



First Independent
Ready When You Are.™

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First Independent Taps New Leader To Manage All Retail Banking Functions Under One Umbrella

Reflecting the changing ways in which people want to manage their finances, First Independent has reorganized its Retail Banking business and appointed Renee Newman to lead the new organization.

Promoted to Senior Vice President and Director of Retail Banking, Newman is responsible for the branch network, virtual banking (online, mobile and remote channels), community banking for small business owners, and client services.

“Today our clients have many ways to do their banking. By putting all of our retail channels under one umbrella we can be more effective, more efficient and deliver a more consistent client experience,” said Newman.

In recent years, online and mobile banking have grown increasingly popular, particularly among younger adults and busy families and professionals. Despite that trend, many clients and small business owners still want to visit a bank branch for at least some transactions. Over the past several years, First Independent has been repositioning and resizing its branch operations to reflect changing demographics, population and transportation patterns in Southwest Washington. At the same time, the bank has responded to new technology and changing consumer habits to offer more choices about how to bank.

“First Independent has succeeded for 100 years because it has evolved as times change,” said Brett Bryant, Executive Vice President and Chief Relationship Officer. “Reorganizing our Retail Banking business makes sense as we look at how people bank today and the many ways we can deliver our services. With her experience and energy, Renee Newman is the ideal professional to manage this important function as we head into our second 100 years.”

Newman joined First Independent in 2007 as head of the bank’s Cash Management Office. With more than 18 years of experience in retail, commercial and private banking, she has held increasingly responsible positions at organizations ranging from small community banks to national

institutions. She holds a BA in business management from Oregon State University as well as earning securities and insurance licenses from Oregon and Washington. Newman is on the board and past chair of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

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A full service community bank with assets of nearly \$1 billion, First Independent is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The bank serves SW Washington and Portland residents and businesses from 20 branches and offices in the region and a variety of online and mobile banking services. Headquartered in Vancouver, WA, with a long tradition of supporting local community organizations, First Independent is committed to enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. Member FDIC.