

Montana Credit Unions: The Real Story

Tax-paying Montana banks compete head to head with tax-exempt credit unions. Although they portray themselves as mom and pop shops for people of modest means, today credit unions are a \$2.3 trillion industry, with many indistinguishable from banks. The BIG difference—they don't pay federal income taxes, depriving the U.S. Treasury of nearly \$3.25 billion every year.

Who Pays the Taxes?

Taxes Paid in 2024
MT Credit Unions
\$0

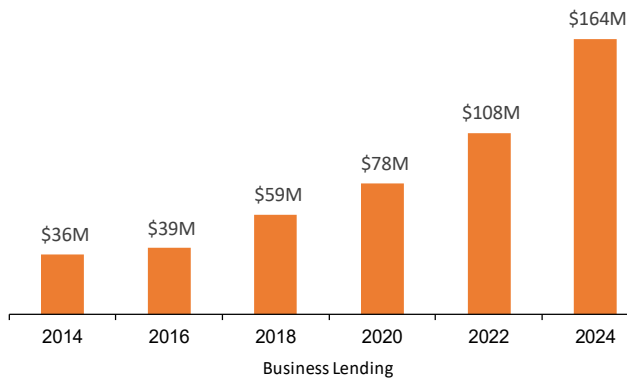
*Includes all applicable federal, state and local, and foreign income taxes

MT Banks
\$134,319,000

Clearwater Federal Credit Union
would have paid **\$2 million in taxes** during 2024,
had it paid its fair share.

Indistinguishable from Banks

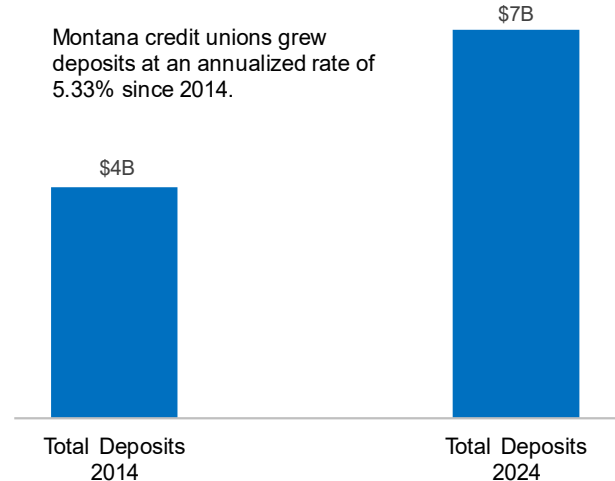
Clearwater Federal Credit Union used its tax advantage to **aggressively expand** its business lending at an annual rate of **16%** since 2014.



Whitefish Credit Union Association, with \$1.9 billion in assets, is the largest credit union in Montana, larger than 89% of Montana headquartered banks.

Montana Credit Unions Leverage Their Tax Exemption to Grow Deposits

Montana credit unions grew deposits at an annualized rate of 5.33% since 2014.



Large Credit Union Auto Lenders

Four of the top five Montana-headquartered auto lenders are credit unions.

| Institution | Auto Loans (\$000) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| First Interstate Bank | 496,292 |
| Valley Financial Credit Union | 181,665 |
| Altana Federal Credit Union | 181,511 |
| Clearwater Federal Credit Union | 142,962 |
| Montana Federal Credit Union | 135,996 |