

# SIGNALS

NEW DIRECTIONS IN FINANCIAL SERVICES



**FIRST BANK**  
MEMBER FDIC



## Streamline your retirement strategy by consolidating your retirement accounts

### GREAT RATES

Whether you are looking for competitive mortgage financing or a great return on your deposits, turn to First Bank.

For current rates on checking, savings and time deposit accounts, visit [www.firstbankak.com/home/rt/de](http://www.firstbankak.com/home/rt/de).

For current mortgage rates, visit [www.firstbankak.com/home/rt/mo](http://www.firstbankak.com/home/rt/mo).

You may also call or visit your local First Bank branch for rate information.



EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER

**O**ver the years, you may have established a scattered collection of retirement accounts. Some might be 401(k) plan accounts or employer-sponsored retirement plan accounts that you started with previous jobs. Others could be individual retirement accounts (IRAs) you have opened throughout the years. Consider the benefits of consolidating these assets by using IRA rollovers<sup>1</sup> at First Bank:

**Easier financial management** — With more of your retirement assets in one place and in one account, you will save time and effort whenever you work on your retirement strategy. For example, it will be easier to monitor progress toward your retirement goal, project retirement calculations and more.

**Simplified record keeping** — You will receive fewer statements if you consolidate accounts. This will save you time when reviewing account activity. You also will save storage space and help the environment by conserving paper!

**More efficient distribution planning** — If you have traditional IRAs which require minimum distributions after age 70½, merging them into one account will help simplify matters when you

need to determine your yearly distribution amount and make withdrawals. Also, if you have made deductible and nondeductible contributions, it will be easier for you to keep track of them and to determine the tax liability on distributions.

### Get it all together

The easiest way to consolidate your retirement accounts is through direct IRA rollovers. You simply complete a little paperwork, and the institutions involved take care of the rest for you.

First Bank offers a variety of tax-advantaged IRAs with competitive rates. Your choices include the basic IRA Savings account and the IRA Time Deposit account offering a fixed rate for a specific period.

Let First Bank help you streamline your retirement strategy. For information about First Bank IRAs and rollovers, contact any First Bank branch or visit [www.firstbankak.com](http://www.firstbankak.com).

<sup>1</sup>Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10 percent federal tax penalty. Certain exceptions apply. Traditional IRA withdrawals generally are subject to ordinary income taxes, and minimum required distributions generally must begin after age 70½. Consult a tax professional.



# Know your rights and protect your identity when you shop

**W**henever you shop, and especially during the busy holiday shopping season, you may inadvertently provide more personal information than you must — increasing your risk for identity theft. These tips may help protect your identity when you shop:

## **Merchants: Request denied**

You generally do not need to furnish your driver's license or other identification when making a purchase with your credit card. In fact, most major credit card companies prohibit merchants from requiring identification for purchases made with their cards. (Contact your card issuer for details.)

Also, regardless of the payment method used, if a clerk requests information such as your telephone number, ZIP code, e-mail address, street address or Social

Security number, you generally don't have to reveal it. You have the right to refuse to share the information and still complete your purchase transaction.

## **Additional safety tips**

**Travel light** — Each time you go anywhere, carry only the debit and credit cards and identification documents you need. Store the others in a safe location.

## **Block the view of “shoulder surfers”**

— Shield your card numbers and identification from other people's view. Beware of prying eyes and cell phone cameras.

**Shop at trusted Web sites** — Stick with secure sites of familiar companies you know and trust. Look for indications of security on order pages, such as an address starting with “https” or symbols such as a padlock or unbroken key.

## **Keep “optional” information private**

— When completing online order forms, provide only the required information. Leave fields requesting optional information blank.



*Learn more about us at*  
[www.firstbankak.com](http://www.firstbankak.com)

## These all-weather strategies may help your savings grow

**W**hile growing your savings is always important to you, it may matter more than usual in the current economic climate. These five financial strategies make good sense anytime, and you may find them especially helpful now:

**1. Establish savings goals.** Define your financial goals, estimating the amount you need to accumulate for each objective and how much time you have to reach it. Then determine an amount to contribute toward each of your savings goals on a regular basis.

**2. Pay yourself first.** To help you stay in the habit of saving regularly, treat your savings goals like monthly bills. If you make savings contributions a priority, you are less likely to spend the money elsewhere and shortchange your savings — and yourself.

**3. Control spending and debt.** Examine your monthly expenses, looking for areas where you can reduce costs. Pay down high-

interest credit card debt and avoid carrying large balances on high-interest credit cards. By trimming expenses and minimizing interest expenses, you may have more money available for your savings.

**4. Save “windfalls”.** If you receive extra income, such as rebates, bonuses or tax refunds, don't spend it. Instead, add it to your savings for an extra financial boost.

**5. Let First Bank help.** First Bank offers a variety of deposit accounts with competitive interest rates to help you save for your financial goals. In addition, we offer convenient features such as PowerNET Online Banking and direct deposit to help you save more easily and efficiently. To explore the possibilities, contact any First Bank branch or visit [www.firstbankak.com](http://www.firstbankak.com).