

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who will merge?

A: The California Bankers Association and Western Independent Bankers Association have entered into a merger agreement, following the vote to approve moving forward with the merger by the boards of directors of both organizations.

Q: Why did these two organizations choose to merge?

A: The banking industry is evolving, and the associations that support the industry must evolve with it to remain sustainable and relevant. Consolidation impacts the trade associations serving the banking community, with competing services offered to a shrinking membership base.

We have both been exploring an opportunity to merge with a familiar name.

Combining two recognized, trusted associations makes for a strong new foundation. The CBA and WIB have similar goals. As a combined association, we will have more than 200 years of experience serving banks in the West. Both associations have a common mission of educating and connecting bankers to help them achieve the highest standards of personal and organizational excellence.

The consolidated association will be stronger and better serve member banks!

Q: What is the name of the newly merged association?

A: The CBA name will change to the Western Bankers Association (WBA). WIB will merge into CBA. Both CBA and WIB names and professional focus will be retained as divisions of Western Bankers Association (WBA) for branding and marketing purposes. CBA for the important state advocacy activities, and WIB for education and conferences.

Q: What will the WBA leadership look like?

A: Simone Lagomarsino will take the role of president and CEO of the consolidated WBA as well as continue to lead the advocacy efforts of the CBA division. Michael Delucchi will transition to the senior vice president of WBA and continue his focus on education and training as the executive director of the WIB division.

The WBA board of directors will expand to include six additional members, who represent banks outside of California from the WIB's current board. The WIB's current chairman, David Joves, SVP of the California region for Bank of Guam, will join the WBA executive committee.

Q: When will the merger be official?

A: Bank members will officially vote on the proposed merger in mid-October. If members approve the merger, the deal is expected to finalize by the end of December 2017 with the two associations most likely consolidating shortly after.

Q: What will the merger mean for member banks?

A: There are some exciting opportunities. CBA and WIB merger means a stronger membership value designed to better-serve member banks with both education and advocacy. We'll have enhanced events and education coupled with strong California and federal advocacy functions. Greater attendance at consolidated conferences means more networking opportunities and dynamic programming.

In addition, yearly dues can be paid to one organization, not two. Administrative savings allow more efficiencies for better member support.

Q: What will the merger mean for conference sponsors/vendors?

A: Consolidated conferences will offer additional benefits, savings and value. The expanded association of member banks provides greater attendance and more exposure at each event. Merging the associations means savings on sponsorships and exhibitor costs for consolidated conferences. Maintaining one membership will create additional savings.

Q: Will the banking industry support a merger?

A: Consolidation in the banking industry is normal: There has been significant consolidation over the past several decades, and more recently since the Great Recession of 2008.

Q: What will stay the same?

A: The CBA will continue to advocate for member banks at the state and federal level. State advocacy efforts will remain focused in California. The WIB will continue to deliver dynamic conferences, training seminars, more than 250 webinars and enhanced education for member banks as well as incorporate the conferences and educational offerings CBA has historically offered. Training and education will continue to take place in the 13 Western states and U.S. territories WIB currently supports.

Q: Where will the headquarters location be located?

A: The consolidated WBA will be headquartered in Sacramento.