



Mutual Alert

Republican Party Platform Endorses Easy Access to Capital

The Republican platform has been adopted and has numerous provisions that should be attractive to community mutual banks. Perhaps the most attractive statement is quoted below:

Community banks are essential to ensuring small businesses have easy and affordable access to the capital they need to grow and prosper. Community banks should be relieved of excessive regulations. We support removing roadblocks and regulations that prevent access to capital.

The platform, not surprisingly, incorporates numerous provisions of the CHOICE Act that passed the House. For example the Platform endorses simplifying capital requirements for highly capitalized banks. Most mutual banks will benefit if such a measure becomes law. However viewing high capital as a regulatory panacea will not be helpful in leveling the playing field for mutuals which are limited in their ability to raise capital. We will continue to press our case with the regulators and the Congress for expanded capital access. We hope we will not have to remind Republican lawmakers of the above sentence in the platform.