



# Community Investors Bancorp, Inc.

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## 2024 Annual Report President's Letter

While FFCB's previous Fiscal Year 2023 was defined by the many changes both internally and externally that occurred, this Fiscal Year 2024 can be defined by a renewed focus on stabilization. The bank embarked on a strategic planning initiative that at its core upholds our mission to provide resources that strengthen the communities we serve and focuses on our commitment to be the "Bank of Choice" in those communities as well. Strengthening our "Core" mission and commitments has allowed us to quickly establish a solid and stable foundation on which to create and build value for all stakeholders! Key to our strategic objectives' success is our focus on intentional, long-term, and managed growth that not only moves the bank to a more resilient and thriving organization but also prioritizes the well-being of our employees, customers, and shareholders. While our financial results for fiscal year 2024 confirm that our continued efforts to build a stable foundation that supports strategic, intentional growth have shown improvement to our financial results, we are not resting. We continue to emphasize the 3C's- Care, Curiosity and Courage-as integral to our bank's continued improvement. This improvement, however, was not without ongoing challenges. The continued slow economy marked by stubborn inflation concerns and continued historically high-rate environment continued to affect our normal flow of loan business. This stagnant economic environment continued to squeeze our interest margin. Additionally, liquidity pressures continued as the market pressures continued to negatively impact financial institutions (especially community banks) liquidity positions. This too led to pressure on our interest margin as deposit interest costs settled in at historically high rates. Finally, due to the previous fiscal year's significant personnel issues, many key executives and management took on new roles and additional responsibilities during this time. However, these changes have enhanced the stabilization, strengthened our leadership, and streamlined our processes. Our whole team's focus on taking complete ownership of every situation has proven that we are able to navigate any challenge effectively and consistently achieve our strategic goals.

In addition to the establishment of an improved strategic plan as mentioned above, the bank has been working extremely hard to establish improved Policies and streamlined Operating Procedures in all areas. These two initiatives combined to make our team more Responsive, Proactive and Nimble as we met unprecedented challenges never experienced in our collective careers. Specifically, we have met the Liquidity challenge by taking a multi-pronged approach. We renewed our focus on the commercial and retail side of the bank to utilize our Strategy Corp. checking account offerings to gather more deposits and strive for more full-service relationships. We also established a larger contingent fund availability with correspondent banks and FHLB. Finally, and most importantly, our team has worked with the State of Ohio to grow our core deposits through programs such as Ohio Ag Link and Ohio Homebuyer Plus accounts. We also continually review and update our established capital plan for adequacy of available capital and strategize for capital improvement opportunities beyond organic growth. During FY 2024 we completed the establishment of a bank-wide Enterprise Risk Management program. This has allowed us to be not only more responsive to potential increased risk situations but also more predictive and efficient. Finally, we are nearing the completion of a much more robust shareholder relations program that will improve transparency and add more valuable information at the fingertips of our current shareholders and prospective investors, communities, and customers. Additionally, we have enjoyed a strong portfolio loan effort for a long time, and we are beginning to see improved volumes in our secondary market function for both residential and commercial loans. Finally, as mentioned above, the

appointment of our key executive teams to enhanced roles has led to a much-improved responsiveness to challenges and implementation of opportunities presented. Most importantly and “Core” to First Federal **Community** Bank’s commitment to strengthen the communities we serve, is that our team members proudly live and serve in our communities and practice our common belief of: Care for each other, Curiosity for things unknown, and the Courage of Ownership.

While we did not experience significant key personnel changes this year, the new executive management team was able to settle into their appointed positions from last year and quickly begin collaborating and effecting change. Our team embraced the 3 C’s and lead their respective teams daily with those in mind. Our Strategic Plan became a living document which has allowed for many process improvements, restructuring of our retail area to enhance the customer service experience, and building the bench through our management trainee program and career pathing efforts. Recruiting folks to come work for us is not hard as most or all referrals come from our current employees. That is a testament to culture and the team.

The Bank reported net earnings of \$1.14 million or \$1.44 per basic share, for the year ended June 30, 2024 (FY2024). This represents an increase of \$424 thousand or 59.2% compared to net earnings of \$716 thousand or \$0.90 per basic share, reported for the year ended June 30, 2023 (FYE2023). The increase in 2024 earnings primarily reflects an increase of \$4.5 million in interest and dividend income or 40.6% and noninterest income showed a \$798 thousand or 28.2% increase from 2023. Additionally, due to continued low delinquency the Bank was able to decrease provision for credit loss by \$106 thousand for FYE 2024. Monitoring loan growth and higher interest rates put pressure on the Bank’s cost of funds throughout FY 2024 and is the main contributor to the increase in interest expense year over year. To improve our interest expense, we have implemented initiatives to increase our core deposits. By fully promoting and utilizing our new personal checking account lines, focusing on full-relationship retail and commercial banking, and harnessing state-based programs like Ohio Ag-Link and Ohio Homebuyers Plus accounts, we have and will continue to favorably impact our cost of funds. Finally, as part of our effort to implement a continuous improvement mindset, we continue to implement cost savings initiatives and explore every opportunity to fully utilize our investments.

Community Investors Bancorp, Inc. (the Bank) reported total assets on June 30, 2024, of \$312 million an increase of \$39.8 million or 14.6% from June 30, 2023, including gross loans of \$255.7 million an increase of \$40.4 million or 18.7% from 2023. Deposits grew by \$22.2 million, a 10.4% increase from 2023. Total stockholders’ equity increased by \$882 thousand to \$17.7 million as a result of improved net income plus the change in unrealized losses on investments less CECL implementation. In addition, dividends of \$303,000 or \$.40 per share were paid on common shares during the fiscal year.

As we look to 2025 and beyond, we will continue to draw on the key to our past success and continued bank-wide improvements; our ability to execute our strategic plan. On behalf of the entire First Federal team, thank you for your support.



Steven R. Crall  
President & CEO