

Tuesday, November 23, 2021
To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

ICBA congratulates Powell, Brainard on Fed nominations

ICBA [congratulated](#) Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Fed Governor Lael Brainard after President Joe Biden said he intends to nominate them for new terms at the agency.

Announcement: Biden [said](#) he plans to nominate Powell for a second term as chairman and Brainard for vice chair.

Vacancies: The White House noted there are three vacant seats on the Fed board, including the vice chair for supervision, and Biden intends to start making those appointments in early December.

Congress: The next step for the nominations is consideration by the Senate Banking Committee and, ultimately, the full Senate. Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) issued [statements](#) supporting the nominations, while Ranking Member Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) [said](#) he looks forward to supporting Powell's nomination and meeting with Brainard.

ICBA Release: In a [statement](#), ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said ICBA will continue working with Powell and Brainard on community banking challenges and opportunities.

[READ ICBA RELEASE](#)

Bill would bar SBA 7(a) direct lending

Legislation to bar SBA direct lending under its 7(a) loan program was introduced amid an [ICBA grassroots campaign](#) opposing the policy.

Background: The [legislation](#) from House Small Business Committee Ranking Member Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-Mo.) responds to an ICBA-opposed provision of the Build Back Better reconciliation bill that would authorize the SBA to issue direct 7(a) loans.

ICBA Opposition: ICBA and other financial services groups last week [urged](#) congressional leaders to remove the provision, which ICBA has repeatedly spoken out against since it was introduced in September.

Congressional Opposition : In a separate [letter](#) last week, Luetkemeyer and House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing Ranking Member French Hill (R-Ark.) urged the SBA to halt its direct lending efforts.

Grassroots: Community bankers can use ICBA's [Be Heard](#) grassroots action center to urge Congress to oppose the SBA direct lending plan. [Contact Congress here.](#)

FDIC updates brokered deposit Q&A

The FDIC updated its [question-and-answer document](#) on regulatory changes to brokered deposits. The Q&As—which are available on the agency's [brokered deposit webpage](#)—provide comprehensive information about changes with a full compliance date of Jan. 1, 2022.

Existing-home sales rise in October

Existing-home sales increased 0.8% in October, the second consecutive month of growth, the National Association of Realtors [reported](#). Sales were down 5.8% from a year ago.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Two-in-three Americans will celebrate this Thanksgiving with friends or family outside their immediate households, and about half of those say their gatherings could include unvaccinated people, according to the latest installment of the [Axios/Ipsos Coronavirus Index](#).
- People's assessment of overall risk of returning to their normal pre-COVID lives is also down, with 44% seeing it as a large to moderate risk this year compared with 72% last year. When asked how concerned they still feel about the virus, the numbers haven't diminished all that much: 69% compared with 85% a year ago. [Go deeper](#).
- Federal officials waited months before making all adults eligible for COVID booster shots — meaning millions in America lack the strongest possible protection for Thanksgiving. [Axios reports](#). The process delayed a critical effort to stave off another wave of the pandemic. 41% of vaccinated Americans 65+ have received a booster shot, as have 19% of all vaccinated adults, [per the CDC](#). https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-am-2b6d18e8-b295-41f8-84ad-d84d264ff2f4.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top
- Vaccinated people, even without a booster, still have very strong protection against serious illness or death, but a third shot drastically increases people's defenses against even mild infections, which could in turn help reduce the virus' spread. https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-vitals-255e2ec5-cfb6-4c53-bb7b73cc08dc6984.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top
- President Biden did not accompany his nominations of Mr. Powell and Ms. Brainard with two other key Fed nominations: for a vice-chair for supervision, or for an open governor's seat. The president will likely face pressure to include candidates with a more aggressive regulatory bent and to add racial diversity to the seven-member Board of Governors. All six current members are white. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/22/upshot/powell-brainard-fed-biden.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGA69n5a-JtHRDW4gnNRu27PCReGoLkg8wsTGk2roUz36bJqD3InrJJ0A9ESY3JeICiyrSnkrgwM35rISI4azq9IrMPfdKZcq0RzWDn8rDHuVcN

FROM NEW YORK

- Erie County Executive Poloncarz announced as of today, mandatory mask-wearing is back in Erie County. Everyone aged 2 and older must wear masks at all indoor public locations, including banks, restaurants and bars, grocery stores, gyms and fitness centers, hotels, , and hair salons, [The Associated Press reports](#). Poloncarz is considering much more restrictive measures if Covid-19 hospitalizations increase. The order will be re-evaluated on Dec. 13, but he warned if the situation continues to worsen, he could impose tougher rules even before then. <https://www.wkbw.com/news/coronavirus/erie-county-implements-mask-mandate-to-take-effect-tuesday-as-covid-19-numbers-rise>
- Gov. Hochul appointed longtime state official Jeffrey Pearlman as her administration's General Counsel and Micah Lasher as her Director of Policy. Pearlman was Hochul's chief of staff and counsel when she was Lt. Gov. Lasher is a former official in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration and was chief of staff to the NYS attorney general. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-administration-appointments>
- In addition, Gov. [Hochul announced](#) Lonnie Threatte as Deputy Director of Policy; Chatodd Floyd as Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy; Veronica Ng as Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs; Sandra Rivera, Esq . as Senior Adviser for ILgislative Affairs; Rhay Guillen as Director of Legislative Affairs, and Matthew Pennello as Director of Cabinet Affairs. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-administration-appointments>

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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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