

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TODAY

News and topics of interest to financial institutions regulated by the Department of Banking and Finance

May 2024

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Graduate School of Banking Graduation

Congratulations to Mathew Robinson on his graduation from the Graduate School of Banking on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This concludes three on-campus, two-week sessions starting in May 2022 as well as ongoing coursework throughout the past 24 months.

Commissioner Kevin Hagler stated that “this achievement reflects hard work, commitment, and dedication to the financial industry that the Department regulates. Successful completion of Graduate Banking School is a notable accomplishment. Congratulations to the 2024 graduating class!”



Annual Assessment Notices—Banks, Credit Unions, and Holding Companies

The bank and credit union annual assessments are due no later than September 30, 2024. An email will be sent to each institutions' primary contact from GADBF@micropact.com at the beginning of September, with the annual assessment invoice. The Department will initiate an ACH debit for the assessment fee for regulated banks and credit unions unless stated otherwise in the body of the assessment notice.

The assessment fee for holding companies will need to be paid through the [Department's online portal](#). Holding company assessments are due no later than September 15th. If you do not receive the annual assessment invoice email at the beginning of September or have any questions on using the online portal, please contact Director for Supervision Kevin Vaughn at kvaughn@dbf.state.ga.us or Business Analysis Director Heather Ensminger at hensminger@dbf.state.ga.us.

Input Needed—2024 CSBS Annual Survey of Community Banks

The 2024 National Survey of Community Banks is now available to be completed. This survey is a vital component of the Community Banking Research Conference hosted by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The results from the survey have enabled community banks to inform policymakers and researchers about the opportunities and challenges facing community bankers.

The survey takes approximately 25-35 minutes to complete and responses may be entered during multiple sessions between now and June 30th. For reference purposes, a PDF of the 2024 Annual Survey questions is available [here](#). The link to complete the survey is provided [here](#) and below.

Before starting, it would be beneficial to gather the following 2023 costs for your bank (Call Report Schedule RI-E) and the amount that is directly associated with regulatory compliance:

1. Personnel expenses
2. Data processing expenses
3. Legal fees and expenses
4. Accounting and auditing expenses
5. Consulting and advisory expenses

Survey Link: https://frbstlspra.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_byhJksnzGLZWdRI

Survey Close Date: June 30, 2024

If you have any questions regarding this survey, then please contact Deputy Commissioner for Supervision Melissa Sneed at msneed@dbf.state.ga.us.

Second Quarter 2024 Community Bank Sentiment Index

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) community bank data survey for the second quarter 2024 is now open. The Community Bank Sentiment Index (CBSI) provides essential local level perspective of the nation's economic outlook on a quarterly basis.

The CBSI captures what community bankers nationwide think about the future. Participant answers are analyzed and compiled into a single number; an index reading of 100 indicates a neutral sentiment. Anything above 100 indicates a positive sentiment, and anything below 100 indicates a negative sentiment. The first quarter 2024 data collection resulted in an index of 98. The full survey takes approximately five minutes. Results will be released in July 2024.

Please click on the survey [link](#) and answer the questions about your thoughts on the economy. For more information about the CBSI, visit the website: <https://www.csbs.org/cbindex>. The Department values your perspective on what is happening at the local level. Collectively, the input of community banks helps show the expectations for the future of the economy overall.

Speaking Engagements

Deputy Commissioner for Supervision Melissa Sneed will be speaking during the Community Bankers Association of Georgia Annual Convention held June 5 – June 9, 2024. Deputy Commissioner Sneed will be speaking during the Community Bank Regulatory Panel, Saturday, June 8, 2024. For more information on the Convention, please visit [here](#).

Business Analysis Director Heather Ensminger will be participating in the ACAMS Atlanta Chapter June 2024 Lunch and Learn Event on June 20, 2024. For more information on the event, please visit [here](#).

ACTION ON APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH

The following is a summary of official action taken by the Department on certain applications by Georgia state-chartered financial institutions, petitions for certificate of incorporation of financial institutions, and other matters of recent interest:

APPLICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE

<u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u>	<u>BRANCH OFFICE</u>	<u>APPROVAL DATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
The Citizens Bank of Swainsboro Swainsboro, Georgia	571 South Main Street Swainsboro, Georgia 30401	05/22/2024	
MyGeorgia Credit Union Gainesville, Georgia	1681 Old Pendergrass Rd. #195 Jefferson, Georgia 30549	05/25/2024	
Community Bank of Georgia Baxley, Georgia	2910 N. Ashley Street, Suite N Valdosta, Georgia 31602	Pending	
First Port City Bank Bainbridge, Georgia	1705 E. Shotwell Street Bainbridge, Georgia 39819	05/03/2024	
The Piedmont Bank Peachtree Corners, Georgia	2275 Old Milton Parkway Suite 100 Alpharetta, Georgia 30009	02/08/2024	05/28/2024

APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE LOCATIONS

<u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u>	<u>CHANGE LOCATION OF</u>	<u>APPROVAL DATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Robins Financial Credit Union Warner Robins, Georgia	From: 577 Mulberry Street, Suite 100 Macon, Georgia 31201 To: 515 Mulberry Street Macon, Georgia 31201	05/03/2024	
Planters First Bank Cordele, Georgia	From: 4361 Rivoli Drive Macon, Georgia 31210 To: 201 Sheraton Boulevard Suite B Macon, Georgia 31210	05/08/2024	
Bank of Dudley Dudley, Georgia	From: 48 North Jackson Street Forsyth, Georgia 31029 To: 63 West Adams Street Forsyth, Georgia 31029	05/01/2024	
Ameris Bank Atlanta, Georgia	From: 301 North Main Street, Suite 300 Greenville, South Carolina 29601 To: 301 North Main Street, Suite 1004 Greenville, South Carolina 29601	05/22/2024	

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MERGERS

<u>SURVIVOR</u>	<u>MERGED INSTITUTION</u>	<u>APPROVAL DATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Peach State Federal Credit Union Lawrenceville, Georgia	Pinnacle Credit Union Atlanta, Georgia	Pending	
Lowndes Bancshares, Inc. Valdosta, Georgia	FMB Bancshares, Inc. Valdosta, Georgia	Pending	

APPLICATIONS TO FORM A BANK HOLDING COMPANY

<u>BANK HOLDING COMPANY</u>	<u>TO ACQUIRE</u>	<u>APPROVAL DATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
CCB Bancorp, Inc. Athens, Georgia	Classic City Bank Athens, Georgia	Pending	

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Department of Banking and Finance

2990 Brandywine Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-5565
Phone: (770) 986-1633

The Department is the state agency that regulates and examines Georgia state-chartered banks, state-chartered credit unions, state-chartered trust companies, international banking organizations, and bank holding companies that own Georgia state-chartered financial institutions. The Department also has responsibility for the supervision, regulation, and examination of merchant acquirer limited purpose banks chartered in Georgia.

In addition, the Department has regulatory and/or licensing authority over mortgage brokers, lenders and processors, mortgage loan originators, consumer installment loan companies, check cashers, sellers-issuers of payment instruments, and money transmitters.

Our Mission is to promote safe, sound, competitive financial services in Georgia through innovative, responsive regulation and supervision.