

Issues & Answers



August 2025

Building Bridges and Backing Leadership



*By Glen Simecek,
President and CEO,
Washington Bankers
Association*

Relationships matter, especially in advocacy. At the WBA, we've long

understood that sustained, meaningful engagement with policymakers is the foundation of effective representation.

We always remind, not only those in the industry, but also lawmakers, that banking is bipartisan. It doesn't matter which side of the aisle someone sits on; a strong economy is beneficial for everyone, and a robust banking industry fosters a strong business community. This summer, we had a powerful reminder of just how impactful that engagement can be.

In mid-July, WBA hosted a special

fundraising dinner for Governor Bob Ferguson, bringing together leaders from across Washington's banking industry. Organized under the leadership of WBA Board Chair Brent Beardall, the evening was more than just a political event – it reflected our industry's desire to build a strong, constructive relationship with our state leaders.

Bankers from every corner of the state attended, representing both community banks and national institutions. The event marked the largest fundraiser of the year for the Governor's campaign, a testament not only to the strength of our industry but also to the respect many of us share for the thoughtful approach Governor Ferguson has taken on issues that matter to Washingtonians, particularly those in our industry.

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Issues & Answers August 2025

WBA Staff

Glen Simecek, President & CEO
(206) 447-1700,
glen@wabankers.com

Duncan Taylor, SVP/Chief
Operating Officer
(206) 344-3492,
duncan@wabankers.com

Kyle Hayden, Controller
(206) 344-3476,
kyle@wabankers.com

Sherry Krainick, Director of
Education & Operations
(206) 447-1700,
sherry@wabankers.com

Megan Managan, Director of Public
Affairs
(206) 344-3472,
megan@wabankers.com

Cagla Celik, Marketing & Education
Coordinator
cagla@wabankers.com

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CEO, HomeStreet Bank

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Dave Swartley, SVP/Managing
Director State Government
Relations, U.S. Bank

Contact Us

Contact the Washington Bankers Association at 601 Union
Street, Suite 1720, Seattle, WA 98101

Call us at (206) 447-1700 and visit us on the
web at wabankers.com.

Connect With Us

Connect with the WBA online by following us on our social
media accounts.

On the Cover

A postcard from the early 1940s showcases Beauty Bay on Lake Coeur
d'Alene. The Coeur d'Alene Resort was the site of the 2025 Annual
Convention this July.

Photo courtesy of Boston Public Library/flickr.com

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This year's Legislative Session was particularly challenging for our industry, as state lawmakers considered a range of tax proposals that would have directly impacted banks and the communities we serve. While the business community saw a historical increase in taxes, for community banks, the impact would have been much greater, if not for the Governor's decision to veto the proposed removal of the mortgage interest deduction. This action protected first-time homebuyers and preserved a key incentive for offering mortgages, a business line that has become increasingly expensive to operate. That veto was a clear signal: Governor Ferguson is listening.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to express our gratitude to the Governor and his team for their work and support during the highly challenging first six months, as well as for maintaining an open door to continue our discussions.

Moments like this dinner are essential. They give us a chance to express our thanks, share our perspectives, and reinforce the critical role that banks play in supporting Washington's economy, from helping families buy their first homes to backing local entrepreneurs and investing in the vitality of our towns and cities.

The evening also served as a reminder of the power of collaboration. When our industry speaks with one voice, we're heard – whether in Olympia or on the campaign trail.

I'm proud of the leadership our members showed in making this event a success, and for your continued outreach to policymakers. I'm also optimistic about what it represents: a future where the banking industry continues to be a trusted partner in shaping Washington's economic path forward.

Thank you to all who joined us, and to those who continue to support our advocacy work every day.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Email it to megan@wabankers.com to be
included in an upcoming *Issues & Answers*



Cutting Through the Noise – And The Regulatory Red Tape



*By Rob Nichols, President & CEO,
American Bankers Association*

We are halfway through 2025, and while there have been several significant developments—from the escalation of geopolitical tensions abroad to economic uncertainty at home—there’s a

positive message I want to send to bankers: our agenda is moving forward.

With the help of tireless advocates here in Washington and at the state associations, ABA is continuing our steadfast work with the administration and like-minded lawmakers in Congress to advance the policy priorities that are most important for our members, as outlined in our Blueprint for Growth—and we have the tools, the resources, and the people in place to make it happen.

In early June, Federal Reserve Governor Miki Bowman was sworn in as the new vice chair for supervision—which we view as an incredibly positive step for our industry. Her first speech shortly after her confirmation gave a strong signal that we could soon see a return to tailored regulation that will help banks unlock economic growth and better serve their customers, clients and communities while still managing risks.

Governor Bowman is one of many policymakers now occupying key positions in Congress and at the banking agencies who understand just how vital it is that we have a strong, thriving banking sector in this

country.

We’ve also had a number of wins in the past few months alone that again signal a return to a more rational regulatory framework.

Congress came together to pass a bipartisan bill rejecting the CFPB’s misguided overdraft rule—which would have taken a vital credit option off the table for thousands of Americans who rely on it to manage their finances responsibly—and it was signed by President Trump earlier this spring. This action not only scraps the overdraft rule, it also blocks the CFPB from issuing a substantively similar rule in the future.

ABA played a significant role in getting the CRA resolution over the finish line, working to educate lawmakers and their staff on the harm this rule would do if allowed to take effect. There were some in our industry who didn’t think we could get this done—but ABA and our members pushed hard, and our industry is stronger for it.

We also continue our advocacy on Capitol Hill in support of longstanding ABA priorities like the Access to Credit for our Rural Communities Act, or ACRE—which was reintroduced with strong bipartisan support in this Congress—as well as bills that would encourage de novo formation and support the important work of community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions.

On the regulatory side, we’ve seen rollbacks of several misguided rules or policy statements, and the banking agencies have signaled forthcoming changes to the 2023 Community Reinvestment Act final rule, as well as changes to rules implementing Sections 1071 and 1033 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

And—after sustained advocacy by ABA—the CFPB rescinded a package of “guidance” documents that we felt actually set new regulatory expectations, while circumventing the rule writing process.

Coupled with several recent victories in court—including favorable settlements with the CFPB over their appeal of our UDAAP win and late fee final rule—it seems that a regulatory recalibration is well underway, and we continue to hear commitments from Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent about working constructively with our sector to cut through the red tape.

While they might not be the things making national headlines, these changes are happening—and they are incredibly meaningful not just for banks, but for the American economy.



2026 Executive Development Program: Empowering Tomorrow's Banking Leaders

WBA is excited to announce that registration for the 2026 Executive Development Program (EDP) is now open! The program will begin on January 12, 2026, in downtown Seattle.

EDP continues to build on its legacy of success, delivering an immersive 12-month curriculum designed to elevate mid- to senior-level professionals into future C-suite roles. The program's long-running popularity, since its debut in 2010, reflects its relevance and impact, as it routinely sells out due to carefully curated content and in-depth mentorship opportunities.

What Makes the 2026 EDP So Successful?

- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Covering all essential leadership topics, from profitability, asset/liability management, and credit risk, to compliance, fintech integration, and cybersecurity, the program offers participants the full spectrum of today's banking challenges.
- **One-to-One Mentorship:** Each participant is paired with an executive-level mentor, creating a robust support system that fosters accountability, reflection, and accelerated growth.
- **Highly Engaged Peer Network:** With cohorts assembled from across Washington—and now expanded to include emerging leaders from California—the program enables valuable cross-market insights and a dynamic learning community.
- **Flexibility for Today's Professionals:** A blend of in-person sessions in Seattle and hybrid/virtual formats ensures accessibility while maintaining immersive, face-to-face engagement.

Who Should Attend?

This program is ideal for:

1. High-potential mid-level leaders (AVPs, VPs, and Commercial Leads) who are preparing for executive responsibilities.
2. Emerging senior managers seeking exposure to top-tier strategic thinking and leadership best practices.
3. Innovators and change agents who are tasked with driving digital transformation, fintech partnerships, or cybersecurity resilience within their banks.

Participants can expect to gain immediate applicability to their roles—enhanced strategic acumen, sharper decision-making skills, expanded networks, and mentorship-backed career advancement.

Why Banks Should Invest in EDP Attendees

- **Build internal bench strength:** As your emerging leaders graduate from the EDP, they return with sharpened leadership skills and strategic thinking, ready to assume broader roles.
- **Improve retention:** Employees value professional devel-

2026 EDP at a Glance

- **Duration:** 12 months (Jan–Dec 2026)
- **Format Monthly:** In-person sessions in Seattle and virtual classes
- **Mentorship:** One-to-one pairing with current bank executives
- **Key Learning Themes:** Leadership, risk management, fintech, cyber, profitability, compliance, risk and advocacy
- **Participant Profile:** Mid- to senior-level high-potential leaders
- **Regional Expansion:** Includes bankers from across PNW, as well as California

opment. The EDP signals your commitment to their careers, which correlates highly with engagement and loyalty.

- **Catalyze organizational growth:** With a curriculum aligned to current industry challenges—such as fintech, compliance, and cybersecurity—graduates can immediately contribute to key transformative initiatives.

New in 2026: Welcoming California's Rising Leaders

For the first time, the 2026 EDP opens its doors to emerging leaders from California, thanks to our continued partnership with the California Bankers Association. This expansion significantly enriches the program's regional diversity, bringing in fresh perspectives on California's unique regulatory environment, market dynamics, and operational challenges. Washington banks will benefit from exposure to new ideas and cross-market partnerships with California peers.

Take the Next Step

Now is the perfect moment to invest in your leadership talent. Spots fill quickly, the program is known to sell out, and both Washington and California banks are encouraged to register early.

For program details and registration, please visit the official page at wabankers.com/edp/.

By cultivating the leadership base of tomorrow, the 2026 EDP empowers banks to remain resilient and forward-looking in a rapidly evolving regulatory and technological landscape.

Ensure that your emerging leaders are part of the cohort, and set your bank on a path toward lasting success.

Events Calendar

Aug. 14-16 – KBA Fraud Academy

Aug. 21 – Commercial Lending Development Program

Sept. 16 – Understanding Bank Performance

Sept. 22 – Credit Analyst Development Program

Sept. 24 – Credit, Lending & Compliance Conference

Sept. 30 – AI Native & Fintech Conference, UT

Oct. 9 – Retail Branch Manager Development Program

Oct. 7-9 – Bank Trainers Conference, FL

Oct. 13-15 – PNW Capitol Hill Visit, D.C.

Jan. 8 – Understanding Bank Performance

Jan. 12 – 2026 Executive Development Program

To register or to learn more about any of the listed events, please visit www.wabankers.com/calendar.

Powerful Perspectives & Fresh Ideas Take Center Stage at 2025 Annual Convention

The 2025 Annual Convention of the Washington Bankers Association, held in the picturesque Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, brought together leading minds in banking, economics, leadership, and technology for two days of dynamic sessions and memorable networking opportunities.

With attendees from the Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington Bankers Associations, as well as from across the Northwest and beyond, the Convention featured impactful general sessions and interactive breakout sessions that addressed the most pressing issues facing the industry.

Tuesday, July 29 – Economic Insights, Leadership Lessons, and the Future of Banking

The day began with an Opening General Session featuring Nathan Stovall, Director of Financial Institutions Research at S&P Global Market Intelligence. Stovall examined the outlook for U.S. bank profitability amid changing interest rates, credit normalization, and shifts in regulatory expectations. His insights gave attendees a clear picture of the opportunities—and threats—on the horizon.

Geoff Gray, Principal and Founder of Gray Company, followed with a session that invited attendees to reflect on communication and team culture, setting the stage for more personal leadership takeaways.

Next, Conrad DeQuadros, Senior Economic Advisor at Brean Capital, discussed the broader economic outlook. With recent shifts in monetary and fiscal policy, DeQuadros unpacked how these changes are likely to affect inflation, interest rates, and economic growth in the year ahead.

Wil Osborn, Chief Business Officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, shared strategies for community banks to leverage FHLB partnerships to maintain liquidity and support affordable housing, emphasizing their role in community impact and resilience.

Capping the morning was a lively and interactive session, Rockstar Leadership, led by Jon Baker. Baker connected leadership lessons with the emotional



resonance of rock and roll, energizing attendees with creative ways to lead with authenticity and confidence.

In the afternoon, three concurrent breakout sessions allowed attendees to customize their learning experience:

- Kalin Bornemann, Partner at Miller Nash, led a compelling fraud simulation focused on check and wire scams, encouraging participants to think on their feet and examine real-world bank fraud scenarios.
- Michael Kadel, Managing Principal at OneAccord, challenged banks to think differently about succession planning, emphasizing the importance of ongoing employee development to ensure long-term success.
- Cal Roberson, VP of FID at Integrus, addressed the growing threat of AI and deepfakes in the banking industry, offering both cautionary tales and strategic solutions for financial institutions.

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**2025 CREDIT, LENDING
& COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 24 Learn more online at wabankers.com/clc

WBA Advocacy: Strengthening Relationships with State Leaders

The Washington Bankers Association recently hosted a fundraiser dinner with Governor Bob Ferguson, bringing together bank leaders from across the state for a candid conversation about the industry's current challenges and opportunities.

Thanks to WBA Board Chair and WaFd Bank President & CEO Brent Beardall for hosting and spearheading the event.

Governor Ferguson shared his outlook for Washington and his priorities for the coming year, while attendees emphasized the vital role banks play in supporting local communities and economic growth.

The event, which marked the governor's largest fundraiser to date this year, reflects WBA's continued efforts to build strong relationships with key policymakers and ensure the industry's voice is heard in Olympia.

Supporting candidates who understand and champion the importance of a strong banking sector is essential to protecting the future of the industry.

In the lead-up to the August primary, WBA staff and members delivered PAC contributions to a number of pro-business and banking-friendly candidates running for office.

These efforts help amplify the collective voice of the



industry and ensure that lawmakers remain informed about the positive impact banks have on Washington's economy and communities.

Farm Banks Show Growth and Stability in 2024

The latest Bank Farm Report, compiled by the ABA, reveals that banks in the agricultural sector have continued to exhibit stability and growth over the past year.

This annual report examines the 2024 performance of the 1,398 banks that specialize in lending to agriculture. These farm banks employ over 74,000 workers.

Key Findings

- The banking industry is the nation's most important supplier of credit to agriculture, providing over a third (37.8%) of all farm loans in the U.S. — \$205 billion outstanding as of December 2024.

- Small loans continue to make up over a third (34.9%) of banks' farm and ranch lending, with \$72 billion in small and micro farm and ranch loans on the books at the end of 2024.

- The nation's 1,398 farm banks recorded strong asset quality and capital levels in 2024 from serving their communities and sticking to traditional banking practices: a focus on the fundamentals of credit, solid underwriting standards and knowledge of the customer's business.

- Farm banks have deep roots in their communities. The median farm bank was 114 years old in 2024.

- Farm banks' asset quality improved in 2024, as measures

of loan delinquency remained low by historical standards. Noncurrent agricultural loans as a share of total agricultural lending (loans 90 days or more past due or in nonaccrual status) dropped by 7 basis points to 0.32% in 2024.

- Equity capital — a more conservative form of capital — grew 8.1% or by \$3.7 billion in 2024 for farm banks as a group.

- Employment at farm banks grew by 0.8% in 2024, adding 576 jobs and employing more than 74,000 rural Americans. Since 2010, employment at farm banks has risen 35.7%.

- In 2024, 97.1% of farm banks were profitable, with 57.4% reporting an increase in earnings.

The ABA definition of "farm bank" for the purposes of this report has changed over time. In 2012, ABA made the decision to include institutions with more than \$1 billion in assets, which were previously excluded, as these institutions grew in number and importance to our country's farmers and ranchers. In addition, due to changing reporting requirements and improved availability of data, ABA began to include savings and loan associations in this report.

You can view the rest of the report at: www.aba.com/news-research/analysis-guides/2024-farm-bank-performance-report

BANKS SUPPORT RURAL AMERICA

U.S. BANKS MADE



\$205 BILLION
FARM LOANS

That's over one-third of all farm and ranch lending
(as of December 2024)



\$87 BILLION
SMALL & MICRO LOANS

Small and micro farm loans are defined as loans with an original value of less than \$500,000 and \$100,000, respectively

1,398 U.S. AGRICULTURAL BANKS MADE



\$115 BILLION
FARM LOANS

(as of December 2024)



OVER 74,000 AMERICANS
Employed by ag banks

97.1%

PROFITABLE AG BANKS
57.4% increased earnings



SOLID PERFORMANCE
Continue to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers

WEST
\$5.3 BILLION

CORN BELT
\$54.5 BILLION

NORTHEAST
\$1.5 BILLION

SOUTH
\$10.0 BILLION

PLAINS
\$43.8 BILLION





U.S. Bank Volunteers at Hoopfest

Members of the U.S. Bank team recently volunteered at Hoopfest.

The volunteers staffed a booth at the event, which brought together basketball players of all ages and skills for a tournament.

The bankers gave away basketballs and bank-related items to promote the game and banking.

WaFd Bank Participates in Seattle Pride Hockey Association Tournament

The WaFd Bank team recently participated in the Seattle Pride Hockey Association tournament.

The volunteers painted faces and cheered on the hockey teams at the Seattle Kraken practice facility in Northgate.



KeyBank Participates in Seattle Pride Parade

The Seattle KeyBank team recently participated in the Seattle Pride Parade.

The group marched in the parade to celebrate pride and inclusion and be part of a strong and united community.



Baker Boyer Bank Attends Yakima Arts Festival

Members of the Baker Boyer Bank team recently attended the Yakima Arts Festival, hosted at the Larson Gallery.

The event celebrated and supported local artists and showcased their work.

The bankers said they enjoyed immersing themselves in the lively local art scene and getting to meet so many wonderful people.



Olympia Federal Savings CFO Goes Over the Edge for Senior Services

Olympia Federal Savings Chief Financial Officer James Vanderholm, who also serves as a board member for Senior Services of South Sound, recently went "Over the Edge" during a special fundraiser.

The event featured individuals who raised money for the organization by rappelling over the edge of a roof and down the side of a building to the ground

below, all in support of a good cause.

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Industry News

New Hires

Darrell McManus
Vice President and Banker at JPMorgan Private Bank

Michael Naselow
Mortgage Lending Analyst at First Fed Bank

Devin Khoury
Customer Service Representative at Olympia Federal Savings

Kyle Cardwel
Universal Banker at Olympia Federal Savings

Jeanne Whitfield
Customer Service Representative at Olympia Federal Savings

Mary Costello
Loan Servicing Assistant at Olympia Federal Savings

Kyle Welsh
Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Seattle Bank

Promotions

Cindy Willman
Senior Vice President at State Bank Northwest

Sara Spalding
Branch Manager at First Fed Bank

Jaye Thomas
Regional Community Sales Manager at KeyBank

Kyle Russell
Vice President, Area Retail Leader at KeyBank

Haley Duncan
Vice President, Area Retail Leader at KeyBank

Retirements

Susan Eggers
Baker Boyer Bank

Have Industry News to share with WBA? Email megan@wabankers.com or call (206) 344-3472.

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U.S. Bank Supports Washington Women's Business Center

U.S. Bank recently attended and supported a networking event for the Washington Women's Business Center at the Armoire space in Seattle.

The Powering Connections: Women, Networks and Accelerators event brought together women entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community advocates to support one another and build a more inclusive business ecosystem.

During the event, individuals share resources and ideas, engaging in powerful conversations that help build new partnerships.



Washington Trust Bank Donates to Junior Achievement

Washington Trust Bank announced earlier this year a \$4,000 donation to Junior Achievement of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The funds will help the organization continue its commitment to empowering youth through financial literacy, specifically, in the local areas it serves in low to moderate income areas across the Portland metro area and SW Washington.



Sound Community Bank Attends Hair Goes Hollywood BRA-Zaar Event

The Sound Community Bank Tacoma team recently attended an event at a local business, Hair Goes Hollywood BRA-Zaar, which focused on breast cancer awareness.

Students and alums at Summit Salon Academy showcased their Holly-

wood-themed hairstyles and makeup with a runway fashion show, including movie-themed costumes.

All proceeds from the event benefited HairToSpray and the Sydney Berry Fund.



Peoples Bank Supports Skagit Regional Health Foundation

Peoples Bank recently supported the Skagit Regional Health Foundation by participating in the annual golf tournament.

The team hosted a tent full of goodies for the players and encouraged everyone all afternoon.



Washington Trust Bank Supports Moses Lake Soroptimist Chapter

Washington Trust Bank recently participated in the Moses Lake Soroptimist Chapter's annual program, which empowers local women and children.

The Care4Kids, Dream It, Be It, Impact, and Live Your Team programs are hands-on initiatives, and the bank sponsored this year's Party in the USA fundraising event.



Cashmere Valley Bank Sponsors Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament

Cashmere Valley Bank and Cashmere Valley Mortgage sponsored the Habitat for Humanity Give & Golf Tournament this summer.

The tournament helps support the organization's work to create more affordable housing in Kittitas County.

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WaFd Bank Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Memorial Stadium

WaFd Bank President and CEO Brent Beardall and Chief Marketing Officer Brad Goode were recently at the groundbreaking for the new Memorial Stadium project at Seattle Center.

The bank contributed \$2 million towards the redevelopment project, which will help the downtown community and Seattle students.



Washington Trust Bank Participates in Park Clean Up

Washington Trust Bank's Bellevue team recently participated in a street clean-up project that included the area around Bellevue Park.

The group volunteered to participate, covering more ground and making a noticeable impact in the area, while also taking care of shared community spaces.



Cashmere Valley Bank Hosts Customer Appreciation Events

Cashmere Valley Bank recently hosted customer appreciation events at its branches, thanking its customers for their longtime support of the bank.

Locals were encouraged to stop by for hot dogs and ice cream and for the chance to win local prizes from businesses throughout the region.

Liberty Bank Supports PAWS 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala

Liberty Bank recently attended the PAWS of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap's 50th anniversary celebration, Pet Gala.

As a sponsor, the bank helped make sure the event was a success, and Matt Ravagni, a loan operations specialist from the bank, attended, along with his wife Megan.

PAWS works to foster and preserve the special bond between people and pets.



1st Security Bank of Washington Edmonds Branch Named Finalist in Contest

1st Security Bank of Washington's Edmonds branch was recently named a Best of Edmonds 2025 finalist by My Edmonds News.

The recognition, voted on by community members, speaks volumes about the team's dedication to customer service and building personal relationships.

HomeStreet Bank Sponsors Multi-Service Center's Annual Dinner

HomeStreet Bank sponsored the annual Multi-Service Center's Spring into Action Dinner earlier this summer.

The donations from this year's event will go towards helping local communities as part of the organization's mission.



Baker Boyer Bank Donates to Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank

Baker Boyer Bank announced this summer that it made a \$5,000 donation to the Blue Mountain Action Council Food

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Bank.

The funds will enable the food bank to continue combating hunger in the community, and the bank will match these funds up to the same amount, allowing the food bank to stretch donations even further.



KeyBank Participates in Sammamish Farmers Market

The local KeyBank team in eastern King County participates in the Sammamish Farmers Market throughout the summer.

The bank hosts a booth featuring a variety of information and celebrates the many sounds of summer.



Peoples Bank Celebrates Fourth of July at Zuanich Point Park

As the title sponsor of the Bellingham Fourth of July celebrations this year, Peoples Bank was front and center at Zuanich Point Park.

Volunteers from the bank handed out light sabers as part of the Star Wars theme and helped everyone celebrate the holiday in style.



WaFd Bank Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County

The WaFd Bank team in Whatcom County volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to help with a local build where they raised the roof.

The project brought together a variety of volunteers from throughout the community to

help with a significant portion of the project, putting the roof on a home that will be forever affordable for the family that lives there.

1st Security Bank of Washington Donates to Foster Supports

1st Security Bank of Washington recently donated \$3,500

to Foster Supports, thanks to parking fees from the Port Townsend branch's paid parking lot.

Each quarter, the branch donates the parking fees to a local nonprofit helping provide vital resources in the area.

Foster Supports works with local foster families to help them navigate what can be very tumultuous times.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Ridgefield Raptors First Responders Night, Donates to Kindess 911

Riverview Bank recently sponsored the Ridgefield Raptors baseball team's First Responders Night.

The event is an evening dedicated to honoring the men and women who protect and serve the community every day.

The event included an auction for commemorative jerseys, which supported Kindess 911.

Later in the summer, the bank presented a check for \$7,000, the total raised from the event, to Kindess 911 Founder & CEO Jason Hattrick, Raptors GM Gus Farah, and officers from Ridgefield Police, Vancouver Police, and Clark-Cowlitz Fire & Rescue.



Community First Bank Announces Scholarship Recipients

Community First Bank, along with the Rivers Community Foundation and the Emery family, recently announced the recipients of the 2025 Richard C. Emery Business and Finance Scholarship.

Kaylee Loftus, Adrian Chavez, Sydney Olson, Emma Almquist, and Thomas Lamb each earned the scholarship.

The scholarship was created in 2022 to memorialize the former president and CEO of the bank. The bank, Foundation, and Emery family came together to create the scholarship fund for residents of Benton or Franklin County entering their first year or returning college students with an interest in business, finance, economics, or accounting.

The scholarship has been awarded to over 14 deserving students and provided \$25,000 in funding.

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Mountain Pacific Bank Attends Bellingham Bells Game

Mountain Pacific Bank recently participated in a Bellingham Bells game, where CEO Mark Duffy threw out the starting pitch.

Members of the bank team and their families attended the game, hosting a booth and cheering on the hometown team.

First Interstate Bank Donates to Harvest Against Hunger

First Interstate Bank has expanded its partnership with Harvest Against Hunger in Seattle and increased donations to the organization, which is helping those with food insecurity.

The bank has donated a total of \$42,900 to the organization, earning a spot in the Tillers of Soil tier of the Lifetime Giving Society.

KeyBank Supports Mill Creek Festival, Ballard Seafood Fest

During a weekend in July, members of the KeyBank team in Seattle stopped by to support the Mill Creek Festival, as well as the Ballard Seafood Fest.

It was also a chance to see the local KeyBank teams in action, helping support the communities they serve.



Kitsap Bank Volunteers at Hopelink Harvesting Veggies

Kitsap Bank's Bellevue team recently volunteered with Hopelink, where the team helped harvest 196 pounds of cucumbers and 101 pounds of rhubarb in just two hours.

The food supports local food banks and nonprofits serving King County, particularly those addressing food insecurity.



Heritage Bank Volunteers at Orphan Car Show

The Heritage Bank team in Lynnwood recently volunteered at the 1st Orphan Car Show in Edmonds.

The event helped raise over \$1,700 for Clothes for Kids in Lynnwood.

The organization provides clothes to families so kids can go to school with their minds ready to learn, and not focused on other things, like old or dirty clothing.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Vancouver Sunday Sounds Concert Series

Riverview Bank is the presenting sponsor of this summer's City of Vancouver Sunday Sounds Concert Series.

The event brings together people for an outdoor concert series every Sunday in the park to celebrate the sounds of summer, while also enjoying community.



Cashmere Valley Bank Participates in Dye Hard 5K Color Run

The Cashmere Valley Bank team in Yakima recently participated in the Dye Hard 5K Color Run in Yakima.

The bank and Cashmere Valley Mortgage teams participated in the festivities as the Buddle Zone sponsors and encouraged runners of all ages to celebrate fitness and community spirit.

Over 800 people visited the bank's booth for free giveaways, shared stories, and splashes of color.

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Washington Trust Bank Volunteers with Hopelink in Bellevue

The Washington Trust Bank team in Bellevue recently volunteered with Hopelink at the Redmond Center.

The team helped at the space, which is designed to feel like a grocery

store, offering families and children a shopping experience that does not feel like most food banks.

Since 1971, the organization has been serving north and east King County, providing essential services to help individuals and families build lasting stability.



Chase Supports Ballard Seafood Fest

The Chase Business Banking Team recently volunteered at the annual Ballard Seafood Fest, celebrating summer with this yearly tradition.

The team supported

and staffed the event, hosted a booth, and encouraged local visitors to learn more about their finances.



Mountain Pacific Bank Hosts Lutefisk Eating Contest

During the annual Ballard Seafood Fest, Mountain Pacific Bank hosted the yearly Lutefisk Eating Contest in its bank parking lot.

A big crowd, including Tim Hunter, the announcer, and Councilmember Dan Strausser loudly supported the 10 brave contestants.



HomeStreet Bank Sponsors Ballard Seafood Fest

HomeStreet Bank was one of the major sponsors of the Ballard Seafood Fest this summer, which is organized by Ballard Alliance.

It's one of the most significant events the neighbor-

hood puts on every year, featuring great food, fantastic music, and booths from all kinds of local businesses, including many banks.

Bank of America Partners with Year Up United For Internships

Bank of America in Seattle once again worked with Year Up United this summer to offer internships and training to young adults without bachelor's degrees.

The program's Banking, Business Operations, IT, and other career tracks in Puget Sound offer training plus real-world internships, giving students hands-on access to customer service, fraud support, product knowledge, and more.

They are then able to go on to earn a 28-week certificate with internships with local firms like the bank which can lead to long-lasting careers.



Washington Trust Bank Participates in Small Business Event

Washington Trust Bank recently participated in a small business event in Tukwila, bringing together local experts who presented on interpreting financial data for better decision-making and how to apply core accounting disciplines for stronger business navigation. The event also included ways to leverage SBA lending programs and what banks look for in credit evaluations, so local businesses can be better prepared when they go to a bank for a loan.



Cashmere Valley Bank Sponsors Yakima Beetles Banker Night

Cashmere Valley Bank recently sponsored the Yakima Beetles Banker Night at Parker Faller Field.

At the end of the baseball tournament, the volunteers handed out swag and snacks to everyone as they headed home.

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Olympia Federal Savings Celebrates National Hot Dog Day

Olympia Federal Savings celebrated National Hot Dog Day in downtown Olympia this year with the opening day of Lakefair.

The team at the bank enjoyed a bank BBQ, debating the best way to eat a hot dog, before heading to the annual festival along the lake.



Bank of America Partners with Nisqually Tribe for Financial Education Classes

Bank of America has partnered with the Nisqually Tribe to offer financial education classes this summer.

The initiative is focused on empowering members of the community with knowledge and tools to make informed financial decisions.

The bank provides resources related to budgeting, saving, and investing, and will help create a financially savvy future for the Nisqually community.

Heritage Bank Participates in Lynnwood Parks Event

Heritage Bank recently had volunteers participate in the Aloha Par for Parks event, a Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation event.

The event was raising money to help send local kids to summer camp, who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend and know the joy of the camp experience.



Commencement Bank Participates in Groundbreaking

Commencement Bank was on hand this summer for the

groundbreaking ceremony at the new Mary Bridge Children's Therapy Services Center in Tacoma.

The bank is one of the finance and funding partners that is helping make the project possible.

It will provide 16,000 square feet of physical, occupational, speech, and feeding therapy services, such as audiology, and in-house orthotics and prosthetic services for local children.

"This is a perfect representation of the good that comes from local organizations teaming up to make a difference – right in our own backyard," said the bank. "Congratulations to all those involved, we can't wait to watch this vision come to life for our Commencement Community!"

The project is expected to be completed in late 2026.



Riverview Bank Participates in YMCA of Columbia-Willamette Summer Picnic

Riverview Bank recently volunteered at the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette's annual Summer Picnic in the Park in Ridgefield.

The event provides a free nutritious lunch at Davis Park every day, Monday through Friday, from noon to 1 p.m. during the summer when school is out.



Washington Trust Bank Donates Treats to First Responders

The Washington Trust Bank North Wenatchee branch team recently dropped off fresh fruit and donuts at a local fire station to say thank you to the local first responder teams.

It was the branch team's small way of saying thank you to the hard work the team at the station does every day to help keep everyone in the area safe.

Timberland Bank Hosts Blood Drive

Timberland Bank hosted a blood drive at its Hoquiam branch, encouraging members of the community to stop by and donate.

The drive included a total of 23 donors, including six first-time donors, and collected 15 units of blood, which Bloodworks Northwest will distribute to 95 local hospitals.

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Bankers Maintain Positive Economic Outlook

Community bankers' optimism on the future economy is holding steady, according to the 2025 second quarter results of the Community Bank Sentiment Index (CBSI).

The CBSI dipped slightly to 126 from its peak value of 129 in the previous quarter, driven by a less optimistic outlook for a lighter regulatory environment and moderated expectations for higher expected profitability. However, the overall index remains well above the neutral level of 100 and is among the highest three readings recorded since its inception in 2019.

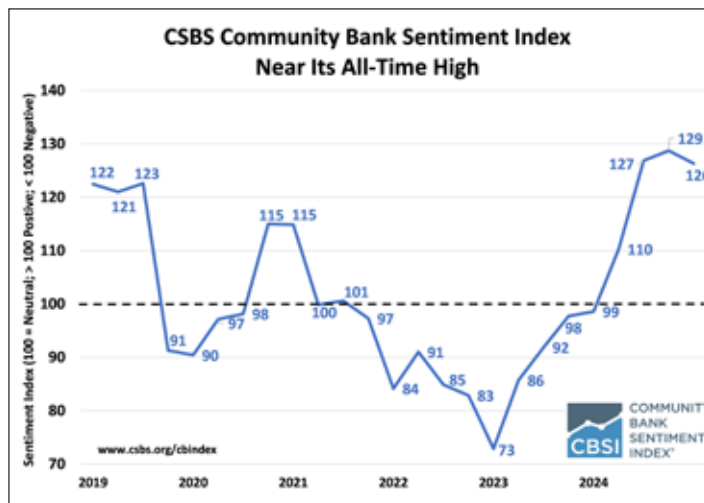
Additionally, the "I don't know/unsure" responses for all seven components fell from 14 points to 23 as concerns over tariffs and inflation appear to have subsided somewhat.

"Even though the economic outlook still remains clouded by uncertainties arising from tariff talks, immigration reforms, and fiscal and monetary policy decisions, overall community banker sentiment remains mostly optimistic and similar to the last two quarterly surveys," said CSBS Chief Economist Tom Siems.

The CBSI canvasses community bankers nationwide in the last month of each quarter to capture their thoughts on future economic conditions in seven areas. An index reading of 100 indicates a neutral sentiment. Anything above 100 indicates a positive sentiment, and anything below 100 indicates a negative sentiment. Quarterly results are included in the Federal Reserve Economic Data, the online database maintained by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis known informally as the FRED.

A total of 250 community bankers from 43 states responded to the second quarter 2025 CBSI survey. The profitability, operations, and franchise value indicators fell slightly but are at near record high levels. Expected future business conditions was the only component to drag the index lower for the second straight quarter, although this component improved slightly to 91 from last quarter's reading of 86.

The regulatory burden component had the greatest quarterly change, falling 16 points to 114 from the first quarter survey. However, it stayed above 100 for only



the second time in the survey's history and is up 94 points from one year ago.

At 114, the monetary policy component improved 8 points from 106 last quarter and remains in positive territory for the fifth straight quarter.

Sixty-one percent of community bankers believe the U.S. economy is at the start of or already in a recession, up slightly from 59% last quarter. Community bankers rated their top concerns as cyberattacks, bank fraud, the federal debt/deficit, the cost and availability of labor, and competition.

The 2025 Q2 Community Bank Sentiment Index Number – 126

This represents a positive reading in economic sentiment by community bankers and but slipped three points from its peak value of 129 recorded in last quarter's survey. This is the first decline in the CBSI after advancing for seven consecutive quarters.

Key Highlights

- At 126, the second quarter 2025 CBSI fell three points from the first quarter 2025 value but is still among the highest three readings recorded since the survey's inception in 2019. The latest CBSI is up 27 points from one year ago.

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- At 145, the profitability component fell seven points from last quarter's record level of 152.

- At 114, the monetary policy component improved eight points from 106 last quarter and remains in positive territory (above 100) for the fifth straight quarter.

- At 114, the regulatory burden component had the greatest quarterly change, falling 16 points from the first quarter survey. However, it stayed above 100 for only the second time in the survey's history. The regulatory burden indicator was below 30 for 15 consecutive quarters from early 2021 to late 2024 but is up 94 points from one year ago, contributing about 13 points of the 27-point increase in the overall CBSI from last year's value of 99.

- In the open-ended comments, community bankers continue to mention several areas of concern that impact their ability to plan ahead. While not as pronounced as last quarter, heightened uncertainty persists regarding the impact from tariffs (particularly on consumer spending, agriculture, and small businesses), how federal government spending will impact the national debt and economic growth, and how the Federal Reserve will respond.

- The CBSI slipped for the first time after advancing seven consecutive quarters and is up 53 points from its nadir of 73 in mid-2023.

- 250 community bankers from 43 states responded

to the second quarter 2025 CBSI survey.

- Five of the seven components that comprise the CBSI declined from the previous quarterly survey and two improved. Six of the seven components moved by less than 10 points from the previous quarter.

- At 91, the future business conditions indicator is the only component below the neutral level of 100 but it is up 5 points from last quarter's value of 86.

- At 132, the operations expansion component fell 3 points from last quarter, whereas the capital spending indicator slipped 1 point to 128. Both indices are near their historical averages.

- At 161, the franchise value indicator slipped 1 point but is near its highest level since the survey premiered.

- The CBSI Uncertainty Index (computed by adding together the "I don't know/unsure" responses for all seven components) fell from 37 last quarter to 23 this quarter as concerns over tariffs and inflation appear to have subsided somewhat.

- In a special question, 61% of community bankers believe the U.S. economy is at the start of, or already in, a recession, up slightly from 59% last quarter.

- In another special question, community bankers rated the following as their top concerns: cyberattacks, bank fraud, the federal debt/deficit, the cost and availability of labor, and competition.

Read more online and check out the interactive dashboard or past data here: www.cbsbs.org/cbindex.



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Tuesday evening concluded with a high-energy Denim & Diamonds Dinner & Entertainment event, open to all attendees, followed by the Fiserv Dessert & Nightcap Reception, providing a perfect setting for continued conversation and connection.

Wednesday, July 30 – Industry Leaders and Final Takeaways

Wednesday's sessions kicked off with a Fireside Chat featuring Rob Nichols, President & CEO of the American Bankers Association, and Alice Frazier, Chair-Elect of the Independent Community Bankers of America. The two industry leaders discussed national banking policy, regulatory developments, and the importance of advocacy at both the state and federal levels.

Attendees then heard from Roberta S. Hollinshead, Senior Vice President for Community and Regional Institution Supervision at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, who offered regulatory insights and

emerging trends impacting banks across the western U.S.

The morning closed with an inspiring keynote from Greg "Boss" Wooldridge, the only three-time Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. Drawing from his unique leadership experience, Wooldridge shared strategies for elite performance, building trust, and leading with purpose under pressure.

Idaho Governor Brad Little offered closing comments to officially wrap up the main program, but the day was far from over.

In the afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to participate in two popular optional activities: a peaceful float trip down the scenic Coeur d'Alene River or the always-anticipated Convention Golf Tournament. The day ended with a Closing Reception and Golf Awards on the Lakeview Terrace, providing a perfect send-off to a successful Convention.

The 2026 Convention will be held at Sunriver Resort in late June.

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Chase Hosts Back-to-School Presentation at YWCA Seattle

The JPMorgan Chase team in Seattle recently hosted a back-to-school prep session at the YWCA Phillis Wheatley location, hosting the first of the Chase Money Skills classes for the community's family members and parents.

The sessions cover some of the basics of what individuals and families should know about budgeting and money, and are offered both in person and virtually.

The bank's next session will be hosted in August.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Santiam Canyon Stampede

Riverview Bank was the Saddle Sponsor at the 27th Annual Santiam Canyon Stampede.

The event brings the community together to celebrate the year.



Washington Trust Bank Brings Pizza to Teachers

Washington Trust Bank recently brought pizza to teachers at Otis Orchards Elementary School in the Liberty Lake area, as they prepared for the upcoming school year.

Teachers are often in the school building long before and after school begins, preparing for the year, and the bankers want to celebrate their commitment to learning.

WBA Welcomes New Member to Board of Directors



The Washington Bankers Association (WBA) announced that Autumn Roth, managing director of Global Corporate Banking at JPMorganChase, was elected to the WBA Board of Directors during the Association's annual meeting held at the 2025 Annual Convention, July 28-30, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Idaho.

The Board sets policy and is responsible for the prudent stewardship of the fiscal resources of the Association. Bankers are nominated by their peers to serve on the Board and are selected from institutions diverse in size, type, and geographic location.

"Autumn's Northwest roots and banking experience make her the ideal candidate to succeed her colleague Kerri Schroeder on the WBA Board," said WBA President & CEO Glen Simecek. "We are excited to have her join us and look forward to the insights she will bring to the board."

"Joining the Washington Bankers Association board is an honor. I look forward to collaborating with industry leaders to enhance our community's financial landscape and advocate for policies that support growth and innovation," said Autumn Roth, Managing Director, Global Corporate

Banking at JPMorganChase. "This opportunity will allow me to collaborate with esteemed colleagues in shaping the future of banking in our region. Together, we can strengthen our commitment to serving our clients and the broader community."

Roth joined JPMorganChase in 2010 as an executive director and has held her current position since 2023. She provides commercial and investment banking services to banks, thrifts, and credit unions in Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Alaska, and has over 27 years of experience in finance and banking.

She is also the executive sponsor of Women on the Move for the West chapter of the business resource group. She is an active member of the Campus Talent Team, which recruits and engages with college students, and participates in the internship and fellowship program.

She began her career as an investment analyst with Cascade Investment, the asset management vehicle for Bill and Melinda Gates, before moving into investment banking with Ragen MacKenzie, a boutique firm based in Seattle, which Wells Fargo acquired. There, she covered the Pacific Northwest as an associate, working across a variety of industries, products, and services, eventually focusing on the banking industry nationally.

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