

Top 9 Best Credit Unions in Los Angeles, CA

2017 RANKING & REVIEWS TOP CREDIT UNIONS IN LOS ANGELES

Finding the Top Credit Unions in Los Angeles, California

When assessing your banking needs, you may have heard of or driven by a credit union in Los Angeles and wondered if their services would be worth looking into.

What makes Los Angeles financial credit unions worth the time?



Award Emblem: Top 9 Best Credit Unions in Los Angeles, CA

First, what are credit unions? Credit unions are not-for-profit financial organizations run by and for their members.

Fees and services are usually custom-tailored, and there are far fewer fees overall, compared to banks.

Read on to see if a Los Angeles-based credit union may be right for you!

List of the Best Credit Unions in Los Angeles, California

- [California Bear Credit Union](#)
- [California Credit Union](#)
- [Firefighters First Credit Union](#)
- [First City Credit Union](#)
- [Kinecta Federal Credit Union](#)
- [Los Angeles Federal Credit Union](#)
- [USC Credit Union](#)
- [Water and Power Community Credit Union](#)
- [Wescom Credit Union](#)

List is sorted alphabetically (click any of the names above to go directly to the detailed review section for that credit union)

Top 9 Credit Unions in Los Angeles (Statewide)

| Credit Unions | Locations |
|--|-------------|
| California Bear Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| California Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| Firefighters First Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| First City Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| Kinecta Federal Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| Los Angeles Federal Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| USC Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| Water and Power Community Credit Union | Los Angeles |
| Wescom Credit Union | Los Angeles |

(List is sorted alphabetically)

Methodology for Selecting Credit Unions in Los Angeles, California

What methodology did we use in selecting this list of best credit unions in and around Los Angeles, California?

Using publicly available sources, AdvisoryHQ identified a wide range of credit unions in California that provide services in Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

We then applied AdvisoryHQ's "Breakthrough Selection Methodology" to identify the final list of top credit unions that provide services to communities in and around Los Angeles, California.

Click here for a detailed review of our methodology: [**Methodology for Selecting Top Banks & Credit Unions.**](#)

Detailed Review – Top Ranking Credit Unions in Los Angeles, California

Here, you will find detailed reviews of each Los Angeles credit union that has been elected to be on our list of the top 9 credit unions in and around Los Angeles, California. We have highlighted some of the factors that allowed these credit unions to score so highly in our selection ranking.

California Bear Credit Union Review

Since 1933, [**California Bear Credit Union**](#) (CBCU) has been a leading credit union with two locations in Los Angeles, California.

Both branches offer the same exciting services and industry-leading expertise backed by a rich history of putting clients ahead of profit.

CBCU offers a variety of banking, lending, and insurance services, allowing you to keep all of your business with just one bank.

Key Factors that Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top Credit Union

The following is a listing of key factors that allowed California Bear Credit Union to rank as one of the top credit unions in Los Angeles, California.

Checking Account Options

To be honest, it's quite rare for the same type of checking account to be a good match for everyone. After all, everyone's needs are different, and they can also change over time.

To help fill the gap from client to client, CBCU has initiated **four different types of checking accounts**. Let's take a look at what they are and what they each have to offer:

- Freedom Checking: The simple, versatile way to bank. No required direct deposit, no minimum balance. Receive \$5 per month for completing 10 signature-based transactions.
- Premium Checking Plus: An account which pays dividends on every dollar.
- Student Checking: A great way to start managing your money right.
- Silver Bear Checking: An exclusive service for clients ages 55 and up.

Next, let's take a side-by-side comparison of account features to better help you understand which account may suit your needs most appropriately:

| Our Checking Features: | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| | FREEDOM | PREMIUM PLUS | SILVER BEAR | STUDENT |
| MINIMUM DEPOSIT TO OPEN | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 |
| FOR MEMBERS | | | Ages 55+ | Ages 16-25 (Parent must be joint owner) |
| CHECK WRITING PRIVILEGES | Unlimited | Unlimited | Unlimited | Unlimited |
| PER-CHECK CHARGES | NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE |
| DIVIDEND PAID | N/A | On every dollar | On every dollar | On every dollar |
| FREE DIRECT DEPOSIT | Available | Available | Available | Available |
| BALANCE TO AVOID CHARGES | No Balance Requirement | \$1,500 daily balance | No Balance Requirement | No Balance Requirement |
| SERVICE CHARGE | No service charge | \$6.50 or no service charge with \$1,500 daily balance | No service charge | No service charge |
| ENJOY CAL BEAR EXTRAS | Free e-Bear | Free e-Bear | Free e-Bear | Free e-Bear |
| | Debit/ATM Card | Debit/ATM Card | Debit/ATM Card | Debit/ATM Card |
| | Earn up \$5 per month in rewards! | | | |
| | Free TeleBear | Free TeleBear | Free TeleBear | Free TeleBear |

Types of Checking Accounts

Trusted Lending Services

California Bear Credit Union offers VISA credit cards and low-rate loans for anything you may need, including debt consolidation.

Even if your credit is less than perfect, CBCU may be able to help. Here's a look at your options:

- Auto Loans: Get a flexible rate as low as 1.99% APR that can be used to purchase a vehicle, RV, boat, or trailer. CBCU also offers refinancing to help lower your current monthly payment.
- Personal Loans: Both secured and unsecured personal loans give you the freedom to take care of what's really important.
- Credit Cards: California Bear Credit Union offers platinum and traditional VISA credit cards with attractive features, such as no balance transfer fees, no cash advance fees, and a low rate to top it all off.
- Home Loans: A Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) can make your home buying or renovation dreams come true. Get preapproved so that

when the time is right, you'll be one step ahead.

Protect What Matters to You

Flexible insurance plans keep you protected in the case of an unknown. Give yourself peace of mind through the following protection plans:

- Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D): CBCU members **receive \$2,000 of AD&D insurance** at no cost! Additional protection is available at an affordable group rate.
- Guaranteed Auto Protection (GAP): A great option if you are financing a vehicle. If the market value of your car dips below the balance of your loan or the vehicle is damaged beyond repair, GAP can offset your loss and make sure you don't lose any money.
- Mechanical Breakdown Protection: An economical option to supplement your manufacturer's warranty. California Bear Credit Union's plan also costs less than a comparable plan from your dealership.
- TruStage Auto & Home Insurance Program: An exclusive plan that is both high quality and affordable. Discount rates apply for combined services.
- TruStage Life Insurance Plan: Protecting the people in your life is easier with an underwritten plan from CMFG Life Insurance Group.

Comprehensive ATM Access

California Bear Credit Union works through a nationwide network of **over 30,000** surcharge-free ATMs. Locating an ATM is easy with online and smartphone access and a comprehensive network powered by CO-OP ATM.

Leaving Behind a Legacy

California Bear Credit Union offers premium **estate and legacy planning services** to its clients, led by trusted professionals who understand what it takes to protect your family and your assets for the future.

Clients can also take advantage of free webinars on a variety of topics, which will help them form a knowledge base on estate and legacy planning. If you would like to check out CBCU's Virtual Classroom, click [here](#) to see what they have to offer.

California Credit Union Review

Offering clients convenient and rewarding financial services has been the basis of operations at [California Credit Union \(CCU\)](#) for over **80 years**.

Since then, it has grown to more than 88,000 members with a total of almost \$1.5 billion in assets. **With 13 branch locations** throughout California, including Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Glendale, Carson, Covina, and North Hollywood, it's safe to say CCU has earned its way to the top.

Key Factors that Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top Credit Union

Below is a list of key points that allowed California Credit Union to rank as one of the top credit unions in Los Angeles, California.

Superior Loan Services

CCU is a member-owned business; because of this, it is able to offer its members exceptionally competitive rates on a variety of loan options.

Below, we will explore the fundamentals of just a few of these loan options:

Vehicle Loans: Whether you are buying new or used, CCU boasts the ultimate in convenience and a smooth process.

Pre-approvals are available, and when buying new, clients may be able to enjoy little or no down payment. Other benefit **include**:

- No payments for 90 days
- Loans for auto, motorcycles, RV, and watercraft
- 100% financing available on approved credit
- Low credit union rates
- Flexible terms for lower payments

Payroll Advance: Quick cash is easy to get a hold of with California Credit Union's **Payroll Advance** services. Short-term agreements can put money in your pocket for all kinds of emergencies.

There is no long application process, and a one-time finance charge keeps rates affordable.

Home Mortgages: California Credit Union staffs a team of real estate specialists who are ready to help you [buy your first home](#), [refinance your existing home](#), or even upgrade to your dream home.

Both fixed-rate and adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) are available, as well as an 80/10/10 program which allows a low 10% down payment. Additionally, CCU offers:

- Conventional or jumbo mortgages
- Primary residence and non-owner occupied
- 15/20/30 year terms available
- Purchase or refinance
- Standard ARMs
- Hybrid ARMs
- 5/5 ARMs

Banking and Account Services

CCU has a variety of banking and account services that remain flexible to meet the individualized needs of their clients, and they [include](#):

- Checking accounts
- Free online banking
- Savings accounts
- Overdraft protection
- Mobile banking
- E-Statements and E-Notices
- Text banking
- Money market savings
- Summer savings
- IRAs
- Investment services
- Bank-by-phone
- Share certificates

A Broad ATM Network

Aside from 24-hour access to ATMs at California Credit Union branch locations, CCU members can enjoy a partnership with CO-OP Network, which allows access to [over 28,000](#) surcharge-free ATMs across America.

The ATM locator apps help you pinpoint the nearest ATM from anywhere.

Services with the Educator in Mind

CCU has developed an array of products and services designed to meet the special needs of teachers and educators alike.

These services make earning and saving much more effective for those in the education field, and they include:

- Free Checking Your Way
- No minimum deposits
- No monthly service fees
- School summer savings
- Expertly tailored lending services
- APRs as low as 0%

These are just a few of the specials for educators. To learn more and see all CCU has to offer educators, click [here](#).

Firefighters First Credit Union Review

Since 1935, [Firefighters First Credit Union](#) (FFCU) has been serving firefighters and their families with a variety of quality financial products and banking services.

FFCU has [5 California locations](#), including Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Loma Linda. Their CO-OP ATM Network includes [over 30,000](#) surcharge-free ATMs conveniently located across the United States.

Key Factors that Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top Credit Union

Next is a listing of key factors that enabled Firefighters First Credit Union to rank as one of the top credit unions in Los Angeles, California.

Banking for Firefighters, by Firefighters

Firefighters First Credit Union understands the pressures faced by firefighters and their families. It has employed a convenient banking model that is always dedicated to service first.

Benefits are too numerous for one review, but below you'll find some of the most popular services that can help you simplify your financial needs:

Checking Accounts: Flexibility is key, and an FFCU checking account puts you in charge with the [following features](#):

- FREE mobile banking
- Funds insured up to \$500,000 per account by ASI
- Overdraft protection
- No transfer, deposit, or bill pay fees

Savings Accounts: Easy to link and manage, the full-line of savings products from Firefighters First Credit Union is specifically designed around the needs of its members – firefighters and their families.

All savings accounts come with convenient features such as ATM cards, direct deposit, and payroll deduction. Available [savings accounts](#) are:

- Regular Share Accounts (Regular Savings)
- Coverdell Education Savings Accounts
- Holiday Helper Savings Accounts

Money Market Accounts: Simply stated, the more you put in, the more you get out. A Firefighters First Credit Union money market account puts you into a unique position to garner higher returns on your investments and ultimately grow your wealth overall. [Benefits include](#):

- Direct deposit and payroll deduction options
- Unlimited deposits
- Access by check (6 checks per month)
- ATM/check card, online, and mobile banking
- Accounts insured up to \$500,000 per account by ASI

Fee Schedules:

Banking fees and surcharges can really add up and eat into your assets. Firefighters First Credit Union prides itself in minimizing fees, and it doesn't charge for basic account services, deposits, ATM withdrawals, or transfers.

When fees do come into play, [here's a look at what FFCU's rates are](#):

| Service Type | Fee |
|--|--------------------------|
| Check Printing Fee | Actual charges + postage |
| Non-Sufficient Funds Fee (NSF items returned)† | \$25.00/item |
| Privilege Pay (NSF items paid)† | \$25.00/item |
| Foreign Currency Check Conversion | \$25.00 + cost |
| Returned Payment Fee | \$22.00/item |
| Late Payment Fee | \$15.00/item |
| Real Estate Demand Fee | \$30.00/item |
| Legal Services (per document) | \$10.00 |
| e-checking Excess Check Fee | \$2.00/each |
| Cash Packs | \$2.00/item |
| Cashiers Checks | FREE |
| Stop Payment | FREE |
| Domestic Wire | FREE |

FFCU's rates

Professionally Managed Loans

A singular personal loan is how Firefighters First Credit Union started in the first place. Lending exclusively to its Fire Family, FFCU is the “go-to” institution when it comes to all types of loans.

From personal loans and mortgages to solar credits and credit cards, your options are numerous and include:

- Auto
- Recreational vehicles
- Solar loan
- Lines of credits
- Aircraft
- Fire station
- Mortgages
- Visa credit cards
- Balance programs
- HELOC (Home Equity Line of Credit)
- Vacation homes
- Investment properties
- Reverse mortgages
- Home and personal financing

First City Credit Union Review

With 8 branch locations throughout California, including two in Los Angeles, First City Credit Union (FCCU) is a co-operative and non-profit financial institution.

It is one of the nation's leading 5-star credit unions and is owned and operated by its members. Furthermore, FCCU boasts \$530 million in assets among its 51,000 members and growing.

Key Factors that Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top Credit Union

The following is a listing of key factors that allowed First City Credit Union to rank as one of the top credit unions in Los Angeles, California.

Lead by Guiding Principles

First City Credit Union has grown from closing with \$149 in deposits back in 1937 to being a multi-million-dollar institution.

It has achieved this monumental success through the following set of driving principles that they still abide by today:

- Value
- Personal service
- Trust
- Convenience

Service Satisfaction

Cost-saving and competitive services allow the focus to remain on you, the client. First City Credit Union is in the business of simply being the best of the best and delivering results to boot.

When you sign up as a client, you can rest assured you will receive a completely customized package of services that will simplify your financial life and help you get to where you want to be.

Service include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile banking and SMS text messaging
- E-Statements
- Apple Pay
- Phone banking
- Loan payment
- Verified by Visa
- Overdraft protection and courtesy pay
- TeleService Center
- First CityLink online banking and bill payment
- Remote deposit capture

Dividend Rates and Yields

For both savings and checking accounts, dividend rates and yields vary. A minimum deposit of just \$5 is required for most accounts, and the [chart below](#) offers insight into Annual Percentage Yields for various types of accounts:

DIVIDEND RATES AND YIELDS

All rates and yields subject to change after the account is opened. Call the credit union at (800) 944-2200 for current rates and yields.

Savings and Checking Accounts

| Account Type | Minimum Balance to Earn APY | Dividend Rate | Annual Percentage Yield (APY) |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Regular Share (Savings) ¹ | \$100 | .10% | .10% |
| Vacation Club/Holiday Saver ² | \$100 | .10% | .10% |
| FirstStart Savings ¹ | 0 and up | .10% | .10% |
| Free Checking ³ | None | None | None |
| Advantage Checking ³ | None | None | None |
| Interest Checking ³ | \$1,000 | .02% | .03% |
| Check Builder ⁴ | None | None | None |
| Money Market | \$1,000 - \$9,999 | 0.10% | 0.10% |
| | \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 0.15% | 0.15% |
| | \$25,000 - \$49,999 | 0.20% | 0.20% |
| | \$50,000 and over | 0.20% | 0.20% |
| Money Market IRA ⁵ | \$100 - \$9,999 | 0.10% | 0.10% |
| | \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 0.15% | 0.15% |
| | \$25,000 - \$49,999 | 0.20% | 0.20% |
| | \$50,000 and over | 0.20% | 0.20% |

Rates

Banking on the Right Move

Attaining your financial dreams can become a reality. First City Credit Union has expertly curated banking services backed by a highly [professional staff](#) that has dealt with just about every variable you can imagine.

They are here for you, and as a client, you can take advantage of the following [banking services](#):

- Free checking
 - Interest checking
 - Regular savings
 - Money market
 - Term certificates
 - IRAs
 - FirstStart savings
 - Vacation and holiday savers
-

To browse exclusive reviews of all top rated credit unions in Houston, Texas, please click on any of the links below:

- [California Bear Credit Union](#)
 - [California Credit Union](#)
 - [Firefighters First Credit Union](#)
 - [First City Credit Union](#)
 - [Kinecta Federal Credit Union](#)
 - [Los Angeles Federal Credit Union](#)
 - [USC Credit Union](#)
 - [Water and Power Community Credit Union](#)
 - [Wescom Credit Union](#)
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Conclusion – Top 9 Credit Unions in Los Angeles, California

When deciding which Los Angeles credit union is going to best serve your needs, take into consideration the following criteria:

- Do you prefer to do your banking face-to-face or online?
- Are you looking for basic checking and savings or more?
- Do you have special needs such as a reverse mortgage, or have you recently acquired substantial assets?
- Do you need your financial institution to be able to handle a variable flow of deposits?

All these things can impact your choice, and you should have a clear vision of what your financial needs are so that you can get the most out of a relationship with a Los Angeles credit union.

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