PRESS RELEASE

Great American Bank and Cottonwood Valley Bank Announce Strategic Merger, Creating a Leading Community Bank Franchise

The Combined Organization Will Enhance Customer Service, Expand Lending Capacity, and Deepen Community Commitment.

Lawrence, Kansas — August 14, 2026 — Great American Bank and Cottonwood Valley Bank today announced the signing of a definitive merger agreement under which Cottonwood Valley Bank will merge with and into Great American Bank. The combined organization will have approximately $569 million in assets, $455 million in loans, $456 million in deposits, and 8 branch locations serving customers throughout Central and Northeast Kansas and the Kansas City area.

"This merger brings together two community-focused institutions with shared values, strong cultures, and a commitment to serving customers and communities," said Les Dreiling, President and CEO of Great American Bank. "By combining our strengths, we will be better positioned to invest in technology, expand our lending capabilities, and continue delivering the personalized service our customers expect."

Barry Linnens of Cottonwood Valley Bank added, "This partnership represents an exciting opportunity for our customers, employees, shareholders, and communities. Together, we will create a stronger institution with greater resources while maintaining our community banking philosophy and local decision-making process."

Benefits of the Merger

The merger is expected to provide several benefits, including:

- Expanded lending capacity for businesses, agricultural customers, and consumers.
- Enhanced products and digital banking services.
- Greater financial strength and operational scale.
- Continued commitment to community involvement and charitable support.
- Additional opportunities for employees within a larger organization.
- Improved ability to compete while maintaining the relationship-based approach customers value.

Customers of both banks will continue to conduct business as usual. Additional information regarding account changes, if any, will be communicated well in advance.

Commitment to Customers and Communities

“Both organizations have a long history of supporting local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community development initiatives. Following the merger, the combined bank intends to continue investing in the communities it serves and maintaining a strong local presence throughout the market area,” said Doug Compton, Chairman of Great American Bank.

"Our customers will continue to work with the same personnel who understand their needs and are invested in the success of our communities," said Kelly Linnens, Market President. "This merger reinforces our commitment to community banking and positions us for long-term growth."

Transaction Details

The transaction has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both organizations and is expected to close in the 4th Quarter 2026, subject to regulatory approval.

Following the completion of the transaction:

- The headquarters of the combined organization will be located in Lawrence, Kansas.
- Les Dreiling will serve as President and CEO.
- Kelly Linnens will serve as Market President for Cottonwood Falls, Florence, and Lincolnville, Kansas locations.

About Great American Bank

Great American Bank is a community bank headquartered in Lawrence, Kansas, with approximately $531 million in assets and 5 locations serving customers throughout the Lawrence and Kansas City markets. The bank offers a full range of personal and business banking services.

About Cottonwood Valley Bank

Cottonwood Valley Bank is a community bank headquartered in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, with approximately $38 million in assets and 3 locations serving customers throughout central Kansas. The bank provides personal and business banking solutions with a focus on relationship-based service and local decision-making.

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