Looking for a mortgage loan can be an intimidating process if you don’t know what factors to take into consideration. With a better understanding of what best fits your needs, you’ll find the right mortgage for you.

Rates
A high mortgage rate can generate significant costs over the life of the loan. That’s why it’s important to put a great low rate at the top of your criteria list. We offer some of the lowest rates around, including our: 10-year fixed at 2.875% APR* and 15-year fixed at 3.125% APR* to name a couple.

Type
Mortgages are not a one-size-fits-all type of loan. Some borrowers may benefit more from a fixed-rate mortgage, while others may want an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) depending on how long they plan to stay in the house. No matter your preference, we have both fixed and ARM options available to make it easier to find the perfect fit for you.

Closing Costs
Always factor in the extra costs involved when closing on your mortgage.
A MESSAGE
FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO
TIMOTHY D. BALLINGER

Your General Electric Credit Union (GECU) has a very focused mission – improving the financial ‘Quality of Life’ for our members. To that end, in 2015 we undertook many transformational actions to better serve you both today and in the future; whether it’s through new product and service offerings or “under the hood” improvements, the ability to provide you with the best of the financial world is our driving force.

As you know, we take great pride in paying some of the highest deposit rates around. In addition to maintaining top rankings in the Cincinnati Enquirer’s weekly deposit rate comparison, we recently received accolades from Magnify Money (magnifymoney.com) for our 1- and 2-year Share Certificate rates; we’re a leader in the area, as well as among credit unions nationwide. While we can’t say for certain what will happen with interest rates, you can rest-assured we will be very responsive to what the Fed does and will maintain our leadership position in the market.

From a service perspective, our growth and success only makes sense if we’re doing something for you, enhancing your personal financial position. Some recent improvements include:

• An upgraded phone system which has substantially improved our Call Center services.
• A new, state-of-the-art website we hope you’re finding very helpful.
• Our recently released Mobile Deposit service, available within Mobile Banking, for the ultimate convenience and ease of use.
• A regular series of seminars from our Investment Services team to inform you about investment options, estate planning, and other wealth management related topics. Visit our Investment Services webpage often to find information about upcoming seminars.

We also understand access to the right technology is important in an ever-changing financial world. This Spring, we’re looking forward to releasing our branded mobile and tablet app, GECU Mobile, and several digital wallet solutions: MasterPass™, Visa Checkout, Apple Pay™, Samsung Pay™, and Android Pay™. These digital wallet offerings provide you with additional choices for making your online or in-store purchases.

I would also like to take a moment to announce those elected to our Board of Directors at our 2016 Annual Meeting. This year, incumbents: Cheryl Hill, Richard Ille, and Robert Peak were re-elected. These individuals, along with the other members of the Board, spend many hours volunteering their time to make this a successful organization. I’d also like to recognize the following Robert A. Cunningham Scholarship winners: Richard Duke, Emma Eichenauer, Nicole Faulkner, Kimmia Lyon, and Rachana Raghupathy. These recipients are high school seniors who have demonstrated their spirit of volunteerism within their local community. Congratulations to you!

Over the last few years, we have steadily grown to over $2.3 billion and are one of the most financially sound credit unions in the country. Locally, this stature makes GECU the fourth largest financial institution in the Greater Cincinnati market. While growth is good, growth and transformation to better serve you is what will allow us to improve your financial Quality of Life. Thank you for your membership; you have made it possible for us to work toward that end.

Our 61st Annual Meeting

Last month, we held our 61st Annual Meeting to review the highlights and accomplishments of 2015. We also announced those elected to our Board of Directors. This year’s incumbents: Cheryl Hill, Richard Ille, and Robert Peak were re-elected. Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers, devoted to making safe and sound decisions for the well-being of our membership. Their time and dedication is appreciated!
Robert A. Cunningham served as a volunteer on our Board of Directors and was passionate about volunteering and helping educate young adults. For the past 18 years, we have celebrated his enthusiasm through our Robert A. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship. Each year, we award five college-bound high school seniors who portray the same spirit of volunteerism that the late Mr. Cunningham displayed. Each recipient will receive a one-time award of $2,000. Congratulations to this year’s winners!

- Nicole Faulkner
  Taylor High School
- Richard Duke
  Wyoming High School
- Emma Eichenauer
  Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School
- Kimmia Lyon
  William Mason High School
- Rachana Raghupathy
  Centerville High School

2016 Cunningham Scholarship Recipients

For qualified borrowers only. Limited to owner occupied, single family property in OH, KY, and IN. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. This is a limited-time offer; terms and conditions are subject to change at any time. This offer applies to new home purchases and refinances from other mortgage companies/financial institutions; current GECU mortgages are not eligible for this special. You must be a GECU member in good standing at closing to take advantage of our mortgage promotion(s). Restrictions may apply. Mortgage loan promotion limits the standard closing costs to $0.00. Title insurance may be required for certain loans with the related costs the responsibility of the borrower. There is an application fee that will be paid by the borrower in good faith, and once the loan is closed and dispersed, the borrower will be reimbursed the full application fee. This offer is not valid with any other promotion or special. Your APR may vary based on the final loan amount and/or other finance charges based on the structure and options of your loan. Other terms and options available.

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Each month, our e-newsletter, GECU e-News, presents a new opportunity to engage with us, through a short questionnaire.

To the right, find the results from March’s questionnaire. Thank you for participating!

Join Our Email List! Simply scan the QR code and fill-out the short enrollment form.

What do you plan to do with your tax return?

Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

- Pay down debt
- Spend it on necessities
- Build college savings
- Invest in your home
- Get a business up and running
- Splurge on a vacation or fund a big-ticket item
- Sadly, I’m not getting a return
- Other
- Save or invest it
- Boost your retirement savings

*For qualified borrowers only. Limited to owner occupied, single family property in OH, KY, and IN. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. This is a limited-time offer; terms and conditions are subject to change at any time. This offer applies to new home purchases and refinances from other mortgage companies/financial institutions; current GECU mortgages are not eligible for this special. You must be a GECU member in good standing at closing to take advantage of our mortgage promotion(s). Restrictions may apply. Mortgage loan promotion limits the standard closing costs to $0.00. Title insurance may be required for certain loans with the related costs the responsibility of the borrower. There is an application fee that will be paid by the borrower in good faith, and once the loan is closed and dispersed, the borrower will be reimbursed the full application fee. This offer is not valid with any other promotion or special. Your APR may vary based on the final loan amount and/or other finance charges based on the structure and options of your loan. Other terms and options available.
AN ESTIMATED 1 IN 8 CARS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT COVERED BY AUTO INSURANCE.

Brought to you by: Insurance Services

Do you have the coverage you need at the rates you deserve? Choosing the right auto insurance can help protect you and your family from risks on the road. As a GECU member, you have access to our Insurance Services team with no obligations. Request your free rate quote today to determine if you’re getting the best rates and coverage for you and your family.

Contact Insurance Services at: 513.243.8100 or insurance@gecreditunion.org.

When Should I Retire and Start Collecting Social Security?

Brought to you by: Investment Services

The age at which you begin receiving Social Security benefits affects how much retirement income you have, so it’s important to weigh your options. If you collect Social Security before your full retirement age, your benefit will be permanently reduced. Depending on the year you were born, you’ll receive between 25 and 30 percent less per month if you collect benefits at age 62 than if you wait until full retirement age. This doesn’t necessarily mean that collecting benefits at age 62 is unwise; you may actually end up with more money if you start collecting Social Security benefits at age 62 than if you wait until full retirement age, because you’ll receive more benefit checks.

There are good reasons to wait until full retirement age (or beyond) to start collecting benefits. For example, if you work full-time past age 62, you’ll have the opportunity to increase your eventual retirement benefit because your benefit will be figured using your 35 highest earnings years. Additionally, if you’re worried about your income after you retire, you may want to receive as much as possible from Social Security each month. If you can wait past full retirement age to begin collecting benefits, you will receive delayed retirement credits (up until age 70) that will permanently increase your benefit.

To help you make an informed decision, the Social Security Administration (SSA) offers several benefit estimators online at: www.ssa.gov.

Additionally, our Investment Services CFS* Registered Representatives, Todd Blessing and Erik Waldron, can review your options with you, to help you in determining the right plan for your unique circumstances. You may contact them at: 513.243.6510 or by email at: todd.blessing@cusonet.com or erik.waldron@cusonet.com.

*Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (“CFS”), a Registered Broker-dealer (Member FINRA/SIPC) and SEC-registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. General Electric Credit Union has contracted with CFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members. Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. does not provide investment, tax, or legal advice. The information presented here is not specific to any individual’s personal circumstances. To the extent that this material concerns tax matters, it is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by a taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed by law. Each taxpayer should seek independent advice from a tax professional based on his or her individual circumstances. These materials are provided for general information and educational purposes based upon publicly available information from sources believed to be reliable—we cannot assure the accuracy or completeness of these materials. The information in these materials may change at any time and without notice.
Digital Wallets Make Purchasing Easy, Online Or On-The-Go

Online Digital Wallets
Online digital wallets offer increased security and eliminate the need to enter your payment and shipping details each time you make a purchase from your smartphone, tablet, or computer. You can store your credit, debit, or prepaid card information. And, both online wallet providers are working toward allowing use of their wallets in participating merchant stores.

Mobile Digital Wallets
Depending on your mobile device, you can enroll your smartphone, tablet, or smartwatch in its appropriate wallet to make quick and secure in-store, or in-app, purchases with a credit or debit card.

GECU Mobile for Your Smartphone & Tablet
It’s almost time to say ‘Goodbye’ to our Touchbanking app. Soon we’ll be releasing our new mobile app, GECU Mobile, which will be available on Apple® or Android™ devices, including tablets and Kindles!

Our new app provides all of the same functionality, but has an improved user interface and experience. Stay tuned for more information!
To Probate or Not to Probate
Brought to you by: Legal Services

Most people today who plan their estates want to avoid probate. *But are there situations where it can be better to plan for the probate of a person’s estate?*

The purpose of probate is to assure that a decedent’s assets will be transferred properly in the manner that the decedent desires in his or her Will, and to pay the debts, taxes, and expenses owed by the decedent. The court gives oversight to this process. This is accomplished by presenting the Will to the Probate Court in the county in which the decedent died, and filing an Inventory and accounting by which the Probate Court checks to make sure the debts, expenses, and taxes are properly paid, and the property is distributed as directed in the decedent’s Will.

When you avoid probate through a living trust, there is no court oversight. Therefore, if you have no friends or relatives who you can trust to accomplish your desires at your death, the Probate Court may be a viable option for you. Also, if your children are minors, the Probate Court will appoint a guardian and ensure that the assets will be spent for their benefit.

The problem with probate is its cost (typically 2% to 8% of the estate) and the delays caused by a cumbersome probate process. Also, if the children are minors, there are significant costs (attorneys and guardians) and the Probate Court will hand over their assets to them in full at age 18.

One way to avoid probate is through asset titling. For example, joint and survivor property, transfer-on-death or payable-on-death property, and IRAs and life insurance with named beneficiaries all avoid probate. But there are disadvantages to this method of avoiding probate. A living trust is another way to avoid probate.

The decision of whether or not to avoid probate and how to do so is a core element of estate planning and one for which seeing an estate plan attorney is recommended.

For more information please contact our Legal Services team at: 513.243.8300. There’s a no-charge, initial consultation.

Open an IRA Certificate today!

**The Industry has Recognized Our Certificates Rates...**

**Have You?**

**IRA Certificates**

Combine the guaranteed interest of a certificate and the tax advantages of an individual retirement account (IRA).

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Other options available; visit our website for a complete list.

Don’t forget! There’s still time to contribute to your Health Savings Account or Individual Retirement Account for tax year 2015. *The deadline is April 18, 2016.*

**Contact Us**

**Member Services**
513.243.4328 | 800.542.7093
memberservices@gecreditunion.org

**Hours**
Mon-Thu: 8 am - 5 pm, Fri: 8 am - 6 pm
Sat: 9 am - 2 pm

**Financial Mall**
Located at Reading Road
513.243.7887 | Hours: M - F 9 am - 5 pm

**24-hour Credit Cardholder Service**
866.820.6788

**For Lost/Stolen Credit Cards**
800.449.7728

**For Lost/Stolen Debit/ATM Cards**
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**Sourceline**
513.243.3333 | 800.589.2875

For our office hours and locations, please visit: www.gecreditunion.org.