Remarks of Jonathan V. Gould

Comptroller of the Currency

One Year Accomplishments

July 14, 2026

Good afternoon, everyone. This week marks one year since I became the 32nd Comptroller of the Currency.

Serving in this role continues to be an immense privilege and opportunity made possible by the leadership of President Trump and the continued support of Secretary Scott Bessent.

President Trump has made economic growth the North Star of this Administration. That growth rests on a foundation of economic security, which is inextricably linked with national security. Few institutions are more central to both than the American banking system.

Secretary Bessent often reminds us that America's success depends on Parallel Prosperity across Main Street and Wall Street. We are fortunate to have the deepest, most innovative, and most liquid capital markets in the world. But their true strength is measured by whether they expand opportunity beyond financial markets and into communities across our country.

That is where America's banks—and especially our community banks—play an indispensable role.

Every day, they finance small businesses that create jobs, entrepreneurs who build the next generation of American companies, and families in pursuit of the American Dream through homeownership.

America's banks also perform a broader national mission. They safeguard the integrity of our financial system by combatting illicit finance, strengthening the effectiveness of our sanctions and anti-money laundering frameworks, and reinforcing the global leadership of the U.S. dollar. A safe, sound, and resilient banking system is one of America's greatest strategic advantages.

That understanding guides everything we do at the OCC.

When I first addressed the agency as Comptroller, I spoke about ensuring the continued relevance of the federal banking system and its ability to meet the evolving financial needs of the American people. I also emphasized the importance of maintaining the OCC as a credible and effective regulator while adapting to technological innovation and a rapidly changing financial landscape.

One year later, I believe we have made substantial progress toward those goals thanks to the extraordinary public servants who make up this agency. Every accomplishment I will discuss today reflects your professionalism, expertise, and unwavering commitment to serving the American people.

Tailoring Regulation and Supervision for Economic Growth

Over the past year, we have demonstrated our underlying philosophy that strong supervision and economic growth go hand in hand.

We began by refocusing supervision on what matters most: material financial risk. We have returned to a more transparent, consistent, and risk-based supervisory approach by clarifying expectations, improving consistency across examination teams, and ensuring that supervisory decisions remain grounded in objective financial risks.

At the same time, we have modernized our regulatory framework while reducing unnecessary burden, particularly on community banks.

We finalized changes to examination frequency and scope for qualifying community banks and established a dedicated supervision line designed specifically for their business models. We improved the Community Bank Leverage Ratio framework, updated model risk management guidance, and rescinded recovery planning guidelines that no longer reflected the realities facing many institutions.

Working alongside our fellow banking agencies, we also proposed rescinding the 2023 Community Reinvestment Act rule while continuing to pursue a modernized CRA framework that better reflects today's banking landscape. We are likewise modernizing the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering framework so institutions can devote more resources to identifying genuine illicit finance risks rather than complying with outdated procedural requirements.

We also proposed raising the asset threshold for heightened standards so supervisory expectations better reflect the size, complexity, and risk profile of individual institutions.

Taken together, these reforms reflect a simple principle: regulation should be both effective and efficient. Every hour our banks spend complying with unnecessary requirements is an hour that could be better spent serving customers, extending credit, or supporting economic growth.

We also acted quickly to address concerns regarding debanking and reaffirm the principle that lawful customers should be evaluated based on objective risk; not on political beliefs, industry affiliation, or reputational considerations that fall outside sound risk management.

Driving and Supporting Innovation

Maintaining America's leadership also requires ensuring that our regulatory framework keeps pace with innovation.

The United States must remain the world's premier destination for financial innovation. That leadership depends not only on private-sector ingenuity, but also on a regulatory framework that provides clarity, encourages responsible innovation, and enables new technologies to develop within the safety and soundness of the federal banking system.

Over the past year, we have taken meaningful steps toward that goal.

The OCC has provided greater clarity regarding the authority of national banks to engage in digital asset activities. We clarified the treatment of network fees and related holdings, provided guidance on the capital treatment of tokenized securities, and continued to communicate clearly that innovation and safety are not mutually exclusive.

We have also welcomed innovative business models into the federal banking system through the chartering process, approving national trust bank charters and other applications involving firms operating at the forefront of digital finance.

Our objective is straightforward: the federal banking system should remain the gold standard for responsible financial innovation. As financial markets evolve, innovation should occur within well-supervised institutions operating under clear rules.

At the same time, we have strengthened the value of the national bank charter itself.

For more than 160 years, the national bank charter has provided a uniform framework for banking across the United States. It has promoted competition, supported innovation, and helped build the strongest banking system in the world.

Over the past year, we approved the first full-service national bank charter in more than five years, along with several trust bank charters. We also elevated the chartering and licensing function to reflect its strategic importance and worked closely with the FDIC to simplify the application process.

We have continued strengthening our supervisory framework by making it more consistent, transparent, and focused on the financial risks that matter most.

To support that effort, we reinstated the Office of the Chief National Bank Examiner to improve consistency across examination teams and strengthen coordination throughout the agency. We are streamlining our planning for exams and working closely with our fellow banking regulators on proposals that provide greater clarity regarding unsafe and unsound practices and improve how supervisory findings—including Matters Requiring Attention—are communicated to our banks.

We have also worked to strengthen public confidence in the OCC as an institution.

Effective regulation depends not only on sound decisions, but open communication, which is why we have expanded public engagement through speeches, rulemakings, guidance, roundtables, and direct outreach across the banking system.

Taken together, these efforts reflect our broader vision for the future: a federal banking system that is safe and sound, encourages responsible innovation, attracts investment, and remains the preferred platform for financial activity in the United States.

Investing in Our Institution and Our People

We can only perform our critical statutory mission if we have a well-run agency with centralized support functions that work.

The strength of the OCC has and always will be its people: all of you here in this room. Throughout the past year, we have worked to strengthen this agency by recruiting exceptional talent, developing leaders from within, and ensuring that our organization is well-positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly dynamic financial system.

A great deal of that progress would not have been possible without the leadership of Kate Tyrrell.

As Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Staff, and Senior Deputy Comptroller, Kate played an instrumental role in reversing the downward trend across too many of our support functions and advancing many of the initiatives I have discussed today. Although we miss her professionalism and superb judgment at the OCC, I am grateful that she continues to serve the American people as Chief of Staff to Secretary Bessent and the Department of the Treasury. I look forward to continuing our work together in her new role and want to thank her for everything she did to help make this past year such a success.

We have also been fortunate to welcome outstanding new members to our leadership team.

Ben Eddy joined the OCC as Senior Deputy Comptroller for Regional and Midsize Financial Institutions, bringing decades of experience across banking, supervision, risk management, and operational transformation.

We also welcomed Megan Crespi as Senior Deputy Comptroller and Chief Technology and Information Officer. Her leadership will be instrumental as we continue modernizing the OCC's technology infrastructure and equipping this agency for the future.

I have also elevated other great leaders from within our own ranks, including Jenny Crosthwaite and Stephen Lybarger. These additions to our leadership team, together with the extraordinary talent already present throughout this agency, position us well for the future. You will hear from [many][all] of them today.

Opportunities Ahead

We have incredible opportunities ahead as our agency resumes its proper and historic institutional role within the U.S. banking system. Don't ever forget how unique we are as an agency and that our strength and impact come from embracing what makes us unique. This includes:

- Our relationship to main Treasury and the Secretary;
- Our chartering authority and ability to reshape and refresh the banking system;
- Our single principal structure enabling us to move quick and decisively when circumstances demand;
- The Comptroller's seat on the FDIC board giving us oversight over all insured depository institutions;
- And the lion's share of banking system assets for which we are directly responsible.

I am confident that our chartering function will continue to see a robust pipeline as the banking system shakes off the paralysis of the last 20 years and reverts to its innovative form, meeting the changing needs of customers and markets, and taking advantage of new technologies to do so.

One example is payment stablecoins, which are among the most important financial innovations we have seen in decades. We will soon finalize our regulatory framework for issuers within our jurisdiction, providing greater clarity while supporting growth and adoption across the digital and traditional ecosystems. More broadly, we will continue to modernize and streamline regulation so that banks can resume their role as the nation's central financial intermediaries.

We will build a unified supervision culture and philosophy, not one divided by legacy groups, technology systems and different approaches. I will be resetting expectations for what supervision can deliver – both within our agency and at our banks. We will use technology and AI to arrive at supervisory conclusions with conviction faster, deploy examiner resources based on risk, and perform more direct validation of our larger banks' balance sheets and financial risks. In exchange, we will demand greater direct and sustained attention from bank decision-makers and faster remediation timeframes for issues we identify, especially at the biggest banks.

But the mission of the OCC remains constant. Our responsibility is to ensure that national banks and federal savings associations operate in a safe and sound manner, that the federal banking system continues to earn the confidence of the American people, and that it remains capable of supporting economic growth, expanding opportunity, and strengthening America's position as the world's leading economy.

A strong banking system enables Wall Street and Main Street to thrive together. It channels capital into productive investment. It reinforces the strength of the U.S. dollar, underpins America's economic security, and advances our national security.

The work you do every day makes that possible.

I am confident that, with your continued dedication and professionalism, we will continue strengthening the OCC, preserving the integrity of the federal banking system, and supporting the prosperity and security of the American people.

Thank you for your service, thank you for your commitment to this agency, and thank you for everything you do on behalf of the American people.