

# Update

## Impressive Banker/Senator Attendance at the 2020 NBA State GR Forum

The 2020 NBA Government Relations (GR) Forum commenced last week at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. The annual event dedicated to building rapport and relationships with elected officials garnered attendance of 31 state senators.

The event offered most attendees their first opportunity to hear from newly named, University of Nebraska President, Walter "Ted" Carter, in addition to Nebraska's Department of Banking and Finance Director Mark Quandahl, Department of Economic Development Director Tony Goins, and Governor Pete Ricketts.

The NBA team would like to thank the more than 70 bankers who took the time to attend the forum, sharing their voice on key banking issues. Discussion focused on NBA-introduced legislation which included elder financial abuse transaction holds, single bank collateral pool method of securing public deposits, and direct borrowing by cities and villages.

View the status and progress of the NBA's advocacy efforts in weekly [NBA Legislative Updates](#).



## NBA Testifies to Support Financial Literacy Promotion and Public Fund Deposits

NBA Associate General Counsel Jerry Stilmock recently testified in support of LB 1063 before the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. The legislation would designate the State Treasurer to lead efforts in Nebraska to promote financial literacy. Stilmock stressed the importance of financial literacy for all Nebraskans and detailed ongoing banker educational activities across the state.



First Northeast Bank of Nebraska President Roy Miller, Tuesday provided testimony in support of LB 1123. The bill would authorize the use of student loans partially backed or guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Education for purposes of pledging for public funds.

# News Briefs from Washington

## Fed Survey: Little Changes in Lending Standards Amid Weaker C&I Demand

Bankers left commercial and industrial (C&I) lending standards mostly unchanged amid weakening demand in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to the Federal Reserve's senior loan officer survey released yesterday. On net, fewer banks reported tightening on commercial real estate (CRE) loans in the fourth quarter than in the third, while demand for those loans remained relatively unchanged. Residential real estate lending standards eased slightly as fewer respondents noted stronger demand. [View the survey.](#)

## Housing Policy Advocates Call for Delay of 'QRM' Definition Review

The Coalition for Sensible Housing Policy – a broad group of financial, housing and community development stakeholders – on Jan. 30 wrote to the federal banking agencies urging them to delay the conclusion of a mandated review of the “qualified residential mortgage” (QRM) definition and related provisions of the credit risk retention rule. The agencies were required to begin the review no later than Dec. 24, 2019, pursuant to the timeline set forth in the original rule.

The groups called for a delay until the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) can finalize and implement the changes it is currently considering to the Qualified Mortgage (QM) definition. “It is only after the CFPB has made its final determination on the definition of QM, and following some period of experience under the new QM configurations, that the agencies would be in a position to evaluate and seek comment on the market and consumer impacts of QM/QRM equivalency versus divergence of the definitions,” the groups wrote. [Read the letter.](#)

## FHFA Proposes Updated Seller, Servicer Eligibility Requirements

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Friday proposed updated standards that mortgage lenders would have to meet in order to sell loans to or service loans on behalf of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The proposed update includes new requirements for the servicing of Ginnie Mae mortgages. Comments on the changes are due in 60 days.

Under the requirements, which were last updated in 2015, sellers and servicers would be required to maintain a base net worth of \$2.5 million plus 35 basis points of the unpaid principal balance for Ginnie Mae servicing and 25 basis points of the unpaid principal balance for all other 1-to-4-family loans serviced. Depository institutions would continue to rely on their prudential regulatory standards to meet the GSEs' capital and liquidity requirements.

Nonbanks' minimum capital ratio would remain unchanged, while their minimum liquidity would rise from 3.5 basis points of their total agency servicing to 4 basis points for GSE servicing and 10 basis points for Ginnie Mae servicing. Their incremental liquidity charge for non-performing assets would be 300 basis points for the portion of agency NPLs over 4% of agency servicing. Unused but available portions of committed servicing advance lines of credit would no longer be allowed to meet minimum liquidity requirements. [Read the proposed standards.](#)



*News Source: American Bankers Association*

# Banker Nominations Needed

## 2020-2021 NBA Chairman-Elect & Board Members

By NBA Past Chairman David P. Dannehl, First State Bank of Loomis,  
NBA Nominating Committee Chairman



As chairman of the NBA Nominating Committee, I respectfully request your nominations for the office of NBA chairman-elect and the board of directors.

Board members and the chairman-elect will be elected for a three-year term by a vote of the membership of the association at its **annual meeting, Thursday, May 7, 2020**, during the NBA Annual Convention. Selecting bankers for these positions is an important decision for our industry and for the future of the association.

Nominee should have prior service with the association through support of and participation in NBA events as well as products and services, NBA committee involvement, BankPAC financial contributions, community involvement, and his/her financial institution's support of and involvement in the NBA. Previous service on the NBA Board of Directors is highly desirable for the chairman-elect nominee.

The continued success of the NBA depends upon strong leadership by members of the banking community. The committee will give serious consideration to all nominees.

To submit a nomination(s) for chairman-elect and/or the board of directors, please submit a [nomination form](#) along with a résumé and a brief statement of each nominee's qualifications by **Feb. 28, 2020**, to:

**David P. Dannehl, c/o Nebraska Bankers Association, P.O. Box 80008, Lincoln, NE 68501-0008**

Prior to submitting the nomination, we ask that you contact the nominee to ensure his or her willingness to serve if elected. If you are personally interested in serving, we welcome your form as well. Please feel free to contact me at [ddannehl@fsbloomis.com](mailto:ddannehl@fsbloomis.com) with any questions on the nomination process.

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## Would You Like to Serve on an ABA Committee?

The American Bankers Association (ABA) is preparing to review the slate of banker nominees for ABA committees for the 2020-2021 association year, which begins in October. Given the growing volume and complexity of issues confronting the banking industry, your input and participation is needed now more than ever.

If you have an interest in submitting your name for consideration for an ABA Council, please contact NBA President & CEO Richard Baier at 402-474-1555 or [richard.baier@nebankers.org](mailto:richard.baier@nebankers.org) by Feb. 20.



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## Donations Needed for NBA State BankPAC Silent Auction

Items have been donated for this year's NBA State BankPAC Silent Auction to be held during the NBA Convention, May 6-8, at the Embassy Suites, La Vista, but we still need your help!

Your small investment in this exciting event will produce tremendous results for Nebraska banking. If you have an item to donate or questions about the NBA's State BankPAC Silent Auction, contact Jennifer Heaton at (402) 474-1555 or [jennifer.heaton@nebankers.org](mailto:jennifer.heaton@nebankers.org).

To view a listing of donation that have been received to date, click [here](#). Download the [State BankPAC Silent Auction donation form](#) today!



# State of Nebraska Seeks Public Involvement During Strategic Planning Process

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is hosting a series of public input meetings which began Jan. 30, 2020, relating to federal resources received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The purpose of these events will be to provide information and gather public opinion regarding three plans currently being developed by the State of Nebraska: the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan; the 2020 Annual Action Plan; and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

These three documents use collected data to identify and analyze needs relating to housing, public facilities, economic development, infrastructure and public services, as well as impediments to fair house choice. The State will also identify strategies to best address these needs and impediments.

## February 6, Webinar

10:30 a.m. | 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan  
2:30 p.m. | Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

## February 13, Webinar

10:30 a.m. | 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan  
2:30 p.m. | Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

More information on the public input sessions are available at: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/2020-2024/>.

Additionally, the State continues to request the public's participation in completing two online surveys related to these same topics. Those willing to participate can take one or both surveys.

The first survey determines how federal and state funding should be invested over the next five years to meet the needs of Nebraskans in the best way possible through housing, community/public facilities, economic development, infrastructure and public services. To complete this survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019NebraskaHCDSurvey>.

The second survey asks about impediments to fair housing choice because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status. The survey will help the State eliminate barriers to fair housing choice. To complete this survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019NebraskaFHSurvey>.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Your experiences and opinions about the needs and fair housing concerns of Nebraskans are valuable.

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## USDA Reminds Producers of CRP General Signup Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds agricultural producers interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 2020 general signup to enroll by Feb. 28, 2020. This is available to farmers and private landowners who are either enrolling for the first time or re-enrolling for another 10- to 15-year term.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive yearly rental payments for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), which can control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres.

The CRP continuous signup is ongoing, which enables producers to enroll for [certain practices](#). FSA plans to open the Soil Health and Income Protection Program, a CRP pilot program, in early 2020, and the 2020 CRP Grasslands signup runs from March 16, 2020, to May 15, 2020.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).



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## Bankers in the News

**William W. “Bill” Marshall III**, past NBA board president, and former president of Five Points Bank (Grand Island), was posthumously inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame. Gov. Pete Ricketts presented the award to Bill’s family in his honor during the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame banquet Jan. 30. (pictured right)



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## Banks in the News

**Citizens State Bank** (Leigh) and **Clarkson Bank** (Clarkson) were among the sponsors who recently helped bring singer Gary Weldon to the Clarkson Community Care Center to perform for the residents.

**First National Bank of Omaha** (Omaha) will be offering free tickets to the Husker Football Spring Game April 18, to 3,000 members of the Armed Forces.

**First Nebraska Bank** (Columbus) recently contributed \$20,000 in support of the Major Gift Campaign for Central Community College-Columbus Center for Science and Technology. Bank President, Lydell Woodbury presented a check to Dean Moors, executive director, Central Community College Foundation, and Dr. Kathy Fuchser, president – CCC Columbus on behalf the bank, and its shareholders. (pictured right)



**Great Western Bank** (Grand Island) recently selected Grand Island nonprofit, Project Hunger, to receive funding under the bank’s Making Life Great grant program. The program targets projects that enhance the quality of life within the communities in which the bank serves.

**Madison County Bank** (Norfolk) has pledged \$25,000 to the Nexus project at Northeast Community College. The \$25,000 investment by the bank would go toward helping train agricultural producers and agribusiness employees for area communities.

# Banks & Bankers

**NBA** Nebraska Bankers Association

(January 29 – February 04, 2020)

**Midwest Bank** (Norfolk) and the Cooper Foundation contributed \$2,000 to the Norfolk Arts Center on Jan. 15 to be used for the fifth grade Passport to Art program. The bank also donated \$1,000 to Lutheran High Northeast Jan. 9 to be used for stage renovations.

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## Promotions & Appointments

**GRAND ISLAND:** Jennifer Iles, retail branch manager, Equitable Bank.

**GRAND ISLAND:** Steve Kiolbasa, licensed sales agent, Equitable Bank.

**GRAND ISLAND:** Trisha Manolidis, investment and marketing assistant, Equitable Bank.

**GRAND ISLAND:** Ethan Nelson, product specialist, Equitable Bank.

**GRAND ISLAND:** Phil Wieck, commercial and ag lender, Equitable Bank.

**WEST POINT:** Carrie Swanson, assistant vice president, F&M Bank.

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## Retirements

**Clark Lehr**, First Nebraska Bank (Columbus) and past NBA Chairman recently retired after contributing 44 years of service to the banking industry. He was honored with an evening dinner surrounded by his co-workers and close family. Lehr will continue to serve on the First Nebraska Bank board of directors and remains active with the ABA and NBA. *(pictured right)*



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## Share your news with the Nebraska Bankers Association!

Whenever your financial institution has a newsworthy event, we want to hear from you! Email your news, press releases, newspaper clippings and/or photos to be published in an upcoming Banks & Bankers and/or featured on social media.

Email: [news@nebankers.org](mailto:news@nebankers.org) // Facebook: [@NebraskaBankersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaBankersAssociation) // Twitter: [@nebankers](https://twitter.com/nebankers)