

More ways to improve your **CREDIT SCORE**

Is your score keeping you from getting approved for financing on a home or new car? The good news is you can begin to improve your credit immediately. While repairing your credit does take time, it's possible to quickly improve it by following these simple tips:

- **Pay off debt instead of moving it** to another account or to a new account.
- **Eliminate debt, if possible**, or at least pay it down as low as you can.
- **Don't open new accounts** to try to build credit. It could work against you.
- **Always pay bills on time** or it may hurt your credit score.

Power Tip:

Consider paying all or part of your bill before the closing date (often the last day of your billing cycle) so that the credit issuer reports a lower or zero balance. Call your credit issuers to find out the specific closing date.

Ways to curb spending

- ✓ Look for ways to make small cuts; reduce non-essential expenses, which may include your morning coffee run or daily lunches out with co-workers.
- ✓ Cancel underutilized subscriptions or membership services (e.g. streaming apps, TV channels, magazine subscriptions and gym memberships).
- ✓ Track your expenses and spending in a notebook or through an app. When you are aware of your expenses, you are less likely to spend frivolously.

Thinking of buying or selling a home soon? Your credit should be a top priority. Give me a call to discuss why!



How to keep healthy **CREDIT**

Easy things you can do to maintain or improve your credit score

- 1** Keep your balances low on credit cards and revolving lines of credit.
- 2** If your balances are currently high on one or more credit cards, pay down the one with the highest interest rate first.
- 3** Set up automatic bill pay and reminders to avoid late fees.
- 4** Limit rate shopping to a 30-day window so your inquiries are more likely to be treated as a single one. (Multiple credit inquiries count against your score.)
- 5** Consider keeping your unused credit lines open. Closing several accounts at once may raise flags and impact your score. Instead, leave your balance at zero and try not to use it.

Find out how you measure up!



Review your credit report annually and make sure to correct any mistakes. Don't be afraid to dispute any inaccurate or incomplete information!

