

CREDIT UNIONS

Advancing Public Funds Legislation Strategy CONFIDENTIAL WORKING DOCUMENT

"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure." — Bill Gates

Public Funds Legislative History

- 2001 [SF 129](#) - Credit unions – depositories for public funds – died in Committee.
- 2003 [HB 173](#) - Credit unions – depositories for public funds – House indefinitely postponed; was not heard in Committee.
- 2009 [HB 228](#) – Credit unions-depositories for public funds - Not heard in Committee.
- 2015 [HB 201](#) – Deposits by political subdivisions – passed the House but was not heard in Committee of the Whole in Senate
- 2016 [HB 101](#) – Approved depositories for public funds – Passed the House 60-0 but Senate did not consider for introduction.
- 2017 [HB 29](#) – Deposits by political subdivisions – passed the House (55-3-2) but was not considered in the Senate.
- 2021 [HB 65](#) – Political Subdivisions – deposits – Passed House 53-7 but died in Senate Judiciary Committee – [House Corp Committee hearing](#) [Senate Judiciary hearing March 26, 2021](#) carried over to [Senate Judiciary hearing March 29, 2021](#)
- 2022 [SF 99](#) – Public monies – deposits in credit unions – [Failed 3rd Rdg. Senate 14-16](#)

"If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got" - Henry Ford.

The Groundwork

- Attempt to engage all credit unions, or at a minimum enough credit unions with adequate geographic coverage of the state's legislative districts.
Recommend an all-credit union online meeting be held to discuss the strategy and confirm a willingness to develop legislative relationships with their local legislators and engage actively to advance Public Funds legislation.
- Complete designation of each credit union's Advocacy Coordinator.

- Complete key contact designation **in all credit union branches** to ensure statewide legislative contacts. This is especially important to ensure broad coverage of legislative districts.
- Determine legislative approach, i.e., in the past legislation limited deposits to local governments, limited entities to geographic areas where other options were not available, limited to local governments without a bank in 10-mile radius, etc.
- Continue to identify credit union-friendly legislators and support those in the election cycle. Even numbered Senate districts and all House districts are up in 2024.
- Identify key opportunities to sponsor local government conventions and/or key events.
- Develop a data-rich white paper that provides credit union background and structure, reiterates the investment credit unions make in Wyoming's communities, identifies challenges due to public fund issue, and responds to past arguments of opposition. **This is in progress.**
- Develop relationships with, at a minimum, three-quarters of the legislators across the state before the "Public Funds" ask. They need to know who their credit union is, who they are serving in their legislative district, have a solid understanding that a credit union is a not-for-profit cooperative, credit union's economic impact on the state of Wyoming, and investment in their communities.

Gaining Support for Public Funds Legislation

- Continue to meet with Governor Gordon and his staff.
- Reach out to local government and other Associations to request that this issue be incorporated into their legislative agendas.

Local Government Organizations:

[Wyoming County Commissioners Association](#) (Initial meetings have occurred with Jeremiah Rieman, Executive Director)

[Wyoming Association of Municipalities](#)

[Wyoming Special Districts Association](#)

[Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts](#)

[Wyoming Weed & Pest Association](#)

[Wyoming Fire Chiefs](#)

[Wyoming Hospital Association](#)

Relative to the State Farm Loan issue:

[Wyoming Stock Growers Association](#)

[Wyoming Farm Bureau Association](#)
[Wyoming Wool Growers Association](#)

- Credit union leaders reach out to their local Mayors, County Commissioners, and Special Districts to discuss the issue and solicit support. To locate your special districts, visit your county website.
- Schedule meetings between credit union leadership and legislators prior to the session, sharing white paper.
- Solicit additional targeted sponsors for legislation. Additional requests for sponsorship should be **targeted both from a leadership and geographic perspective.**

Legislators who expressed interest in sponsoring a bill in 2023:

Representative Lloyd Larsen, Fremont County
Representative Dan Zwonitzer, Laramie County
Senator Eric Barlow, Campbell County
Past sponsors depending on main sponsors.

- During the session credit union leaders need to be on call and ready to testify at key times and be present in Committee hearings and in the halls to support the legislation.