



Which bank account is right for you?

There are many bank accounts on the market claiming to be free.

But don't be fooled. The average bank customer spends \$300 a year on a checking account.

Before committing to an account, be sure you understand all the fees and policies that come with it.

Follow this guide to determine which of California's major free and low-cost checking accounts works best for you.

| | BANK OF AMERICA | BANK OF THE WEST | CITIBANK | UNION BANK | US BANK | WASHINGTON MUTUAL | WELLS FARGO |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Offers Free Checking | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Free Checking if you directly deposit your paycheck | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Fee for using another bank's ATM: | \$2 | \$1.50 | \$1.50 | \$2 | \$2 | \$2 | \$2 |
| Fee for spending more than you have in your account (overdraft): | \$20-\$35 | \$22-\$30 | \$30 | \$24-\$34 | \$25-\$34 | \$30 | \$23-\$34 |
| Accepts Matricula Counsular & other foreign id cards | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Less than \$5 fee to transfer money to Mexico | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Will open an account for people listed on ChexSystems* | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

**Banks share information about their customers on ChexSystems. Some banks will not open an account if you have a bad record on ChexSystems (i.e. multiple overdrafts, fraud or providing false information to a bank). Ask the bank about their ChexSystems policy before opening an account.*

CAUTION: Banks are legally allowed to place a hold on deposits for up to 11 business days (or as many as 16 calendar days), which means you will not be able to access your money during this time.



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