

TOM REYNOLDS

Proposal and Comment Information

Title: Check Services - Request for Information and Comment on the Future of the Federal Reserve Banks' Check Services, OP-1874

Comment ID: FR-2025-0077-01-C234

Submitter Information

Name: Tom Reynolds

Submitted Date: 02/03/2026

Checks offer several advantages, including improved security since they are harder to cash without proper identification, and they provide a paper trail that serves as proof of payment and a physical record of spending, which can help with budgeting and tracking expenses. They are the best alternative to electronic methods for making large payments.

As the Federal Reserve Vice Chair has observed, while checks account for about 5-7% of overall non-cash payments, they represent 21% of the of non-cash payments value.

I use checks to make my large payments, and cash for smaller ones. Checks are my preferred method for paying medical expenses, most monthly bills, big grocery buys, car repairs, and all donations. Some large businesses no longer accept cash payments, but they do accept checks. My medical plan does not accept cash. So I pay for medical appointments and tests with checks.

Checks help avoid processing fees associated with electronic payments. Using a debit card at an out-of-network ATM incurs a \$3 fee for each transaction. Banks and credit unions charge interest fees on credit card balances. Credit card companies charge a fee to process credit card transactions and businesses pass those fees onto customers. The small independent contractors like the people who work on our home prefer to be paid by check. That way they won't incur a large fee for a credit card transaction. Often these folks are not able to accept debit cards.

I worry a lot that using something like a debit card will increase my exposure to identity theft. A thief can steal all your bank information by skimming your debit card. And some businesses do not ask debit card users for their pin number. This has happened to people I know and brings into question the real level of security on these cards. Also, methods of payment like debit cards make it easy for people to over spend. I am much more aware of what I am spending when I use a check.

As Fed Vice Chair Bowman has said, "Checks remain important payment mechanisms for consumers and businesses".

People need to have access to a number of methods of payment. Forcing people to use payment methods that incur fees or make it more difficult to manage their spending will in the long run only cost consumers more money. We are always being told that the average person needs to be smart about their purchases. Eliminating checks as a payment method, eliminates an important tool for those who want to be smart consumers, and forces us to use electronic methods that may not be safe and are often more costly.

Please do not take away my primary payment method. People like me need the ability to use checks.