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# Dallas Business Journal

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## 4 months into 2008, D-FW gets only 2nd bank startup

Dallas Business Journal - by [Chad Eric Watt](#) Staff writer

A startup bank near the banks of the Trinity River in Dallas has finished money-raising efforts and opened for business on May 5.

With 2008 more than one-third over, Texas Security Bank is only the second local startup bank to open its doors since the start of the year. In 2007, nine new banks started up in D-FW, and a record 24 opened their doors statewide.

Collin Bank in Frisco opened officially on Feb. 21. Elsewhere in Texas, three other banks have opened for business.

"We said it was one of the more difficult times to raise capital, but also one of the best times to start a bank," said Craig Scheef, CEO and president of Texas Security Bank.

With older banks grappling with problem loans on their balance sheets, Texas Security starts 2008 with a clean slate and more than \$26 million in capital to fuel its operations and make loans.

The bank raised funds from 260 shareholders, mostly individuals, Scheef said. It was first known as Texas Trinity Bank, but changed its name while it was in fundraising mode to avoid conflict with Tarrant County's Trinity Bank.

That funding should be sufficient to support Texas Security three to five years into the future. Scheef says the bank aims to be profitable in 18 months.

It is focusing on business customers on both sides of the Trinity River in Dallas. The bank aims to target independent business owners operating in the design district, nearby industrial areas and Oak Cliff.

Texas Security's main office is under construction in the Dallas Design District and a second location is planned for the Kessler Park neighborhood of Oak Cliff. It is operating from a temporary location near where its permanent home -- a former fire station under renovation -- will be located at Turtle Creek and Irving boulevards.



Gus Gustovich

**BANKING ON D-FW:** Texas Security Bank, led by CEO and President Craig Scheef, left, and Chief Lending Officer Jason Crispin, is the second startup bank to open for business in D-FW this year, well off 2007's record pace.

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Statewide, three organizing groups have bank charter applications pending before the Texas Department of Banking, and two (in San Antonio and Austin) have withdrawn charter applications this year. A state charter is the most common license that Texas bank organizers seek. Up to a dozen others across Texas are planning to start a bank or buy an existing institution, said Dan T. Bass, Houston managing director of **Carson Medlin Co.** Investment Bankers.

"Institution investors have disappeared, so you really need to have local investors lined up," Bass said.

Dallas-based Commerce Street Capital advised Texas Security on its formation.

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