



Newsletter

No. 5-24



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The Credit Union Department (CUD) is the state agency that regulates and supervises credit unions chartered by the State of Texas. The Department is professionally accredited by the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS) certifying that CUD maintains the highest standards and practices in state credit union supervision.

*Our **Mission** is to safeguard the public interest, protect the interests of credit union members and promote public confidence in credit unions.*

Credit Union Commission

The Commission is the policy making body for CUD. The Commission is a board of private citizens appointed by and responsible to the Governor of Texas.

Members:

Jim Minge, Chair
Becky L. Ames
Elizabeth L. "Liz" Bayless
David Bleazard
Karyn C. Brownlee
Beckie Stockstill Cobb
Cody R. Huggins
David F. Shurtz
Kay Rankin-Swan

Next Commission Meeting

Friday, July 19, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the offices of CUD.

2024 Annual Credit Union Survey

I would like to thank each of you that participated in the 2024 Annual Survey. The feedback we received from credit unions is valuable, and the Department is committed to continually enhancing its examination and regulatory oversight whenever possible. We are pleased by the positive comments we received and continue to strive to be an effective and efficient regulator.

We appreciate all the views expressed and would like to encourage you to provide additional comments or suggestions throughout the year. The agency relies on your feedback to identify concerns. Your thoughtful comments contribute to the success of our agency.



Identity Theft

Identity theft can be a tragic event for someone. However, in attempts to clear credit, unscrupulous borrowers with negative credit histories may claim or allude to "Identity Theft". We are seeing a trend in illegitimate claims of identity theft suspected to be facilitated by credit repair companies.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) launched a site, identitytheft.gov, in 2016 for consumers to file claims of fraudulent accounts on their credit report and send them to the credit reporting agencies (CRAs) Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. The FTC saw approximately 588,000 cases of reported identity theft related to credit cards, auto loans and other financing in 2021, including legitimate and illegitimate reports. This number has skyrocketed to 1.4 million in 2023. (see <https://identitytheft.org/statistics/>).

Identity Theft (Continued)

False claims of identity theft or other errors at the hands of credit repair companies are called “credit washing,” and make a consumer’s credit report appear better than it is, at least on a short-term basis. These claims place burdens on financial institutions to investigate bogus claims of identity theft. We see many of these disputes founded on an unsworn filing with the FTC. Surprisingly, we are seeing a trend for consumers to file a complaint with our Department when Credit Unions refute these claims in response to the members’ credit report disputes.

In 2009 Texas passed the Identity Theft Enforcement and Protection Act, which gives a victim the ability to obtain a court order declaring them to be a victim of identity theft and can be used to help correct any records that contain inaccurate or false information; (see [Tx. Bus.& Com.§521.001 et. Seq. \(2009\)](#) at §521.101. After the victim receives a declaration that they are a victim of Identity theft (by a preponderance of the evidence), they can provide this order to a private business to establish they were a victim of identity theft. This legislation provides a remedy for a true victim of identity theft.

Credit Unions should continue to remain vigilant and document their records to show direct contacts, including validated and related identity information (address, identifying numbers, official ID’s, utility bills) with their customers. This will facilitate responding to any identity theft disputes. “Know your member” is more important now than ever.



Publication Deadlines

To meet the submission deadlines for the applicable issues of the Texas Register, it is necessary for the Department to establish the schedule shown below. Completed applications received after the deadline for the month cannot be published until the following month.

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
June 2024	Friday, June 14
July 2024	Friday, July 12



Applications Approved

Applications approved since April 17, 2024.

Credit Union

Changes or Groups Added

Field of Membership - Approved

Rally Credit Union (Corpus Christi)
Energy Capital Credit Union (Houston)
Texas Dow Employees Credit Union (Lake Jackson)

[See Newsletter No. 02-24](#)
[See Newsletter No. 02-24](#)
[See Newsletter No. 02-24](#)

Applications Received

The following applications were received and will be published in the **May 24, 2024**, issue of the *Texas Register*.

Articles of Incorporation:

An application was received from **Hockley County School Employees Credit Union** (Levelland) seeking approval to change its name to Hockley County Credit Union.

An application was received from **Postel Family Credit Union** (Wichita Falls) seeking to amend its Articles of Incorporation relating to principal place of business.

Merger or Consolidation:

An application was received from **SPCO Credit Union** (Houston), seeking approval to merge with **First Service Credit Union** (Houston), with the latter being the surviving credit union.

An application was received from **CASE Federal Credit Union** (Tyler), seeking approval to merge with **Telco Plus Credit Union** (Longview), with the latter being the surviving credit union.

This newsletter is produced monthly as a part of the Department's continued communication outreach with the credit unions it regulates. Delivery is generally provided by electronic notification of its availability on the Department's website.

Suggestions and comments concerning the newsletter, or its content are welcomed.

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To learn more about CUD click <http://www.cud.texas.gov> or contact us at 914 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

