

Monday, November 16, 2020

To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

ICBA recently launched a new customizable grassroots message for community bankers urging Congress to include common-sense policies in any economic stimulus package. The message on ICBA's [Be Heard grassroots action center](#) urges support for simplifying PPP forgiveness, fully forgiving Economic Injury Disaster Loan advances, and excluding PPP loans from regulatory asset thresholds. [Contact Congress now.](#)

The Federal Reserve removed coin allocations for pennies and quarters while raising caps for nickels and dimes by 25 percent as Reserve Bank coin inventories near pre-pandemic levels. [In a message](#) to Federal Reserve Cash Services customers, the Fed said it will apply the updated standards to small, medium, large, X-large, and XX-large "endpoint" groups. The sizing regime is based on historical ordering volumes and doesn't correspond to bank size. The Fed asked customers to order only what they need to meet near-term demand, noting that coin circulation is improving but has not been fully resolved. Meanwhile, the U.S. Coin Task Force continues calling on financial institutions to use resources on its [Get Coin Moving site](#) to encourage consumers to gather, turn in, and circulate their coins.

A recording of ICBA's latest Community Bank Briefing featuring a post-election and regulatory update is [available for download](#). Last week's webinar includes updates on ongoing advocacy efforts and follows up on [ICBA's 2020 election analysis](#) featuring the lame-duck outlook, a breakdown of key policy issues, ICBPAC results, and more.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Moderna Inc. said its experimental coronavirus vaccine was 94.5% effective in protecting people from the virus, and that it plans to ask federal health officials to clear the vaccine for use by early December, setting the stage for availability next month, according to federal officials. Two other companies - Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE - have also said their vaccine was more than 90% effective, and Pfizer has said it plans to ask the Food and Drug Administration to authorize use of the medicine this month, setting up potential distribution by the end of the year. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- [“Covid Is Resurging, and This Time It’s Everywhere,”](#) according to reporting in the *Wall Street Journal*. “People are becoming infected not just at big gatherings, but when they let their guard down, such as by not wearing a mask, while going about their daily routines or in smaller social settings that they thought of as safe—often among their own families or trusted friends.”
- The uncontrolled coronavirus outbreak is prompting government officials across the nation to impose new restrictions on consumers and businesses, sapping the economy's momentum and delaying the recovery of millions of jobs lost during the recession. The lack of additional financial support from Washington is compounding the economic distress. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/11/14/coronavirus-shutdown-orders-economy/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWlRSa05XTXZdVFJsT0dFNsIsInQiOiJDVVVzeGZxN3oyUG1aYUg5UEhpZHRlZStFYW1KVk5uZlFicWtkSHpDRng1Y0M0RlZvTDRpOGdBRkVlR0FhQUVoNG1JaGFRlJ5M1o4VklzZjJ6cE8yT2tLdjA1Yk1kV2V5RG02ZEZFUVZPN3RJVlcyYVJNZklQK3VJdEQzUUtjVCl9
- Two key programs Congress passed to expand and enhance unemployment insurance expire on Jan. 1 unless a new round of pandemic relief is approved. Economists warn that raises the risk of missed payments on mortgage or auto loans and increases in foreclosures or evictions as a rising tide of coronavirus infections threatens to undercut the economic recovery. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/millions-of-unemployed-americans-face-loss-of-benefits->

[at-years-end-](#)

[11605448802?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWlRSa05XTXdZVFJsT0dFNsIsInQiOiJDVWVzeGZxN3oyUG1aYUg5UEhpZHRlZStFYW1KVk5uZFIceWtkSHpDRng1Y0M0R1ZvTDRpOGdBRkV1R0FhQUVoNG1JaGFRelJ5M1o4VklzZjJ6cE8yT2tLdjA1Yk1kV2V5RG02ZEZFUVZPN3RJVlcyYVJNzkIQK3VJdEQzUUtjVCJ9](https://www.politico.com/newsletters/huddle/2020/11/16/the-lame-duck-begins-490909?nname=huddle&nid=0000014f-1646-d88f-a1cf-5f46b4be0000&nrid=00000152-f737-dcf0-a7d7-f73fb7700001&nlid=630309)

- The "sprint" to the end of the 116th Congress begins today as the House returns to Washington one week after the Senate gavelled back into session. There are just 14 legislative days left on the calendar and a pile of priorities in the lame-duck session, including funding the federal government and coronavirus relief. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/huddle/2020/11/16/the-lame-duck-begins-490909?nname=huddle&nid=0000014f-1646-d88f-a1cf-5f46b4be0000&nrid=00000152-f737-dcf0-a7d7-f73fb7700001&nlid=630309>
- Politico.com reports that as of Sunday morning, 10.9 million Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus, and 245,617 Americans have died.
- The White House is [stepping back from stimulus negotiations](#), according to two people familiar with the matter, leaving McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to revive the talks.
- President-elect Biden [named advocates for Wall Street regulation to his agency review transition team](#), including Michael Barr, a senior Treasury Department official during the passage of Dodd-Frank, and Leandra English, who left the CFPB during the Trump administration.
- With the coronavirus raging out of control and hospitals nearing capacity, state and local leaders are once more facing the gut-wrenching decision of whether to order shutdowns, but many are finding the call much harder to make this time, [The Washington Post reports](#).
- Democratic governors of Michigan and Washington reimposed restrictions meant to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as the United States surpassed 11 million coronavirus cases. The moves came after New Mexico and Oregon ordered new shutdowns on Friday, and after the Republican governors of North Dakota and Utah issued statewide mask mandates. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Former Fed Chair Janet Yellen, current Fed Governor Lael Brainard and former Fed Vice Chair Roger Ferguson are reportedly under consideration for Treasury Secretary under President-Elect Biden. ([Bloomberg](#)). Meanwhile, SEC Chairman Clayton will step down at the end of the year before his term ends in June, and Biden is reportedly considering former Commodities Futures Trading Commission regulator Gary Gensler and former Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara as possible successors. ([The New York Times](#))
- The FHFA announced that Fannie and Freddie will extend several loan origination flexibilities related to Covid-19 by a month to Dec. 31, including alternative appraisals on purchase and rate term refinance loans and alternative methods for documenting income and verifying employment before loan closing. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-14/fannie-mae-freddie-mac-to-extend-covid-19-loan-flexibilities?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWlRSa05XTXdZVFJsT0dFNsIsInQiOiJDVWVzeGZxN3oyUG1aYUg5UEhpZHRlZStFYW1KVk5uZFIceWtkSHpDRng1Y0M0R1ZvTDRpOGdBRkV1R0FhQUVoNG1JaGFRelJ5M1o4VklzZjJ6cE8yT2tLdjA1Yk1kV2V5RG02ZEZFUVZPN3RJVlcyYVJNzkIQK3VJdEQzUUtjVCJ9

FROM NEW YORK

- Governor Cuomo is promising to “mobilize an army” to ensure that New Yorkers of color have equal access to any coronavirus vaccines, and threatened a lawsuit against the Trump administration if its distribution plan isn’t overhauled, [Politico New York reports](#). Cuomo said the plan is discriminatory and is enlisting his own panel of experts to review any vaccine approved by

the government, prompting the president to threaten to move New York to the back of the line of states getting the immunization. https://nypost.com/2020/11/15/cuomo-threatens-to-sue-trump-over-covid-19-vaccine-distribution/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT0dGaVpUazJNemMyTURVeCIsInQiOiJnc084bjVjcXZjdTJ5NzdaOTJ5NmFueXBHQXJlSmFGRklQQTfTbm9JdmdhSFhOaUF4bTZVZTVmKzAyWXJGVFRSSVNLazR1NUk0UEhCN3hyUDBOczBydDhhMHRlQW1ySDlGTWlXdGJ3eDk0dFNvT3FTMmZRejZBNU9ReVNXNVwvYVcifQ%3D%3D

- New York City, once the national epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, [is staring down](#) a potential return to widespread lockdowns and overstretched hospitals that New Yorkers hoped they would never see again. The city reported 937 new cases Sunday, with a seven-day average positive test rate of 2.57%. Once the weeklong average hits 3%, public schools will shut down and further restrictions on retail and dining are likely to follow.
- Is a COVID relief bill still possible before the Trump Administration ends and the Biden administration takes over? [That's the hope](#) of New York's two U.S. senators. Both Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand are urging Senate Republicans to take up another stimulus measure.
- Governor Cuomo and the governors of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut are discussing potential policy coordination to address surging cases of COVID-19, [Politico New York reports](#).
- State government workers are being called back to the workplace more frequently in recent weeks, even as the rate of people testing positive for COVID-19 is surging, [the Times Union reports](#).
- Sales tax revenue for local governments in New York dropped 5.2% last month compared to the same period last year, continuing a trend of plummeting revenue during the coronavirus pandemic, [State of Politics reports](#).
- We should be thinking about preventing the spread of COVID-19 with our every move. We shouldn't be having big holiday parties. What New York accomplished in tamping down this spread once was awesome. We have the ability to do it again, [Newsday writes](#).
- [It's going to take](#) a united effort to combat COVID-19. That's what Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and Erie County leaders are saying in the midst of the pandemic's fall surge.

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IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

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