

Agenda - The 2026 Elevate Banking Forum

Monday, September 21st

3:00 p.m.

Registration *Osprey Foyer*

3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Navigating the Current Banking Environment

In a rapidly shifting banking landscape, clarity matters. Chris Nichols, President of Institutional Banking at SouthState Bank, breaks down the current banking environment and the forces shaping it. This session delivers practical strategies banks need to navigate today's challenges with confidence and discipline.

Chris Nichols, SouthState Bank

4:30 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.

Debt Capital Markets Roundtable

In this session, listen to your peers discuss their bond portfolio performance and funding strategy. We'll also discuss forward-looking ideas you need to be implementing to position your bank's balance sheet for 2027 and beyond.

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Reception *Indigo Ballroom*

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dinner *Indigo Ballroom*

Tuesday, September 22nd

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast *Indigo Ballroom*

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

The State of the U.S. Economy

The Bow Tie Economist is back! Elliot Eisenberg delivers a high-energy economic outlook packed with sharp insights, real-world implications for banks, and plenty of laughs along the way. Equal parts stand-up comedy and serious economic analysis.

Elliot Eisenberg, Graphs and Laughs LLC

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.

Break

9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Drivers of Bank Profitability

Net interest margin isn't the holy grail of profitability, and believing it is can hold your bank back. Ed Kofman challenges conventional thinking and lays out the four core drivers that actually determine bank performance. This session delivers a sharper, more disciplined framework for pricing, lending, and underwriting decisions.

Ed Kofman, SouthState Bank

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Trends in Community Banking

The banking landscape is shifting fast. Mark Kanlay provides a high-level look at the major trends impacting community banks, including regulatory pressures, M&A activity, and political dynamics. A must-attend session for leaders focused on staying ahead of what's coming.

Mark Kanlay, Alston & Bird

11:05 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Break

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11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

What the Mountain Taught Me About Hard Things

Every great climb begins with a choice: play it safe or step into the unknown. In this high-energy keynote, Billy Boughey uses powerful stories and four simple lenses to help leaders gain clarity, stay focused, and act decisively when things get hard. Attendees leave energized with a mindset shift—from avoiding challenges to attacking them with purpose.

Billy Boughey, Elevate Experiences

12:15 p.m.

Adjourn - Lunch and Dinner on Your Own

Wednesday, September 23rd

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Indigo Ballroom

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.

The New Frontier of Stablecoin and Tokenized Deposits

The future of payments and deposits is evolving quickly. Tara Edmonds provides a high-level, easy-to-understand overview of stablecoins and tokenized deposits, cutting through the complexity to focus on real banking implications. This session equips community bankers with the knowledge they need to evaluate these technologies and identify practical opportunities ahead.

Tara Edmonds, SouthState Bank

8:50 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Break

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

The Firm Feedback Experience

High-performing teams don't happen by accident, they're built through clear, confident feedback. In The Firm Feedback Experience, Jeff Hancher leads an interactive workshop that equips leaders with a proven framework for setting expectations, addressing issues, and having courageous conversations. Attendees leave better prepared to strengthen accountability and elevate team performance.

Jeff Hancher, Leadership Expert & Author

10:00 a.m.

Adjourn