

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

ICBA announces 2022-23 board nominations

ICBA [announced](#) the nominees for its 2022-2023 board of directors. ICBA's current board will vote on the nominations during [ICBA LIVE 2022](#), scheduled for Feb. 27-March 3 in San Antonio.

Nominees:The nominees include:

- Chairman: Brad M. Bolton of Community Spirit Bank in Red Bay, Ala.
- Chairman-elect: Derek B. Williams of Century Bank & Trust in Milledgeville, Ga.
- Vice Chairman: Lucas White of The Fountain Trust Co. in Covington, Ind.
- Treasurer: Sarah Getzlaff of Security First Bank of North Dakota in Bismarck, N.D.
- Secretary: Tim R. Aiken of Union Bank Inc. in Middlebourne, W. Va.
- **Immediate Past Chairman: Robert M. Fisher of Tioga State Bank in Spencer, N.Y.**
- Consolidated Holdings Chairman: Jack A. Hartings of The Peoples Bank Co. in Coldwater, Ohio

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Postal banking pilot lands just six sales: report

An ICBA-opposed U.S. Postal Service pilot program to test postal banking has served just six individuals since it quietly launched in September, according to a new report.

Latest: [Government Executive](#) reported that six sales between Sept. 13 and Jan. 12 have provided a total value of \$548.46 in gift cards and brought in \$35.70 in fees to the Postal Service.

Pilot: The program offers check cashing, bill paying, ATM access, and expanded money orders and wire transfers at locations in Washington, D.C.; Falls Church, Va.; Baltimore; and the Bronx, N.Y. Customers may reportedly cash payroll or business checks to buy single-use gift cards worth up to \$500 for a flat fee of \$5.95.

ICBA Position: ICBA—which has spoken out against the pilot via [NBC News](#), [The Washington Post](#), and the [Washington Examiner](#) -- strongly opposes postal banking. A three-part series of [ICBA issue briefs](#) delivered to policymakers last year explores the policy's flaws and offers alternatives for reaching the unbanked.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- [A new government website to order free](#), at-home COVID-19 tests went live on Tuesday ahead of its official launch on Wednesday morning, in a soft rollout to “address troubleshooting,” a White House official said. Also, the White House [will announce this morning](#) it is making 400 million non-surgical N95 masks from the Strategic National Stockpile available for free. They'll be at pharmacies and community health centers nationwide by late next week.
- The Omicron wave is likely beginning to recede in the U.S., experts say. Omicron is still wreaking havoc in parts of the country, but infectious disease experts are optimistic there's some relief in sight. In South Africa and in the U.K., which experienced their Omicron waves before the U.S., cases spiked dramatically and then fell almost as quickly. That appears to be happening now in parts of the U.S. that got hit with the variant early, including Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-vitals-d41cb5f2-254c-49c8-8b2d-1e2d0f9bb346.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top
- The economic and political conditions are in place for bank-credit union mergers to blow past last year's total of 13 despite the banking industry's strong opposition to them. [Read story →](#)

FROM NEW YORK

- Governor Hochul updated the state's progress combating COVID-19. [Positive COVID cases in New York state](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-144) have sharply declined since the peak of the omicron variant. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-144>
- Gov. Hochul released her \$216.3 billion state budget proposal she called a “once-in-a-generation opportunity” to spur the state’s recovery. It projects balanced budgets through 2027, allowing for significant one-time infusions of money as the state is “flush with cash” due to federal Covid-19 relief dollars and higher-than-expected tax revenues and receipts from tax hikes enacted last year. Hochul's plan includes spending hikes for schools and health care programs, potentially billions more for environmental and transportation infrastructure projects, and property tax rebate checks to more than two million New Yorkers. While the state has sought to control spending increases to 2%, Hochul seeks to spend \$216.3 billion, up 3.5% from last year’s budget. Here [are the actual bills for Hochul’s budget](#). Here [is the Legislature’s schedule](#) for joint hearings to discuss Hochul’s budget. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/18/nyregion/new-york-budget-hochul.html> . . . [Read More](#) . . . [Here are some of the key numbers](#) from Hochul’s first budget address.
- According to the budget proposal, New York would reap more than \$1.25 billion in new revenue from legal marijuana sales during the next six years, though only \$56 million for the upcoming year [the New York Post reports](#).

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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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