

# AMERICA'S BANKS DRIVE THE ECONOMY



The American Bankers Association is the only trade association to **represent banks of all sizes and their more than 2 million employees.**



America's **\$25.3 trillion banking industry** safeguards \$20.1 trillion in deposits and extends \$13.5 trillion in loans.



**Over 4,300 banks** serve customers nationwide through **more than 76,000 branches and universal mobile platforms.**



Banks of all sizes **originated more than \$415 billion** in their communities through small business, small farm, and community development lending in 2024.



America's banks held **\$2.6 trillion in residential mortgage loans and \$717 billion in small-business and farm loans in 2025.**



Low-fee Bank On-certified accounts are offered in **more than half of all bank branches and are accessible to 97.4% of low- and moderate-income households.**



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## About ABA

The American Bankers Association is the only trade association to represent banks of all sizes and their more than 2 million dedicated employees. We help America's banks serve their customers and strengthen their communities by advocating for policies in Washington that drive a healthy economy for all, pursue rational regulation to preserve Main Street access to credit and capital, and foster a competitive financial services market. We are the only trade association partnered with 52 state bankers associations that work tirelessly to ensure banks can meet the needs of customers in their home states. ABA and its alliance of state associations believe a strong banking industry is foundational to a strong economy. We look forward to partnering with members of Congress to ensure we are delivering on both.



1333 New Hampshire Ave NW  
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# SPRING 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



American Bankers Association®

## Cannabis banking

Thirty-nine states have legalized cannabis for medical or recreational purposes, yet federal law still exposes banks to potential civil and criminal penalties, as well as regulatory sanctions, for serving cannabis businesses. The SAFER/SAFE Banking Act is common-sense legislation that would enable banks to serve state-licensed cannabis businesses, their employees and service providers in states where cannabis is legal.

- Support the SAFER/SAFE Banking Act, which would reduce cash-intensive operations by providing compliant access to depository institutions, making our communities safer and the cannabis industry more transparent to regulators, tax authorities and law enforcement.

## Credit union oversight

Credit unions receive government subsidies to provide basic consumer banking products to underserved groups and communities. However, unlike most tax-exempt organizations, federal credit unions do not file IRS Form 990, resulting in minimal transparency around executive compensation, community benefit, and other key indicators of public accountability.

- As some credit unions stray from their original mission of serving individuals of modest means within a defined membership base, including expansions into broader commercial markets, convene an oversight hearing to evaluate whether the \$2.4 trillion credit union industry's preferential tax treatment remains justified.

## Deposit insurance modernization

FDIC insurance, paid for by banks, protects deposits across America's well capitalized and highly liquid banking system. As banking and the market for financial services continue to evolve, related laws and regulations, including the deposit insurance and resolutions framework, must keep pace, ensuring that any future modifications to coverage limits are empirically based, data-driven, and indexed to inflation.

- Broaden the scope of considerations applied in determination of "least cost" to include potential contagion or other unwanted impacts, including community impact.

- Pre-approve enhanced FDIC coverage to mitigate severe stress events.
- Reverse the TCJA's sliding-scale method for determining the deductibility of FDIC assessments making all assessments tax deductible.

## Digital asset market structure

Emerging digital asset models, including payment stablecoins, must operate under regulatory standards that protect consumers and prevent firms from bypassing the supervision that applies to banks, a practice that creates market distortions and consumer risk. The GENIUS Act prohibited interest, yield, or rewards for stablecoin holders, though some companies are sidestepping that restriction through affiliates and exchanges, threatening community-based deposits and lending.

- Close the payment of interest loophole to preserve deposit stability and support local lending.

## Farm bill

Following the enactment of a modified version of the ACRE Act, a long-term farm bill that includes comprehensive risk management tools for farmers and ranchers, agricultural loan guarantees, rural development programs, and nutrition support and investments in conservation will help support the financial needs of agricultural communities.

- Increase the loan guarantee limits for the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Guaranteed Farm Loan Programs and FSA's Guaranteed Farm Operating Loan Program to \$3.5 million and \$3 million, respectively, and re-examine the 10-year eligibility limits for FSA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers programs.
- Revise the definition of owner-operator to allow various business structures to expand eligibility for beginning farmer guaranteed loan programs to more producers and customers and support a cap on down payment loans at 45% of the lesser of acquired price or appraised value.
- Allow Farmer Mac to purchase all USDA-guaranteed loans.

## Fraud prevention

Fraud imposes an immense financial and emotional toll on consumers, with annual losses up to \$195 billion. Banks invest heavily in prevention and detection, but criminals increasingly exploit social media platforms that conduct little vetting of advertisements, allowing scammers to impersonate trusted institutions and deceive consumers.

- Support the SCAM Act (S.3774 and H.R. 7548), which requires online platforms to verify advertisers, detect and remove fraudulent ads, and narrows Section 230 immunity to hold them accountable, thereby prompting social media companies to take responsibility for stopping fraudulent advertising and protecting consumers before fraud reaches a bank.

## Indexing regulatory thresholds

Many regulatory thresholds have remained fixed for decades even as the economy and banking sector have grown, causing requirements intended for larger or more complex institutions to extend to banks, which were never meant to be captured. This imposes unnecessary burden, discourages organic growth and dilutes supervisory resources.

- Prioritize a one-time adjustment and the adoption of indexing — such as tying asset-based thresholds to nominal GDP — to ensure regulatory thresholds remain aligned with institutional size and risk, and support H.R. 6553 and H.R. 7056, which advance these objectives through tailored and indexed regulatory requirements.

## Protect Americans' payment cards

The Credit Card Competition Act (S.3623 and H.R. 7035) and the 10 Percent Credit Card Interest Rate Cap Act (S. 381 and H.R. 1944) would impose government mandates on the credit card market, weakening the security of credit card transactions, limiting community bank card offerings, reducing access to credit and eliminating important consumer benefits like credit card rewards programs.

- Oppose the so-called Credit Card Competition Act and the 10 Percent Credit Card Interest Rate Cap Act.