



2021 NYCUA Legislative Priorities and COVID-19 Response

Throughout the 2020 legislative session, the New York Credit Union Association (NYCUA) has continued to advance a pro-credit union and pro-consumer agenda on behalf of all New York credit unions. The Association's 2021 legislative agenda reflects the priorities of our members and of the changing political and legislative landscape in New York State as it responds to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, and beyond.

NYCUA will continue to aggressively advocate for the following legislative priorities in 2021:

PUBLIC DEPOSITS. The Coronavirus outbreak and the economic uncertainty it has spawned makes it more important than ever to give municipalities the option to put their public deposits into New York credit unions. The state has lost billions of dollars in revenue which has increased burdens on school districts and localities. Public deposits legislation would provide localities needed economic relief by allowing them to obtain better rates for their deposits while not costing the state a dime. What's more, credit unions could quickly lighten the burden on communities by giving them the opportunity to deposit their public funds at their local credit unions.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, a strong grassroots effort by our members advanced public deposit legislation further than ever before. Now it is time to get the job done. **NYCUA strongly urges passage of legislation to provide relief to municipalities by permitting them to deposit public funds into New York credit unions.**

REMOTE ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION/PAPERLESS MORTGAGE TRANSACTIONS. Technology can make the home buying process quicker and more affordable for all New Yorkers. It also makes it easier for everyone to have access to notary services regardless of where they live. The pandemic has demonstrated why remote notarization is essential. The technology provides a safe way of conducting a wide variety of essential legal services ranging from closing on a house to notarizing a will. While the Executive Order authorizing the temporary use of remote notarization is a good first step, New York needs a permanent and more robust electronic notarization process, and this is just one aspect of the Association's overall efforts to advocate for a modernized virtual documentation framework across the state. **NYCUA strongly supports legislation to create a permanent system of remote electronic notarization as part of a broader effort to implement a fully digital mortgage lending process.**

LOAN FLEXIBILITY: As millions of New Yorkers continue to be impacted by the pandemic economy, credit unions will continue to help persons in need by modifying loans and providing appropriate forbearances. The Association will continue to advocate against excessively burdensome legislation and regulations, which takes a one-size-fits-all approach to working with members. Credit unions will continue to work closely with members to find solutions that work for them, but this requires that the cost of compliance not detract from efforts by community institutions to provide relief.

DATA SECURITY LIABILITY: Currently credit unions must often shoulder the costs associated with a data breach even though they are not responsible for the conditions that led to it. For example, when a large merchant has personal information about members stolen because it did not use proper precautions credit unions must often provide new debit and credit cards to members even as they are prohibited from telling their members who is responsible for the data breach. It is essential that laws be passed on both the state and federal level to make merchants and other entities as responsible for protecting personal information as are credit unions and other financial institutions to. Most importantly, credit unions should have the right to sue merchants for costs related to data breaches resulting from a merchant's negligence.

CANNABIS BANKING: While the Association takes no position on whether further legalization of marijuana is a good or bad idea, it strongly believes that it is in the public's interest to provide banking services to marijuana related businesses. Consequently, as the state considers further legalization, it should do so mindful of the need to encourage and to the extent possible provide legal protections to credit unions and other financial institutions that provide banking services to legitimate marijuana related businesses. At the same time the Association will continue to urge the Senate to pass the Federal SAFE Act which ensures that credit unions can provide banking services to cannabis businesses in states that have legalized the sale and possession of marijuana.