligence, ongoing monitoring, reporting, and issue tracking. It can also help identify whether staff are applying the program consistently across the institution's vendor population.

The review should go beyond confirming that documents were collected. Leadership needs to know whether critical vendors are properly identified, due diligence is proportionate to risk, concerns are escalated, and management has meaningful information for decision-making.

Before year-end, ask:

- Are vendors classified according to the risk and criticality of the products or services they provide?
- Have critical and higher-risk vendors received the appropriate level of review?
- Are missing documents, exceptions, and other concerns being tracked to resolution?
- Does management reporting identify which vendor relationships require attention?
- Does our program account for subcontractors and other dependencies that could affect operations or data?

Check it. Make sure vendor oversight reflects how your institution operates today, not how it operated when the relationship began.

Bonus Question: Has AI Changed What You Need to Review?

Artificial intelligence may already affect your institution even if it has not formally launched an AI initiative. Vendors may introduce AI-enabled functionality into existing products, employees may use approved or unapproved AI tools, and new capabilities may change how information is stored, accessed, processed, or shared.

This does not mean AI needs to become the focus of every audit or assessment. It does mean your institution should consider whether AI has changed the environment being evaluated.

Questions to raise with your internal team and assessment providers include:

- Have new or existing vendors added AI functionality?
- Do vendor reviews address how AI systems use, retain, or share institutional data?
- Are AI tools and use cases included in relevant inventories and risk assessments?
- Have AI-related changes affected access, data flows, policies, or control responsibilities?
- Does the scope of planned audit or testing activity reflect those changes?

The goal is not to add AI to a checklist simply because it is a current topic. The goal is to avoid overlooking a material change in your technology or vendor environment.

Leave No Loose Ends Before the New Year

An IT audit, network security assessment, and vendor management review serve different purposes, but each helps answer an important year-end question:

- Prove it: Are our IT controls designed and operating as intended?
- Test it: Do our technical defenses perform as expected?
- Check it: Is our vendor oversight keeping pace with third-party risk?

You may not need to conduct all three activities at the same time. Your institution's risk profile, audit plan, prior results, regulatory requirements, and material changes should guide your priorities. What matters is knowing what has been completed, what remains outstanding, and who owns the next step.

This blog was originally published on sbscyber.com.

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A Bigger Role for Reciprocal Deposits Under the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

IntraFi



Community banks have long used reciprocal deposits to compete for larger deposit relationships, serve customers with deposit insurance needs or collateral requirements, and keep funds on balance sheet to support lending in their local markets. The recent changes to reciprocal limits, enacted as part of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, give qualifying institutions substantially more room to do so.

The law replaces the previous limit—the lesser of 20% of an institution's liabilities or $5 billion—with a tiered framework. Qualifying banks can now treat as nonbrokered: reciprocal deposits equal to 50% of their first $1 billion in liabilities; plus 40% of the portion between $1 billion and $10 billion; plus 30% of the portion between $10 billion and approximately $96.3 billion, with a cap of up to $30 billion. It also expands eligibility to include well-capitalized institutions with a composite CAMELS rating of 3.

For community banks serving municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and other large depositors, the change can reduce regulatory and internal funding constraints while expanding their ability to compete for relationship deposits.

During a recent webinar, "How New Reciprocal Deposit Rules Help Community Banks Compete," bankers discussed the changes, describing reciprocal deposits as integral to their institutions' ability to gather and retain funding while competing with larger banks. One called them "a fundamental tool that we have to have to compete to capture those deposits."

Why Bankers Say the Increased Cap Matters

The banker webinar participants agreed that the higher cap matters for banks managing internal funding limits, regulatory metrics, risk policies, and examinations. Per one banker from a New England institution:

"The customers in this program are all relationships that our team has developed, and they know them. They're coming to our bank…dealing with a local banker." The reciprocal funding, he added, exists "because of those local customer deposits." Under the new framework, he said, the law "really takes the broker label off a customer deposit in a sense" and gives the bank substantially more capacity.

Another banker from the South said the previous limit could create internal risk-management complications even when the institution was comfortable with the underlying deposits. "The bottom line is these are local deposits that came to us and we just got the insurance vehicle behind it," he said. "The new limit really reduces a headache for us. It allows the bank profile to look better, outside looking in."

The New Law Gives Community Banks More Latitude to Compete for Deposits

The competition for deposits is increasingly difficult, particularly for community banks without extensive retail branch networks. One banker described his institution as "branch-light," with a business model heavily dependent on commercial customers rather than retail deposit gathering. Another said, "There's no question that we would have less deposits without reciprocal tools."

The importance of reciprocal deposits was underscored during the banking turmoil of 2023. Following the failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), a panel member's bank saw balances in its reciprocal deposit program rise from roughly $30 million to approximately $330 million within two weeks. "We didn't lose any deposits," the banker said. "We did not lose $1 of deposits...we were able to satisfy their need to be secured."

Another panelist from a Midwestern bank said reciprocal deposits allowed his institution to reassure customers who might otherwise have moved funds to a much larger bank. "It gave us the opportunity to tell our customers that were concerned that we could cover you," he said. "They could stay with us and know that they still had the protection."

The reassurance provided by reciprocal deposits has remained a competitive differentiator in the years since the 2023 banking crisis. One webinar participant described deposits as "one of the most difficult parts of banking," noting that "everybody is competing for deposits." Reciprocal deposits, he said, are "another tool in the toolkit, a big one, that helps."

How the New Law Keeps Deposits Local

Perhaps the broader significance of reciprocal deposits is what happens after a community bank wins or retains a large deposit relationship. Because reciprocal deposit services provide enhanced access to FDIC insurance, they allow local participating banks to counter the perception that larger banks are safer and retain funding to support credit in their markets.

As the New England banker said, moving large deposits outside the market can "really stifle the loan supply in the local community." Reciprocal deposits are therefore "a critical thing to be able to serve your markets and be there for loan needs and loan demand."

Another banker connected that directly to the mission of community banking. "Helping retain large deposits locally, he noted, is "almost fundamental to the mission of a community bank."

A banker from a Texas community bank offered a concrete example. His bank serves an organization that maintains between $30 million and $50 million on deposit and specifically wanted its funds held by a community bank. At the same time, the organization needed substantial deposit insurance protection. "We would not have been able to capture that without having [reciprocal deposits]," he said. "It was critically important to them...to be able to see that their funds were being retained locally."

By giving qualifying banks more room to use reciprocal deposits without brokered treatment, the new law helps community institutions compete for larger relationships, serve public and commercial depositors, manage funding more flexibly, and retain deposits that can ultimately support lending in their communities.

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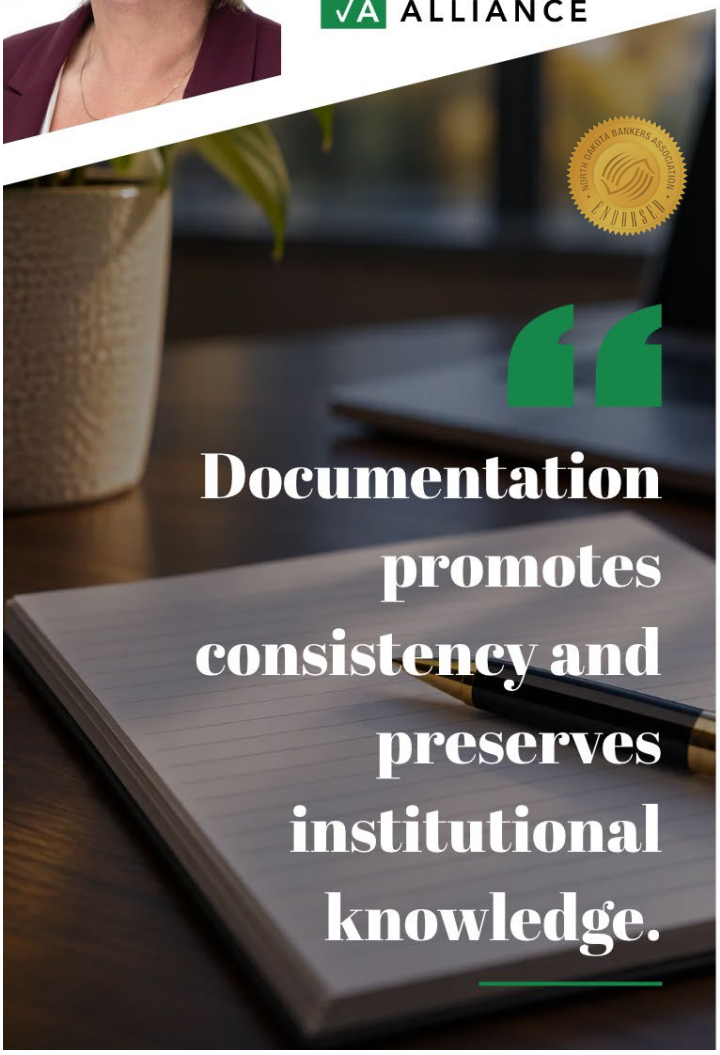
To File or Not to File: Documenting SAR Decisions



Tara Booth CRCM

Vice President
Virtual Partners

COMPLIANCE ALLIANCE



Although there is no regulatory requirement to document a decision not to file a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR), doing so is considered a best practice. Maintaining supporting documentation provides an evidence-based record of the institution's rationale and demonstrates the basis for its decision.

A bank's Bank Secrecy Act (BSA)/Anti-Money Laundering (AML) program is built around several key components that regulators evaluate during examinations. These include internal controls, the designation of a qualified BSA/AML officer, ongoing training, independent testing, and customer due diligence (CDD).

Let's dive into why documenting SAR no-file decisions is a best practice, keeping these program components in mind, along with two additional considerations that are important to any compliance function: time and money.

Suspicious activity investigations can be labor-intensive, often requiring an hour or several hours to gather and review historical information before determining whether a SAR should be filed. Documenting the investigation demonstrates that the institution has internal controls in place to detect and identify potentially suspicious activity and evaluate whether SAR filing is warranted.

The decision-making process also provides insight into the knowledge and qualifications of the institution's BSA Officer by demonstrating how suspicious activity is evaluated and reporting decisions are reached. Additionally, documenting SAR no-file decisions supports the bank's CDD efforts and may save time if the customer is identified in a future BSA/AML alert.

During the institution's annual independent BSA/AML audit, auditors commonly request a SAR no-file log for review. Auditors may evaluate the process from the initial identification of

suspicious activity through the investigation and final decision not to file a SAR to determine whether the decision was reasonable and adequately supported. Maintaining documentation of these decisions streamlines audit preparation and eliminates the need for the BSA Officer to rely on memory when explaining the rationale behind a past decision. Examiners may also request supporting documentation for SAR no-file decisions during regulatory examinations.

If an institution is considering discontinuing its SAR no-file documentation process, it should first review its internal policies and procedures to determine whether doing so would conflict with existing documentation practices or established requirements. An experienced BSA/AML Officer understands the importance of maintaining a record of investigations, even when they do not result in a SAR filing. As the saying goes, "if it wasn't documented, it didn't happen." Documentation does not have to be lengthy; it may consist of a brief statement or a more detailed explanation of the investigation and the rationale for the final decision.

Institutions should also consider the value of documenting SAR no-file decisions from a historical perspective. If the employee responsible for conducting SAR investigations leaves the institution unexpectedly or is unavailable during a regulatory examination, documented decisions provide valuable context for the individuals assuming those responsibilities. Maintaining this historical record helps ensure continuity in the institution's suspicious activity monitoring and decision-making processes.

Ultimately, each institution should determine the appropriate approach to documenting SAR no-file decisions based on its risk profile, internal policies, and established practices. Although a separate written record of every no-file decision is not expressly required under the general SAR filing regulations, maintaining supporting documentation is a sound practice that promotes consistency, preserves institutional knowledge, and demonstrates a thoughtful approach to suspicious activity investigations.

BANK HAPPENINGS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Aberdeen

Dacotah Bank Announces Scholarship Program

This year, **Dacotah Bank** will award one outstanding high school graduate a top scholarship of $10,000. In addition, twenty-nine individual scholarships of $2,000 each will be distributed across Dacotah Bank's market areas, which span three states: South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Detailed criteria for scholarship selection can be found in the application.

To be eligible, high school seniors must be planning to attend a post-secondary institution in South Dakota, North Dakota, or Minnesota, and the applicant or the applicant's parent/guardian must hold an account with Dacotah Bank. For more information or to apply, visit dacotahbank.com/scholarships.

Bismarck

BND's Smart with My Money Scholarship

This November **Bank of North Dakota** is providing one $1,500 scholarship to North Dakota high school juniors and seniors and one $1,500 scholarship to college students who are North Dakota residents or attending a North Dakota school. The scholarships will be awarded through a contribution to a College SAVE 529 Plan account that can be used toward qualified higher education expenses, including tuition.

Starting Nov. 1, 2026, students who register for a free account at SmartWithMyMoney.nd.gov and take one, two, or all three of the college planning courses selected for their age group earn entries in the contest drawing for a scholarship. For each eligible course completed, students can receive one entry into the scholarship drawing. All entries must be submitted by Nov. 30, 2026. More information and how to get started can be found at SmartWithMyMoney.nd.gov/landing/bnd-scholarship.

North Dakota high schools, colleges, businesses or other organizations interested in joining the effort may contact Lance Hill at lrhill@nd.gov for information.

ASSOCIATE HAPPENINGS

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Bismarck

Housing Design Resources Available

North Dakota Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the **North Dakota Housing Finance Agency**, has released preliminary design materials to help public entities, businesses and nonprofits develop accessible housing for people with disabilities who have extraordinary medical needs. The designs incorporate input from individuals, families and caregivers. Interested organizations are responsible for securing their own funding and can request materials at hhsnd.site/housing-design-materials. The initiative stems from legislation passed in 2025.

NEW HIRE

Fargo

Dakota Business Lending Welcomes New Hire



Dakota Business Lending (DBL) is pleased to welcome **Leyton Hügger** to their team as an assistant loan officer. Hügger was born and raised in Hibbing, MN, and studied finance at North Dakota State University. He has two years of banking experience, where he gained experience working directly with customers and helping them navigate their financial needs.

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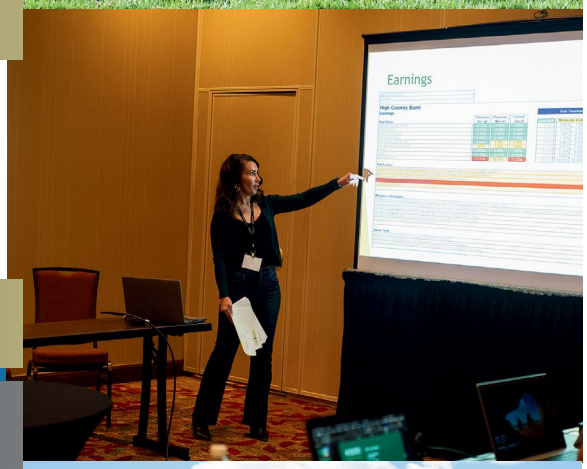


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Fargo ND

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- Conduct ongoing risk assessments, such as IT Assets, CAT, and RSAT.
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- Investigate suspicious activity, prepare Suspicious Activity Reports as appropriate, and coordinate fraud recovery efforts with internal teams and third parties.
- Perform and document ongoing enhanced due diligence reviews for high- and medium-risk customers.
- Assess BSA/AML and OFAC risks; maintain risk assessments, tracking systems, job aids, and related procedures.
- Develop, implement, and maintain employee BSA/AML and fraud training programs.
- Stay current on regulatory developments; participate in examinations and audits, initiate corrective action when necessary, and work across departments to integrate regulatory requirements into workflows.
- Prepare periodic reports for committees and Board of Directors.
- Certified BSA/AML Professional (CBAP) or Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) preferred.
- Position requires Bachelor's degree in a related field of banking, finance, or business, or equivalent combination of education and/or related financial industry experience. Position prefers a minimum of three years' BSA/AML experience.

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BND Bank of North Dakota

Credit Analyst
North Dakota

About BND

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Position: Credit Analyst

Location: This position may work on-site at our Bismarck or Fargo location or may work remote provided the candidate is a ND resident and resides within the state of North Dakota.

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Essential Duties:

- Evaluate repayment capacity and creditworthiness of loan requests with complex cash flow structures such as large manufacturing operations, construction/development projects, sizable industrial facilities, oil and gas operations, seasonal businesses, large crop/livestock producers, operations with multiple revenue streams, and distressed businesses and farm operations.
- Prepare various analyses including traditional cash flow, UCA cash flow, working capital, leverage, global cash flow, break-even, market, absorption, and capitalization.
- Work within strict deadlines to prepare and present credit presentations to committees and boards.
- Travel may be required to conduct site visits and attend meetings.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, business administration, or a closely related field.
- Minimum of four years of commercial credit analysis experience; agriculture credit analysis experience is preferred but not required.
- Strong analytic skills, financial acumen, sound judgement, and ability to manage deadlines in a fast-paced environment.
- Clear communication skills, professionalism, and the ability to work collaboratively with internal teams and external lending partners.

Candidates who accept an interview will be required to provide case study material.

Benefits:

BND offers a competitive and comprehensive compensation package. Benefits include fully paid family health insurance, paid leave, flexible work-life balance options, retirement plans, an infant-at-work program, tuition reimbursement, and more!

Application Process:

- Submit your application along with a resume by 11:59 PM Central Standard Time (CST) on the closing date.
- A credit, state, and federal background check will be conducted on the final candidate.
- Applicants who experience technical difficulties during the application process should contact recruiter@nd.gov or (701) 328-3290.
- If accommodations or assistance is needed in the application or interview process, please contact the Talent Management team at bndtm@nd.gov or TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or (800) 366-6888.

About Team ND

"Far and away the best prize life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." - Theodore Roosevelt

More than 7,500 talented, hard-working people across sixty-three agencies have come together as Team North Dakota. At Team ND, we are driven to succeed through gratitude, humility, curiosity and courage. Our purpose is to empower people, improve lives, and inspire success. Join us in being legendary.

Apply Here

Equal Employment Opportunity

The State of North Dakota and this hiring agency do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), genetics, religion, age or disability in employment or the provisions of services and complies with the provisions of the North Dakota Human Rights Act.

NDBA ENDORSED BUSINESS PARTNERS

NDBA SERVICES INCORPORATED

Win for North Dakota Banks.

NDBA is proud to partner with leading companies serving the banking industry. NDBA Endorsed Business Partners are carefully selected and approved by the NDBA Services Board based on the quality of their organization and commitment to delivering exceptional products and services to member banks.

- Leverage the buying power of North Dakota banks working together through the association.
- Build relationships with companies that have a track record of success and understand the challenges facing banks.
- Learn from industry experts that sponsor and support NDBA events throughout the year.

Allied Solutions
alliedsolutions.net | Fargo ND

Contact: Steve Owens
Client Development Manager
Phone: 612-845-4282
steve.owens@alliedsolutions.net

Arctic Wolf
arcticwolf.com | Eden Prairie MN

Contact: Logan McAlpin
Sr Account Representative – MN, ND
Phone: 612-304-0875
logan.mcalpin@arcticwolf.com

The Baker Group
gobaker.com | Oklahoma City OK

Contact: Jantz Kinzer
Managing Partner
Phone: 405-415-7255
jantz@gobaker.com

BHG Financial Institutional Network
bhginstitutionalnetwork.com/ND | Davie FL

Contact: Keith Gruebele
EVP/Institutional Relationships
Phone: 954-263-6399
kgruebele@bhg-inc.com

Compliance Alliance
compliancealliance.com | Austin TX

Contact: Brittney Stacey
Director of Executive Operations
Phone: 512-776-0713
brittney@compliancealliance.org

DataVerify Flood Services
info.dataverify.com/floods | Norwalk OH

Contact: Teri Sizemore
National Sales Executive
Phone: 419-660-8589
teri.sizemore@dataverifyflood.com

IntraFi
IntraFi.com | Arlington VA

Contact: Bradley Cole
Managing Director, Northern Plains
Phone: 402-212-4145
bcole@intrafi.com

Midwest Bankers Insurance Services
mbisllc.com | Eden Prairie MN

Contact: Adam Dawson
Regional Sales Manager
Phone: 952-261-8978
adamd@mbisllc.com

ODP Business Solutions
odpbusiness.com | Austin TX

Contact: Johnson Lukudu
Account Manager
Phone: 512-764-5684
johnson.lukudu@odpbusiness.com

SBS Cybersecurity
sbscyber.com | Madison SD

Contact: Cole Kratovil
Account Executive
Phone: 605-270-7925
cole.kratovil@sbscyber.com

Superior IRA & HSA
superiorira.com | Perham MN

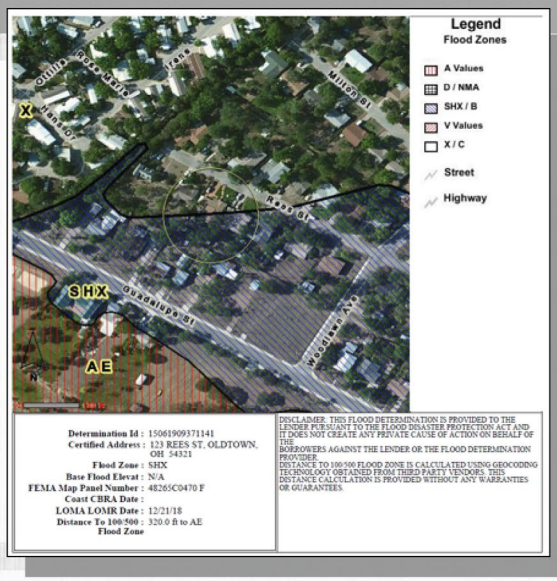
Contact: Jason Bain
SVP - Sales, Managing Partner
Phone: 218-330-5099
jason.bain@superiorira.com

Questions?

Tara McFadden
SVP of Strategic Partnerships
701.370.8901 | tara@ndba.com

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.***

DATAVERIFY FLOOD SERVICES

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

NORTH DAKOTA BANKERS ASSOCIATION ENDORSED

https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance/why