

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

IRS consumer campaign tops 700K messages

ICBA's campaign urging consumers to speak out against an IRS reporting proposal topped 700,000 consumer messages to members of Congress.

ICBA Campaign: ICBA is calling on community bankers to use its customizable [email and social media content](#) to urge consumers to [contact Congress in opposition](#) to the plan, which would require banks to report customer account information to the IRS.

Call Alert: Meanwhile, community bankers can call their lawmakers using an ICBA [call alert and customizable script](#) on the proposal, which Congress is working to include in its budget-reconciliation package.

Latest: Congressional pushback continued last week with an op-ed series from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), a floor speech from Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), and growing support for Sen. Tommy Tuberville's (R-Ala.) bill to block the plan.

CUSTOM RESOURCES

OCC nomination continues generating press

ICBA's concerns with the nomination of Cornell University law professor Saule Omarova for comptroller of the currency continued generating headlines.

Coverage: [Reason](#) cited ICBA's concerns with President Joe Biden's announcement last month that he intends to nominate Omarova to head the OCC following similar coverage from [The New York Times](#).

Proposals: The articles note ICBA concerns with Omarova's proposals to overhaul the banking system. In a recent [news release](#), ICBA cited her proposals to:

- Migrate the retail banking system to the Federal Reserve.
- Establish government banking Fed Accounts that the Fed is not legally permitted to offer.

Next: ICBA remains in conversation with policymakers about the nomination.

OECD announces global minimum tax rate

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [said](#) its member nations agreed to a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%. Set to take effect in 2023, the deal was agreed to by 136 countries and jurisdictions representing more than 90% of the global gross domestic product.

ICBA research offers community bank customer insights

A new [Main Street Matters post](#) breaks down ICBA research on the "new normal" of community bank customer behavior and preferences.

Insights: The post from ICBA Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Rob Birgfeld examines data on customers' experience and education, use of mobile technology, and multitasking while discussing how to act on the research. [Read more.](#)

Wholesale inventories climb in August

Wholesale inventories rose 1.2% in August and were up 12.3% from a year ago, the Commerce Department [reported](#). Sales declined 1.1% but remained up 20.6% from last year.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Experts say we may be reaching the end of the COVID surge spurred by the delta variant, and the national rate of new cases and hospitalizations is now on the decline. The country has seen a 44% drop in weekly cases since the delta-driven peak average in mid-September. <https://abc7ny.com/covid-19-us-infections-decline-hospitals-struggling-coronavirus-demand/11110395/>
- Americans' trust in President Biden has eroded as they've slowed their expectations for how quickly they can get back to their pre-pandemic lives, Axios' Margaret Talev writes from the latest installment of the [Axios/Ipsos Coronavirus Index](#). A June survey, 36% of U.S. adults said they expected to be able to get back to their normal, pre-COVID lives at some point within six months. Today, that share is just 13%. [Share this story](#).
- The Biden administration plans to triple the nation's supply of at-home Covid-19 tests by early November, but public health experts say that welcome increase likely won't be enough to meet surging demand. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/10/12/biden-testing-not-enough-515733?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE4I4c2XylaUxM3T9sXeun_n2lOb9zR53re4npI4UcjY7ULC3OipdzU005dEuZU3PPZuS96w0ObWdULHIPz9vIGbZ7Y5kD1o3t55yoi241ckL
- Merck & Co. has filed an application seeking authorization from the FDA for emergency use of an antiviral pill to treat COVID-19 at its onset, which its data says cuts the risk of hospitalization or death by about half in high-risk people with mild to moderate cases. The FDA could approve the at-home treatment in the coming weeks ahead of what could be another COVID-19 surge during the holiday season - especially among unvaccinated Americans. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Some Americans are mistakenly banking on one vaccine to protect against both COVID-19 and the seasonal flu this year, according to Harris Poll data. Public health officials face the challenge of convincing them to get both a covid shot and/or booster and a flu shot in what is predicted to be a [worse-than-normal flu](#) season. https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-vitals-b3377cd9-e108-4a7c-b7fb-0d096cc94161.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top
- The pandemic has buckled a health care system that already faced [worker shortages](#) and [burnout](#). Patients ultimately can't receive adequate care if workers leave from the [stress and violence](#). Unions representing more than 24,000 nurses and other hospital workers yesterday authorized strikes at Kaiser Permanente facilities in [California](#) and [Oregon](#).
- The health care industry has lost more than 540,000 jobs between [February 2020](#) and [September 2021](#). Hospitals are down 117,000 people, and nursing homes are down 247,000.
- "Morning Consult's" latest update to data tracking whether the United States is heading in the right direction or not found that 61% of adults believe we are on the wrong track. [Read more](#).
- The Biden administration's proposal to empower the I.R.S. has upset banks and their customers. To help fund its new initiatives, the administration wants banks to report more customer information, and banks say their account holders aren't happy. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/11/business/irs-bank-accounts.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE1IHpOREnIFz2Y7YW2jP1ejdZ8Rck0UT94e06oInOnJH8fKsyYxUBKyRCd8z0ybsVo-03_hTyy8R8Z0ldCyCNyE9fU3YgNmRQAOfpiHVXV5
- Saule Omarova, President Biden's nominee to lead the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, is viewed by both supporters and critics as a regulator who could rein in the financial technology industry. Her supporters see potential to set rules for a technology that they say poses increasing risk to the financial system. https://www.rollcall.com/2021/10/12/critics-supporters-see-bidens-occ-nominee-reining-in-fintech/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE1IHpGYuP1Tnhg0EgCW5-VVSgNf-

[bdQiv4KsRfolmehBzVGB_Eo4a2BPe_I7eM-G1TSCQBqeylny-x9Pzea0ARfsZGwisu_sO5nFE58yrl](https://www.bdqiv4KsRfolmehBzVGB_Eo4a2BPe_I7eM-G1TSCQBqeylny-x9Pzea0ARfsZGwisu_sO5nFE58yrl)

- Banks, credit card issuers and debt collectors all supported the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's revised regulations. But they face a steep learning curve in complying with the rules, which take effect Nov. 30. (*American Banker*) [Read story →](#)
- Banks are moving past the pandemic that sent quarterly profits on a wild ride. That is drawing attention to their weak spots. https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-pandemics-over-for-big-banks-now-comes-the-hard-part-11633874580?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGADkW58oAtHjBqMRJGrNBLju6SspFJOMXoPnH1yDnIjPDL5eXPksesxxZLLimVyMOV4nYdfipipT5aejnwjbyY1FXetk7egdGHELBKfTaF6n92-
- A key measure of lending continued to decline at the biggest U.S. banks, according to the latest Federal Reserve data. Loans as a percentage of total assets fell to 47.05% in the week ended Sept. 29 from 47.11% the prior period, the Fed data show. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-11/u-s-banks-loans-and-leases-hit-historic-low?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE1IHpC93ZOHgn3ydkvPwQ-Jsws8zKlww184_zOFoZFLHqFFIYeJm1DKSkj5UVTWOQX2ifJjbwzXa8MBj_1JvD7Ao981V5eofbUMLKLGiONd8
- A widely anticipated surge in employees returning to the office after Labor Day never materialized. But as Covid-19 infection rates fall again, workers are trickling back to the office at the highest rate since the pandemic began. https://www.wsj.com/articles/return-of-office-workers-reaches-pandemic-high-as-employees-trickle-in-11634031001?mod=hp_lead_pos1&mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE1IHpECSLXy02BU5TafLqxM9C0i2Eu4ZKF3_SW8zbjgFZa3AT_1OTSeSIM719YPe_nG-w3SuiVFMc0SQZ_yLVYzo1wGMCD2oHYMF1cdAPIUN
- The weak September jobs report offered the latest sign of the coronavirus pandemic's hold on major sectors of the economy, conflicting with the type of recovery the Federal Reserve forecast back when the nation was entering its recent surge in cases. Some economists and Fed watchers say the Fed underestimated the Delta variant's threats to job growth, inflation and global supply chains going into the fall. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/10/09/fed-delta-september-jobs/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGADkW580S6UXtasf-TkpfcwuVT_NZdFKb3Br--0S53e7m4XGVWC8mvODhdj9CvO2MN3AGugUsvttAOpE4EFjiffNL6-5lj_rzt2h5AYTI77oX
- The Biden administration remains perplexed by the number of eligible workers who aren't taking available jobs, U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh tells "Axios on HBO." The U.S. economy added just 194,000 jobs in September. https://www.axios.com/biden-marty-walsh-jobs-economy-hbo-1a3281d3-4f0a-4e2d-b8e9-0e27e8f109bc.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGADkW584u2ha29HELY7K9pLbbaBMsYhwfaN5UGhpWuJWp4a5rOCBaTBHnQsewaZysw2rA_sjS-L-fHbIaXi45MDB8Gj3xPCvn6UtAD8aeybgw
- Top Senate Democrats - including Majority Leader Schumer - are now vowing to delay the bipartisan SAFE Banking Act until they can also pass social equity protections for cannabis companies. Many advocates say they're playing politics. https://thenewsstation.com/marijuana-reform-died-but-senate-dems-found-wedge-issue/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAE4I4c8tW9RcT1aqVCQ1JeBdIVfcwa2hP1P5jOSskeZNEZ4w- oXJ8-RJOWfZnHZmZtIm3AbaNUMTVKx9XHapopu-WJ4_EbGKY7FoNSCov1d

FROM NEW YORK

- Vaccinations remain a solid guard COVID-19 related hospitalizations and have not dramatically reduced in effectiveness, a study released on Monday by the state Department of Health found. For most adults, all three vaccines are holding strong when it comes to reducing the risk of being hospitalized of COVID-19. The exception was adults over 65 vaccinated with Pfizer and Moderna, who saw a very modest dip in efficacy against hospitalization. <https://abc7ny.com/covid-19-us-infections-decline-hospitals-struggling-coronavirus-demand/11110395/>
- While vaccines are holding strong against hospitalizations, all three lost some ability to protect against breakthrough infections across all age groups. People vaccinated with Pfizer saw the sharpest decline, though Moderna and Johnson & Johnson also saw declines. Vaccine efficacy for the COVID vaccines started extremely high, so even modest waning is still very beneficial. [Read more.](#)
- New York's efforts to manufacture its own personal protective equipment in the state has led to a \$20 million investment from the state and helped to support 3,000 jobs, a coalition of manufacturing firms said. [Read More](#)
- Roughly 2,000 people who work at [Mercy Hospital](#) in New York, part of Catholic Health System, have been on strike since the start of October.
- [Home prices in the Hudson Valley](#) continue to rise as New York City residents are leaving for larger spaces.
- [Although Rochester will soon see](#) changes in its leadership positions, President and CEO of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce Bob Duffy (former NYS Lt. Governor) says he is very optimistic about the city's business outlook
- The Department of Motor Vehicles [issued a warning](#) for New Yorkers of a text message phishing scheme asking for Covid-19 vaccination status.
- If state Attorney General Letitia James runs for governor, she will likely set off a game of down-ballot musical chairs, and Assembly Member Clyde Vanel, a Queens Democrat, is eyeing her office if it's an open seat in 2022, [WCNY reports.](#)
- The gubernatorial campaign of Rep. Lee Zeldin on Monday secured the backing of the Chemung County Republican leader, solidifying his support from local GOP leaders ahead of next June's primary. [Read More](#)
- [New York is moving to a new phase](#) of the marijuana legalization rollout.
- [Rep. Claudia Tenney](#) (R-Central New York) called Pope Francis "a communist" on Twitter after he met with House Speaker Pelosi.
- Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-L.I.), who may [challenge Gov. Kathy Hochul](#) in a Democratic gubernatorial primary next year, made his [expected endorsement](#) of sitting Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown in his write-in campaign against Democratic nominee India Walton. Suozzi urged Buffalo residents to do help "defeat the socialists. . .The eyes of the country are going to be focused on Buffalo."

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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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