

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 26, 2022



Southern States Bancshares, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**Alabama**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)  
**615 Quintard Ave.**  
**Anniston, AL**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**001-40727**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**26-2518085**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**36201**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (256) 241-1092

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class  
Common Stock, \$5.00 par value

Trading  
Symbols(s)  
SSBK

Name of exchange  
on which registered  
The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)  
 Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

**Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

On October 26, 2022, Southern States Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company") entered into Subordinated Note Purchase Agreements (each, a "Purchase Agreement") with certain "accredited investors," as defined in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and "qualified institutional buyers," as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act, (the "Purchasers" and each, a "Purchaser") pursuant to which the Company issued and sold \$40.0 million in aggregate principal amount of its 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032 (the "Notes"). The Notes were offered and sold by the Company in a private placement transaction in reliance on exemptions from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, pursuant to Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder. The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Notes for general corporate purposes.

The Notes mature on October 26, 2032 and bear interest at an initial fixed rate of 7.00% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears. From and including October 26, 2027, to but excluding the maturity date or early redemption date, the interest rate will reset quarterly to a Three-Month Term Secured Overnight Financing Rate plus 306 basis points, payable quarterly in arrears. The Company will be entitled to redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, on any interest payment on or after October 26, 2027, and to redeem the Notes in whole upon certain other events.

In connection with the issuance and sale of the Notes, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement (each, a "Registration Rights Agreement") with each Purchaser of the Notes pursuant to which the Company has agreed to take certain actions to provide for the exchange of the Notes for subordinated notes that are registered under the Securities Act with substantially the same terms as the Notes (the "Exchange"). Under certain circumstances, if the Company fails to meet its obligations under each Registration Rights Agreement, it would be required to pay additional interest to the holders of the Notes.

The Notes were issued under an Indenture, dated October 26, 2022 (the "Indenture"), by and between the Company and UMB Bank, N.A., as trustee (the "Trustee"). The Notes are not subject to any sinking fund and are not convertible into or exchangeable, other than pursuant to the Exchange, for any other securities or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The Notes are not subject to redemption at the option of the holder. The Notes are unsecured, subordinated obligations of the Company only and are not obligations of, and are not guaranteed by, any subsidiary of the Company. The Notes rank junior in right to payment to the Company's current and future senior indebtedness. The Notes have been structured to qualify as Tier 2 capital for regulatory capital purposes.

Mark Chambers, Sr., who serves as a director of the Company and the Company's president, and the chief executive officer of Southern States Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, purchased \$100,000 of the Notes, and James Henry Smith IV, who serves as a director of the Company, purchased \$200,000 of the Notes, in each case on the same terms as the other Purchasers.

The Indenture, form of Notes, form of Purchase Agreement and form of Registration Rights Agreement are attached as Exhibits 4.1, 4.2, 10.1 and 10.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K (the "Report") and are incorporated in this Item 1.01 by reference. The foregoing descriptions of the Indenture, form of Notes, form of Purchase Agreement and form of Registration Rights Agreement are summaries and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of such documents.

**Item 2.03. Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.**

The information set forth under Item 1.01 above is incorporated by reference into this Item 2.03.

**Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure**

On October 26, 2022, the Company issued a press release announcing the completion of the offering of the Notes, a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Report. In connection with the offering of the Notes, the Company delivered an investor presentation to potential investors on a confidential basis, a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99.2 to this Report.

In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the information furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 of this Report, including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2, shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section. The information furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 of this Report, including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2, shall not be incorporated by reference in any filing or other document under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except as may be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing or document.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1	<a href="#">Indenture, dated October 26, 2022, by and between Southern States Bancshares, Inc. and UMB Bank, N.A., as trustee.</a>
4.2	<a href="#">Form of 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Note due October 26, 2032 (included as Exhibit A-1 and Exhibit A-2 to the Indenture filed as Exhibit 4.1 hereto).</a>
10.1	<a href="#">Form of Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement, dated October 26, 2022, by and among Southern States Bancshares, Inc. and each Purchaser. *</a>
10.2	<a href="#">Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated October 26, 2022, by and among Southern States Bancshares, Inc. and each Purchaser.</a>
99.1	<a href="#">Press Release of Southern States Bancshares, Inc., dated October 26, 2022.</a>
99.2	<a href="#">Investor Presentation of Southern States Bancshares, Inc.</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

*\* Certain schedules and exhibits have been omitted pursuant to Item 601(a)(5) of Regulation S-K because the information contained therein is not material and is not otherwise publicly disclosed. The Company undertakes to furnish supplementally a copy of the exhibits and schedules to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.*

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: October 27, 2022

**SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.**

By: /s/ Lynn Joyce  
Name: Lynn Joyce  
Title: Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.**

**As Issuer,**

**and**

**UMB BANK, N.A.**

**As Trustee**

**INDENTURE**

**Dated as of October 26, 2022**

**7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032**

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**CROSS-REFERENCE TABLE**

Trust Indenture Act Section	Indenture Section
§310 (a)(1)	5.08
(a)(2)	5.08
(a)(3)	Not applicable
(a)(4)	Not applicable
(a)(5)	5.08
(b)	5.08, 5.09
§311 (a)	5.05
(b)	5.05
§312 (a)	6.01
(b)	6.02
(c)	6.02
§313 (a)	6.03
(b)(1)	6.03
(b)(2)	6.03
(c)	6.03
(d)	6.03
§314 (a)	6.04
(a)(4)	9.07
(b)	Not applicable
(c)(1)	1.02
(c)(2)	1.02
(c)(3)	Not applicable
(d)	Not applicable
(e)	1.02
(f)	Not applicable
§315 (a)	5.01, 5.02
(b)	5.03
(c)	5.01
(d)	5.01, 5.02
(e)	4.13
§316 (a)	4.11, 4.12
(b)	4.07
(c)	1.04
§317 (a)(1)	4.02
(a)(2)	4.03
(b)	9.03
§318 (a)	1.07
(b)	1.07
(c)	1.07

Note: This Cross-Reference table will not, for any purpose, be deemed part of this Indenture.

This INDENTURE dated as of October 26, 2022 is between Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the “Company”), and UMB Bank, N.A., a national association duly organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, as Trustee.

WHEREAS, the Company has duly authorized the execution and delivery of this Indenture to provide for an issue of \$40.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Indenture.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to declare the terms and conditions upon which the Subordinated Notes are authenticated, issued and delivered, and in consideration of the premises, and of the purchase and acceptance of the Subordinated Notes by the Holders thereof, the Company and the Trustee agree as follows for the benefit of each other and for the benefit of the respective Holders from time to time of the Subordinated Notes.

**ARTICLE I**  
**DEFINITIONS AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

Section 1.01 Definitions.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Indenture or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms defined in this Section for all purposes of this Indenture, any Company Order, any Board Resolution, and any indenture supplemental hereto will have the respective meanings specified in this Section.

“Act,” when used with respect to any Holders, is defined in Section 1.04.

“Additional Interest” has the meaning set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement.

“Affiliate” means, with respect to any specified Person, any other Person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with such specified Person. For the purposes of this definition, “control,” when used with respect to any specified Person means the power to direct the management and policies of such Person, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise; and the terms “controlling” and “controlled” have meanings correlative to the foregoing.

“Applicable Procedures” means, with respect to any transfer or exchange of or for beneficial interests in any Global Subordinated Note, the rules and procedures of the Depository that apply to such transfer or exchange.

“Authenticating Agent” means any Person authorized by the Trustee in accordance with Section 5.12 to act on behalf of the Trustee to authenticate Subordinated Notes.

“Authorized Officer” means each of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer, the President, any Senior Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Credit Officer, and the Chief Risk Officer of the Company.

“Bankruptcy Laws” mean Title 11, United States Code (11 U.S.C. §§101 et seq.) or any similar federal or state law for the relief of debtors.

“Benchmark” means, initially, Three-Month Term SOFR; provided that if a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR or the then-current Benchmark, then “Benchmark” means the applicable Benchmark Replacement.

“Benchmark Replacement” means the Interpolated Benchmark with respect to the then-current Benchmark, plus the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment for such Benchmark; provided that if (a) the Calculation Agent cannot determine the Interpolated Benchmark as of the Benchmark Replacement Date

or (b) the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR (in which event no Interpolated Benchmark with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR shall be determined), then "Benchmark Replacement" means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

(a) the sum of: (i) Compounded SOFR and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

(b) the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

(c) the sum of: (i) the ISDA Fallback Rate and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment; or

(d) the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected by the Company as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor giving due consideration to any industry-accepted rate of interest as a replacement for the then-current Benchmark for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

"Benchmark Replacement Adjustment" means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

(a) the spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement;

(b) if the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement is equivalent to the ISDA Fallback Rate, then the ISDA Fallback Adjustment; or

(c) the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected by the Company giving due consideration to any industry-accepted spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, for the replacement of the then-current Benchmark with the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

"Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes" means, with respect to any Benchmark Replacement, any technical, administrative or operational changes (including changes to the definition of "Floating Rate Interest Period," timing and frequency of determining rates with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the adoption of such Benchmark Replacement in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company reasonably decides in good faith that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company reasonably determines in good faith that no market practice for use of the Benchmark Replacement exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

"Benchmark Replacement Date" means the earliest to occur of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

(a) in the case of clause (a) or (b) of the definition of "Benchmark Transition Event," the later of (i) the date of the public statement or publication of information referenced therein and (ii) the date on which the administrator of the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely ceases to provide the Benchmark; or

(b) in the case of clause (c) of the definition of “Benchmark Transition Event,” the date of such public statement or publication of information referenced therein.

For the avoidance of doubt, for purposes of the definitions of Benchmark Replacement Date and Benchmark Transition Event, references to the Benchmark also include any reference rate underlying the Benchmark (for example, if the Benchmark becomes Compounded SOFR, references to the Benchmark would include SOFR).

For the avoidance of doubt, if the event giving rise to the Benchmark Replacement Date occurs on the same day as, but earlier than, the Reference Time in respect of any determination, the Benchmark Replacement Date will be deemed to have occurred prior to the Reference Time for purposes of such determination.

“Benchmark Transition Event” means the occurrence of one or more of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

(a) a public statement or publication of information by or on behalf of the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that such administrator has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark, permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark;

(b) a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark, the central bank for the currency of the Benchmark, an insolvency official with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark, a resolution authority with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark or a court or an entity with similar insolvency or resolution authority over the administrator for the Benchmark, which states that the administrator of the Benchmark has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark; or

(c) a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that the Benchmark is no longer representative.

“Board of Directors” means, as to any Person, the board of directors, or similar governing body, of such Person or any duly authorized committee thereof.

“Board Resolution” means one or more resolutions, certified by the Secretary of the Company or another Authorized Officer to have been duly adopted by the Board of Directors and to be in full force and effect on the date of such certification, delivered to the Trustee.

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banking institutions in the State of Alabama or city where the Trustee is located are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

“Calculation Agent” means such bank or other entity (which may be the Company or an Affiliate of the Company) as may be appointed by the Company to act as Calculation Agent for the Subordinated Notes during the Floating Rate Period. The initial Calculation Agent shall be the Company.

“Commission” means the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as from time to time constituted, or, if at any time after the execution of this Indenture such Commission is not existing and performing the duties now assigned to it under the Trust Indenture Act, then the body performing such duties at such time.

“Company” is defined in the preamble to this Indenture.

“Company Request” and “Company Order” mean, respectively, a written request or order, as the case may be, signed on behalf of the Company by an Authorized Officer and delivered to the Trustee.

“Compounded SOFR” means the compounded average of SOFRs for the applicable Corresponding Tenor, with the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate being established by the Company in accordance with:

(a) the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for determining compounded SOFR; provided that:

(b) if, and to the extent that, the Company or its designee determines that Compounded SOFR cannot be determined in accordance with clause (a) above, then the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate that have been selected by the Company or its designee giving due consideration to any industry-accepted market practice for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

For the avoidance of doubt, the calculation of Compounded SOFR will exclude the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment (and the spread specified on the face of the Subordinated Note).

“Corporate Trust Office” means the address of the Trustee specified in Section 1.05 or such other address as the Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company, or the designated address of any successor Trustee (or such other address as such successor Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company).

“Corresponding Tenor” with respect to a Benchmark Replacement means a tenor (including overnight) having approximately the same length (disregarding any Business Day adjustment) as the applicable tenor for the then-current Benchmark.

“Covenant Defeasance” is defined in Section 3.02(3).

“Defaulted Interest” is defined in Section 2.10.

“Definitive Subordinated Notes” means, individually and collectively, each Restricted Definitive Subordinated Note and each Unrestricted Definitive Subordinated Note, substantially in the form of Exhibit A-1 hereto, issued under this Indenture.

“Depository” means, with respect to any Subordinated Note issuable or issued in whole or in part in global form, the Person designated as depository by the Company in accordance with this Indenture, and any and all successors thereto appointed as Depository under this Indenture. The initial Depository shall be The Depository Trust Company.

“Dollars” or “\$” means a dollar or other equivalent unit of legal tender for payment of public or private debts in the United States.

“Event of Default” is defined in Section 4.01.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or any successor statute thereto.

“Exchange Notes” means the Subordinated Notes issued in the Exchange Offer in accordance with Section 2.08.

“Exchange Offer” has the meaning set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement.

“Federal Reserve” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any successor regulatory authority with jurisdiction over bank holding companies.

“Fixed Interest Payment Date” means March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year, beginning on December 30, 2022.

“Fixed Rate Period” is defined in Section 2.13.

“Floating Interest Determination Date” means the date upon which the Floating Interest Rate is determined by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions.

“Floating Interest Payment Date” means March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year, beginning on December 30, 2027.

“Floating Rate Period” is defined in Section 2.13.

“Floating Rate Interest Period” is defined in Section 2.13.

“FRBNY” means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

“FRBNY’s Website” means the website of the FRBNY at <http://www.newyorkfed.org>, or any successor source.

“GAAP” means generally accepted accounting principles in the United States set forth in the opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the statements and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and such other statements by such other entities (including the Commission) as have been accepted by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are applicable at the date of this Indenture.

“Global Subordinated Notes” means, individually and collectively, each Restricted Global Subordinated Note and each Unrestricted Global Subordinated Note, substantially in the form of Exhibit A-2 hereto, issued under this Indenture.

“Government Obligations” means securities which are direct obligations of the United States of America in each case where the payment or payments thereunder are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

“Holder” means the Person in whose name the Subordinated Note is registered in the Subordinated Note Register.

“Indenture” means this Indenture, as amended and supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms.

“Initial Notes” means the \$40.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032 issued under this Indenture on the date hereof.

“Interest Payment Date” means either a Fixed Interest Payment Date or a Floating Interest Payment Date, as applicable.

“Interest Period” means (i) during the Fixed Rate Period, each three month period beginning on a Fixed Interest Payment Date or (ii) during the Floating Rate Period, the Floating Rate Interest Period.

“Interpolated Benchmark” with respect to the Benchmark means the rate determined for the Corresponding Tenor by interpolating on a linear basis between: (1) the Benchmark for the longest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is shorter than the Corresponding Tenor and (2) the Benchmark for the shortest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is longer than the Corresponding Tenor.

“Investment Company Event” means the receipt by the Company of a legal opinion from counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that there is a material risk that the Company is or, within 90 days of the date of such legal opinion will be, considered an “investment company” that is required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

“ISDA” means the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. or any successor thereto.

“ISDA Definitions” means the 2006 ISDA Definitions published by the ISDA or any successor thereto, as amended or supplemented from time to time, or any successor definitional booklet for interest rate derivatives published from time to time.

“ISDA Fallback Adjustment” means the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be determined upon the occurrence of an index cessation event with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor.

“ISDA Fallback Rate” means the rate that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be effective upon the occurrence of an index cessation date with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor excluding the applicable ISDA Fallback Adjustment

“Legal Defeasance” is defined in [Section 3.02\(2\)](#).

“Letter of Transmittal” means the letter of transmittal to be prepared by the Company and sent to all Holders for use by such Holders in connection with an Exchange Offer.

“Maturity” means the date on which the principal of a Subordinated Note or an installment of principal becomes due and payable as provided in or under this Indenture or such Subordinated Note, whether at the Stated Maturity or by an acceleration of the maturity of such Subordinated Note in accordance with the terms of such Subordinated Note, upon redemption at the option of the Company, upon repurchase or repayment or otherwise, and includes a Redemption Date for such Subordinated Note and a date fixed for the repurchase or repayment of such Subordinated Note at the option of the Holder.

“Officer” means, with respect to any Person, the chairman of the board, vice chairman of the board, the chief executive officer, the president, the chief operating officer, the chief financial officer, the treasurer, any assistant treasurer, the controller, the secretary or any vice president of such Person.

“Officers' Certificate” means a certificate signed on behalf of the Company by two Officers of the Company, one of whom must be the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer or the principal accounting officer of the Company, that complies with the requirements of [Section 1.02](#) and is delivered to the Trustee.

“Opinion of Counsel” means a written opinion from legal counsel, which opinion meets the requirements of [Section 1.02](#). The counsel may be an employee of or counsel to the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company.

“Outstanding,” when used with respect to any Subordinated Notes, means, as of the date of determination, all such Subordinated Notes theretofore authenticated and delivered under this Indenture, except (1) any such Subordinated Note theretofore cancelled by the Trustee or the Registrar or delivered to the Trustee or the Registrar for cancellation; (2) any such Subordinated Note for whose payment at the Maturity thereof money in the necessary amount has been theretofore deposited in accordance with this Indenture (other than in accordance with [Section 3.02](#)) with the Trustee or any Paying Agent (other than the Company) in trust or set aside and segregated in trust by the Company (if the Company will act as its own Paying Agent) for the Holders of such Subordinated Notes, provided that, if such Subordinated Notes are to be redeemed, notice of such redemption has been duly given in accordance with this Indenture or provision therefor satisfactory to the Trustee has been made; (3) any such Subordinated Note with respect to which the Company has effected Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance in accordance with [Section 3.02](#), except to the extent provided in [Section 3.02](#); and (4) any such Subordinated Note that has been paid in accordance with [Section 2.09](#) or in exchange for or in lieu of which other Subordinated Notes have been authenticated and delivered under this Indenture, unless there will have been presented to the Trustee proof satisfactory to the Trustee that such Subordinated Note is held by a bona fide purchaser in whose hands such Subordinated Note is a valid obligation of the Company; *provided, however*, in all cases, that in determining whether the Holders of the requisite principal amount of Outstanding Subordinated Notes have given any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent

or waiver hereunder, Subordinated Notes owned by the Company or any Affiliate of the Company will be disregarded and deemed not to be Outstanding. Subordinated Notes so owned that will have been pledged in good faith may be regarded as Outstanding if the pledgee establishes to the satisfaction of the Trustee the pledgee's right so to act with respect to such Subordinated Notes and that the pledgee is not the Company or an Affiliate of the Company.

“Participating Broker-Dealer” has the meaning set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement.

“Paying Agent” is defined in Section 2.06.

“Person” means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, limited liability company, other company, statutory trust, business trust, joint venture, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

“Place of Payment” with respect to any Subordinated Note, means the place or places where the principal of, or interest on, such Subordinated Note are payable as provided in or under this Indenture or such Subordinated Note.

“Private Placement Legend” means the legend set forth in Section 2.04 of this Indenture to be placed on all Subordinated Notes issued under this Indenture, except where otherwise permitted by the provisions of this Indenture.

“Purchase Agreement” means the Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement concerning the Subordinated Notes, dated October 26, 2022, by and among the Company and the purchasers identified therein.

“Redemption Date” with respect to any Subordinated Note or portion thereof to be redeemed, means the date fixed for such redemption by or under this Indenture or such Subordinated Note.

“Redemption Price” with respect to any Subordinated Note or portion thereof to be redeemed, means the price at which it is to be redeemed as determined by or under this Indenture or such Subordinated Note.

“Reference Time” with respect to any determination of a Benchmark means (1) if the Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions, and (2) if the Benchmark is not Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes.

“Registrar” is defined in Section 2.06.

“Registration Rights Agreement” means the Registration Rights Agreement in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Purchase Agreement with respect to the Subordinated Notes, dated as of the date of this Indenture, by and among the Company and the purchasers of the Initial Notes identified therein.

“Regular Record Date” with respect to any Interest Payment Date, means the close of business on the fifteenth calendar day prior to such Interest Payment Date, without regard to whether the Regular Record Date is a Business Day.

“Relevant Governmental Body” means the Federal Reserve and/or the FRBNY, or a committee officially endorsed or convened by the Federal Reserve and/or the FRBNY or any successor thereto.

“Responsible Officer” means, when used with respect to the Trustee, any officer assigned to the Corporate Trust Office who has direct responsibility for the administration of this Indenture and, with respect to a particular corporate trust matter, any other officer of the Trustee to whom such matter is referred because of such Person's knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject.



“Restricted Definitive Subordinated Note” means a Definitive Subordinated Note bearing, or that is required to bear, the Private Placement Legend.

“Restricted Global Subordinated Note” means a Global Subordinated Note bearing, or that is required to bear, the Private Placement Legend.

“Restricted Subordinated Note” means a Restricted Global Subordinated Note or a Restricted Definitive Subordinated Note.

“Rule 144” means Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act.

“Rule 144A” means Rule 144A promulgated under the Securities Act.

“Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any successor statute thereto.

“Senior Indebtedness” means the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, including interest accruing after the commencement of any bankruptcy proceeding relating to the Company, on, or substantially similar payments the Company makes in respect of the following categories of debt, whether that debt was outstanding on the date of execution of this Indenture or thereafter incurred, created or assumed: (1) all indebtedness of the Company for borrowed money, whether or not evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds, securities or other similar instruments issued under the provisions of any indenture, fiscal agency agreement, debenture or note purchase agreement or other agreement, including any senior debt securities that may be offered; (2) indebtedness of the Company for money borrowed or represented by purchase money obligations, as defined below; (3) the Company’s obligations as lessee under leases of property whether made as part of a sale and leaseback transaction to which it is a party or otherwise; (4) reimbursement and other obligations relating to letters of credit, bankers’ acceptances and similar obligations and direct credit substitutes; (5) all obligations of the Company in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or option contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts, commodity contracts and other similar arrangements; (6) all of the Company’s obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services, but excluding trade accounts payable and accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business; (7) any other obligation of the Company to its general creditors; (8) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (7) of other persons for the payment of which the Company is liable contingently or otherwise to pay or advance money as obligor, guarantor, endorser or otherwise; (9) all obligations of the types referred to in clauses (1) through (8) of other persons secured by a lien on any property or asset of the Company; and (10) deferrals, renewals or extensions of any of the indebtedness or obligations described above.

However, clauses (1) through (10) above exclude: (y) any indebtedness, obligation or liability that is subordinated to indebtedness, obligations or liabilities of the Company to substantially the same extent as or to a greater extent than the Subordinated Notes are subordinated; and (z) the Subordinated Notes and, unless expressly provided in the terms thereof, any indebtedness of the Company to its Subsidiaries.

As used above, the term “purchase money obligations” means indebtedness, obligations evidenced by a note, debenture, bond or other instrument, whether or not secured by a lien or other security interest, issued to evidence the obligation to pay or a guarantee of the payment of, and any deferred obligation for the payment of, the purchase price of property but excluding indebtedness or obligations for which recourse is limited to the property purchased, issued or assumed as all or a part of the consideration for the acquisition of property or services, whether by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise, but does not include any trade accounts payable as set forth in clause (6) above.

“Significant Subsidiary” means any Subsidiary of the Company that is a “significant subsidiary” as defined in Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the Commission (as such rule is in effect on the date of this Indenture).

“SOFR” means the daily Secured Overnight Financing Rate provided by the FRBNY, as the administrator of the benchmark (or a successor administrator), on the FRBNY’s Website.

“Special Record Date” for the payment of any Defaulted Interest on any Subordinated Note means a date fixed in accordance with Section 2.10.

“Stated Maturity” means October 26, 2032.

“Subordinated Note” or “Subordinated Notes” means the Initial Notes and the Exchange Notes and, more particularly, any Subordinated Note authenticated and delivered under this Indenture, including those Subordinated Notes issued or authenticated upon transfer, replacement or exchange.

“Subordinated Note Register” is defined in Section 2.06.

“Subordination Provisions” means the provisions contained in Article XI or any provisions with respect to subordination contained in the Subordinated Notes.

“Subsidiary” means a corporation, a partnership, business or statutory trust or a limited liability company, a majority of the outstanding voting equity securities or a majority of the voting membership or partnership interests, as the case may be, of which is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Company or by one or more other Subsidiaries of the Company. For the purposes of this definition, “voting equity securities” means securities having voting power for the election of directors, managers, managing partners or trustees, as the case may be, whether at all times or only so long as no senior class of stock has voting power by reason of any contingency.

“Tax Event” means the receipt by the Company of a legal opinion from counsel experienced in such matters to the effect, as a result of a change or a prospective change in law on or after the date hereof, there is a material risk that interest paid by the Company on the Subordinated Notes is not, or, within 90 days of the date of such legal opinion, will not be, deductible by the Company, in whole or in part, for United States federal income tax purposes.

“Term SOFR” means the forward-looking term rate for the Corresponding Tenor based on SOFR that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body.

“Term SOFR Administrator” means the CME Group or any entity designated by the Relevant Governmental Body as the successor administrator of Term SOFR.

“Three-Month Term SOFR” means the rate for Term SOFR for a tenor of three months that is published by the Term SOFR Administrator at the Reference Time for any Floating Rate Interest Period, as determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions.

“Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions” means any determination, decision or election with respect to any technical, administrative or operational matter (including with respect to the manner and timing of the publication of Three-Month Term SOFR, or changes to the definition of “Floating Rate Interest Period”, timing and frequency of determining Three-Month Term SOFR with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors, and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the use of Three-Month Term SOFR as the Benchmark in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company decides that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company determines that no market practice for the use of Three-Month Term SOFR exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

“Tier 2 Capital” means Tier 2 capital for purposes of capital adequacy regulations of the Federal Reserve Board (or any successor regulatory authority with jurisdiction over bank holding companies), as then in effect and applicable to the Company.

“Tier 2 Capital Event” means the receipt by the Company of a legal opinion from counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of any change, event, occurrence, circumstance or effect occurring on or after the date hereof, the Subordinated Notes do not constitute, or within 90 days

of the date of such legal opinion will not constitute, Tier 2 Capital (or its then equivalent if the Company were subject to such capital requirement).

“Trust Indenture Act” means the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

“Trustee” means UMB Bank, N.A., as trustee, until a successor replaces it in accordance with the provisions of this Indenture and thereafter means the successor serving hereunder.

“Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement” means the Benchmark Replacement excluding the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

“United States” means the United States of America (including the states thereof and the District of Columbia), its territories, its possessions and other areas subject to its jurisdiction.

“Unrestricted Definitive Subordinated Note” means a Definitive Subordinated Note that does not bear, and is not required to bear, the Private Placement Legend.

“Unrestricted Global Subordinated Note” means a Global Subordinated Note that does not bear, and is not required to bear, the Private Placement Legend.

“USA PATRIOT Act” means the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

#### Section 1.02 Compliance Certificates and Opinions.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in or under this Indenture, upon any application or request by the Company to the Trustee to take any action under any provision of this Indenture, the Company will furnish to the Trustee an Officers’ Certificate stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent (including covenants compliance with which constitutes a condition precedent), if any, provided for in this Indenture relating to the proposed action have been complied with and an Opinion of Counsel stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, all such conditions precedent (including covenants compliance with which constitutes a condition precedent), if any, have been complied with, except that in the case of any such application or request as to which the furnishing of such documents or any of them is specifically required by any provision of this Indenture relating to such particular application or request, no additional certificate or opinion need be furnished.

Each certificate or opinion with respect to which compliance with a condition provided for in this Indenture (other than an Officers’ Certificate provided under Section 9.07) must comply with the provisions of Section 314(e) of the Trust Indenture Act and must include:

- (1) a statement that the person making such certificate or opinion has read such covenant or condition;
- (2) a brief statement as to the nature and scope of the examination or investigation upon which the statements or opinions contained in such certificate or opinion are based;
- (3) a statement that, in the opinion of such person, he or she has made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable him or her to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such condition has been satisfied; and
- (4) a statement as to whether or not, in the opinion of such person, such condition has been satisfied.

#### Section 1.03 Form of Documents Delivered to Trustee.

In any case where several matters are required to be certified by, or covered by an opinion of, any specified Person, it is not necessary that all such matters be certified by, or covered by the opinion of,

only one such Person, or that they be so certified or covered by only one document, but one such Person may certify or give an opinion with respect to some matters and one or more other such Persons as to other matters, and any such Person may certify or give an opinion as to such matters in one or several documents.

Any certificate or opinion of an officer of the Company may be based, insofar as it relates to legal matters, upon a certificate or opinion of, or representations by, counsel, unless such officer knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care, but without investigation, should know, that the certificate or opinion or representations with respect to the matters upon which his certificate or opinion is based is erroneous.

Any such certificate or opinion of counsel may be based, insofar as it relates to factual matters, upon a certificate or opinion of, or representations by, an officer or officers of the Company stating that the information with respect to such factual matters is in the possession of the Company unless such counsel knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care, but without investigation, should know, that the certificate or opinion or representations with respect to such matters are erroneous.

Where any Person is required to make, give or execute two or more applications, requests, consents, certificates, statements, opinions or other instruments under this Indenture or any Subordinated Note, they may, but need not, be consolidated and form one instrument.

Section 1.04 Acts of Holders.

(5) Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action provided by or under this Indenture to be made, given or taken by Holders may be embodied in and evidenced by one or more instruments of substantially similar tenor signed by such Holders in person or by an agent duly appointed in writing. Except as herein otherwise expressly provided, such action will become effective when such instrument or instruments of record or both are delivered to the Trustee and, where it is hereby expressly required, to the Company. Such instrument or instruments and any such record (and the action embodied therein and evidenced thereby) are herein sometimes referred to as the "Act" of the Holders signing such instrument or instruments. Proof of execution of any such instrument or of a writing appointing any such agent, or of the holding by any Person of a Subordinated Note, will be sufficient for any purpose of this Indenture and (subject to Section 5.01) conclusive in favor of the Trustee and the Company and any agent of the Trustee or the Company, if made in the manner provided in this Section.

(6) The fact and date of the execution by any Person of any such instrument or writing may be proved in any reasonable manner that the Trustee deems sufficient and in accordance with such reasonable rules as the Trustee may determine, and the Trustee may in any instance require further proof with respect to any of the matters referred to in this Section.

(7) The ownership, principal amount and serial numbers of Subordinated Notes held by any Person, and the date of the commencement and the date of the termination of holding the same, will be proved by the Subordinated Note Register.

(8) The Company may, in the circumstances permitted by the Trust Indenture Act, set a record date for purposes of determining the identity of Holders entitled to give any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or take any other act authorized or permitted to be given or taken by Holders. Unless otherwise specified, if not set by the Company prior to the first solicitation of a Holder made by any Person in respect of any such action, any such record date will be the later of 30 days prior to the first solicitation of such consent or the date of the most recent list of Holders furnished to the Trustee prior to such solicitation. If a record date is fixed, the Holders on such record date, and only such Persons, will be entitled to make, give or take such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action, whether or not such Holders remain Holders after such record date. No such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action will be valid or effective if made, given or taken more than 90 days after such record date.

(9) Any effective request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act by the Holder of any Subordinated Note will bind every future Holder of the same Subordinated Note

and the Holder of every Subordinated Note issued upon the registration of transfer thereof or in exchange therefor or in lieu thereof in respect of anything done or suffered to be done by the Trustee, any Registrar, any Paying Agent or the Company in reliance thereon, whether or not notation of such Act is made upon such Subordinated Note.

(10) Without limiting the foregoing, a Holder entitled to take any action hereunder with regard to any particular Subordinated Note may do so with regard to all or any part of the principal amount of such Subordinated Note or by one or more duly appointed agents, each of which may do so in accordance with such appointment with regard to all or any part of such principal amount. Any notice given or action taken by a Holder or its agents with regard to different parts of such principal amount in accordance with this paragraph will have the same effect as if given or taken by separate Holders of each such different part.

(11) Without limiting the generality of this Section 1.04, a Holder, including a Depositary that is a Holder of a Global Subordinated Note, may make, give or take, by a proxy or proxies, duly appointed in writing, any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act provided in or under this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes to be made, given or taken by Holders, and a Depositary that is a Holder of a Global Subordinated Note may provide its proxy or proxies to the beneficial owners of interests in any such Global Subordinated Note through such Depositary's Applicable Procedures. The Company may fix a record date for the purpose of determining the Persons who are beneficial owners of interests in any Global Subordinated Note entitled under the Applicable Procedures of such Depositary to make, give or take, by a proxy or proxies duly appointed in writing, any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action provided in this Indenture to be made, given or taken by Holders. If such a record date is fixed, the Holders on such record date or their duly appointed proxy or proxies, and only such Persons, will be entitled to make, give or take such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action, whether or not such Holders remain Holders after such record date. No such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action will be valid or effective if made, given or taken more than 90 days after such record date.

Promptly upon any record date being set in accordance with this Section 1.04, the Company, at its own expense, will cause notice of the record date, the proposed action by Holders and the expiration date to be given to the Trustee in writing and the Holders in the manner set forth in Section 1.05.

Section 1.05 Required Notices or Demands.

Any notice or communication by the Company or the Trustee to the other is duly given if in writing and delivered in Person or delivered by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested), facsimile, email or overnight air courier guaranteeing next day delivery, to the other's address:

If to the Company;

Southern States Bancshares, Inc.  
615 Quintard Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36201  
Attn: Lynn Joyce  
Email: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Office: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Fax: [Intentionally omitted.]

If to the Trustee:

UMB Bank, N.A.  
5555 San Felipe, Suite 870  
Houston, Texas 77056  
Attn: Mauri Cowen, Senior Vice President  
Email: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Office: [Intentionally omitted.]

Fax: [Intentionally omitted.]

The Company or the Trustee by notice to the other may designate additional or different addresses for subsequent notices or communications.

All notices and communications will be deemed to have been duly given: at the time delivered by hand, if personally delivered; five Business Days after being deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, if delivered by mail; on the first Business Day after being sent, if sent by facsimile and the sender receives confirmation of successful transmission; upon confirmation of transmittal (but excluding any automatic reply to such email), if sent by email; and the next Business Day after timely delivery to the courier, if sent by overnight air courier guaranteeing next day delivery.

Any notice required or permitted to be given to a Holder or electronically through the Applicable Procedures of the Depository under the provisions of this Indenture will be deemed to be properly delivered by being deposited postage prepaid in a post office letter box in the United States addressed to such Holder at the address of such Holder as shown on the Subordinated Note Register. Any report in accordance with Section 313 of the Trust Indenture Act will be transmitted in compliance with subsection (c) therein. If the Company delivers a notice or communication to Holders, the Company will deliver a copy to the Trustee at the same time.

In any case where notice to Holders of Subordinated Notes is delivered by mail, neither the failure to deliver such notice, nor any defect in any notice so delivered, to any particular Holder of a Subordinated Note will affect the sufficiency of such notice with respect to other Holders of Subordinated Notes. Any notice that is delivered in the manner herein provided will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given or provided. In the case by reason of the suspension of regular mail service or by reason of any other cause it will be impracticable to give such notice by mail, then such notification as will be made with the approval of the Trustee will constitute a sufficient notification for every purpose hereunder.

Where this Indenture provides for notice in any manner, such notice may be waived in writing by the Person entitled to receive such notice, either before or after the event, and such waiver will be the equivalent of such notice. Waivers of notice by Holders of Subordinated Notes will be filed with the Trustee, but such filing will not be a condition precedent to the validity of any action taken in reliance upon such waiver.

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, where this Indenture provides for notice to any Holder of a Global Subordinated Note, or of an interest therein, such notice will be sufficiently given if given to the Depository for such Global Subordinated Note (or its designee) according to the Applicable Procedures of such Depository prescribed for giving such notice.

Section 1.06 Language of Notices.

Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver or other Act required or permitted under this Indenture will be in the English language, except that, if the Company so elects, any published notice may be in an official language of the country of publication.

Section 1.07 Incorporation by Reference of Trust Indenture Act: Conflicts.

Whenever this Indenture refers to a provision of the Trust Indenture Act, the provision is incorporated by reference in and made a part of this Indenture. The Trust Indenture Act term "*obligor*" used in this Indenture means the Company and any successor obligor upon the Subordinated Notes.

All other terms used in this Indenture that are defined by the Trust Indenture Act, defined by Trust Indenture Act reference to another statute or defined by Commission rule under the Trust Indenture Act have the meanings so assigned to them as of the date of this Indenture. If and to the extent that any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with another provision included in this Indenture that is required to be included in this Indenture by any of Sections 310 to 317, inclusive, of the Trust Indenture Act, such required provision will control. If any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with the duties imposed by Section 318(c) of the Trust Indenture Act, the duties imposed by

Section 318(c) of the Trust Indenture Act will control. If any provision of this Indenture modifies or excludes any provision of the Trust Indenture Act that may be so modified or excluded, the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act will be deemed to apply to this Indenture as so modified or will be excluded, as the case may be.

Section 1.08 Effect of Headings and Table of Contents.

The Article and Section headings in this Indenture and the Table of Contents are for convenience only and will not affect the construction of this Indenture.

Section 1.09 Successors and Assigns.

All the covenants, stipulations, promises and agreements in this Indenture by or on behalf of the Company or the Trustee will bind its respective successors and permitted assigns, whether so expressed or not.

Section 1.10 Severability.

In case any provision in this Indenture or any Subordinated Note will be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions will not, to the fullest extent permitted by law, in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

Section 1.11 Benefits of Indenture.

Nothing in this Indenture or any Subordinated Note, express or implied, will give to any Person, other than the parties hereto, any Registrar, any Paying Agent and their respective successors hereunder and the Holders of Subordinated Notes, and the holders of Senior Indebtedness, any benefit or any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under this Indenture.

Section 1.12 Governing Law.

This Indenture and the Subordinated Notes will be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of New York and will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York without giving effect to any laws or principles of conflict of laws that would apply the laws of a different jurisdiction.

Section 1.13 Legal Holidays.

Unless otherwise specified in or under this Indenture or any Subordinated Notes, in any case where any Interest Payment Date, Stated Maturity or Maturity of, or any other day on which a payment is due with respect to, any Subordinated Note will be a day that is not a Business Day at any Place of Payment, then (notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture or any Subordinated Note other than a provision in any Subordinated Note or in the Board Resolution, Officers' Certificate or supplemental indenture establishing the terms of any Subordinated Note that specifically states that such provision will apply in lieu hereof) payment need not be made at such Place of Payment on such date, but such payment may be made on the next succeeding day that is a Business Day at such Place of Payment with the same force and effect as if made on the Interest Payment Date, at the Stated Maturity or Maturity or on any such other payment date, as the case may be, and no interest will accrue on the amount payable on such date or at such time for the period from and after such Interest Payment Date, Stated Maturity, Maturity or other payment date, as the case may be, to the next succeeding Business Day.

Section 1.14 Counterparts; Electronic Transmission.

This Indenture may be executed in several counterparts, each of which will be an original and all of which will constitute but one and the same instrument. Any facsimile or electronically transmitted copies hereof or signature hereon will, for all purposes, be deemed originals.

Section 1.15 Immunity of Certain Persons.

No recourse under or upon any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in this Indenture, or in any Subordinated Note, or because of any indebtedness evidenced thereby, will be had against any past, present or future shareholder, employee, officer or director, as such, of the Company or Trustee or of any predecessor or successor, either directly or through the Company or Trustee or any predecessor or successor, under any rule of law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise, all such liability being expressly waived and released by the acceptance of the Subordinated Notes by the Holders and as part of the consideration for the issue of the Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.16 Waiver of Jury Trial.

EACH PARTY HERETO IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS INDENTURE, THE SUBORDINATED NOTES OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

Section 1.17 Force Majeure.

In no event will the Trustee be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations hereunder arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, strikes, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or acts of God, and interruptions, pandemics, epidemics, recognized public emergencies, hacking or cyber-attacks, or other use or infiltration of the Trustee's technological infrastructure exceeding authorized access, loss or malfunctions of utilities, communications or computer (software and hardware) services; it being understood that the Trustee will use reasonable efforts that are consistent with accepted practices in the banking industry to resume performance as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

Section 1.18 USA PATRIOT Act.

The Trustee hereby notifies the Company that in accordance with the requirements of the USA PATRIOT Act, it is required to obtain, verify and record information that identifies the Company, which information includes the name and address of the Company and other information that will allow the Trustee to identify the Company in accordance with the USA PATRIOT Act.

Section 1.19 No Sinking Fund.

The Subordinated Notes are not entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

Section 1.20 Rules of Construction.

Unless the context otherwise requires:

- I a term has the meaning assigned to it;
- (1) an accounting term not otherwise defined has the meaning assigned to it in accordance with GAAP;
- (2) "or" is not exclusive;
- (3) words in the singular include the plural, and in the plural include the singular;
- (4) "including" means including without limitation;



- (5) “will” will be interpreted to express a command;
- (6) provisions apply to successive events and transactions;
- (7) references to sections of, or rules under, the Securities Act will be deemed to include substitute, replacement or successor sections or rules adopted by the Commission from time to time;
- (8) unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to an “Article,” “Section” or “clause” refers to an Article, Section or clause, as the case may be, of this Indenture; and
- (9) the words “herein,” “hereof” and “hereunder” and other words of similar import refer to this Indenture as a whole and not any particular Article, Section, clause or other subdivision.

**ARTICLE II**  
**THE SUBORDINATED NOTES**

Section 1.01 Forms Generally.

The Subordinated Notes and the Trustee’s certificate of authentication will be substantially in the form of Exhibit A-1 and Exhibit A-2, as applicable, which are a part of this Indenture. The Subordinated Notes may have notations, legends or endorsements required by law, stock exchange rule or usage (provided that any such notation, legend or endorsement is in a form acceptable to the Company). The Company will provide any such notations, legends or endorsements to the Trustee in writing. Each Subordinated Note will be dated the date of its authentication. The terms and provisions contained in the Subordinated Notes will constitute, and are hereby expressly made a part of this Indenture and the Company and the Trustee, by their execution and delivery of this Indenture, agree to such terms and provisions and to be bound thereby. However, to the extent any provision of any Subordinated Note irreconcilably conflicts with the express provisions of this Indenture, the provisions of this Indenture will govern and be controlling.

Section 1.02 Definitive Subordinated Notes.

The Initial Notes will be issued initially in the form of one or more Definitive Subordinated Notes, unless, before the issuance of such Initial Notes, the Company has determined that the Initial Notes may be represented in whole or in part by Global Subordinated Notes and has so notified the Trustee in writing, in which event the Initial Notes will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Subordinated Notes. The Exchange Notes will also be issued initially in the form of one or more Definitive Subordinated Notes, unless, before the issuance of such Exchange Notes, the Company has determined that the Subordinated Notes may be represented in whole or in part by Global Subordinated Notes and has so notified the Trustee, in which event the Initial Notes and/or Exchange Notes will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Subordinated Notes. Except as provided in Section 2.07, Holders of Definitive Subordinated Notes will not be entitled to transfer Definitive Subordinated Notes in exchange for beneficial interests in Global Subordinated Notes, and owners of beneficial interests in Global Subordinated Notes will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of Definitive Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.03 Global Subordinated Notes.

Each Global Subordinated Note issued under this Indenture will be deposited with the Trustee at its Corporate Trust Office, as custodian for the Depositary, and registered in the name of the Depositary or the nominee thereof, duly executed by the Company and authenticated by the Trustee as hereinafter provided. The aggregate principal amount of any Global Subordinated Note may from time to time be increased or decreased by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee and the Depositary as hereinafter provided. Any adjustment of the aggregate principal amount of a Global Subordinated Note to reflect the amount of any increase or decrease in the amount of outstanding Subordinated Notes represented thereby will be made by the Trustee in accordance with written instructions given by the Holder thereof as required by Section 2.07 hereof and will be made on the records of the Trustee and the Depositary.

Section 1.04 Restricted Subordinated Notes.

Each Restricted Definitive Subordinated Note and Restricted Global Subordinated Note will bear a legend in substantially the following form:

“THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS INSTRUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE “SECURITIES ACT”), OR SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF EXCEPT (A) PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH, A REGISTRATION STATEMENT THAT IS EFFECTIVE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT AT THE TIME OF SUCH TRANSFER; (B) TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER IN COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITED INVESTOR AS DEFINED IN RULE 501(A)(1), (2), (3) OR (7) OF REGULATION D UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT; OR (C) UNDER ANY OTHER AVAILABLE EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT (INCLUDING, IF AVAILABLE, THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED BY RULE 144 UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT), AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR BLUE SKY LAWS, AS EVIDENCED BY A LEGAL OPINION OF COUNSEL IN FORM AND SUBSTANCE REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO THE COMPANY TO THE EFFECT THAT REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.”

The Private Placement Legend set forth above will be removed and a new Subordinated Note of like tenor and principal amount without such Private Placement Legend will be executed by the Company, and upon written request of the Company (together with an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel) given at least three Business Days prior to the proposed authentication date, the Trustee will authenticate and deliver such new Subordinated Note to the respective Holder, if legal counsel to the Holder or owner of beneficial interests requesting the removal of such Private Placement Legend deliver to the Trustee, any Registrar and Paying Agent (if a different Person than the Trustee) and the Company an opinion of counsel in compliance with this Indenture and additionally opining that the restrictive legend can be removed in connection with the transfer in accordance with the Securities Act.

Section 1.05 Execution and Authentication.

Subordinated Notes will be executed on behalf of the Company by any Authorized Officer and may (but need not) have the Company's corporate seal or a facsimile thereof reproduced thereon. The signature of an Authorized Officer on the Subordinated Notes may be manual or facsimile. Subordinated Notes bearing the manual or facsimile signatures of individuals who were at the time of execution Authorized Officers of the Company will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, bind the Company, notwithstanding that such individuals or any of them have ceased to hold such offices prior to the authentication and delivery of such Subordinated Notes or did not hold such offices at the date of such Subordinated Notes.

The Trustee or an Authenticating Agent will authenticate and deliver the Initial Notes for original issue in an initial aggregate principal amount of up to \$40,000,000 upon one or more Company Orders and an Opinion of Counsel. In addition, the Trustee or an Authenticating Agent will upon receipt of a Company Order, Opinion of Counsel and Officers' Certificate authenticate and deliver any Exchange Notes for an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$40,000,000 specified in such Company Order for Exchange Notes issued hereunder. The aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes to be issued hereunder may be increased at any time hereafter and the series may be reopened for issuances of additional Subordinated Notes upon Company Order without the consent of any Holder. The Subordinated Notes issued on the date hereof and any such additional Subordinated Notes that may be issued hereafter shall be part of the same series of Subordinated Notes for all purposes under this Indenture. Unless the context otherwise requires, the initial Subordinated Notes and the Exchange Notes shall constitute one series for all purposes under this Indenture, including with respect to any amendment, waiver, acceleration or other Act of the Holders or upon redemption of the Subordinated Notes. The Subordinated Notes will be issued only in registered form without coupons and in minimum denominations of \$100,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

The Trustee will not be required to authenticate any Subordinated Notes if the issue of such Subordinated Notes under this Indenture will affect the Trustee's own rights, duties or immunities under the Subordinated Notes and this Indenture or otherwise in a manner that is not reasonably acceptable to the Trustee or if the Trustee, being advised by counsel, determines that such action may not lawfully be taken.

No Subordinated Note will be entitled to any benefit under this Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose, unless there appears on such Subordinated Note a certificate of authentication substantially in the form provided for herein executed by or on behalf of the Trustee or by the Authenticating Agent by the manual signature of one of its authorized signatories. Such certificate upon any Subordinated Note will be conclusive evidence, and the only evidence, that such Subordinated Note has been duly authenticated and delivered hereunder.

Section 1.06 Registrar and Paying Agent

The Company will maintain an office or agency where Subordinated Notes may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange ("Registrar") and an office or agency where Subordinated Notes may be presented for payment ("Paying Agent"). The Registrar will keep a register of the Subordinated Notes ("Subordinated Note Register") and of their transfer and exchange. The registered Holder of a Subordinated Note will be treated as the owner of the Subordinated Note for all purposes. The Company may appoint one or more co-registrars and one or more additional paying agents. The term "Registrar" includes any co-registrar and the term "Paying Agent" includes any additional paying agent. The Company may change any Paying Agent or Registrar without prior notice to any Holder; provided that no such removal or replacement will be effective until a successor Paying Agent or Registrar will have been appointed by the Company and will have accepted such appointment. The Company will notify the Trustee in writing of the name and address of any Registrar or Paying Agent not a party to this Indenture. If the Company fails to appoint or maintain another entity as Registrar or Paying Agent, the Trustee will act as such. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries may act as Paying Agent or Registrar.

The Company initially appoints the Trustee to act as the Paying Agent and Registrar for the Subordinated Notes and, in the event that any Subordinated Notes are issued in global form, to initially act as custodian with respect to the Global Subordinated Notes. In the event that the Trustee will not be or will cease to be Registrar with respect to the Subordinated Notes, it will have the right to examine the Subordinated Note Register at all reasonable times. There will be only one Subordinated Note Register.

Section 1.07 Registration of Transfer and Exchange

(1) Except as otherwise provided in or under this Indenture, upon surrender for registration of transfer of any Subordinated Note, the Company will execute, and the Trustee will, upon receipt of a Company Order, authenticate and deliver, in the name of the designated transferee or transferees, one or more new Subordinated Notes denominated as authorized in or under this Indenture, of a like aggregate principal amount bearing a number not contemporaneously outstanding and containing identical terms and provisions.

Except as otherwise provided in or under this Indenture, at the option of the Holder, Subordinated Notes may be exchanged for other Subordinated Notes containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations (minimum denominations of \$100,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof), and of a like aggregate principal amount, upon surrender of the Subordinated Notes to be exchanged at any office or agency for such purpose. Whenever any Subordinated Notes are so surrendered for exchange, the Company will execute, and the Trustee will authenticate and deliver, subject to the terms hereof, the Subordinated Notes that the Holder making the exchange is entitled to receive.

All Subordinated Notes issued upon any registration of transfer or exchange of Subordinated Notes will be the valid obligations of the Company evidencing the same debt and entitling the Holders thereof to the same benefits under this Indenture as the Subordinated Notes surrendered upon such registration of transfer or exchange.

Every Subordinated Note presented or surrendered for registration of transfer or for exchange or redemption will (if so required by the Company or the Registrar for such Subordinated Note) be duly endorsed, or be accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Registrar for such Subordinated Note duly executed by the Holder thereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing.

No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of Subordinated Notes, or any redemption or repayment of Subordinated Notes, or any conversion or exchange of Subordinated Notes for other types of securities or property, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to pay all taxes, assessments or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange of the Subordinated Notes from the Holder requesting such transfer or exchange.

Except as otherwise provided in or under this Indenture, the Company will not be required (i) to issue, register the transfer of or exchange any Subordinated Notes during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the selection for redemption of Subordinated Notes under Section 10.03 and ending at the close of business on the day of such selection, or (ii) to register the transfer of or exchange any Subordinated Note, or portion thereof, so selected for redemption, except in the case of any Subordinated Note to be redeemed in part, the portion thereof not to be redeemed.

Any Registrar (if not the Trustee) appointed in accordance with Section 2.06 hereof will provide to the Trustee such information as the Trustee may reasonably require in connection with the delivery by such Registrar of Subordinated Notes upon transfer or exchange of Subordinated Notes. No Registrar will be required to make registrations of transfer or exchange of Subordinated Notes during any periods designated in the Subordinated Notes or in this Indenture as periods during which such registration of transfers and exchanges need not be made.

The Trustee and the Registrar will have no obligation or duty to monitor, determine or inquire as to compliance with any restrictions on transfer imposed under this Indenture or under applicable law with respect to any transfer of any interest in any Subordinated Note (including any transfers between or among Depository participants or beneficial owners of interests in any Global Subordinated Note) other than to require delivery of such certificates and other documentation or evidence as are expressly required by, and to do so if and when expressly required by the terms of, this Indenture, and to examine the same to determine substantial compliance as to form with the express requirements hereof.

Neither the Trustee nor any Paying Agent will have any responsibility for any actions taken or not taken by the Depository.

(2) When Definitive Subordinated Notes are presented by a Holder to the Registrar with a request to register the transfer of such Definitive Subordinated Notes or to exchange such Definitive Subordinated Notes for an equal principal amount of Definitive Subordinated Notes of other authorized denominations, the Registrar will register the transfer or make the exchange as requested if its reasonable requirements for such transaction are met; *provided, however*, that the Definitive Subordinated Notes surrendered for transfer or exchange will be duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form reasonably satisfactory to the Company and the Registrar, duly executed by the Holder thereof or such Holder's attorney duly authorized in writing.

(3) A Global Subordinated Note may not be transferred except by the Depository to a nominee of the Depository, by a nominee of the Depository to the Depository or to another nominee of the Depository, or by the Depository or any such nominee to a successor Depository or a nominee of such successor Depository. All Global Subordinated Notes will be exchanged by the Company for Definitive Subordinated Notes if: (i) the Depository has notified the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Depository for such Global Subordinated Note or such Depository has ceased to be a "clearing agency" registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 90 days, (ii) the Company determines that the Subordinated Notes are no longer to be represented by Global Subordinated Notes and so notifies the Trustee in writing, or (iii) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Subordinated Notes and the Depository or its participant(s) has requested the issuance of Definitive Subordinated Notes.

Any Global Subordinated Note exchanged in accordance with clause (i) or (ii) above will be so exchanged in whole and not in part, and any Global Subordinated Note exchanged in accordance with clause (iii) above may be exchanged in whole or from time to time in part as directed by the Depository.

Upon the occurrence of any of the preceding events in (i), (ii) or (iii) above, Definitive Subordinated Notes will be issued in fully registered form, without interest coupons, will have an aggregate principal amount equal to that of the Global Subordinated Note or portion thereof to be so exchanged, will be registered in such names and be in such authorized denominations as the Depository will instruct the Trustee in writing and will bear such legends as provided herein. Global Subordinated Notes also may be exchanged or replaced, in whole or in part, as provided in Section 2.09 hereof. Every Subordinated Note authenticated and delivered in exchange for, or in lieu of, a Global Subordinated Note or any portion thereof, in accordance with this Section 2.07 or Section 2.09 hereof, will be authenticated and delivered in the form of, and will be, a Global Subordinated Note, except as otherwise provided herein. A Global Subordinated Note may not be exchanged for another Subordinated Note other than as provided in this Section 2.07(3); however, beneficial interests in a Global Subordinated Note may be transferred and exchanged as provided in Section 2.07(4), hereof.

Any Global Subordinated Note to be exchanged in whole will be surrendered by the Depository to the Trustee. With regard to any Global Subordinated Note to be exchanged in part, either such Global Subordinated Note will be so surrendered for exchange or, if the Trustee is acting as custodian for the Depository or its nominee with respect to such Global Subordinated Note, the principal amount thereof will be reduced, by an amount equal to the portion thereof to be so exchanged, by means of an appropriate adjustment made on the records of the Trustee. Upon any such surrender or adjustment, the Trustee will authenticate and deliver the Subordinated Note issuable on such exchange to or upon the order of the Depository or an authorized representative thereof.

(4) The transfer and exchange of beneficial interests in the Global Subordinated Notes will be effected through the Depository in accordance with the Applicable Procedures and this Section 2.07.

(5) A Definitive Subordinated Note may not be exchanged for a beneficial interest in a Global Subordinated Note unless the Company determines that the Subordinated Notes may be represented by Global Subordinated Notes and so notifies the Trustee. After the Company has determined that the Subordinated Notes may be represented by Global Subordinated Notes and so notifies the Trustee in writing, then upon receipt by the Trustee of a Definitive Subordinated Note, duly endorsed or accompanied by appropriate instruments of transfer, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, together with written instructions from such Holder directing the Trustee to make, or to direct the Registrar to make, an adjustment on its books and records with respect to such Global Subordinated Note to reflect an increase in the aggregate principal amount of the Subordinated Notes represented by the Global Subordinated Note, such instructions to contain information regarding the Depository account to be credited with such increase, the Trustee will cancel such Definitive Subordinated Note and cause, or direct the Registrar to cause, in accordance with the standing instructions and procedures existing between the Depository and the Registrar, the aggregate principal amount of Subordinated Notes represented by the Global Subordinated Note to be increased by the aggregate principal amount of the Definitive Subordinated Note to be exchanged, and will credit or cause to be credited to the account of the Person specified in such instructions a beneficial interest in the Global Subordinated Note equal to the principal amount of the Definitive Subordinated Note so cancelled. If no Global Subordinated Notes are then outstanding, the Company will issue and the Trustee will authenticate, upon Company Order, a new Global Subordinated Note in the appropriate principal amount.

(6) At such time as all beneficial interests in a particular Global Subordinated Note have been exchanged for Definitive Subordinated Notes or a particular Global Subordinated Note has been repurchased or canceled in whole and not in part, each such Global Subordinated Note will be returned to or retained and canceled by the Trustee in accordance with Section 2.12 hereof. At any time prior to such cancellation, if any beneficial interest in a Global Subordinated Note is exchanged for or transferred to a Person who will take delivery thereof in the form of a beneficial interest in another Global Subordinated Note or for Definitive Subordinated Notes, the principal amount of Subordinated Notes represented by such Global Subordinated Note will be reduced accordingly by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee to reflect such reduction; and if the beneficial interest is being exchanged for or transferred to a

Person who will take delivery thereof in the form of a beneficial interest in another Global Subordinated Note, such other Global Subordinated Note will be increased accordingly by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee to reflect such increase.

(7) No Restricted Subordinated Note will be transferred or exchanged except in compliance with the Private Placement Legend or as provided in accordance with Section 2.08. In addition to the provisions for transfer and exchange set forth in this Section 2.07, the Trustee, any Registrar and Paying Agent (if a different Person than the Trustee) and the Company may, prior to effecting any requested transfer or exchange of any Restricted Subordinated Notes, other than an exchange in accordance with Section 2.08, require that legal counsel to the Holder or owner of beneficial interests requesting such transfer or exchange deliver to the Trustee, any Registrar and Paying Agent (if a different Person than the Trustee) and the Company, an Opinion of Counsel in compliance with this Indenture and additionally opining that the transfer or exchange is in compliance with the requirements of the Private Placement Legend and that the Subordinated Note issued to the transferee or in exchange for the Restricted Subordinated Note may be issued free of the Private Placement Legend. Any untransferred or unexchanged balance of a Restricted Subordinated Note will be reissued to the Holder with the Private Placement Legend, unless the Private Placement Legend may be omitted in accordance with Section 2.04, as evidenced by the Opinion of Counsel.

Section 1.08 Exchange Offer.

Upon the occurrence of an Exchange Offer in accordance with the Registration Rights Agreement, the Company will issue and, upon receipt of a Company Order in accordance with Section 2.05 hereof, the Trustee will authenticate (i) Unrestricted Definitive Subordinated Notes in an aggregate principal amount equal to the principal amount of the Restricted Definitive Subordinated Notes tendered in such Exchange Offer for acceptance by Persons that certify in the applicable Letters of Transmittal that (x) they are not Participating Broker-Dealers, (y) they are not participating in a distribution of the applicable Exchange Notes and (z) they are not Affiliates of the Company, and accepted for exchange in such Exchange Offer or, if permitted by the Company, (ii) one or more Unrestricted Global Subordinated Notes in an aggregate principal amount equal to the principal amount of the beneficial interests in the Restricted Global Subordinated Notes tendered in such Exchange Offer for acceptance by Persons that certify in the applicable Letters of Transmittal that (x) they are not Participating Broker-Dealers, (y) they are not participating in a distribution of the applicable Exchange Notes and (z) they are not Affiliates of the Company, and accepted for exchange in such Exchange Offer. Concurrently with the issuance of such Unrestricted Global Subordinated Notes upon exchange of Restricted Global Subordinated Notes, the Trustee will cause the aggregate principal amount of the applicable Restricted Global Subordinated Notes to be reduced accordingly, and the Company will execute and the Trustee will authenticate and deliver to the Persons designated by the Holders of Restricted Definitive Subordinated Notes so accepted Unrestricted Definitive Subordinated Notes in the applicable principal amount. Any Subordinated Notes that remain outstanding after the consummation of such Exchange Offer, and Exchange Notes issued in connection with such Exchange Offer, will be treated as a single class of securities under this Indenture.

Section 1.09 Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost and Stolen Subordinated Notes.

If any mutilated Subordinated Note is surrendered to the Trustee, subject to the provisions of this Section 2.09, the Company will execute and the Trustee will authenticate and deliver in exchange therefor a new Subordinated Note containing identical terms and of like principal amount and bearing a number not contemporaneously outstanding.

If there be delivered to the Company and to the Trustee (i) evidence to their satisfaction of the destruction, loss or theft of any Subordinated Note, and (ii) such security or indemnity as may be required by them to save each of them and any agent of either of them harmless, then, in the absence of notice to the Company or the Trustee that such Subordinated Note has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser, the Company will execute and, upon the Company's written instruction, the Trustee will authenticate and deliver, in exchange for or in lieu of any such destroyed, lost or stolen Subordinated Note, a new Subordinated Note containing identical terms and of like principal amount and bearing a number not contemporaneously outstanding.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 2.09, in case the outstanding principal balance of any mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Subordinated Note has become or is about to become due and payable, or is about to be redeemed by the Company pursuant to Article X hereof, the Company in its discretion may, instead of issuing a new Subordinated Note, pay or redeem such Subordinated Note, as the case may be.

Upon the issuance of any new Subordinated Note under this Section, the Company may require the payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in relation thereto and any other expenses (including the fees and expenses of the Trustee) connected therewith.

Every new Subordinated Note issued in accordance with this Section in lieu of any destroyed, lost or stolen Subordinated Note will constitute a separate obligation of the Company, whether or not the destroyed, lost or stolen Subordinated Note will be at any time enforceable by anyone, and will be entitled to all the benefits of this Indenture equally and proportionately with any and all other Subordinated Notes duly issued hereunder.

The provisions of this Section, as amended or supplemented in accordance with this Indenture with respect to particular Subordinated Notes or generally, will (to the extent lawful) be exclusive and will preclude (to the extent lawful) all other rights and remedies with respect to the replacement or payment of mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.10 Payment of Interest: Rights to Interest Preserved.

Any interest on any Subordinated Note that will be payable, and punctually paid or duly provided for, on any Interest Payment Date will be paid to the Person in whose name such Subordinated Note is registered on the Regular Record Date for such Interest Payment Date.

Any interest on any Subordinated Note that will be payable, but will not be punctually paid or duly provided for, on any Interest Payment Date for such Subordinated Note (herein called "Defaulted Interest") will cease to be payable to the Holder thereof on the relevant Regular Record Date by virtue of having been such Holder; and such Defaulted Interest may be paid by the Company, at its election in each case, as provided in clause (1) or (2) below:

(1) The Company may elect to make payment of any Defaulted Interest to the Person in whose name such Subordinated Note will be registered at the close of business on a Special Record Date for the payment of such Defaulted Interest, which will be fixed in the following manner:

The Company will notify the Trustee in writing of the amount of Defaulted Interest proposed to be paid on such Subordinated Note and the date of the proposed payment, and at the same time the Company will deposit with the Trustee an amount of money equal to the aggregate amount proposed to be paid in respect of such Defaulted Interest or will make arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for such deposit on or prior to the date of the proposed payment, such money when so deposited to be held in trust for the benefit of the Person entitled to such Defaulted Interest as in this clause provided. Thereupon, the Company will fix or cause to be fixed a Special Record Date for the payment of such Defaulted Interest, which will be not more than 15 days and not less than 10 days prior to the date of the proposed payment and not less than 10 days after the receipt by the Trustee of the notice of the proposed payment. The Company (or, upon the written request of the Company, the Trustee in the name and at the expense of the Company), will cause notice of the proposed payment of such Defaulted Interest and the Special Record Date therefor to be delivered to the Holder of such Subordinated Note at the Holder's address as it appears in the Subordinated Note Register not less than 10 days prior to such Special Record Date. Notice of the proposed payment of such Defaulted Interest and the Special Record Date therefor having been delivered as aforesaid, such Defaulted Interest will be paid to the Person in whose name such Subordinated Note will be registered at the close of business on such Special Record Date and will no longer be payable under the following clause (2).

(2) The Company may make payment of any Defaulted Interest in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange on which such Subordinated Note may

be listed, and upon such notice as may be required by such exchange, if, after written notice given by the Company to the Trustee of the proposed payment under this Clause, such payment will be deemed practicable by the Trustee.

Unless otherwise provided in or under this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes, at the option of the Company, interest on Subordinated Notes that bear interest may be paid by mailing a check to the address of the Person entitled thereto as such address will appear in the Subordinated Note Register or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States.

Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Section and Section 2.07, each Subordinated Note delivered under this Indenture upon registration of transfer of or in exchange for or in lieu of any other Subordinated Note will carry the rights to interest accrued and unpaid, and to accrue, which were carried by such other Subordinated Note.

I Persons Deemed Owners.

Prior to due presentment of a Subordinated Note for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name such Subordinated Note is registered in the Subordinated Note Register as the owner of such Subordinated Note for the purpose of receiving payment of principal of, and (subject to Section 2.07 and Section 2.10) interest on, such Subordinated Note and for all other purposes whatsoever, whether or not any payment with respect to such Subordinated Note will be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee or any agent of the Company or the Trustee will be affected by notice to the contrary.

No holder of any beneficial interest in any Global Subordinated Note held on its behalf by a Depository will have any rights under this Indenture with respect to such Global Subordinated Note, and such Depository may be treated by the Company, the Trustee, and any agent of the Company or the Trustee as the owner of such Global Subordinated Note for all purposes whatsoever. None of the Company, the Trustee, any Paying Agent or the Registrar will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of a Global Subordinated Note or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein will prevent the Company, the Trustee, any Paying Agent or the Registrar from giving effect to any written certification, proxy or other authorization furnished by the applicable Depository, as a Holder, with respect to a Global Subordinated Note or impair, as between such Depository and the owners of beneficial interests in such Global Subordinated Note, the operation of customary practices governing the exercise of the rights of such Depository (or its nominee) as the Holder of such Global Subordinated Note.

Section 1.01 Cancellation.

All Subordinated Notes surrendered for payment, redemption, registration of transfer or exchange will, if surrendered to any Person other than the Trustee, be delivered to the Trustee, and any such Subordinated Note, as well as Subordinated Notes surrendered directly to the Trustee for any such purpose, will be cancelled promptly by the Trustee. The Company may at any time deliver to the Trustee for cancellation any Subordinated Notes previously authenticated and delivered hereunder which the Company may have acquired in any manner whatsoever, and all Subordinated Notes so delivered will be cancelled promptly by the Trustee. No Subordinated Notes will be authenticated in lieu of or in exchange for any Subordinated Notes cancelled as provided in this Section, except as expressly permitted by or under this Indenture. All cancelled Subordinated Notes held by the Trustee will be disposed of in accordance with its procedure for the disposition of cancelled Subordinated Notes and applicable retention laws, and the Trustee upon the written request of the Company will deliver to the Company a certificate of such disposition, unless by a Company Order the Company shall direct that cancelled Subordinated Notes shall be returned to the Company.



Section 1.02 Computation of Interest.

(1) From and including the original issue date of the Subordinated Notes to but excluding October 26, 2027 or any earlier redemption date contemplated in the Subordinated Note (the "Fixed Rate Period"), the rate at which the Subordinated Notes shall bear interest shall be 7.00% per annum, computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months and payable quarterly in arrears on each Fixed Interest Payment Date. From and including October 26, 2027, to but excluding the Stated Maturity or any earlier redemption date contemplated by the Subordinated Note (the "Floating Rate Period"), the rate at which the Subordinated Notes shall bear interest shall be a floating rate equal to the Floating Interest Rate for the applicable Interest Period (*provided, however*, that in the event that the Floating Interest Rate for the applicable interest period is less than zero, the Floating Interest Rate for such interest period shall be deemed to be zero) plus 306 basis points, computed on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed and payable quarterly in arrears on each Floating Interest Payment Date. A "Floating Rate Interest Period" means, the period from, and including, each Floating Interest Payment Date to, but excluding, the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date, except for the initial Floating Rate Interest Period, which will be the period from and including October 26, 2027 to, but excluding the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date. Any payment of principal of the Subordinated Notes that would otherwise become due and payable on a day which is not a Business Day will become due and payable on the next succeeding Business Day, with the same force and effect as if made on the date for payment of such principal, and no interest will accrue in respect of such payment for the period after such day.

(2) The "Floating Interest Rate" means:

- (a) initially Three-Month Term SOFR (as defined below).
- (b) Notwithstanding the foregoing clause (a), of this Section 2.13(2):

(i) If the Calculation Agent, determines prior to the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date (each of such terms as defined below) have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, then the Company shall promptly provide notice of such determination to the Holders and Section 2.13(3) (Effect of Benchmark Transition Event) will thereafter apply to all determinations, calculations and quotations made or obtained for the purposes of calculating the Floating Interest Rate payable on the Subordinated Notes during a relevant Floating Rate Interest Period.

(ii) However, if the Calculation Agent, determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, but for any reason the Benchmark Replacement has not been determined as of the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date, the Floating Interest Rate for the applicable Floating Rate Interest Period will be equal to the Floating Interest Rate on the last Floating Interest Determination Date for the Subordinated Notes, as determined by the Calculation Agent (as defined below).

(iii) If the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and any of the foregoing provisions concerning the calculation of the interest rate and the payment of interest during the Floating Rate Period are inconsistent with any of the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions determined by the Company, then the relevant Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions will apply.

(3) Effect of Benchmark Transition Event.

(a) If the Calculation Agent determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred prior to the Reference Time (as defined below) in respect of any determination of the Benchmark (as defined below) on any date, the Benchmark Replacement will replace the then-current Benchmark for all purposes relating to the Subordinated Notes during the relevant Floating Rate Interest Period in respect of such determination on such date and all determinations on all subsequent dates.

(b) In connection with the implementation of a Benchmark Replacement, the Company will have the right to make Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes from time to time.

(c) Any determination, decision or election that may be made by the Company or by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the benchmark transition provisions set forth herein, including any determination with respect to a tenor, rate or adjustment or of the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event, circumstance or date, and any decision to take or refrain from taking any action or any selection:

(i) will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error;

(ii) if made by the Company, will be made in the Company's sole discretion;

(iii) if made by the Calculation Agent, will be made after consultation with the Company, and the Calculation Agent will not make any such determination, decision or election to which the Company reasonably objects; and

(iv) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Subordinated Note or the Purchase Agreement, shall become effective without consent from the relevant Holders or any other party.

Section 1.1 For the avoidance of doubt, after a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred, interest payable on the Subordinated Notes for each Floating Rate Interest Period will be an annual rate equal to the sum of the applicable Benchmark Replacement and the spread specified on the face hereof.

(4) In the event that any Fixed Interest Payment Date during the Fixed Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and no additional interest shall accrue as a result of that postponement. In the event that any Floating Interest Payment Date during the Floating Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and interest shall accrue to but excluding the date interest are paid. However, if the postponement would cause the day to fall in the next calendar month during the Floating Rate Interest Period, the Floating Interest Payment Date shall instead be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day.

Section 1.11 CUSIP Numbers.

The Company may issue the Subordinated Notes with one or more "CUSIP" numbers (if then generally in use). The Company will promptly notify the Trustee in writing of any change in the CUSIP numbers. The Trustee may use "CUSIP" numbers in notices (including but not limited to notices of redemption or exchange) as a convenience to Holders; *provided* that any such notice may state that no representation is made as to the correctness of such numbers either as printed on the Subordinated Notes or as contained in any notice (including any notice of redemption or exchange) and that reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed on the Subordinated Notes, and any such notice will not be affected by any defect in or omission of such numbers.

**ARTICLE III**  
**SATISFACTION AND DISCHARGE OF INDENTURE**

Section 1.01 Satisfaction and Discharge.

This Indenture will cease to be of further effect, and the Trustee, on receipt of a Company Order, at the expense of the Company, will execute proper instruments acknowledging satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture, when

(1) either

(a) all Subordinated Notes theretofore authenticated and delivered (other than (i) Subordinated Notes that have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid as provided in [Section 2.09](#) and (ii) Subordinated Notes for whose payment money has theretofore been deposited in trust or segregated and held in trust by the Company and thereafter repaid to the Company or discharged from such trust, as provided in [Section 9.03](#)) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation; or

(b) all Subordinated Notes that have not been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation (i) have become due and payable, or (ii) will become due and payable at their Stated Maturity within one year, or (iii) if redeemable at the option of the Company, are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the Trustee in the name, and at the expense, of the Company, and the Company, in the case of (i), (ii) or (iii) above, has deposited or caused to be deposited with the Trustee as trust funds in trust for such purpose, an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on such Subordinated Notes not theretofore delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, including the principal of, and interest on, such Subordinated Notes, to the date of such deposit (in the case of Subordinated Notes which have become due and payable) or to the Maturity thereof, as the case may be;

(2) the Company has paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable hereunder by the Company with respect to the Outstanding Subordinated Notes; and

(3) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent herein provided for relating to the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture have been satisfied.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture with respect to the Subordinated Notes, the obligations of the Company to the Trustee under [Section 5.07](#) and, if money will have been deposited with the Trustee in accordance with [Section 3.01\(1\)\(b\)](#), the obligations of the Company and the Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes under [Section 3.03](#) and [Section 9.03](#) will survive.

Section 1.01 **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.**

(4) The Company may at its option and at any time, elect to have [Section 3.02\(2\)](#) or [Section 3.02\(3\)](#) be applied to such Outstanding Subordinated Notes upon compliance with the conditions set forth below in this [Section 3.02](#). Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance may be effected only with respect to all, and not less than all, of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes.

(5) Upon the Company's exercise of the above option applicable to this [Section 3.02\(2\)](#), the Company will be deemed to have been discharged from its obligations with respect to such Outstanding Subordinated Notes on the date the conditions set forth in clause (4) of this [Section 3.02](#) are satisfied ("Legal Defeasance"). For this purpose, Legal Defeasance means that the Company will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness represented by such Outstanding Subordinated Notes, which will thereafter be deemed to be "Outstanding" only for the purposes of [Section 3.02\(5\)](#) and the other Sections of this Indenture referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) of this paragraph, and to have satisfied all of its other obligations under such Subordinated Notes and this Indenture insofar as such Subordinated Notes are concerned (and the Trustee, at the expense of the Company, will execute proper instruments acknowledging the same), except for the following which will survive until otherwise terminated or discharged hereunder: (i) the rights of Holders of such Outstanding Subordinated Notes to receive, solely from the trust fund described in [Section 3.02\(4\)\(a\)](#) and as more fully set forth in this [Section 3.02](#) and [Section 3.03](#), payments in respect of the principal of and interest, if any, on, such Subordinated Notes when such payments are due, (ii) the obligations of the Company and the Trustee with respect to such Subordinated Notes under [Section 2.07](#), [Section 2.09](#), [Section 9.02](#) and [Section 9.03](#), (iii) the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the Trustee hereunder and (iv) this [Section 3.02](#) and [Section 3.03](#). The Company may exercise its option under this [Section 3.02\(2\)](#) notwithstanding the prior exercise of its option under [Section 3.02\(3\)](#) with respect to such Subordinated Notes.

(6) Upon the Company's exercise of the above option applicable to this [Section 3.02\(3\)](#), the Company will be released from its obligations under [Section 9.04](#) (except with respect to clause (i)),

Section 9.05, Section 9.07 and Section 9.09 on and after the date the conditions set forth in Section 3.02(4) are satisfied (“Covenant Defeasance”), and such Subordinated Notes will thereafter be deemed to be not “Outstanding” for the purposes of any direction, waiver, consent or declaration or Act of Holders (and the consequences of any thereof) in connection with any such covenant, but will continue to be deemed “Outstanding” for all other purposes hereunder. For this purpose, such Covenant Defeasance means that with respect to such Outstanding Subordinated Notes, the Company may omit to comply with, and will have no liability in respect of, any term, condition or limitation set forth in any such Section or any such other covenant, whether directly or indirectly, by reason of any reference elsewhere herein to any such Section or such other covenant or by reason of reference in any such Section or such other covenant to any other provision herein or in any other document and such omission to comply will not constitute a default, but, except as specified above, the remainder of this Indenture and such Subordinated Notes will be unaffected thereby.

(7) The following will be the conditions to application of Section 3.02(2) or Section 3.02(3) to any Outstanding Subordinated Notes:

(c) The Company will irrevocably have deposited or caused to be deposited with the Trustee (or another trustee satisfying the requirements of Section 5.08 who will agree to comply with the provisions of this Section 3.02 applicable to it) as trust funds in trust for the purpose of making the following payments, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to, the benefit of the Holders, (i) an amount in Dollars, (ii) Government Obligations that through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment of principal of and interest, if any, on such Subordinated Notes, money or (iii) a combination thereof, in any case, in an amount, sufficient, without consideration of any reinvestment of such principal and interest, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee, to pay and discharge, and which will be applied by the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee) to pay and discharge, the principal of and interest, if any, on, such Outstanding Subordinated Notes on the Stated Maturity of such principal or installment of principal or interest or the applicable Redemption Date, as the case may be.

(d) Such Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, this Indenture or any other material agreement or instrument to which the Company or any Subsidiary is a party or by which it is bound.

(e) No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default with respect to such Subordinated Notes will have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit, and, solely in the case of Legal Defeasance under Section 3.02(2), no Event of Default, or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default, under Section 4.01 will have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on and including the 91<sup>st</sup> day after the date of such deposit (it being understood that this condition to Legal Defeasance under Section 3.02(2) will not be deemed satisfied until the expiration of such period).

(f) In the case of Legal Defeasance, the Company will have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel stating that (i) the Company has received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or (ii) since the date of this Indenture there has been a change in applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such opinion of independent counsel will confirm that, the Holders of such Outstanding Subordinated Notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Legal Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such Legal Defeasance had not occurred.

(g) In the case of Covenant Defeasance, the Company will have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that the Holders of such Outstanding Subordinated Notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Covenant Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such Covenant Defeasance had not occurred.

(h) The Company will have delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent to the Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance, as the case may be, under this Indenture have been satisfied.

(i) If the moneys or Government Obligations or combination thereof, as the case may be, deposited under Section 3.02(4)(a) above are sufficient to pay the principal of, and interest, if any, on, such Subordinated Notes provided such Subordinated Notes are redeemed on a particular Redemption Date, the Company will have given the Trustee irrevocable instructions to redeem such Subordinated Notes on such date and to provide notice of such redemption to Holders as provided in or under this Indenture.

(j) The Trustee will have received such other documents, assurances and Opinions of Counsel as the Trustee will have reasonably required in its discretion.

(8) Subject to the provisions of the last paragraph of Section 9.03, all money and Government Obligations deposited with the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee, collectively for purposes of this Section 3.02(5), the "Trustee") in accordance with Section 3.02(4)(a) in respect of any Outstanding Subordinated Notes will be held in trust and applied by the Trustee, in accordance with the provisions of such Subordinated Notes and this Indenture, to the payment, either directly or through any Paying Agent (other than the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate of the Company acting as Paying Agent) as the Trustee may determine in its discretion, to the Holders of all sums due and to become due thereon in respect of principal and interest but such money and Government Obligations need not be segregated from other funds, except to the extent required by law.

The Company will pay and indemnify the Trustee against any tax, fee or other charge, imposed on or assessed against the Government Obligations deposited in accordance with this Section 3.02 or the principal or interest received in respect thereof other than any such tax, fee or other charge which by law is for the account of the Holders of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.02 Application of Trust Money.

Subject to the provisions of the last paragraph of Section 9.03, all money and Government Obligations deposited with the Trustee in accordance with Section 3.01 or Section 3.02 will be held in trust and applied by the Trustee, in accordance with the provisions of such Subordinated Notes subject to discharge under Section 3.01 or Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance under Section 3.02, and this Indenture, to the payment, either directly or through any Paying Agent (including the Company, acting as its own Paying Agent) as the Trustee may determine, to the Persons entitled thereto, of the principal and interest for whose payment such money has or Government Obligations have been deposited with or received by the Trustee; but such money and Government Obligations need not be segregated from other funds, except to the extent required by law.

Section 1.03 Reinstatement.

If the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee appointed in accordance with Section 3.02(4)(a)) or any Paying Agent is unable to apply any moneys or Government Obligations deposited in accordance with Section 3.01(1) or Section 3.02(4)(a) to pay any principal of, or interest, if any, on, the Subordinated Notes by reason of any legal proceeding or any order or judgment of any court or governmental authority enjoining, restraining or otherwise prohibiting such application, then the Company's obligations under this Indenture and the Subordinated Notes will be revived and reinstated as though no such deposit had occurred, until such time as the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee) or Paying Agent is permitted to apply all such moneys and Government Obligations to pay the principal of, and interest, if any, on the Subordinated Notes as contemplated by Section 3.01 or Section 3.02 as the case may be; *provided, however*, that if the Company makes any payment of the principal of, or interest if any on, the Subordinated Notes following the reinstatement of its obligations as aforesaid, the Company will be subrogated to the rights of the Holders of such Subordinated Notes to receive such payment from the funds held by the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee) or Paying Agent.

Section 1.04 Effect on Subordination Provisions.

The provisions of Article XI are expressly made subject to the provisions for, and to the right of the Company to effect, the satisfaction and discharge of all of the Subordinated Notes as set forth in and in accordance with Section 3.01 and the provisions for, and to the right of the Company to effect, Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance of all of the Subordinated Notes as set forth in and in accordance with Section 3.02. As a result, and anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding, if the Company complies with the provisions of Section 3.01, to effect the satisfaction and discharge of the Subordinated Notes or complies with the provisions of Section 3.02 to effect the Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance, upon the effectiveness of such satisfaction and discharge in accordance with Section 3.01 or of Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance in accordance with Section 3.02, in the case of satisfaction and discharge in accordance with Section 3.01, or, in the case of Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance in accordance with Section 3.02, the Subordinated Notes as to which Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance, as the case may be, will have become effective will thereupon cease to be so subordinated in right of payment to the Senior Indebtedness and will no longer be subject to the provisions of Article XI and, without limitation to the foregoing, all moneys and Government Obligations deposited with the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee) in trust in connection with such satisfaction and discharge, Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance, as the case may be, and all proceeds therefrom may be applied to pay the principal of, and interest, if any, on, such Subordinated Notes as and when the same will become due and payable notwithstanding the provisions of Article XI without regard to whether any or all of the Senior Indebtedness then outstanding will have been paid or otherwise provided for.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**REMEDIES**

Section 1.02 Events of Default; Acceleration.

An "Event of Default" means any one of the following events (whatever the reason for such Event of Default and whether it will be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or in accordance with any judgment, decree, or order of any court or any order, rule, or regulation of any administrative or governmental body):

- (1) the entry of a decree or order for relief in respect of the Company by a court having jurisdiction in the premises in an involuntary case or proceeding under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization law, now or hereafter in effect of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, and such decree or order will have continued unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days;
- (2) the commencement by the Company of a voluntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization law, now or hereafter in effect of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, or the consent by the Company to the entry of a decree or order for relief in an involuntary case or proceeding under any such law;
- (3) the failure of the Company to pay any installment of interest on any of the Subordinated Notes as and when the same will become due and payable, and the continuation of such failure for a period of 15 days;
- (4) the failure of the Company to pay all or any part of the principal of any of the Subordinated Notes as and when the same will become due and payable under this Indenture;
- (5) the failure of the Company to perform any other covenant or agreement on the part of the Company contained in the Subordinated Notes or in this Indenture, and the continuation of such failure for a period of 30 days after the date on which notice specifying such failure, stating that such notice is a "Notice of Default" hereunder and demanding that the Company remedy the same, will have been given, in the manner set forth in Section 1.05, to the Company by the Trustee, or to the Company and the Trustee by the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Subordinated Notes at the time Outstanding; or

(6) the default by the Company under any bond, debenture, note or other evidence of indebtedness for money borrowed by the Company having an aggregate principal amount outstanding of at least \$40,000,000, whether such indebtedness now exists or is created or incurred in the future, which default (i) constitutes a failure to pay any portion of the principal of such indebtedness when due and payable after the expiration of any applicable grace period or (ii) results in such indebtedness becoming due or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it otherwise would have become due and payable without, in the case of clause (i), such indebtedness having been discharged or, in the case of clause (ii), without such indebtedness having been discharged or such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled.

Upon becoming aware of any Event of Default, the Company will promptly deliver to the Trustee a written statement specifying the Event of Default.

If an Event of Default described in [Section 4.01\(1\)](#) or [Section 4.01\(2\)](#) occurs, then the principal amount of all of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all Outstanding Subordinated Notes will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any Holder, and the Company waives demand, presentment for payment, notice of nonpayment, notice of protest, and all other notices. Notwithstanding the foregoing, because the Company will treat the Subordinated Notes as Tier 2 Capital, upon the occurrence of an Event of Default other than an Event of Default described in [Section 4.01\(1\)](#) or [Section 4.01\(2\)](#), neither the Trustee nor any Holder may accelerate the Maturity of the Subordinated Notes and make the principal of, and any accrued and unpaid interest on, the Subordinated Notes, immediately due and payable.

If any Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may also pursue any other available remedy, at law or in equity, to collect the payment of principal of, and interest on, the Subordinated Notes or to enforce the performance of any provision of the Subordinated Notes or this Indenture.

Section 1.05 Failure to Make Payments.

If an Event of Default described in [Section 4.01\(3\)](#) or [Section 4.01\(4\)](#) occurs, the Company will, upon demand of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee, for the benefit of the Holders of such Subordinated Notes, the whole amount then due and payable with respect to such Subordinated Notes (without acceleration of the Subordinated Notes in any manner), with interest upon the overdue principal, and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, upon any overdue installments of interest at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, provided for or with respect to such Subordinated Notes or, if no such rate or rates are so provided, at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, of interest borne by such Subordinated Notes, and, in addition thereto, such further amount of money as will be sufficient to cover the costs and expenses of collection, including the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel and all other amounts due to the Trustee under [Section 5.07](#).

If the Company fails to pay the money it is required to pay the Trustee, the Trustee, in its own name and as trustee of an express trust, may institute a judicial proceeding for the collection of the sums so due and unpaid, may prosecute such proceeding to judgment or final decree, and may enforce the same against the Company or any other obligor upon such Subordinated Notes and collect the moneys adjudged or decreed to be payable in the manner provided by law out of the property of the Company, wherever situated.

The Trustee may proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the Holders of Subordinated Notes by such appropriate judicial proceedings as the Trustee will deem most effectual to protect and enforce any such rights, whether for the specific enforcement of any covenant or agreement in this Indenture or in aid of the exercise of any power granted in this Indenture, or to enforce any other proper remedy.

Upon an Event of Default, the Company may not declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of the Company's capital stock, make any payment of principal or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or

redeem any debt securities of the Company that rank equal with or junior to the Subordinated Notes, or make any payments under any guarantee that ranks equal with or junior to the Subordinated Notes, other than: (i) any dividends or distributions in shares of, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of, any class of Company's common stock; (ii) any declaration of a dividend in connection with the implementation of a shareholders' rights plan, or the issuance of stock under any such plan in the future, or the redemption or repurchase of any such rights pursuant thereto; (iii) as a result of a reclassification of Company's capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one class or series of Company's capital stock for another class or series of Company's capital stock; (iv) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of Company's capital stock in accordance with the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged; or (v) purchases of any class of Company's common stock related to the issuance of common stock or rights under any benefit plans for Company's directors, officers or employees or any of Company's dividend reinvestment plans.

Section 1.06 Trustee May File Proofs of Claim.

In case of any judicial proceeding relative to the Company (or any other obligor upon the Subordinated Notes), its property or its creditors, the Trustee will be entitled and empowered, by intervention in such proceeding or otherwise, to take any and all actions authorized under the Trust Indenture Act in order to have claims of the Holders and the Trustee allowed in any such proceeding. In particular, the Trustee will be authorized to:

(7) file and prove a claim for the whole amount, or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the Subordinated Notes, of the principal and interest owing and unpaid in respect of such Subordinated Notes and to file such other papers or documents as may be necessary or advisable in order to have the claims of the Trustee (including any claim for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents or retained professionals) and of the Holders of such Subordinated Notes allowed in such judicial proceeding, and

(8) collect and receive any moneys or other property payable or deliverable on any such claims and to distribute the same;

and any custodian, receiver, assignee, trustee, liquidator, sequestrator, or other similar official in any such judicial proceeding is authorized by each Holder to make such payments to the Trustee and, in the event that the Trustee will consent to the making of such payments directly to the Holders and to pay to the Trustee any amount due it for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements, and advances of the Trustee, its agents and retained professionals, and any other amounts due hereunder.

No provision of this Indenture will be deemed to authorize the Trustee to authorize or consent to or accept or adopt on behalf of any Holder any plan of reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, or composition affecting the Subordinated Notes or the rights of any Holder or to authorize the Trustee to vote in respect of the claim of any Holder in any such proceeding; *provided, however*, the Trustee may vote on behalf of the Holders for the election of a trustee in bankruptcy or similar official and may be a member of a creditors, or other similar committee.

Section 1.01 Trustee May Enforce Claims Without Possession of Subordinated Notes.

All rights of action and claims under this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes may be prosecuted and enforced by the Trustee without the possession of any of the Subordinated Notes or the production of such Subordinated Notes in any related proceeding, and any such proceeding instituted by the Trustee will be brought in its own name as trustee of an express trust, and any recovery of judgment will, after provision for the payment of the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements, and advances of the Trustee, its agents, and retained professionals, be for the ratable benefit of the Holders in respect of which such judgment has been recovered.



Section 1.02 Application of Money Collected.

Any money collected by the Trustee in accordance with this Article IV or, after an Event of Default, any money or other property distributable in respect of the Company's obligations under this Indenture will be applied in the following order, at the date or dates fixed by the Trustee and, in case of the distribution of such money on account of principal or any interest, upon presentation of the Subordinated Notes and the notation on such Subordinated Notes of the payment if only partially paid and upon surrender of such Subordinated Notes if fully paid:

FIRST: To the payment of all amounts due the Trustee (including the payment of Trustee's agents, accountants, consultants, counsel and other experts employed by it in the exercise and performance of its powers and duties as Trustee), acting in any capacity hereunder, (including any predecessor trustee) under Section 5.07;

SECOND: To the payment of amounts then due and unpaid to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, to the extent required under the Subordination Provisions established with respect to the Subordinated Notes;

THIRD: To the payment of the amounts then due and unpaid for principal of and any interest on the Subordinated Notes in respect of which or for the benefit of which such money has been collected, ratably, without preference or priority of any kind, according to the aggregate amounts due and payable on such Subordinated Notes for principal and interest, respectively; and

FOURTH: The balance, if any, to the Person or Persons entitled thereto.

Section 1.03 Limitation on Suits.

No Holder of any Subordinated Note will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to this Indenture or any Subordinated Notes, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under this Indenture, unless:

- (9) such Holder has previously given written notice to the Trustee of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Subordinated Notes;
- (10) the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes will have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as Trustee under the Indenture;
- (11) such Holder or Holders have offered to the Trustee security and indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee to bond against the costs, expenses, and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request;
- (12) the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request, and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding;
- (13) no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the Trustee during such 60-day period by the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes; and
- (14) such notification, request, and offer of indemnity are hereby declared in every case at the option of the Trustee to be conditions precedent to the execution of the powers and trusts of this Indenture, and to any action or cause of action for the enforcement of this Indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or for any other remedy hereunder;

it being understood and intended that no one or more of such Holders will have any right in any manner whatever by virtue of, or by availing of, any provision of this Indenture to affect, disturb, or prejudice the rights of any other of such Holders, or to obtain or to seek to obtain priority or preference over any other

of such Holders or to enforce any right under this Indenture, except in the manner provided in this Indenture and for the equal and ratable benefit of all of such Holders.

Section 1.07 Unconditional Right of Holders to Payments.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Indenture, the Holder of any Subordinated Note will have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of and (subject to Section 2.07 and Section 2.10) any interest on such Subordinated Note on the respective Stated Maturity or Maturities expressed in such Subordinated Note (or, in the case of redemption, on the Redemption Date), and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment and such rights will not be impaired without the consent of such Holder.

Section 1.08 Restoration of Rights and Remedies.

If the Trustee or any Holder has instituted any proceeding to enforce any right or remedy under this Indenture and such proceeding has been discontinued or abandoned for any reason, or has been determined adversely to the Trustee or to such Holder, then and in every such case, subject to any determination in such proceeding, the Company, the Trustee and the Holders will be restored severally and respectively to their former positions under this Indenture, and thereafter all rights and remedies of the Trustee and the Holders will continue as though no such proceeding had been instituted.

Section 1.09 Rights and Remedies Cumulative.

Except as otherwise provided with respect to the replacement or payment of mutilated, destroyed, lost, or stolen Subordinated Notes in the last paragraph of Section 2.09, no right or remedy conferred in this Indenture upon or reserved to the Trustee or to the Holders is intended to be exclusive of any other right or remedy, and every right and remedy will, to the extent permitted by law, be cumulative and in addition to every other right and remedy given under this Indenture or now or in the future existing at law or in equity or otherwise. The assertion or employment of any right or remedy under this Indenture, or otherwise, will not prevent the concurrent assertion or employment of any other appropriate right or remedy.

Section 1.10 Delay or Omission Not Waiver.

No delay or omission of the Trustee or of any Holder of any Subordinated Notes to exercise any right or remedy accruing upon any Event of Default will impair any such right or remedy or constitute a waiver of or acquiescence in any such Event of Default. Every right and remedy given by this Article or by law to the Trustee or to the Holders may be exercised from time to time, and as often as may be deemed expedient, by the Trustee or by the Holders, as the case may be.

Section 1.11 Control by Holders.

The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes will have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee, with respect to the Subordinated Notes, *provided that*

- (15) such direction will not violate any rule of law or this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes,
- (16) the Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Trustee in its discretion which is not inconsistent with such direction, and
- (17) the Trustee will have the right to decline to follow any such direction if the Trustee in good faith will determine that the proceeding so directed would involve the Trustee in personal liability.

Section 1.21 Waiver of Past Defaults.

The Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes may on behalf of the Holders of all the Subordinated Notes waive any past default under this Indenture and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any Subordinated Note, or in respect of a covenant or provision of this Indenture which under Article VIII cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Subordinated Note.

Upon any such waiver, such default will cease to exist, and any Event of Default arising from such default will be deemed to have been cured, for every purpose of this Indenture; but no such waiver will extend to any subsequent or other default or impair any consequent right.

Section 1.22 Undertaking for Costs.

All parties to this Indenture agree, and each Holder of any Subordinated Notes by his acceptance of such Subordinated Notes will be deemed to have agreed, that any court may in its discretion require, in any suit for the enforcement of any right or remedy under this Indenture, or in any suit against the Trustee for any action taken, suffered, or omitted by it as Trustee, the filing by any party litigant in such suit of an undertaking to pay the costs of such suit, and that such court may in its discretion assess reasonable costs, including reasonable attorney's fees and expenses, against any party litigant in such suit, having due regard to the merits and good faith of the claims or defenses made by such party litigant; but the provisions of this Section 4.13 will not apply to any suit instituted by the Company, to any suit instituted by the Trustee, to any suit instituted by any Holder, or group of Holders, holding in the aggregate more than 10% in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, or to any suit instituted by any Holder for the enforcement of the payment of the principal of or interest, if any, on any Subordinated Notes on or after the Stated Maturity or Maturities expressed in such Subordinated Notes (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the Redemption Date).

**ARTICLE V**  
**THE TRUSTEE**

Section 1.03 Duties of Trustee.

(1) If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee will exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it hereby, and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise, as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

(2) Except during the continuance of an Event of Default:

(a) the duties of the Trustee will be determined solely by the express provisions hereof and the Trustee need perform only those duties that are specifically set forth herein and no others, and no implied covenants or obligations will be read into this Indenture against the Trustee; and

(b) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct on its part, the Trustee may conclusively rely, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed therein, upon certificates or opinions furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements hereof; however, the Trustee will examine the certificates and opinions to determine whether or not they conform on their face to the requirements hereof (but need not confirm or investigate the accuracy of mathematical calculations or other facts stated therein).

(3) Whether or not therein expressly so provided, every provision hereof that in any way relates to the Trustee is subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Section 5.01 and to Section 5.02.

(4) No provision hereof will require the Trustee to expend or risk its own funds or incur any liability. The Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights and powers under this

Indenture at the request of any Holders, unless such Holder has offered to the Trustee security and indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense.

(5) The Trustee will not be liable for interest on any money received by it except as the Trustee may agree in writing with the Company. Money held in trust by the Trustee shall be held un-invested and need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law.

Section 1.010 Certain Rights of Trustee.

Subject to Section 315(a) through Section 315(d) of the Trust Indenture Act:

(6) the Trustee may conclusively rely and will be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document reasonably believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties;

(7) any request or direction of the Company mentioned herein will be sufficiently evidenced by a Company Request or a Company Order (unless other evidence in respect thereof be herein specifically prescribed) and any resolution of the Board of Directors may be sufficiently evidenced by a Board Resolution;

(8) whenever in the administration of this Indenture the Trustee will deem it desirable that a matter be proved or established prior to taking, suffering or omitting any action hereunder, the Trustee (unless other evidence will be herein specifically prescribed) may, in the absence of bad faith on its part, conclusively rely upon an Officers' Certificate or Opinion of Counsel, or both, which will comply with Section 1.02;

(9) before the Trustee acts or refrains from acting, it may require an Officers' Certificate or an Opinion of Counsel or both. The Trustee will not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in reliance on such Officers' Certificate or Opinion of Counsel. The Trustee may consult with counsel and the written advice of such counsel or any Opinion of Counsel will be full and complete authorization and protection from liability in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon. The Trustee may act through its attorneys and agents and will not be responsible for the misconduct or negligence of any agent appointed with due care;

(10) the Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by or under this Indenture at the request or direction of any Holder(s) under this Indenture, unless such Holder(s) will have offered to the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction;

(11) the Trustee will not be bound to make any investigation into the facts or matters stated in any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit, and, if the Trustee will determine to make such further inquiry or investigation, it will be entitled to examine, during business hours and upon reasonable notice, the books, records and premises of the Company, personally or by agent, accountant or attorney, at the sole cost of the Company and will incur no liability or additional liability of any kind by reason of such inquiry or investigation;

(12) the Trustee may execute any of the trusts or powers hereunder or perform any duties hereunder either directly or by or through agents or attorneys and the Trustee will not be responsible for any misconduct or negligence on the part of any agent or professional appointed with due care by it hereunder;

(13) the Trustee will not be liable for any action taken, suffered or omitted to be taken by it in good faith and reasonably believed by it to be authorized or within the discretion or rights or powers conferred upon it by this Indenture;

(14) in no event will the Trustee be responsible or liable for special, indirect or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, loss of profit) irrespective of whether the Trustee has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action;

(15) the Trustee will not be required to take notice or be deemed to have notice of any default or Event of Default, except failure by the Company to pay or cause to be made any of the payments required to be made to the Trustee, unless a Responsible Officer of the Trustee shall receive written notice of such default or Event of Default from the Company or from the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the then Outstanding Subordinated Notes delivered to the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee and in the absence of such notice so delivered the Trustee may conclusively assume no default or Event of Default exists;

(16) the Trustee shall have no duty to monitor or confirm compliance by the Company with the terms of this Indenture or any Subordinated Note;

(17) the Trustee shall not be bound to make any investigation into (i) the performance of or compliance with any of the covenants or agreements set forth herein, (ii) the occurrence of any default, or the validity, enforceability, effectiveness or genuineness of this Indenture or any other agreement, instrument or document;

(18) the rights, privileges, protections, immunities and benefits given to the Trustee, including, without limitation, its right to be indemnified for all costs (including those of its retained professionals), are extended to, and will be enforceable by, the Trustee in each of its capacities hereunder, and each agent, custodian and other Person employed or appointed to act hereunder;

(19) the Trustee may request that the Company deliver a certificate setting forth the names of individuals and/or titles of officers authorized at such time to take specified actions under this Indenture;

(20) the Trustee shall not be required to give any bond or surety in respect of the performance of its powers and duties hereunder; and

(21) the Trustee shall not be liable or responsible for any calculation in connection with the transactions contemplated hereunder nor for any information used in connection with such calculation.

Section 1.04 Notice of Defaults.

Within 90 days after a Responsible Officer of the Trustee is notified of the occurrence of any default hereunder with respect to the Subordinated Notes, the Trustee will deliver to all Holders entitled to receive reports in accordance with Section 6.03(4), notice of such default hereunder known to the Trustee, unless such default will have been cured or waived; *provided, however*, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal or interest, if any, on, any Subordinated Note, the Trustee will be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as the Trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the best interest of the Holders. For the purpose of this Section, the term "default" means any event that is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.05 Not Responsible for Recitals or Issuance of Subordinated Notes.

The recitals contained herein and in the Subordinated Notes, except the Trustee's certificate of authentication, will be taken as the statements of the Company and neither the Trustee nor any Authenticating Agent assumes any responsibility for their correctness. The Trustee makes no representations as to the validity or sufficiency of this Indenture or of the Subordinated Notes, except that the Trustee represents that it is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Indenture, authenticate the Subordinated Notes and perform its obligations hereunder and that the statements made by it in any Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 supplied to the Company are true and accurate, subject to the qualifications set forth therein. Neither the Trustee nor any Authenticating Agent will be accountable for the use or application by the Company of the Subordinated Notes or the proceeds thereof. The Trustee

will not be responsible for and makes no representation as to the validity or adequacy of this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes, it will not be accountable for the Company's use of the proceeds from the Subordinated Notes or any money paid to the Company or upon the Company's direction under any provision hereof, it will not be responsible for the use or application of any money received by any Paying Agent other than the Trustee, and it will not be responsible for any statement or recital herein or any statement in the Subordinated Notes or any other document in connection with the sale of the Subordinated Notes or under this Indenture other than its certificate of authentication.

Section 1.06 May Hold Subordinated Notes.

The Trustee, any Authenticating Agent, any Paying Agent, any Registrar or any other Person that may be an agent of the Trustee or the Company, in its individual or any other capacity, may become the owner or pledgee of Subordinated Notes and, subject to Section 310(b) and Section 311 of the Trust Indenture Act, may otherwise deal with the Company with the same rights that it would have if it were not Trustee, Authenticating Agent, Paying Agent, Registrar or such other Person.

The Trustee is subject to Section 311(a) of the Trust Indenture Act, excluding any creditor relationship listed in Section 311(b) of the Trust Indenture Act. A Trustee who has resigned or been removed shall be subject to Section 311(a) of the Trust Indenture Act to the extent indicated.

Section 1.07 Money Held in Trust.

Except as provided in Section 3.02(5), Section 3.03 and Section 9.03, money held by the Trustee in trust hereunder need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law and will be held uninvested. The Trustee will be under no liability for interest on any money received by it hereunder except as otherwise agreed in writing with the Company.

Section 1.08 Compensation and Reimbursement.

The Company agrees:

(22) to pay to the Trustee from time-to-time compensation for all ordinary services rendered by the Trustee acting in any capacity hereunder (which compensation will not be limited by any provision of law in regard to the compensation of a trustee of an express trust);

(23) except as otherwise expressly provided herein, to reimburse the Trustee promptly upon its request for all reasonable expenses, disbursements and advances incurred or made by the Trustee in accordance with any provision of this Indenture (including the reasonable compensation and the expenses and disbursements of Trustee's agents, accountants, consultants, counsel and other experts employed by it in the exercise and performance of its powers and duties as Trustee), except any such expense, disbursement or advance as may be attributable to the Trustee's gross negligence or willful misconduct;

(24) additionally, if it should become necessary that the Trustee perform extraordinary services, it shall be entitled to reasonable extra compensation and to reimbursement for reasonable extraordinary expenses in connection therewith; provided that if such extraordinary services or expense are occasioned by the gross negligence, bad faith, or willful misconduct of the Trustee, it shall not be entitled to such compensation or reimbursement; and

(25) to indemnify, defend, protect and hold each of the Trustee acting in any capacity or any predecessor Trustee and their agents, accountants, consultants, counsel and other experts employed by it in the exercise and performance of its powers and duties as Trustee harmless from and against any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by it arising out of or in connection with the acceptance or administration of its duties under this Indenture, including the costs and expenses of enforcing this Indenture against the Company and defending itself against any claim (whether asserted by the Company, any Holder or any other Person) or liability in connection with the exercise or performance of any of its powers or duties hereunder, except to the extent any such loss, liability or expense may be attributable to its gross negligence or willful misconduct, as determined by a final, non-appealable judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, and including the fees and disbursements of the

Trustee's agents, legal counsel, accountants and experts and including taxes (other than taxes based upon, measured by or determined by the income of the Trustee). The Trustee will notify the Company promptly of any claim for which it may seek indemnity. Failure by the Trustee to so notify the Company will not relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder. The Company will defend the claim and the Trustee will cooperate in the defense. The Trustee may have separate counsel and the Company will pay the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel. None of the Company need pay for any settlement made without its consent, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

The obligations of the Company under this Section 5.07 will survive the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture.

As security for the performance of the obligations of the Company under this Section, the Trustee will have a lien prior to the Subordinated Notes upon all property and funds held or collected by the Trustee as such, except funds held in trust for the payment of principal of, or interest on, Subordinated Notes. Such lien will survive the satisfaction and discharge hereof and the resignation or removal of the Trustee.

Any compensation or expense incurred by the Trustee after a default specified by Section 4.01 is intended to constitute an expense of administration under any then applicable bankruptcy or insolvency law. "Trustee" for purposes of this Section 5.07 will include any predecessor Trustee, but the negligence or bad faith of any Trustee will not affect the rights of any other Trustee under this Section 5.07. The provisions of this Section 5.07 will, to the extent permitted by law, survive any termination of this Indenture (including, without limitation, termination in accordance with any Bankruptcy Laws) and the resignation or removal of the Trustee.

Section 1.011 Corporate Trustee Required; Eligibility.

(26) There will at all times be a Trustee hereunder that is a corporation, organized and doing business under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, eligible under Section 310(a)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act to act as trustee under an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act and that has a combined capital and surplus (computed in accordance with Section 310(a)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act) of at least \$50,000,000 and is subject to supervision or examination by federal or state authority. The Trustee will also satisfy the requirements of Section 310(a)(5) of the Trust Indenture Act. If at any time the Trustee will cease to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of this Section, it will resign immediately upon written request therefor by the Company or any Holder in the manner and with the effect hereinafter specified in this Article,

(27) The Trustee will comply with Section 310(b) of the Trust Indenture Act; *provided, however*, that there will be excluded from the operation of Section 310(b)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act this Indenture or any indenture or indentures under which other securities or certificates of interest or participation in other securities of the Company are outstanding if the requirements for such exclusion set forth in Section 310(b)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act are met.

Section 1.04 Resignation and Removal; Appointment of Successor.

(28) No resignation or removal of the Trustee and no appointment of a successor Trustee in accordance with this Article V will become effective until the acceptance of appointment by the successor Trustee in accordance with Section 5.10.

(29) The Trustee may resign at any time with respect to the Subordinated Notes by giving written notice thereof to the Company. If the instrument of acceptance by a successor Trustee required by Section 5.10 will not have been delivered to the Trustee within 30 days after the giving of such notice of resignation, the resigning Trustee may, at the Company's expense, petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee.

(30) The Trustee may be removed at any time with respect to the Subordinated Notes by Act of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, delivered to the Trustee and the Company.

If at any time:

- (c) the Trustee will fail to comply with the obligations imposed upon it under Section 310(b) of the Trust Indenture Act with respect to Subordinated Notes after written request therefor by the Company or any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder for at least six months,
- (d) the Trustee will cease to be eligible under Section 5.08 and will fail to resign after written request therefor by the Company or any such Holder, or
- (e) the Trustee will become incapable of acting or will be adjudged a bankrupt or insolvent or a receiver of the Trustee or of its property will be appointed or any public officer will take charge or control of the Trustee or of its property or affairs for the purpose of rehabilitation, conservation or liquidation,

then, in any such case, (i) the Company, by or in accordance with a Board Resolution, may remove the Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes, or (ii) subject to Section 315(e) of the Trust Indenture Act, any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder for at least six months may, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the removal of the Trustee with respect to all Subordinated Notes and the appointment of a successor Trustee or Trustees.

(31) If the Trustee will resign, be removed or become incapable of acting, or if a vacancy will occur in the office of Trustee for any cause, with respect to the Subordinated Notes, the Company, by or in accordance with a Board Resolution, will promptly appoint a successor Trustee or Trustees with respect to the Subordinated Notes and will comply with the applicable requirements of Section 5.10. If, within one year after such resignation, removal or incapability, or the occurrence of such vacancy, a successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes shall have been appointed by Act of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes delivered to the Company and the retiring Trustee, the successor Trustee so appointed will, forthwith upon its acceptance of such appointment in accordance with the applicable requirements of Section 5.10, become the successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes and to that extent supersede the successor Trustee appointed by the Company. If no successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes will have been so appointed by the Company or the Holders and accepted appointment in the manner required by Section 5.10, any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder for at least six months may, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes.

(32) The Company will give notice of each resignation and each removal of the Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes and each appointment of a successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes by delivering written notice of such event by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the Holders as their names and addresses appear in the Subordinated Note Register. Each notice will include the name of the successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes and the address of its Corporate Trust Office.

Section 1.10 Acceptance of Appointment by Successor.

(33) Upon the appointment hereunder of any successor Trustee with respect to all Subordinated Notes, such successor Trustee so appointed will execute, acknowledge and deliver to the Company and the retiring Trustee an instrument accepting such appointment, and thereupon the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee will become effective and such successor Trustee, without any further act, deed or conveyance, will become vested with all the rights, powers, trusts and duties hereunder of the retiring Trustee; but, on the request of the Company or such successor Trustee, such retiring Trustee, upon payment of its fees and expenses, will execute and deliver an instrument transferring to such successor Trustee all the rights, powers and trusts of the retiring Trustee and, subject to Section 9.03, will duly assign, transfer and deliver to such successor Trustee all property and money held by such retiring Trustee hereunder, subject nevertheless to its claim, if any, provided for in Section 5.07.



(34) Upon the appointment hereunder of any successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes, the Company, the retiring Trustee and such successor Trustee will execute and deliver an indenture supplemental hereto wherein each successor Trustee will accept such appointment and which (i) will contain such provisions as will be necessary or desirable to transfer and confirm to, and to vest in, such successor Trustee all the rights, powers, trusts and duties of the retiring Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes, (ii) if the retiring Trustee is not retiring with respect to all Subordinated Notes, will contain such provisions as will be deemed necessary or desirable to confirm that all the rights, powers, trusts and duties of the retiring Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes will continue to be vested in the retiring Trustee, and (iii) will add to or change any of the provisions of this Indenture as will be necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts hereunder by more than one Trustee, it being understood that nothing herein or in such supplemental indenture will constitute such Trustees co-trustees of the same trust, that each such Trustee will be trustee of a trust or trusts hereunder separate and apart from any trust or trusts hereunder administered by any other such Trustee and that no Trustee will be responsible for any notice given to, or received by, or any act or failure to act on the part of any other Trustee hereunder, and, upon the execution and delivery of such supplemental indenture, the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee will become effective to the extent provided therein, such retiring Trustee will have no further responsibility for the exercise of rights and powers or for the performance of the duties and obligations vested in the Trustee under this Indenture with respect to the Subordinated Notes other than as hereinafter expressly set forth, and such successor Trustee, without any further act, deed or conveyance, will become vested with all the rights, powers, trusts and duties of the retiring Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes; but, on request of the Company or such successor Trustee, such retiring Trustee, upon payment of its fees and expenses with respect to the Subordinated Notes and subject to Section 9.03 will duly assign, transfer and deliver to such successor Trustee, to the extent contemplated by such supplemental indenture, the property and money held by such retiring Trustee hereunder with respect to the Subordinated Notes, subject to its claim, if any, provided for in Section 5.07.

(35) Upon request of any Person appointed hereunder as a successor Trustee, the Company will execute any and all instruments for more fully and certainly vesting in and confirming to such successor Trustee all such rights, powers and trusts referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) of this Section, as the case may be.

(36) No Person will accept its appointment hereunder as a successor Trustee unless at the time of such acceptance such successor Person will be qualified and eligible under this Article. No resigning or removed Trustee shall have any liability or responsibility for the action or inaction of any successor Trustee.

Section 1.12 Merger, Conversion, Consolidation or Succession to Business.

Any corporation into which the Trustee may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which the Trustee will be a party, or any corporation succeeding to all or substantially all of the corporate trust business of the Trustee, will be the successor of the Trustee hereunder (provided that such corporation will otherwise be qualified and eligible under this Article), without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of any of the parties hereto. In case any Subordinated Notes will have been authenticated but not delivered by the Trustee then in office, any such successor to such authenticating Trustee may adopt such authentication and deliver the Subordinated Notes so authenticated with the same effect as if such successor Trustee had itself authenticated such Subordinated Notes. In case any Subordinated Notes will not have been authenticated by such predecessor Trustee, any such successor Trustee may authenticate and deliver such Subordinated Notes in either its own name or that of its predecessor Trustee.

Section 1.13 Appointment of Authenticating Agent.

The Trustee may appoint one or more Authenticating Agents acceptable to the Company with respect to the Subordinated Notes which will be authorized to act on behalf of the Trustee to authenticate Subordinated Notes issued upon original issue, exchange, registration of transfer, partial redemption, partial repayment, or in accordance with Section 2.09, and Subordinated Notes so authenticated will be

entitled to the benefits of this Indenture and will be valid and obligatory for all purposes as if authenticated by the Trustee hereunder. Wherever reference is made in this Indenture to the authentication and delivery of Subordinated Notes by the Trustee or the Trustee's certificate of authentication, such reference will be deemed to include authentication and delivery on behalf of the Trustee by an Authenticating Agent and a certificate of authentication executed on behalf of the Trustee by an Authenticating Agent.

Each Authenticating Agent will be reasonably acceptable to the Company and, except as provided in or under this Indenture, will at all times be a corporation that would be permitted by the Trust Indenture Act to act as trustee under an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act, is authorized under applicable law and by its charter to act as an Authenticating Agent and has a combined capital and surplus (computed in accordance with Section 310(a)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act) of at least \$50,000,000 and is subject to supervision or examination by federal or state authority. If at any time an Authenticating Agent will cease to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of this Section, it will resign immediately upon written request therefor by the Company or any Holder in the manner and with the effect specified in this Section.

Any corporation into which an Authenticating Agent may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which such Authenticating Agent will be a party, or any corporation succeeding to all or substantially all of the corporate agency or corporate trust business of an Authenticating Agent, will be the successor of such Authenticating Agent hereunder, provided such corporation will be otherwise eligible under this Section, without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of the Trustee or the Authenticating Agent.

An Authenticating Agent may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to the Trustee and the Company. The Trustee may at any time terminate the agency of an Authenticating Agent by giving written notice thereof to such Authenticating Agent and the Company. Upon receiving such a notice of resignation or upon such a termination, or in case at any time such Authenticating Agent will cease to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of this Section, the Trustee may appoint a successor Authenticating Agent that will be acceptable to the Company and will deliver written notice of such appointment by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to all Holders with respect to which such Authenticating Agent will serve, as their names and addresses appear in the Subordinated Note Register. Any successor Authenticating Agent, upon acceptance of its appointment hereunder, will become vested with all the rights, powers and duties of its predecessor hereunder, with like effect as if originally named as an Authenticating Agent. No successor Authenticating Agent will be appointed unless eligible under the provisions of this Section 5.12.

The Company agrees to pay each Authenticating Agent from time to time reasonable compensation for its services under this Section. If the Trustee makes such payments, it will be entitled to be reimbursed for such payments, subject to the provisions of Section 5.07.

The provisions of Section 2.11, Section 5.04 and Section 5.05 will be applicable to each Authenticating Agent.

If an Authenticating Agent is appointed under this Section, the Subordinated Notes may have endorsed thereon, in addition to or in lieu of the Trustee's certificate of authentication, an alternate certificate of authentication in substantially the following form:

This is one of the Subordinated Notes of the series designated therein referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

UMB Bank, N.A., as Trustee

By: \_\_\_  
Authenticating Agent

By: \_\_\_

Name: [NAME]  
Title: [TITLE]

Section 1.14 Preferred Collection of Claims against Company.

If and when the Trustee will be or becomes a creditor of the Company (or any other obligor upon the Subordinated Notes), the Trustee will be subject to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act regarding the collection of claims against the Company (or any such other obligor).

**ARTICLE VI**  
**HOLDERS LISTS AND REPORTS BY TRUSTEE AND COMPANY**

Section 1.012 Holder Lists.

The Trustee will preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of the Holders. If the Trustee is not the Registrar, the Company will cause to be furnished to the Trustee at least semiannually on January 1 and July 1 a listing of the Holders dated within 10 days of the date on which the list is furnished and at such other times as the Trustee may request in writing a list in such form and as of such date as the Trustee may reasonably require of the names and addresses of the Holders.

Section 1.013 Preservation of Information; Communications to Holders.

The Trustee will comply with the obligations imposed upon it in accordance with Section 312 of the Trust Indenture Act.

Every Holder of Subordinated Notes, by receiving and holding the same, agrees with the Company and the Trustee that neither the Company, the Trustee, any Paying Agent or any Registrar will be held accountable by reason of the disclosure of any such information as to the names and addresses of the Holders of Subordinated Notes in accordance with Section 312(c) of the Trust Indenture Act, regardless of the source from which such information was derived, and that the Trustee will not be held accountable by reason of delivering any material in accordance with a request made under Section 312(b) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Section 1.014 Reports by Trustee.

(1) Within 60 days after July 15 of each year commencing with the first July 15 following the date of this Indenture, if required by Section 313(a) of the Trust Indenture Act, the Trustee will transmit, in accordance with Section 313(c) of the Trust Indenture Act, a brief report dated as of such July 15 with respect to any of the events specified in said Section 313(a) and Section 313(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act that may have occurred since the later of the immediately preceding July 15 and the date of this Indenture.

(2) The Trustee will transmit the reports required by Section 313(a) of the Trust Indenture Act at the times specified therein.

(3) The Trustee shall comply with Sections 313(b) and 313(c) of the Trust Indenture Act.

(4) Reports under this Section will be transmitted in the manner and to the Persons required by Section 313(c) and Section 313(d) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Section 1.01 Reports by Company.

(5) The Company, in accordance with Section 314(a) of the Trust Indenture Act, will:

(a) file with the Trustee, within 15 days after the Company files the same with the Commission, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents and other reports (or copies of such portions of any of the foregoing as the Commission may from time to time by rules and regulations prescribe) that the Company may be required to file with the Commission in accordance with Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act; or, if the Company is not required to file information, documents or reports in accordance with either of said Sections, then it will file with the Trustee and the Commission, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission, such of the supplementary and periodic information, documents and reports that may be required in accordance with Section 13 of the Exchange Act in respect of a security listed and registered on a national securities exchange as may be prescribed from time to time in such rules and regulations;

(b) file with the Trustee and the Commission, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission, such additional certificates, information, documents and reports with respect to compliance by the Company, with the conditions and covenants of this Indenture as may be required from time to time by such rules and regulations; and

(c) transmit to the Holders within 30 days after the filing thereof with the Trustee, in the manner and to the extent provided in Section 313(c) of the Trust Indenture Act, such summaries of any information, documents and reports required to be filed by the Company in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Section as may be required by rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission. Delivery of such reports, information and documents to the Trustee is for informational purposes only and the Trustee's receipt of such will not constitute constructive notice of any information contained therein or determinable from information contained therein, including the Company's compliance with any of its covenants hereunder (as to which the Trustee is entitled to rely exclusively on Officers' Certificates).

(6) The Company intends to file the reports referred to in Section 6.04(1) with the Commission in electronic form in accordance with Regulation S-T of the Commission using the Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system. Compliance with the foregoing, or any successor electronic system approved by the Commission, will constitute delivery by the Company of such reports to the Trustee and Holders in compliance with the provision of Section 6.04(1) and Trust Indenture Act Section 314(a). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Trustee will have no duty to search for or obtain any electronic or other filings that the Company makes with the Commission, regardless of whether such filings are periodic, supplemental or otherwise. Delivery of the reports, information and documents to the Trustee in accordance with this Section 6.04(2) will be solely for the purposes of compliance with Section 6.04(1) and with Trust Indenture Act Section 314(a). The Trustee's receipt of such reports, information and documents (whether or not filed in electronic form) is for informational purposes only and the Trustee's receipt of such will not constitute constructive notice of any information contained therein or determinable from information contained therein, including the Company's compliance with any of its covenants hereunder (as to which the Trustee is entitled to rely exclusively on Officers' Certificates). The Trustee shall have no liability or responsibility for the filing, content or timelines of any report hereunder aside from any report transmitted under Section 6.03 hereof.

#### **ARTICLE VII SUCCESSORS**

##### Section 1.01 Merger, Consolidation or Sale of All or Substantially All Assets.

The Company will not, in any transaction or series of related transactions, consolidate with or merge into any Person or sell, assign, transfer, lease or otherwise convey all or substantially all its properties and assets to any Person, unless:

(1) either the Company will be the continuing Person (in the case of a merger), or the successor Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or which acquires by sale, assignment, transfer, lease or other conveyance all or substantially all the properties and assets of the Company will be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and will expressly assume, by an indenture (or indentures, if at such time there is more than one Trustee) supplemental hereto, executed by such

successor corporation and delivered to the Trustee, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and interest on, all the Outstanding Subordinated Notes and the due and punctual performance and observance of every obligation in this Indenture and the Outstanding Subordinated Notes on the part of the Company to be performed or observed;

(2) immediately after giving effect to such transaction and treating any indebtedness that becomes an obligation of the Company or any Subsidiary as a result of that transaction as having been incurred by the Company or any Subsidiary at the time of the transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default, will have occurred and be continuing; and

(3) either the Company or the successor Person will have delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger, sale, assignment, transfer, lease or other conveyance and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with such transaction, such supplemental indenture comply with this Article VII and that all conditions precedent herein provided for relating to such transaction have been complied with.

For purposes of the foregoing, any sale, assignment, transfer, lease or other conveyance of all or any of the properties and assets of one or more Subsidiaries of the Company (other than to the Company or another Subsidiary), which, if such properties and assets were directly owned by the Company, would constitute all or substantially all of the Company's properties and assets, will be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company.

Section 1.02 Successor Person Substituted for Company.

Upon any consolidation by the Company with or merger of the Company into any other Person or any sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company to any Person in accordance with Section 7.01, the successor Person formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease or other conveyance is made will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under this Indenture with the same effect as if such successor Person had been named as the Company herein; and thereafter, except in the case of a lease, the predecessor Person will be released from all obligations and covenants under this Indenture and the Subordinated Notes.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURES**

Section 1.03 Supplemental Indentures without Consent of Holders.

Without the consent of any Holders of Subordinated Notes, the Company (when authorized by or in accordance with a Board Resolution) and the Trustee, at any time and from time to time, may enter into one or more indentures supplemental hereto for any of the following purposes:

- (4) to evidence the succession of another Person to the Company, and the assumption by any such successor of the covenants of the Company contained herein and in the Subordinated Notes;
- (5) to add to the covenants of the Company for the benefit of the Holders (as will be specified in such supplemental indenture or indentures) or to surrender any right or power herein conferred upon the Company with respect to the Subordinated Notes issued under this Indenture (as will be specified in such supplemental indenture or indentures);
- (6) to permit or facilitate the issuance of Subordinated Notes in uncertificated or global form, provided any such action will not adversely affect the interests of the Holders;
- (7) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor Trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes and to add to or change any of the provisions of this

Indenture as will be necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts hereunder by more than one Trustee, in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.10:

- (8) to cure any ambiguity or to correct or supplement any provision herein that may be defective or that may be inconsistent with any other provision herein;
- (9) to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under this Indenture that will not adversely affect the interests of the Holders of then Outstanding Subordinated Notes;
- (10) to add any additional Events of Default (as will be specified in such supplemental indenture);
- (11) to supplement any of the provisions of this Indenture to such extent as will be necessary to permit or facilitate the Legal Defeasance, Covenant Defeasance and/or satisfaction and discharge of the Subordinated Notes in accordance with Article III, provided that any such action will not adversely affect the interests of any Holder;
- (12) to provide for the issuance of Exchange Notes;
- (13) to conform any provision in this Indenture to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act; or
- (14) to make any change that does not adversely affect the legal rights under this Indenture of any Holder.

Section 1.04 Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders.

With the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, by Act of said Holders delivered to the Company and the Trustee, the Company (when authorized by or in accordance with a Board Resolution), and the Trustee may enter into an indenture or indentures supplemental hereto for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of this Indenture or of the Subordinated Notes or of modifying in any manner the rights of the Holders under this Indenture; provided, that no such supplemental indenture, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Subordinated Note affected thereby, will:

- (1) reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest, including Defaulted Interest, on any Subordinated Notes;
- (2) reduce the principal of or change the Stated Maturity of any Subordinated Notes, or change the date on which any Subordinated Notes may be subject to redemption or reduce the Redemption Price therefore;
- (3) make any Subordinated Note payable in money other than Dollars;
- (4) make any change in provisions of this Indenture protecting the right of each Holder to receive payment of principal of and interest on such Subordinated Note on or after the due date thereof or to bring suit to enforce such payment;
- (5) reduce the percentage in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, the consent of whose Holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose Holders is required for any waiver (of compliance with certain provisions of this Indenture or certain defaults hereunder and their consequences) provided for in Section 4.12 or Section 9.07 of this Indenture; or

(6) modify any of the provisions of this Section 8.02, Section 4.12 or Section 9.07, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of this Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Subordinated Note affected thereby.

It will not be necessary for any Act of Holders under this Section 8.02 to approve the particular form of any proposed supplemental indenture, but it will be sufficient if such Act will approve the substance thereof.

Section 1.05 Execution of Supplemental Indentures.

As a condition to executing, or accepting the additional trusts created by, any supplemental indenture permitted by this Article VIII or the modifications thereby of the trust created by this Indenture, the Trustee will be entitled to receive, and (subject to Section 5.01) will be fully protected in relying upon, an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that the execution of such supplemental indenture is authorized or permitted by this Indenture, that such supplemental indenture has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by, and is a valid, binding and enforceable obligation of, the Company, subject to customary exceptions, and that, to the extent applicable pursuant to Section 8.01, such supplemental indenture does not adversely affect the interests of the Holders. The Trustee may, but will not be obligated to, enter into any such supplemental indenture which affects the Trustee's own rights, duties or immunities under this Indenture or otherwise.

Section 1.06 Effect of Supplemental Indentures.

Upon the execution of any supplemental indenture under this Article VIII, this Indenture will be modified in accordance therewith, and such supplemental indenture will form a part of this Indenture for all purposes; and every Holder theretofore or thereafter authenticated and delivered hereunder.

Section 1.07 Reference in Subordinated Notes to Supplemental Indentures.

Subordinated Notes authenticated and delivered after the execution of any supplemental indenture in accordance with this Article VIII may, and will if required by the Company, bear a notation in form approved by the Company as to any matter provided for in such supplemental indenture. If the Company will so determine, new Subordinated Notes so modified as to conform, in the opinion of the Company, to any such supplemental indenture may be prepared and executed by the Company and authenticated and delivered by the Trustee in exchange for Outstanding Subordinated Notes.

Section 1.08 Effect on Senior Indebtedness.

No supplemental indenture will directly or indirectly modify or eliminate the Subordination Provisions or the definition of "Senior Indebtedness" applicable with respect to the Subordinated Notes in any manner that might terminate or impair the subordination of such Subordinated Notes to such Senior Indebtedness without the prior written consent of each of the holders of such Senior Indebtedness.

Section 1.09 Conformity with Trust Indenture Act.

Every supplemental indenture executed in accordance with this Article will conform to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act as then in effect.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**COVENANTS**

Section 1.010 Payment of Principal and Interest.

The Company covenants and agrees for the benefit of the Holders that it will duly and punctually pay the principal of, and interest on, the Subordinated Notes, in accordance with the terms thereof and this Indenture. Principal and interest will be considered paid on the date due if the Paying Agent, if other than

the Company or a Subsidiary thereof, holds as of 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the Business Day immediately prior to any Interest Payment Date, an amount in immediately available funds provided by the Company that is designated for and sufficient to pay all principal and interest then due. The Company will pay all Additional Interest, if any, on the dates and in the amounts set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement.

If Additional Interest is payable by the Company in accordance with the Registration Rights Agreement, the Company will deliver to the Trustee a certificate to that effect stating (i) the amount of such Additional Interest that is payable and (ii) the date on which such Additional Interest is payable. Unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee receives such a certificate or instruction or direction from the Holders in accordance with the terms of this Indenture, the Trustee may assume without inquiry that no Additional Interest is payable. The foregoing will not prejudice the rights of the Holders with respect to their entitlement to Additional Interest as otherwise set forth in this Indenture or the Subordinated Notes and pursuing any action against the Company directly or otherwise directing the Trustee to take such action in accordance with the terms of this Indenture and the Subordinated Notes. If the Company has paid Additional Interest directly to persons entitled to it, the Company will deliver to the Trustee a certificate setting forth the particulars of such payment.

Section 1.011 Maintenance of Office.

The Company will maintain an office or agency in Anniston, Alabama (which may be an office of the Trustee or an Affiliate of the Trustee or Registrar) where Subordinated Notes may be surrendered for registration of transfer or for exchange and where notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Subordinated Notes and this Indenture may be served. The Company will give prompt written notice to the Trustee of the location, and any change in the location, of such office or agency. If at any time the Company fails to maintain any such required office or agency or fails to furnish the Trustee with the address thereof, such presentations, surrenders, notices and demands may be made or served at the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee.

The Company may also from time to time designate one or more other offices or agencies where the Subordinated Notes may be presented or surrendered for any or all such purposes and may from time to time rescind such designations; provided that no such designation or rescission will in any manner relieve the Company of its obligation to maintain an office or agency in Anniston, Alabama. The Company will give prompt written notice to the Trustee of any such designation or rescission and of any change in the location of any such other office or agency.

The Company hereby designates the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee in Houston, Texas as one such office or agency of the Company in accordance with Section 9.02; provided, however, that no service of legal process on the Company may be made at any office of the Trustee.

Section 1.012 Money for Subordinated Notes Payments to Be Held in Trust.

If the Company will at any time act as its own Paying Agent, it will, on or before each due date of the principal of, or interest on, any of the Subordinated Notes, segregate and hold in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto a sum in Dollars sufficient to pay the principal and interest, as the case may be, so becoming due until such sums will be paid to such Persons or otherwise disposed of as herein provided, and will promptly notify the Trustee of its action or failure so to act.

Whenever the Company will have one or more Paying Agents, it will, on or prior to each due date of the principal of, or interest on, any Subordinated Notes, deposit with any Paying Agent a sum in Dollars sufficient to pay the principal and interest, as the case may be, so becoming due, such sum to be held in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto, and (unless such Paying Agent is the Trustee) the Company will promptly notify the Trustee of its action or failure so to act.

The Company will cause each Paying Agent other than the Trustee to execute and deliver to the Trustee an instrument in which such Paying Agent will agree with the Trustee, subject to the provisions of this Section that such Paying Agent will:



(1) hold all sums held by it for the payment of the principal of, or interest on, the Subordinated Notes in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto until such sums will be paid to such Persons or otherwise disposed of as provided in or under this Indenture;

(2) give the Trustee notice of any default by the Company in the making of any payment of principal, or interest on, the Subordinated Notes; and

(3) at any time during the continuance of any such default, upon the written request of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee all sums so held in trust by such Paying Agent.

The Company may at any time, for the purpose of obtaining the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture or for any other purpose, pay, or by Company Order direct any Paying Agent to pay, to the Trustee all sums held in trust by the Company or such Paying Agent, such sums to be held by the Trustee upon the same terms as those upon which such sums were held by the Company or such Paying Agent; and, upon such payment by any Paying Agent to the Trustee, such Paying Agent will be released from all further liability with respect to such sums.

Any money deposited with the Trustee or any Paying Agent, or then held by the Company, in trust for the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any Subordinated Note and remaining unclaimed for two years after such principal or interest will have become due and payable will be paid to the Company upon a Company Request, or (if then held by the Company) will be discharged from such trust; and the Holder of such Subordinated Note will thereafter, as an unsecured general creditor, look only to the Company for payment thereof, and all liability of the Trustee or such Paying Agent with respect to such trust money, and all liability of the Company as trustee thereof, will thereupon cease.

Section 1.013 Corporate Existence.

Subject to Article VII, the Company will do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect (i) the corporate existence of the Company, (ii) the existence (corporate or otherwise) of each Significant Subsidiary and (iii) the rights (charter and statutory), licenses and franchises of the Company and each of its Significant Subsidiaries, including without limitation the Company's status as a bank holding company or financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, and the Bank's status as an "insured depository institution" under Section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended; provided, however, that the Company will not be required to preserve the existence (corporate or other) of any of its Significant Subsidiaries or any such right, license or franchise of the Company or any of its Significant Subsidiaries if the Board of Directors of the Company determines that the preservation thereof is no longer desirable in the conduct of the business of the Company and its Significant Subsidiaries taken as a whole and that the loss thereof will not be disadvantageous in any material respect to the Holders. Subject to Article VII, the Company shall not take any action, omit to take any action or enter into any transaction that would have the effect of the Company owning less than one hundred percent (100%) of the capital stock of the Bank.

Section 1.014 Maintenance of Properties.

The Company will, and will cause each Significant Subsidiary to, cause all its properties used or useful in the conduct of its business to be maintained and kept in good condition, repair and working order and supplied with all necessary equipment and will cause to be made all necessary repairs, renewals, replacements, betterments and improvements thereof, all as in the judgment of the Company may be necessary so that the business carried on in connection therewith may be properly and advantageously conducted at all times; *provided, however*, that nothing in this Section will prevent the Company or any Significant Subsidiary from discontinuing the operation and maintenance of any of their respective properties if such discontinuance is, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the Company or of any Significant Subsidiary, as the case may be desirable in the conduct of its business.

Section 1.015 Waiver of Certain Covenants.

The Company may omit in any particular instance to comply with any term, provision or condition set forth in Section 9.02 to Section 9.05, inclusive, with respect to the Subordinated Notes if

before the time for such compliance the Holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, by Act of such Holders, either will waive such compliance in such instance or generally will have waived compliance with such term, provision or condition, but no such waiver will extend to or affect such term, provision or condition except to the extent so expressly waived, and, until such waiver will become effective, the obligations of the Company and the duties of the Trustee in respect of any such term, provision or condition will remain in full force and effect.

Section 1.016 Company Statement as to Compliance.

The Company will deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, an Officers' Certificate covering the preceding calendar year, stating whether or not, to the best of his or her knowledge, the Company is in default in the performance and observance of any of the terms, provisions and conditions of this Indenture (without regard to notice requirements or periods of grace) and if the Company will be in default, specifying all such defaults and the nature and status thereof of which he or she may have knowledge.

Section 1.017 Tier 2 Capital.

If all or any portion of the Subordinated Notes ceases to be deemed to be Tier 2 Capital, other than due to the limitation imposed on the capital treatment of subordinated debt during the five (5) years immediately preceding the maturity date of the Subordinated Notes, the Company will immediately notify the Trustee and the Holders thereof, and thereafter the Company and the Holders will work together in good faith, subject to the terms of this Indenture, to execute and deliver all agreements as reasonably necessary in order to restructure the applicable portions of the obligations evidenced by the Subordinated Notes to qualify as Tier 2 Capital and the Company shall request, subject to the terms of this Indenture, that the Trustee execute and deliver all such agreements as may be reasonably necessary in order to effect any restructuring agreed to by the Company and the Holders; *provided, however*, that nothing contained in this Section 9.08 shall limit the Company's right to redeem the Subordinated Notes upon the occurrence of a Tier 2 Capital Event pursuant to Section 10.01(3) hereof.

**ARTICLE X**  
**REDEMPTION OF SECURITIES**

Section 1.018 Applicability of Article.

(7) Except as provided in this Section 10.01, the Subordinated Notes are not subject to redemption at the option of the Company. The Subordinated Notes are not subject to redemption at the option of the Holders.

(8) Subject to the receipt of any required regulatory approvals, including but not limited to prior approval of the Federal Reserve to the extent such approval is then required under the capital adequacy rules of the Federal Reserve, with corresponding written notice to the Trustee, the Company may, at its option, on any Interest Payment Date on or after December 30, 2027, redeem all or a portion of the Subordinated Notes.

(9) Subject to the receipt of any required regulatory approvals, the Company may, at its option, redeem all, but not a portion of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes at any time upon an Investment Company Event, a Tax Event or a Tier 2 Capital Event.

(10) The Redemption Price with respect to any redemption permitted under this Indenture will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Subordinated Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued but unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon to, but excluding, the Redemption Date.

Section 1.019 Election to Redeem: Notice to Trustee.

The election of the Company to redeem any Subordinated Notes will be evidenced by a Company Order. In case of any redemption of less than all of the Subordinated Notes, the Company will, at least 60

days prior to the Redemption Date fixed by the Company (unless a shorter notice will be satisfactory to the Trustee, but in any event not less than 45 days prior to the Redemption Date), notify the Trustee, of such Redemption Date and of the principal amount of Subordinated Notes to be redeemed.

In the case of any redemption of Subordinated Notes (i) prior to the expiration of any restriction on such redemption provided in the terms of such Subordinated Notes or elsewhere in this Indenture or (ii) in accordance with an election of the Company that is subject to a condition specified in the terms of such Subordinated Notes or elsewhere in this Indenture, the Company will furnish to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate evidencing compliance with such restriction or condition.

Section 1.020 Selection by Trustee of Subordinated Notes to be Redeemed.

If less than all of the Subordinated Notes are to be redeemed, the particular Subordinated Notes to be redeemed will be selected not more than 45 days prior to the Redemption Date by the Trustee from the Outstanding Subordinated Notes not previously called for redemption unless otherwise required by law or applicable depository requirements, on a pro rata basis as to the Holders and which may provide for the selection for redemption of portions of the principal amount of Subordinated Notes; *provided, however*, that no such partial redemption will reduce the portion of the principal amount of a Subordinated Note not redeemed to less than the minimum denomination for a Subordinated Note established in or under this Indenture. In the event a pro rata redemption is not permitted under applicable law or applicable depository requirements, the Subordinated Notes to be redeemed will be selected by lot or such method as the Trustee will deem fair and appropriate. Any partial redemption will be made pro rata among all of the Holders of Subordinated Notes (such redemption to be considered a "Pro Rata Pass-Through of Principal" for purpose of a redemption processed through The Depository Trust Company).

The Trustee will promptly notify the Company and the Registrar (if other than itself) in writing of the Subordinated Notes selected for redemption and, in the case of any Subordinated Notes selected for partial redemption, the principal amount thereof to be redeemed.

For all purposes of this Indenture, unless the context otherwise requires, all provisions relating to the redemption of Subordinated Notes will relate, in the case of any Subordinated Notes redeemed or to be redeemed only in part, to the portion of the principal of such Subordinated Notes which has been or is to be redeemed.

Section 1.021 Notice of Redemption.

Notice of redemption will be given in the manner provided in Section 1.05, not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the Redemption Date to the Holders of Subordinated Notes to be redeemed. Failure to give notice by delivering in the manner herein provided to the Holder of any Subordinated Notes designated for redemption as a whole or in part, or any defect in the notice to any such Holder, will not affect the validity of the proceedings for the redemption of any other Subordinated Notes or portions thereof.

Any notice that is delivered to the Holder of any Subordinated Notes in the manner herein provided will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given, whether or not such Holder receives the notice.

All notices of redemption will state:

- (1) the Redemption Date,
- (2) the Redemption Price,
- (3) if less than all Outstanding Subordinated Notes are to be redeemed, the identification (and, in the case of partial redemption, the principal amount) of the particular Subordinated Note or Subordinated Notes to be redeemed,

(4) that, in case any Subordinated Note is to be redeemed in part only, on and after the Redemption Date, upon surrender of such Subordinated Note, the Holder of such Subordinated Note will receive, without charge, a new Subordinated Note or Subordinated Notes of authorized denominations for the principal amount thereof remaining unredeemed,

(5) that, on the Redemption Date, the Redemption Price will become due and payable upon each such Subordinated Note or portion thereof to be redeemed, together (if applicable) with accrued and unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon (subject, if applicable, to the provisos to the first paragraph of [Section 10.06](#)), and, if applicable, that interest thereon will cease to accrue on and after said date,

(6) the place or places where such Subordinated Notes are to be surrendered for payment of the Redemption Price and any accrued interest pertaining thereto, and

(7) the section hereunder providing for such redemption.

The notice of redemption shall include the CUSIP number reference numbers of such Subordinated Notes, if any (or any other numbers used by a Depository to identify such Subordinated Notes).

Notice of redemption of Subordinated Notes to be redeemed at the election of the Company will be given by the Company or, at the Company's request delivered at least 10 days before the date such notice is to be given (unless a shorter period will be acceptable to the Trustee), by the Trustee in the name and at the expense of the Company.

Section 1.022 Deposit of Redemption Price.

On or prior to 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, on any Redemption Date, the Company will deposit, with respect to the Subordinated Notes called for redemption in accordance with [Section 10.04](#), with the Trustee or with a Paying Agent (or, if the Company is acting as its own Paying Agent, segregate and hold in trust as provided in [Section 9.03](#)) an amount sufficient to pay the Redemption Price of, and (except if the Redemption Date will be an Interest Payment Date) any accrued interest on, all such Subordinated Notes or portions thereof which are to be redeemed on that date.

Section 1.023 Subordinated Notes Payable on Redemption Date.

Notice of redemption having been given as provided above, the Subordinated Notes so to be redeemed will, on the Redemption Date, become due and payable at the Redemption Price therein specified, together with accrued and unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon and from and after such date (unless the Company will default in the payment of the Redemption Price and accrued interest, if any) such Subordinated Notes will cease to bear interest. Upon surrender of any such Subordinated Note for redemption in accordance with said notice, such Subordinated Note will be paid by the Company at the Redemption Price, together with any accrued and unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon to but excluding the Redemption Date; *provided, however*, that installments of interest on Subordinated Notes whose Stated Maturity is on or prior to the Redemption Date will be payable to the Holders of such Subordinated Notes registered as such on the Regular Record Dates therefor according to their terms and the provisions of [Section 2.10](#).

If any Subordinated Note called for redemption will not be so paid upon surrender thereof for redemption, the principal, until paid, will bear interest from the Redemption Date at the rate prescribed therefor in the Subordinated Note or, if no rate is prescribed therefor in the Subordinated Note, at the rate of interest, if any, borne by such Subordinated Note.

Section 1.024 Subordinated Notes Redeemed in Part.

Any Subordinated Note which is to be redeemed only in part will be surrendered at any office or agency for such Subordinated Note (with, if the Company or the Trustee so requires, due endorsement by,

or a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Trustee duly executed by, the Holder thereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing) and the Company will execute and the Trustee will authenticate and deliver to the Holder of such Subordinated Note without service charge, a new Subordinated Note or Subordinated Notes, containing identical terms and provisions, of any authorized denomination as requested by such Holder in aggregate principal amount equal to and in exchange for the unredeemed portion of the principal of the Subordinated Note so surrendered. If a Global Subordinated Note is so surrendered, the Company will execute, and the Trustee will authenticate and deliver to the Depository for such Global Subordinated Note as will be specified in the Company Order with respect thereto to the Trustee, without service charge, a new Global Subordinated Note in a denomination equal to and in exchange for the unredeemed portion of the principal of the Global Subordinated Note so surrendered.

Upon surrender of a Subordinated Note that is redeemed in part, the Company will issue and the Trustee will authenticate for the Holder at the expense of the Company a new Subordinated Note equal in principal amount to the unredeemed portion of the Subordinated Note surrendered representing the same indebtedness to the extent not redeemed. Notwithstanding anything in this Indenture to the contrary, only a Company Order and not an Opinion of Counsel or an Officers' Certificate of the Company is required for the Trustee to authenticate such new Subordinated Note.

#### **ARTICLE XI** **SUBORDINATION OF SECURITIES**

Section 1.025      **Agreement to Subordinate.**

The Company, for itself, its successors and assigns, covenants and agrees, and each Holder of Subordinated Notes by the Holder's acceptance thereof, likewise covenants and agrees, that the payment of the principal of and interest on each and all of the Subordinated Notes is and will be expressly subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness.

Section 1.026      **Distribution of Assets.**

(8) Upon any distribution of assets of the Company upon any termination, winding up, liquidation or reorganization of the Company, whether in bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or receivership proceedings or upon an assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of the assets and liabilities of the Company or otherwise (subject to the power of a court of competent jurisdiction to make other equitable provision reflecting the rights conferred upon the Senior Indebtedness and the holders thereof with respect to the Subordinated Notes and the Holders thereof by a lawful plan of reorganization under applicable bankruptcy law):

(a) holders of all Senior Indebtedness will first be entitled to receive payment in full in accordance with the terms of such Senior Indebtedness of the principal thereof, premium, if any, and the interest due thereon (including interest accruing subsequent to the commencement of any proceeding for the bankruptcy or reorganization of the Company under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or similar law now or hereafter in effect) before the Holders of the Subordinated Notes are entitled to receive any payment upon the principal of or interest on indebtedness evidenced by the Subordinated Notes;

(b) any payment or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to which the Holders would be entitled except for the provisions of this Article XI, including any such payment or distribution that may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other indebtedness of the Company being subordinated to the payment of the Subordinated Notes, will be paid by the liquidating trustee or agent or other Person making such payment or distribution, whether a trustee in bankruptcy, a receiver or liquidating trustee or otherwise, directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness or their representative or representatives or to the trustee or trustees under any indenture under which any instruments evidencing any of such Senior Indebtedness may have been issued, in accordance with the priorities then existing among holders of Senior Indebtedness for payment of the aggregate amounts remaining unpaid on account of the principal, premium, if any, and interest (including interest accruing subsequent to the commencement of any proceeding for the bankruptcy or reorganization of the Company under any applicable bankruptcy,

insolvency or similar law now or hereafter in effect) on the Senior Indebtedness held or represented by each, to the extent necessary to make payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to the holders of such Senior Indebtedness; it being understood that if the Holders fail to file a proper claim in the form required by any proceeding referred to in this Section 11.02(1)(b) prior to 30 days before the expiration of the time to file such claim or claims, then the holders of Senior Indebtedness are hereby authorized to file an appropriate claim or claims for and on behalf of the Holders, in the form required in any such proceeding; and

(c) in the event that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any payment or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, including any such payment or distribution that may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other indebtedness of the Company being subordinate to the payment of the Subordinated Notes will be received by the Trustee or the Holders before all Senior Indebtedness is paid in full, such payment or distribution will be paid over to the trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, liquidating trustee, custodian, assignee, agent or other Person making payment of assets of the Company for all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid until all such Senior Indebtedness will have been paid in full, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to the holders of such Senior Indebtedness,

(1) Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness, the Holders will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of the Company applicable to the Senior Indebtedness until the principal of and interest on the Subordinated Notes will be paid in full and no such payments or distributions to holders of such Senior Indebtedness to which the Holders would be entitled except for the provisions hereof of cash, property or securities otherwise distributable to the holders of Senior Indebtedness will, as between the Company, its creditors, other than the holders of Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders, be deemed to be a payment by the Company to or on account of the Senior Indebtedness. It is understood that the provisions of this Article XI are intended solely for the purpose of defining the relative rights of the Holders of the Subordinated Notes, on the one hand, and the holders of Senior Indebtedness, on the other hand. Nothing contained in this Article XI or elsewhere in this Indenture or any supplemental indenture issued in accordance with Article VIII of this Indenture or in the Subordinated Notes is intended to or will impair, as between the Company, its creditors, other than the holders of Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders, the obligation of the Company, which is unconditional and absolute, to pay to the Holders the principal of and interest on the Subordinated Notes as and when the same will become due and payable in accordance with their terms or to affect the relative rights of the Holders and creditors of the Company, other than the holders of the Senior Indebtedness, nor, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Indenture and the Subordinated Notes with respect to the limitation on the rights of the Trustee and the Holders, to accelerate the maturity of the Subordinated Notes and pursue remedies upon such an acceleration, will anything herein or in the Subordinated Notes prevent the Trustee or any Holder from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon any Event of Default under the Indenture occurring, subject to the rights, if any, under this Article XI of the holders of Senior Indebtedness, in respect of cash, property or securities of the Company received upon the exercise of any such remedy. Upon any payment or distribution of assets of the Company referred to in this Article XI, the Trustee and the Holders will be entitled to conclusively rely upon any order or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction in which such termination, winding up, liquidation or reorganization proceeding is pending or upon a certificate of the liquidating trustee or agent or other Person making any distribution to the Trustee or to the Holders for the purpose of ascertaining the Persons entitled to participate in such distribution, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness and other indebtedness of the Company, the amount thereof or payable thereon, the amount or amounts paid or distributed thereon and all other facts pertinent thereto or to this Article XI. In the absence of any such liquidating trustee, agent or other person, the Trustee will be entitled to conclusively rely upon a written notice by a Person representing itself to be a holder of Senior Indebtedness (or a trustee or representative on behalf of such holder) as evidence that such Person is a holder of Senior Indebtedness (or is such a trustee or representative). If the Trustee determines, in good faith, that further evidence is required with respect to the right of any Person, as a holder of Senior Indebtedness, to participate in any payment or distribution in accordance with this Article XI, the Trustee may request such Person to furnish evidence to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee as to the amount of Senior Indebtedness held by such Person, as to the extent to which such Person is entitled to participation in such payment or distribution, and as to other facts pertinent to the rights of such Person under this Article XI,

and if such evidence is not furnished, the Trustee may defer any payment to such Person pending judicial determination as to the right of such Person to receive such payment.

With respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, the Trustee undertakes to perform or to observe only such of its covenants and obligations as are specifically set forth in this Indenture, and no implied covenants or obligations with respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness will be read into this Indenture against the Trustee. The Trustee, however, will not be deemed to owe any fiduciary duty to the holders of Senior Indebtedness by reason of the execution of this Indenture, or any other supplemental indenture entered into in accordance with Article VIII of this Indenture, and will not be liable to any such holders if it will in good faith mistakenly pay over or distribute to or on behalf of the Holders or the Company moneys or assets to which any holders of Senior Indebtedness will be entitled by virtue of this Article XI or otherwise.

Section 1.015 Default With Respect to Senior Indebtedness.

In the event and during the continuation of any default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any Senior Indebtedness, beyond any applicable grace period, or if any event of default with respect to any Senior Indebtedness will have occurred and be continuing, or would occur as a result of the payment referred to hereinafter, permitting the holders of such Senior Indebtedness (or a trustee on behalf of the holders thereof) to accelerate the maturity thereof, then, unless and until such default or event of default will have been cured or waived or will have ceased to exist, no payment or principal of or interest on the Subordinated Notes, or in respect of any retirement, purchase or other acquisition of any of the Subordinated Notes, will be made by the Company.

Section 1.016 No Impairment.

Nothing contained in this Indenture, any other supplemental indenture entered into in accordance with Article VIII of this Indenture, or in any of the Subordinated Notes will: (i) impair, as between the Company and the Holders, the obligations of the Company, to make, or prevent the Company from making, at any time except as provided in Section 11.02 and Section 11.03, payments of principal of, or interest (including interest accruing subsequent to the commencement of any proceeding for the bankruptcy or reorganization of the Company under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, or similar law now or hereafter in effect) on, the Subordinated Notes, as and when the same will become due and payable in accordance with the terms of the Subordinated Notes; (ii) affect the relative rights of the Holders and creditors of the Company other than the holders of the Senior Indebtedness; (iii) except as otherwise expressly provided in this Indenture and the Subordinated Notes with respect to the limitation on the rights of the Trustee and the Holders, to accelerate the maturity of the Subordinated Notes and pursue remedies upon such an acceleration, prevent the Holder of any Subordinated Notes or the Trustee from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon default thereunder, subject to the rights, if any, under this Article XI of the holders of Senior Indebtedness in respect of cash, property or securities of the Company received upon the exercise of such remedy; or (iv) prevent the application by the Trustee or any Paying Agent of any moneys deposited with it hereunder to the payment of or on account of the principal of, or interest on, the Subordinated Notes or prevent the receipt by the Trustee or any Paying Agent of such moneys, if, prior to the third Business Day prior to such deposit, the Trustee or such Paying Agent did not have written notice of any event prohibiting the making of such deposit by the Company.

Section 1.017 Effectuation of Subordination Provisions.

Each Holder by his acceptance of any Notes authorizes and expressly directs the Trustee on such Holder's behalf to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the Subordination Provisions, and appoints the Trustee such Holder's attorney-in-fact for such purposes, including, in the event of any termination, winding up, liquidation or reorganization of the Company (whether in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, reorganization or similar proceedings or upon an assignment for the benefit of creditors by the Company, a marshalling of the assets and liabilities of the Company or otherwise) tending toward the liquidation of the property and assets of the Company, the filing of a claim for the unpaid balance of the Subordinated Notes in the form required in those proceedings.

Section 1.018 Notice to Trustee.

The Company will give prompt written notice to the Trustee of any fact known to the Company that would prohibit the Company from making any payment to or by the Trustee in respect of the Subordinated Notes in accordance with the provisions of this Article XI. The Trustee will not be charged with the knowledge of the existence of any default or event of default with respect to any Senior Indebtedness or of any other facts that would prohibit the making of any payment to or by the Trustee or any Paying Agent unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee has received a written notice specifying such default, event of default or other facts signed by an Authorized Officer, or by a holder of Senior Indebtedness or a trustee or agent thereof; and prior to the receipt of any such written notice, the Trustee will, subject to Article V of this Indenture, be entitled to assume that no such facts exist; provided that, if the Trustee will not have received the notice provided for in this Section 11.06 at least two Business Days prior to the date upon which, by the terms of the Indenture, any monies will become payable for any purpose (including, without limitation, the payment of the principal of or interest on any Subordinated Note), then, notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Trustee will have full power and authority to receive any monies from the Company and to apply the same to the purpose for which they were received, and will not be affected by any notice to the contrary that may be received by it on or after such prior date except for an acceleration of the Subordinated Notes prior to such application. The foregoing will not apply if the Paying Agent is the Company. The Trustee will be entitled to conclusively rely on the delivery to it of a written notice by a Person representing himself or itself to be a holder of any Senior Indebtedness (or a trustee on behalf of, or agent of, such holder) to establish that such notice has been given by a holder of such Senior Indebtedness or a trustee or agent on behalf of any such holder.

In the event that the Trustee determines in good faith that any evidence is required with respect to the right of any Person as a holder of Senior Indebtedness to participate in any payment or distribution in accordance with this Article XI, the Trustee may request such Person to furnish evidence to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee as to the amount of Senior Indebtedness held by such Person, the extent to which such Person is entitled to participate in such payment or distribution and any other facts pertinent to the rights of such Person under this Article XI and, if such evidence is not furnished to the Trustee, the Trustee may defer any payment to such Person pending such evidence being furnished to the Trustee or a judicial determination that such Person has the right to receive such payment.

Section 1.019 Trustee Knowledge of Senior Indebtedness.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article XI or any other provisions of this Indenture or any other supplemental indenture issued in accordance with Article VIII of this Indenture, neither the Trustee nor any Paying Agent will be charged with knowledge of the existence of any Senior Indebtedness or of any event that would prohibit the making of any payment of moneys to or by the Trustee or such Paying Agent, unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee or such Paying Agent has received written notice thereof from the Company or from the holder of any Senior Indebtedness or from the representative of any such holder.

Section 1.020 Senior Indebtedness to Trustee.

The Trustee will be entitled to all of the rights set forth in this Article XI in respect of any Senior Indebtedness at any time held by it in its individual capacity to the same extent as any other holder of such Senior Indebtedness, and nothing in this Indenture or any other supplemental indenture issued in accordance with Article VIII of this Indenture will be construed to deprive the Trustee of any of its rights as such holder.

Section 1.021 Subordination Not Applicable to Trustee Compensation.

Nothing contained in this Article XI will apply to the claims of, or payments to, the Trustee under Section 5.07 of this Indenture.

The Trustee hereby accepts the trusts in this Indenture upon the terms and conditions set forth herein.



[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Indenture to be duly signed as of the date first written above.

SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.

By /s/ Stephen W. Whatley  
Name Stephen W. Whatley  
Title Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

UMB BANK, N.A., as Trustee

By /s/ Shazia Flores  
Name Shazia Flores  
Title Vice President

**EXHIBIT A-1**

**(FORM OF DEFINITIVE SUBORDINATED NOTE)**

**SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.**

**7.00% FIXED-TO-FLOATING RATE SUBORDINATED NOTE DUE 2032**

THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS INSTRUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), OR SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF EXCEPT (A) PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH, A REGISTRATION STATEMENT THAT IS EFFECTIVE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT AT THE TIME OF SUCH TRANSFER; (B) TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER IN COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITED INVESTOR AS DEFINED IN RULE 501(A)(1), (2), (3) OR (7) OF REGULATION D UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT; OR (C) UNDER ANY OTHER AVAILABLE EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT (INCLUDING, IF AVAILABLE, THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED BY RULE 144 UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT), AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR BLUE SKY LAWS, AS EVIDENCED BY A LEGAL OPINION OF COUNSEL IN FORM AND SUBSTANCE REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO THE COMPANY TO THE EFFECT THAT REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

THE SECURITY AND THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY AS EVIDENCED BY THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE (1) ARE NOT A DEPOSIT AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR FUND AND (2) ARE SUBORDINATE IN THE RIGHT OF PAYMENT TO ALL SENIOR INDEBTEDNESS (AS DEFINED IN THE INDENTURE IDENTIFIED HEREIN).

**CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS:**

THE HOLDER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE, OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, BY ITS ACCEPTANCE HEREOF OR THEREOF AGREES, REPRESENTS AND WARRANTS THAT IT IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN, INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT OR OTHER PLAN OR ARRANGEMENT SUBJECT TO TITLE I OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED ("ERISA"), OR SECTION 4975 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (THE "CODE") (EACH A "PLAN"), OR AN ENTITY WHOSE UNDERLYING ASSETS INCLUDE "PLAN ASSETS" BY REASON OF ANY PLAN'S INVESTMENT IN THE ENTITY, AND NO PERSON INVESTING "PLAN ASSETS" OF ANY PLAN MAY ACQUIRE OR HOLD THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, UNLESS SUCH PURCHASER OR HOLDER IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE EXEMPTIVE RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROHIBITED TRANSACTION CLASS EXEMPTION 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1 OR 84-14 OR ANOTHER APPLICABLE EXEMPTION OR ITS PURCHASE AND HOLDING OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE, OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, ARE NOT PROHIBITED BY SECTION 406 OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PURCHASE AND HOLDING. ANY PURCHASER OR HOLDER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE REPRESENTED BY ITS PURCHASE AND HOLDING THEREOF THAT EITHER: (i) IT IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR OTHER PLAN TO WHICH TITLE I OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE IS APPLICABLE, A TRUSTEE OR OTHER PERSON ACTING ON BEHALF OF ANY SUCH EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR PLANS, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY USING THE "PLAN ASSETS" OF ANY SUCH EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR PLANS TO FINANCE SUCH PURCHASE OR (ii) SUCH PURCHASE OR HOLDING WILL NOT RESULT IN A PROHIBITED TRANSACTION UNDER SECTION 406 OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE FOR WHICH

FULL EXEMPTIVE RELIEF IS NOT AVAILABLE UNDER APPLICABLE STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTION.

ANY FIDUCIARY OF ANY PLAN WHO IS CONSIDERING THE ACQUISITION OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN SHOULD CONSULT WITH HIS OR HER LEGAL COUNSEL PRIOR TO ACQUIRING THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN.

## SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.

## 7.00% FIXED-TO-FLOATING RATE SUBORDINATED NOTE DUE 2032

**1. Subordinated Notes.** This Subordinated Note is one of a duly authorized issue of notes of Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the “Company”), designated as the “7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032” (the “Subordinated Notes”) in an aggregate principal amount of \$40,000,000 and initially issued on October 26, 2022. The Company has issued this Subordinated Note under that certain Indenture dated as of October 26, 2022, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time (“Indenture”), between the Company and UMB Bank, N.A., as Trustee (the “Trustee”). All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Subordinated Note will have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture. The terms of this Subordinated Note include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “Trust Indenture Act”). This Subordinated Note is subject to all such terms, and the Holder (as defined below) is referred to the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act for a statement of such terms. To the extent any provision of this Subordinated Note irreconcilably conflicts with the express provisions of the Indenture, the provisions of the Indenture will govern and be controlling.

**2. Payment.** The Company, for value received, promises to pay to [●] (the “Holder”), or its registered assigns, the principal sum of [●] Dollars (U.S.) (\$[●],000,000), plus accrued but unpaid interest on October 26, 2032 (the “Maturity Date”) and to pay interest thereon (i) from and including the original issue date of the Subordinated Notes to but excluding October 26, 2027 or the earlier redemption date contemplated by Section 5 (Redemption) of this Subordinated Note (the “Fixed Rate Period”), at the rate of 7.00% per annum, computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months and payable quarterly in arrears on March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year (each payment date, a “Fixed Interest Payment Date”), beginning December 30, 2022, and (ii) from and including October 26, 2027 to but excluding the Maturity Date or earlier redemption date contemplated by Section 5 (Redemption) of this Subordinated Note (the “Floating Rate Period”), at the rate per annum, reset quarterly, equal to the Floating Interest Rate (as defined below) determined on the Floating Interest Determination Date (as defined below) of the applicable Floating Rate Interest Period plus 306 basis points, computed on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed and payable quarterly in arrears on March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year (each payment date, a “Floating Interest Payment Date”), beginning on December 30, 2027. A “Floating Rate Interest Period” means, the period from, and including, each Floating Interest Payment Date to, but excluding, the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date, except for the initial Floating Rate Interest Period, which will be the period from and including October 26, 2027 to, but excluding the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date. Dollar amounts resulting from this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest cent, with one-half cent being rounded up. The term “Floating Interest Determination Date” means the date upon which the Floating Interest Rate is determined by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions (as defined below).

- (a) An “Interest Payment Date” is either a Fixed Interest Payment Date or a Floating Interest Payment Date, as applicable.

(b) The "Floating Interest Rate" means:

- (i) initially Three-Month Term SOFR (as defined below).
- (ii) Notwithstanding the foregoing clause (i) of this Section 2(b):

(1) If the Calculation Agent (as defined below) determines prior to the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date (each of such terms as defined below) have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, then the Company shall promptly provide notice of such determination to the Holders and Section 2(c) (Effect of Benchmark Transition Event) will thereafter apply to all determinations, calculations and quotations made or obtained for the purposes of calculating the Floating Interest Rate payable on the Subordinated Notes during a relevant Floating Rate Interest Period.

(2) However, if the Calculation Agent determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, but for any reason the Benchmark Replacement has not been determined as of the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date, the Floating Interest Rate for the applicable Floating Rate Interest Period will be equal to the Floating Interest Rate on the last Floating Interest Determination Date for the Subordinated Notes, as determined by the Calculation Agent.

(iii) If the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and any of the foregoing provisions concerning the calculation of the interest rate and the payment of interest during the Floating Rate Period are inconsistent with any of the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions determined by the Company, then the relevant Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions will apply.

(c) Effect of Benchmark Transition Event.

(i) If the Calculation Agent determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred prior to the Reference Time (as defined below) in respect of any determination of the Benchmark (as defined below) on any date, the Benchmark Replacement will replace the then-current Benchmark for all purposes relating to the Subordinated Notes during the relevant Floating Rate Interest Period in respect of such determination on such date and all determinations on all subsequent dates.

(ii) In connection with the implementation of a Benchmark Replacement, the Company will have the right to make Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes from time to time.

(iii) Any determination, decision or election that may be made by the Company or by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the benchmark transition provisions set forth herein, including any determination with respect to a tenor, rate or adjustment or of the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event, circumstance or date, and any decision to take or refrain from taking any action or any selection:

- (1) will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error;
- (2) if made by the Company, will be made in the Company's sole discretion;

(3) if made by the Calculation Agent, will be made after consultation with the Company, and the Calculation Agent will not make any such determination, decision or election to which the Company reasonably objects; and

(4) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Subordinated Note, the Indenture or the Purchase Agreement, shall become effective without consent from the relevant Holders or any other party.

(iv) For the avoidance of doubt, after a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred, interest payable on this Subordinated Note for the Floating Rate Period will be an annual rate equal to the sum of the applicable Benchmark Replacement and the spread specified on the face hereof.

(v) As used in this Subordinated Note:

(1) “Benchmark” means, initially, Three-Month Term SOFR; provided that if a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR or the then-current Benchmark, then “Benchmark” means the applicable Benchmark Replacement.

(2) “Benchmark Replacement” means the Interpolated Benchmark with respect to the then-current Benchmark, plus the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment for such Benchmark; provided that if (a) the Calculation Agent cannot determine the Interpolated Benchmark as of the Benchmark Replacement Date or (b) the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR (in which event no Interpolated Benchmark with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR shall be determined), then “Benchmark Replacement” means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

a. the sum of: (i) Compounded SOFR and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

b. the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

c. the sum of: (i) the ISDA Fallback Rate and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment; or

d. the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected by the Company as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor giving due consideration to any industry-accepted rate of interest as a replacement for the then-current Benchmark for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

(3) “Benchmark Replacement Adjustment” means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

a. the spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement;

b. if the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement is equivalent to the ISDA Fallback Rate, then the ISDA Fallback Adjustment; or

c. the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected by the Company giving due consideration to any industry-accepted spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, for the replacement of the then-current Benchmark with the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

(4) "Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes" means, with respect to any Benchmark Replacement, any technical, administrative or operational changes (including changes to the definition of "Floating Rate Interest Period," timing and frequency of determining rates with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the adoption of such Benchmark Replacement in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company reasonably decides in good faith that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company reasonably determines in good faith that no market practice for use of the Benchmark Replacement exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

(5) "Benchmark Replacement Date" means the earliest to occur of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

a. in the case of clause (a) or (b) of the definition of "Benchmark Transition Event," the later of (i) the date of the public statement or publication of information referenced therein and (ii) the date on which the administrator of the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely ceases to provide the Benchmark; or

b. in the case of clause (c) of the definition of "Benchmark Transition Event," the date of such public statement or publication of information referenced therein.

For the avoidance of doubt, for purposes of the definitions of Benchmark Replacement Date and Benchmark Transition Event, references to the Benchmark also include any reference rate underlying the Benchmark (for example, if the Benchmark becomes Compounded SOFR, references to the Benchmark would include SOFR).

For the avoidance of doubt, if the event giving rise to the Benchmark Replacement Date occurs on the same day as, but earlier than, the Reference Time in respect of any determination, the Benchmark Replacement Date will be deemed to have occurred prior to the Reference Time for purposes of such determination.

(6) "Benchmark Transition Event" means the occurrence of one or more of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

a. a public statement or publication of information by or on behalf of the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that such administrator has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark, permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark;

b. a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark, the central bank for the currency of the Benchmark, an insolvency official with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark, a resolution authority with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark or a court or an entity with similar insolvency or resolution authority over the administrator for the Benchmark, which states that the administrator of the Benchmark has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark; or

c. a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that the Benchmark is no longer representative.

(7) "Calculation Agent" means such bank or other entity (which may be the Company or an affiliate of the Company) as may be appointed by the Company to act as Calculation Agent for the Subordinated Notes during the Floating Rate Period. The initial Calculation Agent shall be the Company.



(8) “Compounded SOFR” means the compounded average of SOFRs for the applicable Corresponding Tenor, with the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate being established by the Company in accordance with:

a. the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for determining compounded SOFR; *provided that*:

b. if, and to the extent that, the Company or its designee determines that Compounded SOFR cannot be determined in accordance with clause (a) above, then the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate that have been selected by the Company or its designee giving due consideration to any industry-accepted market practice for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

For the avoidance of doubt, the calculation of Compounded SOFR will exclude the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment and the spread specified on the face hereof.

(9) “Corresponding Tenor” with respect to a Benchmark Replacement means a tenor (including overnight) having approximately the same length (disregarding any Business Day adjustment) as the applicable tenor for the then-current Benchmark.

(10) “FRBNY” means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

(11) “FRBNY’s Website” means the website of the FRBNY at <http://www.newyorkfed.org>, or any successor source.

(12) “Interpolated Benchmark” with respect to the Benchmark means the rate determined for the Corresponding Tenor by interpolating on a linear basis between: (1) the Benchmark for the longest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is shorter than the Corresponding Tenor and (2) the Benchmark for the shortest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is longer than the Corresponding Tenor.

(13) “ISDA” means the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. or any successor thereto.

(14) “ISDA Definitions” means the 2006 ISDA Definitions published by the ISDA or any successor thereto, as amended or supplemented from time to time, or any successor definitional booklet for interest rate derivatives published from time to time.

(15) “ISDA Fallback Adjustment” means the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be determined upon the occurrence of an index cessation event with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor.

(16) “ISDA Fallback Rate” means the rate that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be effective upon the occurrence of an index cessation date with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor excluding the applicable ISDA Fallback Adjustment.

(17) “Reference Time” with respect to any determination of a Benchmark means (1) if the Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions, and (2) if the Benchmark is not Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes.

(18) “Relevant Governmental Body” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”) and/or the FRBNY, or a committee officially endorsed or convened by the Federal Reserve and/or the FRBNY or any successor thereto.

(19) “**SOFR**” means the daily Secured Overnight Financing Rate provided by the FRBNY, as the administrator of the benchmark (or a successor administrator), on the FRBNY’s Website.

(20) “**Term SOFR**” means the forward-looking term rate for the Corresponding Tenor based on SOFR that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body.

(21) “**Term SOFR Administrator**” means the CME Group or any entity designated by the Relevant Governmental Body as the successor administrator of Term SOFR.

(22) “**Three-Month Term SOFR**” means the rate for Term SOFR for a tenor of three months that is published by the Term SOFR Administrator at the Reference Time for any Floating Rate Interest Period, as determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions.

(23) “**Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions**” means any determination, decision or election with respect to any technical, administrative or operational matter (including with respect to the manner and timing of the publication of Three-Month Term SOFR, or changes to the definition of “Floating Rate Interest Period”, timing and frequency of determining Three-Month Term SOFR with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors, and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the use of Three-Month Term SOFR as the Benchmark in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company decides that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company determines that no market practice for the use of Three-Month Term SOFR exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

(24) “**Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement**” means the Benchmark Replacement excluding the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

(25) Other capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Indenture.

(d) In the event that any Fixed Interest Payment Date during the Fixed Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and no additional interest shall accrue as a result of that postponement. In the event that any Floating Interest Payment Date during the Floating Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and interest shall accrue to but excluding the date interest are paid. However, if the postponement would cause the day to fall in the next calendar month during the Floating Rate Interest Period, the Floating Interest Payment Date shall instead be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day.

**3. Paying Agent and Registrar.** UMB Bank, N.A., the Trustee under the Indenture, will act as the initial Paying Agent and Registrar through its offices presently located at Houston, Texas. The Company may change any Paying Agent or Registrar without notice to any Holder. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries may act in any such capacity.

**4. Subordination.** The indebtedness of the Company evidenced by this Subordinated Note, including the principal thereof and interest thereon, is, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Indenture, subordinate and junior in right of payment to obligations of the Company constituting the Senior Indebtedness (as defined in the Indenture) on the terms and subject to the terms and conditions as provided and set forth in Article XI of the Indenture and will rank *pari passu* in right of payment with all other Subordinated Notes. Holder, by the acceptance of this Subordinated Note, agrees to and will be bound by such provisions of the Indenture and authorizes and directs the Trustee on his behalf to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the subordination so provided. This Subordinated Note is not secured by any assets of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or Affiliates.

## **5. Redemption.**

(a) The Company may, at its option, on any Interest Payment Date on or after December 30, 2027, redeem this Subordinated Note, in whole or in part, without premium or penalty, but in all cases in a principal amount with integral multiples of \$1,000. In addition, the Company may, at its option, redeem all, but not a portion of the Subordinated Notes, at any time upon the occurrence of a Tier 2 Capital Event, Tax Event or an Investment Company Event. Any redemption of this Subordinated Note shall be subject to the prior approval of the Federal Reserve (or its designee) or any successor agency, and any other banking regulatory agency, to the extent such approval shall then be required by law, regulation or policy. This Subordinated Note is not subject to redemption at the option of the Holder. The Redemption Price with respect to any redemption permitted under the Indenture will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of this Subordinated Note, or portion thereof, to be redeemed, plus accrued but unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon to, but excluding, the Redemption Date.

(b) If less than the then outstanding principal amount of this Subordinated Note is redeemed, (i) a new note shall be issued representing the unredeemed portion without charge to the Holder thereof and (ii) such redemption shall be effected on a pro rata basis as to the Holders. For purposes of clarity, upon a partial redemption, a like percentage of the principal amount of every Subordinated Note held by every Holder shall be redeemed.

(c) If notice of redemption has been duly given and notwithstanding that any Subordinated Notes so called for redemption have not been surrendered for cancellation, on and after the Redemption Date interest shall cease to accrue on all Subordinated Notes so called for redemption, all Subordinated Notes so called for redemption shall no longer be deemed outstanding and all rights with respect to such Subordinated Notes shall forthwith on such Redemption Date cease and terminate (unless the Company shall default in the payment of the redemption price), except only the right of the Holder thereof to receive the amount payable on such redemption, without interest.

## **6. Events of Default; Acceleration**

An “**Event of Default**” means any one of the events described in Section 4.01 of the Indenture. If an Event of Default described in Section 4.01(1) or Section 4.01(2) of the Indenture occurs, then the principal amount of all of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all Outstanding Subordinated Notes will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or the Holder, and the Company waives demand, presentment for payment, notice of nonpayment, notice of protest, and all other notices. Notwithstanding the foregoing, because the Company will treat the Subordinated Notes as Tier 2 Capital, upon the occurrence of an Event of Default other than an Event of Default described in Section 4.01(1) or Section 4.01(2) of the Indenture, neither the Trustee nor the Holder may accelerate the Maturity of the Subordinated Notes and make the principal of, and any accrued and unpaid interest on, the Subordinated Notes, immediately due and payable. If any Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may also pursue any other available remedy to collect the payment of principal of, and interest on, the Subordinated Notes then due and payable or to enforce the performance of any provision of the Subordinated Notes or the Indenture.

**7. Failure to Make Payments.** If the Company fails to make any payment of interest on this Subordinated Note when such interest becomes due and payable and such default continues for a period of thirty (30) days, or if the Company fails to make any payment of the principal of this Subordinated Note when such principal becomes due and payable, the Company will, upon demand of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee, for the benefit of the Holder, the whole amount then due and payable with respect to this Subordinated Note, with interest upon the overdue principal, any premium and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, upon any overdue installments of interest at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, provided for or with respect to this Subordinated Note or, if no such rate or rates are so provided, at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, of interest borne by this Subordinated Note.

Upon an Event of Default, the Company may not declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of the Company’s capital stock, make any payment of principal or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem

any debt securities of the Company that rank equal with or junior to this Subordinated Note, or make any payments under any guarantee that ranks equal with or junior to this Subordinated Note, other than: (i) any dividends or distributions in shares of, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of, any class of the Company's common stock; (ii) any declaration of a dividend in connection with the implementation of a shareholders' rights plan, or the issuance of stock under any such plan in the future, or the redemption or repurchase of any such rights pursuant thereto; (iii) as a result of a reclassification of the Company's capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one class or series of the Company's capital stock for another class or series of the Company's capital stock; (iv) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of the Company's capital stock in accordance with the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged; or (v) purchases of any class of the Company's common stock related to the issuance of common stock or rights under any benefit plans for the Company's directors, officers or employees or any of the Company's dividend reinvestment plans,

**8. Denominations, Transfer, Exchange.** The Subordinated Notes are issuable only in registered form without interest coupons in minimum denominations of \$100,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. The transfer of this Subordinated Note may be registered and this Subordinated Note may be exchanged as provided in the Indenture. The Registrar may require the Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and the Company may require the Holder to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture.

**9. Charges and Transfer Taxes.** No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note, or any redemption or repayment of this Subordinated Note, or any conversion or exchange of this Subordinated Note for other types of securities or property, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to pay all taxes, assessments or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note from the Holder requesting such transfer or exchange.

**10. Persons Deemed Owners.** The Company and the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Subordinated Note is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Subordinated Note is overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent will be affected by notice to the contrary.

**11. Amendments; Waivers.** The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Subordinated Notes at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the then Outstanding Subordinated Notes. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the holders of specified percentages in principal amount of the then Outstanding Subordinated Notes, on behalf of the holders of all Subordinated Notes, to waive certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Subordinated Note will be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future holders of this Subordinated Note and of any Subordinated Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange hereof or in lieu hereof, whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Subordinated Note.

**12. No Impairment.** No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Subordinated Note or of the Indenture will alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of and interest (if any) and Additional Interest on this Subordinated Note at the times, place and rate as herein prescribed.

**13. Sinking Fund; Convertibility.** This Subordinated Note is not entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund. This Subordinated Note is not convertible into or exchangeable for any of the equity securities, other securities or assets of the Company or any Subsidiary.

**14. No Recourse Against Others.** No recourse under or upon any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in the Indenture or in this Subordinated Note, or for any claim based thereon or otherwise in respect thereof, will be had against any past, present or future shareholder, employee, officer, or director, as such, of the Company or of any predecessor or successor, either directly or through the Company or

any predecessor or successor, under any rule of law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise, all such liability being expressly waived and released by the acceptance of this Subordinated Note by the Holder and as part of the consideration for the issuance of this Subordinated Note.

**15. Authentication.** This Subordinated Note will not be valid until authenticated by the manual signature of the Trustee or an Authenticating Agent.

**16. Abbreviations.** Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Holder or an assignee, such as: TEN COM (= tenants in common), TEN ENT (= tenants by the entireties), JT TEN (= joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (= custodian), and U/G/M/A (= Uniform Gifts to Minors Act). Additional abbreviations may also be used though not in the above list.

**17. Available Information.** The Company will furnish to the Holder upon written request and without charge a copy of the Indenture. Requests by Holder to the Company may be made to: Southern States Bancshares, Inc., 615 Quintard Avenue, Anniston, Alabama 36201 Attention: Chief Financial Officer.

**18. Governing Law.** THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE WILL BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACT MADE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO ANY LAWS OR PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICT OF LAWS THAT WOULD APPLY THE LAWS OF A DIFFERENT JURISDICTION.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Subordinated Note to be duly executed and attested.  
SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Stephen W. Whatley

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Lynn Joyce

Title: Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION**

This is one of the Subordinated Notes of Southern States Bancshares, Inc., referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture:

UMB Bank, N.A., as Trustee

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: [•]  
Title: [•]

**ASSIGNMENT FORM**

To assign this Subordinated Note, fill in the form below: (I) or (we) assign and transfer this Subordinated Note to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert assignee's social security or tax I.D. No.)

and irrevocably appoint \_\_\_\_\_ agent to transfer this Subordinated Note on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sign exactly as your name appears on the face of this Subordinated Note)

Tax Identification No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Guarantee: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signatures must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution (banks, stockbrokers, savings and loan associations and credit unions with membership in an approved signature guarantee medallion program), pursuant to Rule 17Ad-15 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

The undersigned certifies that it [is / is not] an Affiliate of the Company and that, to its knowledge, the proposed transferee [is / is not] an Affiliate of the Company. "Affiliate" means, with respect to any Person, such Person's immediate family members, partners, members or parent and subsidiary corporations, and any other Person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with said Person and their respective Affiliates. "Person" means an individual, a corporation (whether or not for profit), a partnership, a limited liability company, a joint venture, an association, a trust, an unincorporated organization, a government or any department or agency thereof or any other entity or organization.

In connection with any transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note occurring prior to the date that is one year after the later of the date of original issuance of this Subordinated Note and the last date, if any, on which this Subordinated Note was owned by the Company or any Affiliate of the Company, the undersigned confirms that this Subordinated Note is being:

CHECK ONE BOX BELOW:

- (1) acquired for the undersigned's own account, without transfer;
- (2) transferred to the Company;



- (3) transferred in accordance and in compliance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act");
- (4) transferred under an effective registration statement under the Securities Act;
- (5) transferred in accordance with and in compliance with Regulation S under the Securities Act;
- (6) transferred to an institutional "accredited investor" (as defined in Rule 501(a)(1), (2), (3) or (7) under the Securities Act);
- (7) transferred to an "accredited investor" (as defined in Rule 501(a)(4) under the Securities Act), not referred to in item (6) that has been provided with the information designated under Section 4(d) of the Securities Act; or
- (8) transferred in accordance with another available exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Unless one of the boxes is checked, the Company will refuse to register this Subordinated Note in the name of any person other than the registered holder thereof; provided, however, that if box (5), (6), (7) or (8) is checked, the Company may require, prior to registering any such transfer of this Subordinated Note, in its sole discretion, such legal opinions, certifications and other information as the Company may reasonably request to confirm that such transfer is being made pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act such as the exemption provided by Rule 144 under such Act.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Guarantee: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signatures must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution (banks, stockbrokers, savings and loan associations and credit unions with membership in an approved signature guarantee medallion program), pursuant to Rule 17Ad-15).

TO BE COMPLETED BY PURCHASER IF BOX (1) OR (3) ABOVE IS CHECKED.

The undersigned represents and warrants that it is purchasing this Subordinated Note for its own account or an account with respect to which it exercises sole investment discretion and that it and any such account is a "qualified institutional buyer" within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act and is aware that the sale to it is being made in reliance on Rule 144A and acknowledges that it has received such information regarding the Company as the undersigned has requested pursuant to Rule 144A or has determined not to request such information and that it is aware that the transferor is relying upon the undersigned's foregoing representations in order to claim the exemption from registration provided by Rule 144A.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT A-2

(FORM OF GLOBAL SUBORDINATED NOTE)

SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.

7.00% FIXED-TO-FLOATING RATE SUBORDINATED NOTE DUE 2032

THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS INSTRUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), OR SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF EXCEPT (A) PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH, A REGISTRATION STATEMENT THAT IS EFFECTIVE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT AT THE TIME OF SUCH TRANSFER; (B) TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER IN COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR TO A PERSON THAT YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITED INVESTOR AS DEFINED IN RULE 501(A)(1), (2), (3) OR (7) OF REGULATION D UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT; OR (C) UNDER ANY OTHER AVAILABLE EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT (INCLUDING, IF AVAILABLE, THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED BY RULE 144 UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT), AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR BLUE SKY LAWS, AS EVIDENCED BY A LEGAL OPINION OF COUNSEL IN FORM AND SUBSTANCE REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO THE COMPANY TO THE EFFECT THAT REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE IS A GLOBAL SUBORDINATED NOTE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. AS NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY ("DTC") OR A NOMINEE OF DTC. THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE IS EXCHANGEABLE FOR SUBORDINATED NOTES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A PERSON OTHER THAN DTC OR ITS NOMINEE ONLY IN THE LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN THE INDENTURE, AND NO TRANSFER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE (OTHER THAN A TRANSFER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE AS A WHOLE BY DTC TO A NOMINEE OF DTC OR BY A NOMINEE OF DTC TO DTC OR ANOTHER NOMINEE OF DTC) MAY BE REGISTERED EXCEPT IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED IN THE INDENTURE.

UNLESS THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC TO THE COMPANY OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE, OR PAYMENT, AND ANY SUBORDINATED NOTE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO., OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC (AND ANY PAYMENT HEREON IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE, OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

TRANSFERS OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE WILL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS IN WHOLE, BUT NOT IN PART, TO NOMINEES OF DTC OR A SUCCESSOR THEREOF OR SUCH SUCCESSOR'S NOMINEE AND TRANSFERS OF PORTIONS OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE WILL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN THE INDENTURE IDENTIFIED HEREIN.

THE SECURITY AND THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY AS EVIDENCED BY THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE (1) ARE NOT A DEPOSIT AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR FUND

AND (2) ARE SUBORDINATE IN THE RIGHT OF PAYMENT TO ALL SENIOR INDEBTEDNESS (AS DEFINED IN THE INDENTURE IDENTIFIED HEREIN).

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS:

THE HOLDER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE, OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, BY ITS ACCEPTANCE HEREOF OR THEREOF AGREES, REPRESENTS AND WARRANTS THAT IT IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN, INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT OR OTHER PLAN OR ARRANGEMENT SUBJECT TO TITLE I OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED ("ERISA"), OR SECTION 4975 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (THE "CODE") (EACH A "PLAN"), OR AN ENTITY WHOSE UNDERLYING ASSETS INCLUDE "PLAN ASSETS" BY REASON OF ANY PLAN'S INVESTMENT IN THE ENTITY, AND NO PERSON INVESTING "PLAN ASSETS" OF ANY PLAN MAY ACQUIRE OR HOLD THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, UNLESS SUCH PURCHASER OR HOLDER IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE EXEMPTIVE RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROHIBITED TRANSACTION CLASS EXEMPTION 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1 OR 84-14 OR ANOTHER APPLICABLE EXEMPTION OR ITS PURCHASE AND HOLDING OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE, OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN, ARE NOT PROHIBITED BY SECTION 406 OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PURCHASE AND HOLDING. ANY PURCHASER OR HOLDER OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE REPRESENTED BY ITS PURCHASE AND HOLDING THEREOF THAT EITHER: (i) IT IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR OTHER PLAN TO WHICH TITLE I OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE IS APPLICABLE, A TRUSTEE OR OTHER PERSON ACTING ON BEHALF OF ANY SUCH EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR PLANS, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY USING THE "PLAN ASSETS" OF ANY SUCH EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR PLANS TO FINANCE SUCH PURCHASE OR (ii) SUCH PURCHASE OR HOLDING WILL NOT RESULT IN A PROHIBITED TRANSACTION UNDER SECTION 406 OF ERISA OR SECTION 4975 OF THE CODE FOR WHICH FULL EXEMPTIVE RELIEF IS NOT AVAILABLE UNDER APPLICABLE STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTION.

ANY FIDUCIARY OF ANY PLAN WHO IS CONSIDERING THE ACQUISITION OF THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN SHOULD CONSULT WITH HIS OR HER LEGAL COUNSEL PRIOR TO ACQUIRING THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE OR ANY INTEREST HEREIN.

## SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.

## 7.00% FIXED-TO-FLOATING RATE SUBORDINATED NOTE DUE 2032

**1. Subordinated Notes.** This Subordinated Note is one of a duly authorized issue of notes of Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the “Company”), designated as the “7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032” (the “Subordinated Notes”) in an aggregate principal amount of \$40,000,000 and initially issued on October 26, 2022. The Company has issued this Subordinated Note under that certain Indenture dated as of October 26, 2022, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time (“Indenture”), between the Company and UMB Bank, N.A., as Trustee (the “Trustee”). All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Subordinated Note will have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture. The terms of this Subordinated Note include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “Trust Indenture Act”). This Subordinated Note is subject to all such terms, and the Holder (as defined below) is referred to the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act for a statement of such terms. To the extent any provision of this Subordinated Note irreconcilably conflicts with the express provisions of the Indenture, the provisions of the Indenture will govern and be controlling.

**2. Payment.** The Company, for value received, promises to pay to Cede & Co., or its registered assigns, as nominee of The Depository Trust Company (the “Holder”), the principal sum of [●] Dollars (U.S.) (\$[●],000,000), plus accrued but unpaid interest on October 26, 2032 (the “Maturity Date”) and to pay interest thereon (i) from and including the original issue date of the Subordinated Notes to but excluding October 26, 2027 or the earlier redemption date contemplated by Section 5 (Redemption) of this Subordinated Note (the “Fixed Rate Period”), at the rate of 7.00% per annum, computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months and payable quarterly in arrears on March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year (each payment date, a “Fixed Interest Payment Date”), beginning December 30, 2022, and (ii) from and including October 26, 2027 to but excluding the Maturity Date or earlier redemption date contemplated by Section 5 (Redemption) of this Subordinated Note (the “Floating Rate Period”), at the rate per annum, reset quarterly, equal to the Floating Interest Rate (as defined below) determined on the Floating Interest Determination Date (as defined below) of the applicable Floating Rate Interest Period plus 306 basis points, computed on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed and payable quarterly in arrears on March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 of each year (each payment date, a “Floating Interest Payment Date”), beginning December 30, 2027. A “Floating Rate Interest Period” means, the period from, and including, each Floating Interest Payment Date to, but excluding, the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date, except for the initial Floating Rate Interest Period, which will be the period from and including October 26, 2027 to, but excluding the next succeeding Floating Interest Payment Date. Dollar amounts resulting from this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest cent, with one-half cent being rounded up. The term “Floating Interest Determination Date” means the date upon which the Floating Interest Rate is determined by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions (as defined below).

(a) An “Interest Payment Date” is either a Fixed Interest Payment Date or a Floating Interest Payment Date, as applicable.

(b) The “Floating Interest Rate” means:

(i) initially Three-Month Term SOFR (as defined below).

(ii) Notwithstanding the foregoing clause (i) of this Section 2(b):

(1) If the Calculation Agent (as defined below) determines prior to the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date (each of such terms as defined below) have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, then the Company shall promptly provide notice of such determination to the Holders and Section 2(c) (Effect of Benchmark Transition Event) will thereafter apply to all determinations, calculations and quotations made or obtained for the purposes of calculating the Floating Interest Rate payable on the Subordinated Notes during a relevant Floating Rate Interest Period.

(2) However, if the Calculation Agent determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, but for any reason the Benchmark Replacement has not been determined as of the relevant Floating Interest Determination Date, the Floating Interest Rate for the applicable Floating Rate Interest Period will be equal to the Floating Interest Rate on the last Floating Interest Determination Date for the Subordinated Notes, as determined by the Calculation Agent.

(iii) If the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and any of the foregoing provisions concerning the calculation of the interest rate and the payment of interest during the Floating Rate Period are inconsistent with any of the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions determined by the Company, then the relevant Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions will apply.

(c) Effect of Benchmark Transition Event.

(i) If the Calculation Agent determines that a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred prior to the Reference Time (as defined below) in respect of any determination of the Benchmark (as defined below) on any date, the Benchmark Replacement will replace the then-current Benchmark for all purposes relating to the Subordinated Notes during the relevant Floating Rate Interest Period in respect of such determination on such date and all determinations on all subsequent dates.

(ii) In connection with the implementation of a Benchmark Replacement, the Company will have the right to make Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes from time to time.

(iii) Any determination, decision or election that may be made by the Company or by the Calculation Agent pursuant to the benchmark transition provisions set forth herein, including any determination with respect to a tenor, rate or adjustment or of the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event, circumstance or date, and any decision to take or refrain from taking any action or any selection:

(1) will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error;

(2) if made by the Company, will be made in the Company's sole discretion;

(3) if made by the Calculation Agent, will be made after consultation with the Company, and the Calculation Agent will not make any such determination, decision or election to which the Company reasonably objects; and

(4) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Subordinated Note, the Indenture or the Purchase Agreement, shall become effective without consent from the relevant Holders or any other party.

(iv) For the avoidance of doubt, after a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred, interest payable on this Subordinated Note for the Floating Rate Period will be an annual rate equal to the sum of the applicable Benchmark Replacement and the spread specified on the face hereof.

(v) As used in this Subordinated Note:

(1) “Benchmark” means, initially, Three-Month Term SOFR; provided that if a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR or the then-current Benchmark, then “Benchmark” means the applicable Benchmark Replacement.

(2) “Benchmark Replacement” means the Interpolated Benchmark with respect to the then-current Benchmark, plus the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment for such Benchmark; provided that if (a) the Calculation Agent cannot determine the Interpolated Benchmark as of the Benchmark Replacement Date or (b) the then-current Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR and a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR (in which event no Interpolated Benchmark with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR shall be determined), then “Benchmark Replacement” means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

a. the sum of: (i) Compounded SOFR and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

b. the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment;

c. the sum of: (i) the ISDA Fallback Rate and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment; or

d. the sum of: (i) the alternate rate of interest that has been selected by the Company as the replacement for the then-current Benchmark for the applicable Corresponding Tenor giving due consideration to any industry-accepted rate of interest as a replacement for the then-current Benchmark for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time and (ii) the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

(3) “Benchmark Replacement Adjustment” means the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Calculation Agent, as of the Benchmark Replacement Date:

a. the spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement;

b. if the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement is equivalent to the ISDA Fallback Rate, then the ISDA Fallback Adjustment; or

c. the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected by the Company giving due consideration to any industry-accepted spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, for the replacement of the then-current Benchmark with the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

(4) “Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes” means, with respect to any Benchmark Replacement, any technical, administrative or operational changes (including changes to the definition of “Floating Rate Interest Period,” timing and frequency of determining rates with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the adoption of such Benchmark Replacement in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company reasonably decides in good faith that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company reasonably determines in good faith that no market practice for use of the Benchmark Replacement exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

(5) “Benchmark Replacement Date” means the earliest to occur of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

a. in the case of clause (a) or (b) of the definition of “Benchmark Transition Event,” the later of (i) the date of the public statement or publication of information referenced therein and (ii) the date on which the administrator of the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely ceases to provide the Benchmark; or

b. in the case of clause (c) of the definition of “Benchmark Transition Event,” the date of such public statement or publication of information referenced therein.

For the avoidance of doubt, for purposes of the definitions of Benchmark Replacement Date and Benchmark Transition Event, references to the Benchmark also include any reference rate underlying the Benchmark (for example, if the Benchmark becomes Compounded SOFR, references to the Benchmark would include SOFR).

For the avoidance of doubt, if the event giving rise to the Benchmark Replacement Date occurs on the same day as, but earlier than, the Reference Time in respect of any determination, the Benchmark Replacement Date will be deemed to have occurred prior to the Reference Time for purposes of such determination.

(6) “Benchmark Transition Event” means the occurrence of one or more of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

a. a public statement or publication of information by or on behalf of the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that such administrator has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark, permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark;

b. a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark, the central bank for the currency of the Benchmark, an insolvency official with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark, a resolution authority with jurisdiction over the administrator for the Benchmark or a court or an entity with similar insolvency or resolution authority over the administrator for the Benchmark, which states that the administrator of the Benchmark has ceased or will cease to provide the Benchmark permanently or indefinitely, provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide the Benchmark; or

c. a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of the Benchmark announcing that the Benchmark is no longer representative.

(7) “Calculation Agent” means such bank or other entity (which may be the Company or an affiliate of the Company) as may be appointed by the Company to act as Calculation Agent for the Subordinated Notes during the Floating Rate Period. The initial Calculation Agent shall be the Company.

(8) “Compounded SOFR” means the compounded average of SOFRs for the applicable Corresponding Tenor, with the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate being established by the Company in accordance with:

a. the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body for determining compounded SOFR; *provided that*:

b. if, and to the extent that, the Company or its designee determines that Compounded SOFR cannot be determined in accordance with clause (a) above, then the rate, or methodology for this rate, and conventions for this rate that have been selected by the Company or its designee giving due consideration to any industry-accepted market practice for U.S. dollar denominated floating rate notes at such time.

For the avoidance of doubt, the calculation of Compounded SOFR will exclude the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment and the spread specified on the face hereof.

- (9) “Corresponding Tenor” with respect to a Benchmark Replacement means a tenor (including overnight) having approximately the same length (disregarding any Business Day adjustment) as the applicable tenor for the then-current Benchmark.
- (10) “FRBNY” means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- (11) “FRBNY’s Website” means the website of the FRBNY at <http://www.newyorkfed.org>, or any successor source.
- (12) “Interpolated Benchmark” with respect to the Benchmark means the rate determined for the Corresponding Tenor by interpolating on a linear basis between: (1) the Benchmark for the longest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is shorter than the Corresponding Tenor and (2) the Benchmark for the shortest period (for which the Benchmark is available) that is longer than the Corresponding Tenor.
- (13) “ISDA” means the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. or any successor thereto.
- (14) “ISDA Definitions” means the 2006 ISDA Definitions published by the ISDA or any successor thereto, as amended or supplemented from time to time, or any successor definitional booklet for interest rate derivatives published from time to time.
- (15) “ISDA Fallback Adjustment” means the spread adjustment (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be determined upon the occurrence of an index cessation event with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor.
- (16) “ISDA Fallback Rate” means the rate that would apply for derivatives transactions referencing the ISDA Definitions to be effective upon the occurrence of an index cessation date with respect to the Benchmark for the applicable tenor excluding the applicable ISDA Fallback Adjustment.
- (17) “Reference Time” with respect to any determination of a Benchmark means (1) if the Benchmark is Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions, and (2) if the Benchmark is not Three-Month Term SOFR, the time determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes.
- (18) “Relevant Governmental Body” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”) and/or the FRBNY, or a committee officially endorsed or convened by the Federal Reserve and/or the FRBNY or any successor thereto.
- (19) “SOFR” means the daily Secured Overnight Financing Rate provided by the FRBNY, as the administrator of the benchmark (or a successor administrator), on the FRBNY’s Website.
- (20) “Term SOFR” means the forward-looking term rate for the Corresponding Tenor based on SOFR that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body.
- (21) “Term SOFR Administrator” means the CME Group or any entity designated by the Relevant Governmental Body as the successor administrator of Term SOFR.
- (22) “Three-Month Term SOFR” means the rate for Term SOFR for a tenor of three months that is published by the Term SOFR Administrator at the Reference Time for any Floating Rate Interest Period, as determined by the Calculation Agent after giving effect to the Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions.
- (23) “Three-Month Term SOFR Conventions” means any determination, decision or election with respect to any technical, administrative or operational matter (including with respect to the



manner and timing of the publication of Three-Month Term SOFR, or changes to the definition of "Floating Rate Interest Period", timing and frequency of determining Three-Month Term SOFR with respect to each Floating Rate Interest Period and making payments of interest, rounding of amounts or tenors, and other administrative matters) that the Company decides may be appropriate to reflect the use of Three-Month Term SOFR as the Benchmark in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Company decides that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Company determines that no market practice for the use of Three-Month Term SOFR exists, in such other manner as the Company determines is reasonably necessary).

(24) "Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement" means the Benchmark Replacement excluding the Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

(25) Other capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Indenture.

(d) In the event that any Fixed Interest Payment Date during the Fixed Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and no additional interest shall accrue as a result of that postponement. In the event that any Floating Interest Payment Date during the Floating Rate Period falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the interest payment due on that date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day and interest shall accrue to but excluding the date interest are paid. However, if the postponement would cause the day to fall in the next calendar month during the Floating Rate Interest Period, the Floating Interest Payment Date shall instead be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day.

**3. Paying Agent and Registrar.** UMB Bank, N.A., the Trustee under the Indenture, will act as the initial Paying Agent and Registrar through its offices presently located at Houston, Texas. The Company may change any Paying Agent or Registrar without notice to any Holder. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries may act in any such capacity.

**4. Subordination.** The indebtedness of the Company evidenced by this Subordinated Note, including the principal thereof and interest thereon, is, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Indenture, subordinate and junior in right of payment to obligations of the Company constituting the Senior Indebtedness (as defined in the Indenture) on the terms and subject to the terms and conditions as provided and set forth in Article XI of the Indenture and will rank *pari passu* in right of payment with all other Subordinated Notes. Holder, by the acceptance of this Subordinated Note, agrees to and will be bound by such provisions of the Indenture and authorizes and directs the Trustee on his behalf to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the subordination so provided. This Subordinated Note is not secured by any assets of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or Affiliates.

#### **5. Redemption.**

(a) The Company may, at its option, on any Interest Payment Date on or after December 30, 2027, redeem this Subordinated Note, in whole or in part, without premium or penalty, but in all cases in a principal amount with integral multiples of \$1,000. In addition, the Company may, at its option, redeem all, but not a portion of the Subordinated Notes, at any time upon the occurrence of a Tier 2 Capital Event, Tax Event or an Investment Company Event. Any redemption of this Subordinated Note shall be subject to the prior approval of the Federal Reserve (or its designee) or any successor agency, and any other banking regulatory agency, to the extent such approval shall then be required by law, regulation or policy. This Subordinated Note is not subject to redemption at the option of the Holder. The Redemption Price with respect to any redemption permitted under the Indenture will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of this Subordinated Note, or portion thereof, to be redeemed, plus accrued but unpaid interest and Additional Interest, if any, thereon to, but excluding, the Redemption Date.

(b) If less than the then outstanding principal amount of this Subordinated Note is redeemed, (i) a new note shall be issued representing the unredeemed portion without charge to the Holder thereof and (ii) such redemption shall be effected on a pro rata basis as to the Holders. For purposes of clarity, upon a

partial redemption, a like percentage of the principal amount of every Subordinated Note held by every Holder shall be redeemed.

(c) If notice of redemption has been duly given and notwithstanding that any Subordinated Notes so called for redemption have not been surrendered for cancellation, on and after the Redemption Date interest shall cease to accrue on all Subordinated Notes so called for redemption, all Subordinated Notes so called for redemption shall no longer be deemed outstanding and all rights with respect to such Subordinated Notes shall forthwith on such Redemption Date cease and terminate (unless the Company shall default in the payment of the redemption price), except only the right of the Holder thereof to receive the amount payable on such redemption, without interest.

**6. Events of Default: Acceleration**

An “**Event of Default**” means any one of the events described in Section 4.01 of the Indenture. If an Event of Default described in Section 4.01(1) or Section 4.01(2) of the Indenture occurs, then the principal amount of all of the Outstanding Subordinated Notes, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all Outstanding Subordinated Notes will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or the Holder, and the Company waives demand, presentment for payment, notice of nonpayment, notice of protest, and all other notices. Notwithstanding the foregoing, because the Company will treat the Subordinated Notes as Tier 2 Capital, upon the occurrence of an Event of Default other than an Event of Default described in Section 4.01(1) or Section 4.01(2) of the Indenture, neither the Trustee nor the Holder may accelerate the Maturity of the Subordinated Notes and make the principal of, and any accrued and unpaid interest on, the Subordinated Notes, immediately due and payable. If any Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may also pursue any other available remedy to collect the payment of principal of, and interest on, the Subordinated Notes then due and payable or to enforce the performance of any provision of the Subordinated Notes or the Indenture.

**7. Failure to Make Payments.** If the Company fails to make any payment of interest on this Subordinated Note when such interest becomes due and payable and such default continues for a period of thirty (30) days, or if the Company fails to make any payment of the principal of this Subordinated Note when such principal becomes due and payable, the Company will, upon demand of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee, for the benefit of the Holder, the whole amount then due and payable with respect to this Subordinated Note, with interest upon the overdue principal, any premium and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, upon any overdue installments of interest at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, provided for or with respect to this Subordinated Note or, if no such rate or rates are so provided, at the rate or respective rates, as the case may be, of interest borne by this Subordinated Note.

Upon an Event of Default, the Company may not declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of the Company’s capital stock, make any payment of principal or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities of the Company that rank equal with or junior to this Subordinated Note, or make any payments under any guarantee that ranks equal with or junior to this Subordinated Note, other than: (i) any dividends or distributions in shares of, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of, any class of the Company’s common stock; (ii) any declaration of a dividend in connection with the implementation of a shareholders’ rights plan, or the issuance of stock under any such plan in the future, or the redemption or repurchase of any such rights pursuant thereto; (iii) as a result of a reclassification of the Company’s capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one class or series of the Company’s capital stock for another class or series of the Company’s capital stock; (iv) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of the Company’s capital stock in accordance with the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged; or (v) purchases of any class of the Company’s common stock related to the issuance of common stock or rights under any benefit plans for the Company’s directors, officers or employees or any of the Company’s dividend reinvestment plans.

**8. Denominations, Transfer, Exchange.** The Subordinated Notes are issuable only in registered form without interest coupons in minimum denominations of \$100,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. The transfer of this Subordinated Note may be registered and this Subordinated Note may

be exchanged as provided in the Indenture. The Registrar may require the Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and the Company may require the Holder to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture.

**9. Charges and Transfer Taxes.** No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note, or any redemption or repayment of this Subordinated Note, or any conversion or exchange of this Subordinated Note for other types of securities or property, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to pay all taxes, assessments or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note from the Holder requesting such transfer or exchange.

**10. Persons Deemed Owners.** The Company and the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Subordinated Note is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Subordinated Note is overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent will be affected by notice to the contrary.

**11. Amendments; Waivers.** The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Subordinated Notes at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the then Outstanding Subordinated Notes. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the holders of specified percentages in principal amount of the then Outstanding Subordinated Notes, on behalf of the holders of all Subordinated Notes, to waive certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Subordinated Note will be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future holders of this Subordinated Note and of any Subordinated Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange hereof or in lieu hereof, whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Subordinated Note.

**12. No Impairment.** No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Subordinated Note or of the Indenture will alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of and interest (if any) and Additional Interest on this Subordinated Note at the times, place and rate as herein prescribed.

**13. Sinking Fund; Convertibility.** This Subordinated Note is not entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund. This Subordinated Note is not convertible into or exchangeable for any of the equity securities, other securities or assets of the Company or any Subsidiary.

**14. No Recourse Against Others.** No recourse under or upon any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in the Indenture or in this Subordinated Note, or for any claim based thereon or otherwise in respect thereof, will be had against any past, present or future shareholder, employee, officer, or director, as such, of the Company or of any predecessor or successor, either directly or through the Company or any predecessor or successor, under any rule of law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise, all such liability being expressly waived and released by the acceptance of this Subordinated Note by the Holder and as part of the consideration for the issuance of this Subordinated Note.

**15. Authentication.** This Subordinated Note will not be valid until authenticated by the manual signature of the Trustee or an Authenticating Agent.

**16. Abbreviations.** Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Holder or an assignee, such as: TEN COM (= tenants in common), TEN ENT (= tenants by the entireties), JT TEN (= joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (= custodian), and U/G/M/A (= Uniform Gifts to Minors Act). Additional abbreviations may also be used though not in the above list.

**17. Available Information.** The Company will furnish to the Holder upon written request and without charge a copy of the Indenture. Requests by Holder to the Company may be made to: Southern States Bancshares, Inc., 615 Quintard Avenue, Anniston, Alabama 36201 Attention: Chief Financial Officer.

**18. Governing Law.** THIS SUBORDINATED NOTE WILL BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACT MADE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO ANY LAWS OR PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICT OF LAWS THAT WOULD APPLY THE LAWS OF A DIFFERENT JURISDICTION.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Subordinated Note to be duly executed and attested.

Southern States Bancshares, Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Stephen W. Whatley

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Lynn Joyce

Title: Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Subordinated Notes of Southern States Bancshares, Inc., referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture:

UMB Bank, N.A., as Trustee

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: [•]  
Title: [•]

**ASSIGNMENT FORM**

To assign this Subordinated Note, fill in the form below: (I) or (we) assign and transfer this Subordinated Note to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert assignee's social security or tax I.D. No.)

and irrevocably appoint \_\_\_\_\_ agent to transfer this Subordinated Note on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sign exactly as your name appears on the face of this Subordinated Note)

Tax Identification No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Guarantee: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signatures must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution (banks, stockbrokers, savings and loan associations and credit unions with membership in an approved signature guarantee medallion program), pursuant to Rule 17Ad-15 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")).

The undersigned certifies that it [is / is not] an Affiliate of the Company and that, to its knowledge, the proposed transferee [is / is not] an Affiliate of the Company. "Affiliate" means, with respect to any Person, such Person's immediate family members, partners, members or parent and subsidiary corporations, and any other Person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with said Person and their respective Affiliates. "Person" means an individual, a corporation (whether or not for profit), a partnership, a limited liability company, a joint venture, an association, a trust, an unincorporated organization, a government or any department or agency thereof or any other entity or organization.

In connection with any transfer or exchange of this Subordinated Note occurring prior to the date that is one year after the later of the date of original issuance of this Subordinated Note and the last date, if any, on which this Subordinated Note was owned by the Company or any Affiliate of the Company, the undersigned confirms that this Subordinated Note is being:

CHECK ONE BOX BELOW:

(1) acquired for the undersigned's own account, without transfer;

- (2) transferred to the Company;
- (3) transferred in accordance and in compliance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act");
- (4) transferred under an effective registration statement under the Securities Act;
- (5) transferred in accordance with and in compliance with Regulation S under the Securities Act;
- (6) transferred to an institutional "accredited investor" (as defined in Rule 501(a)(1), (2), (3) or (7) under the Securities Act);
- (7) transferred to an "accredited investor" (as defined in Rule 501(a)(4) under the Securities Act), not referred to in item (6) that has been provided with the information designated under Section 4(d) of the Securities Act; or
- (8) transferred in accordance with another available exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Unless one of the boxes is checked, the Company will refuse to register this Subordinated Note in the name of any person other than the registered holder thereof; provided, however, that if box (5), (6), (7) or (8) is checked, the Company may require, prior to registering any such transfer of this Subordinated Note, in its sole discretion, such legal opinions, certifications and other information as the Company may reasonably request to confirm that such transfer is being made pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act such as the exemption provided by Rule 144 under such Act.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Guarantee: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signatures must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution (banks, stockbrokers, savings and loan associations and credit unions with membership in an approved signature guarantee medallion program), pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 17Ad-15).

TO BE COMPLETED BY PURCHASER IF BOX (1) OR (3) ABOVE IS CHECKED.

The undersigned represents and warrants that it is purchasing this Subordinated Note for its own account or an account with respect to which it exercises sole investment discretion and that it and any such account is a "qualified institutional buyer" within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act and is aware that the sale to it is being made in reliance on Rule 144A and acknowledges that it has received such information regarding the Company as the undersigned has requested pursuant to Rule 144A or has determined not to request such information and that it is aware that the transferor is relying upon the undersigned's foregoing representations in order to claim the exemption from registration provided by Rule 144A.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

13231965.1



## SUBORDINATED NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This SUBORDINATED NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is dated as of October 26, 2022, and is made by and among Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the "Company"), and the several purchasers of the Subordinated Notes identified on the signature pages hereto (each a "Purchaser" and collectively, the "Purchasers").

**WHEREAS**, the Company is offering up to \$40,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Subordinated Notes (as defined herein) of the Company, which aggregate amount is intended to qualify as Tier 2 Capital (as defined herein);

**WHEREAS**, the Company has engaged Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC as its exclusive placement agent ("Placement Agent") for the offering of the Subordinated Notes;

**WHEREAS**, each of the Purchasers is an institutional "accredited investor" as such term is defined in Rule 501 of Regulation D ("Regulation D") promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or a QIB (as defined below);

**WHEREAS**, the offer and sale of the Subordinated Notes by the Company is being made in reliance upon the exemptions from registration available under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D;

**WHEREAS**, each Purchaser is willing to purchase from the Company a Subordinated Note in the principal amount set forth on such Purchaser's respective signature page hereto (the "Subordinated Note Amount") in accordance with the terms, subject to the conditions and in reliance on, the recitals, representations, warranties, covenants and agreements set forth herein and in the Subordinated Notes; and

**WHEREAS**, at Closing, the Company and the Purchasers shall execute and deliver a Registration Rights Agreement, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Registration Rights Agreement"), pursuant to which, among other things, the Company will agree to provide certain registration rights with respect to the Subordinated Notes under the Securities Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and agreements herein contained and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

### **1. DEFINITIONS.**

**1.1 Defined Terms.** The following capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings defined or referenced below. Certain other capitalized terms used only in specific sections of this Agreement may be defined in such sections.

"Affiliate(s)" means, with respect to any Person, such Person's immediate family members, partners, members or parent and subsidiary corporations, and any other Person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with said Person and their respective Affiliates.

"Agreement" has the meaning set forth in the preamble hereto.

"Applicable Procedures" means, with respect to any transfer or exchange of or for beneficial interests in any Subordinated Note represented by a global certificate, the rules and procedures of DTC that apply to such transfer or exchange.

"Bank" means Southern States Bank, an Alabama banking corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any other day on which the SEC is closed or banking institutions in the State of Alabama are permitted or required by any applicable law or executive order to close.

“By-Laws” means the Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Company, as in effect on the Closing Date.

“Certificate of Incorporation” means the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as in effect on the Closing Date.

“Closing” has the meaning set forth in Section 2.2.

“Closing Date” means October 26, 2022.

“Company” has the meaning set forth in the preamble hereto and shall include any successors to the Company.

“Company Covered Person” has the meaning set forth in Section 4.2.4.

“Company’s Reports” means (i) the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021, as filed with the SEC, including the audited and unaudited financial statements contained therein; (ii) the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 30, 2022, as filed with the SEC, including the unaudited financial statements contained therein; (iii) the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2022, as filed with the SEC, including the unaudited financial statements contained therein; (iv) any Current Report on Form 8-K, as filed or furnished by the Company with the SEC since January 1, 2022, including the financial and other information for the quarter ended September 30, 2022 furnished as an exhibit to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K as filed with the SEC on October 24, 2022, and (v) the Company’s public reports for the year ended December 31, 2021, as filed with the FRB as required by regulations of the FRB.

“Disbursement” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.1.

“Disqualification Event” has the meaning set forth in Section 4.2.4.

“DTC” means The Depository Trust Company.

“Equity Interest” means any and all shares, interests, participations or other equivalents (however designated) of capital stock of a corporation, any and all equivalent ownership interests in a Person which is not a corporation, and any and all warrants, options or other rights to purchase any of the foregoing.

“Event of Default” has the meaning set forth in the Subordinated Notes.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“FDIC” means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

“FRB” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

“GAAP” means generally accepted accounting principles in effect from time to time in the United States of America.

“Global Note” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.1.

“Governmental Agency(ies)” means, individually or collectively, any federal, state, county or local governmental department, commission, board, regulatory authority or agency (including each applicable Regulatory Agency) with jurisdiction over the Company or a Subsidiary of the Company.

“Governmental Licenses” has the meaning set forth in Section 4.3.

“Hazardous Materials” means flammable explosives, asbestos, urea formaldehyde insulation, polychlorinated biphenyls, radioactive materials, hazardous wastes, toxic or contaminated substances or similar materials, including any substances which are “hazardous substances,” “hazardous wastes,” “hazardous materials” or “toxic substances” under the Hazardous Materials Laws and/or other applicable environmental laws, ordinances or regulations.

“Hazardous Materials Laws” mean any laws, regulations, permits, licenses or requirements pertaining to the protection, preservation, conservation or regulation of the environment which relates to real property, including: the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 7401 et seq.; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq.; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 6901 et seq.; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (including the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986), 42 U.S.C. Section 9601 et seq.; the Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. Section 2601 et seq.; the Occupational Safety and Health Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Section 651, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. Section 11001 et seq.; the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.; the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 300f et seq.; and all comparable state and local laws, laws of other jurisdictions or orders and regulations.

“Indebtedness” means and includes: (i) all items arising from the borrowing of money that, according to GAAP as in effect from time to time, would be included in determining total liabilities as shown on the consolidated balance sheet of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company; and (ii) all obligations secured by any lien on property owned by the Company or any Subsidiary whether or not such obligations shall have been assumed; *provided, however*, Indebtedness shall not include deposits or other indebtedness created, incurred or maintained in the ordinary course of the Company’s or the Bank’s business (including federal funds purchased, advances from any Federal Home Loan Bank, secured deposits of municipalities, letters of credit issued by the Company or the Bank and repurchase arrangements) and consistent with customary banking practices and applicable laws and regulations.

“Indenture” means the indenture, dated as of the date hereof, by and between the Company and UMB Bank, N.A., as trustee, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof.

“Leases” means all leases, licenses or other documents providing for the use or occupancy of any portion of any Property, including all amendments, extensions, renewals, supplements, modifications, sublets and assignments thereof and all separate letters or separate agreements relating thereto.

“Line of Credit” means that certain \$25.0 million line of credit with First Horizon, which matures in August 2024.

“Material Adverse Effect” means, with respect to any Person, any change or effect that (i) is or would be reasonably likely to be material and adverse to the financial condition, results of operations or business of such Person and its Subsidiaries, if any, on a consolidated basis, or (ii) would materially impair the ability of such Person to perform its respective obligations under any of the Transaction Documents, or otherwise materially impede the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby; *provided, however*, that “Material Adverse Effect” shall not be deemed to include the impact of (1) changes in banking and similar laws, rules or regulations of general applicability or interpretations thereof by Governmental Agencies that do not disproportionately affect the operations or business of the Company in comparison to other bank holding companies, banks or banking institutions with similar operations, (2) changes in GAAP or regulatory accounting requirements applicable to financial institutions and their holding companies generally, (3) changes after the date of this Agreement in general economic or capital market conditions affecting financial institutions or their market prices generally and not specifically related to the Company or Purchasers, (4) direct effects of compliance with this Agreement on the operating performance of the Company or Purchasers, including expenses incurred by the Company or Purchasers in consummating the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and (5) the effects of any

action or omission taken by the Company with the prior written consent of the Purchasers, and vice versa, or as otherwise contemplated by this Agreement and the Subordinated Notes.

“Maturity Date” means October 26, 2032.

“Person” means an individual, a corporation (whether or not for profit), a partnership, a limited liability company, a joint venture, an association, a trust, an unincorporated organization, a government or any department or agency thereof (including a Governmental Agency) or any other entity or organization.

“Placement Agent” has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

“Property” means any real property owned or leased by the Company or any Affiliate or Subsidiary of the Company.

“Purchaser” or “Purchasers” has the meaning set forth in the preamble hereto.

“QIB” means a “qualified institutional buyer” as defined in Rule 144A of the Securities Act.

“Registration Rights Agreement” has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

“Regulation D” has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

“Regulatory Agencies” means any federal or state agency charged with the supervision or regulation of depository institutions or holding companies of depository institutions, or engaged in the insurance of depository institution deposits, or any court, administrative agency or commission or other authority, body or agency having supervisory or regulatory authority with respect to the Company, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries.

“SEC” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“Secondary Market Transaction” has the meaning set forth in Section 5.5.

“Securities Act” has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

“Subordinated Note” means the Subordinated Note (or collectively, the “Subordinated Notes”) in the form attached as an exhibit to the Indenture, as amended, restated, supplemented or modified from time to time, and each Subordinated Note delivered in substitution or exchange for such Subordinated Note.

“Subordinated Note Amount” has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

“Subsidiary” means, with respect to any Person, any corporation or entity in which a majority of the outstanding Equity Interest is directly or indirectly owned by such Person.

“Tier 2 Capital” has the meaning given to the term “Tier 2 capital” in 12 C.F.R. Part 217, as amended, modified and supplemented and in effect from time to time or any replacement thereof.

“Transaction Documents” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.2.1.1.

“Trustee” means the trustee or successor in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Indenture.

**1.2 Interpretations.** The foregoing definitions are equally applicable to both the singular and plural forms of the terms defined. The words “hereof”, “herein” and “hereunder” and words of like import when used in this Agreement shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement. The word “including” when used in this Agreement without the phrase “without limitation,” shall mean “including, without limitation.” All references to time of day herein are references to Eastern Time unless otherwise specifically provided. All references to this Agreement, the Subordinated Notes, the Indenture and the Registration Rights Agreement shall be deemed to be to such documents as

amended, modified or restated from time to time. With respect to any reference in this Agreement to any defined term, (i) if such defined term refers to a Person, then it shall also mean all heirs, legal representatives and permitted successors and assigns of such Person, and (ii) if such defined term refers to a document, instrument or agreement, then it shall also include any amendment, replacement, extension or other modification thereof.

**1.3 Exhibits Incorporated.** All Exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

## **2. SUBORDINATED DEBT.**

**2.1 Certain Terms.** Subject to the terms and conditions herein contained, the Company proposes to issue and sell to the Purchasers, severally and not jointly, Subordinated Notes, which will be issued pursuant to the Indenture, in an amount equal to the aggregate of the Subordinated Note Amounts. Purchasers, severally and not jointly, each agree to purchase the Subordinated Notes, which will be issued pursuant to the Indenture, from the Company on the Closing Date in accordance with the terms of, and subject to the conditions and provisions set forth in, this Agreement, the Indenture and the Subordinated Notes. The Subordinated Note Amounts shall be disbursed in accordance with [Section 3.1](#).

**2.2 The Closing.** The execution and delivery of the Transaction Documents and the closing of the sale and purchase of the Subordinated Notes (the "Closing") shall occur at the offices of the Company at 10:00 a.m. (local time) on the Closing Date, or at such other place or time or on such other date or remotely via the electronic exchange of documents as the parties hereto may agree.

**2.3 Right of Offset.** Each Purchaser hereby expressly waives any right of offset such Purchaser may have against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

**2.4 Use of Proceeds.** The Company shall use the net proceeds from the sale of Subordinated Notes for general corporate purposes, which may include support of capital and liquidity, repayment of existing Indebtedness, common stock repurchases, organic growth and strategic initiatives, such as acquisitions of banks or other closely related businesses.

## **3. DISBURSEMENT.**

**3.1 Disbursement.** On the Closing Date, assuming all of the terms and conditions set forth in [Section 3.2](#) have been satisfied by the Purchasers and the Company, as applicable, and the Company has executed and delivered to each of the Purchasers this Agreement and such Purchaser's Subordinated Note and any other related documents in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Purchasers, each Purchaser shall disburse in immediately available funds the Subordinated Note Amount set forth on each Purchaser's respective signature page hereto to the Company in exchange for either (i) an electronic securities entitlement through the facilities of DTC in accordance with the Applicable Procedures with a principal amount equal to such Subordinated Note Amount, or (ii) a Subordinated Note with a principal amount equal to such Subordinated Note Amount (either, the "Disbursement"). The Company will either deliver to the (i) Trustee a global certificate representing the Subordinated Notes (the "Global Note") registered in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee of The Depository Trust Company or (ii) respective Purchaser one or more certificates representing the Subordinated Notes in definitive form (or provide evidence of the same with the original to be delivered by the Company by overnight delivery on the next Business Day in accordance with the delivery instructions of the Purchaser), registered in such names and denominations as such Purchasers may request.

### **3.2 Conditions Precedent to Disbursement**

**3.2.1 Conditions to the Purchasers' Obligation.** The obligation of each Purchaser to consummate the purchase of the Subordinated Notes to be purchased by them at Closing and to effect the Disbursement is subject to delivery by or at the direction of the Company to such Purchaser (or, with respect to the Indenture, the Trustee) each of the following (or written waiver by such Purchaser prior to the Closing of such delivery):

**3.2.1.1 Transaction Documents.** This Agreement, the Indenture, and the Registration Rights Agreement and either the Global Note and/or certificates representing the Subordinated Notes in Definitive Form (collectively, the "Transaction Documents"), each duly authorized and executed by the Company, and delivery of written instruction to the Trustee (with respect to the Indenture).

**3.2.1.2 Authority Documents.**

- (a) A copy, certified by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary or another authorized officer of the Company, of (i) the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company; (ii) a certificate of existence of the Company issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Alabama; (iii) the By-Laws of the Company, (iv) the resolutions of the board of directors of the Company and any committee thereof authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of the Transaction Documents; and (v) an incumbency certificate certifying the names of the officer or officers of the Company authorized to sign the Transaction Documents and the other documents provided for in this Agreement; and
- (b) The opinion of Jones Walker LLP, counsel to the Company, dated as of the Closing Date, substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit C attached hereto addressed to the Purchasers and Placement Agent.

**3.2.1.3 Other Documents.** Such other certificates, affidavits, schedules, resolutions, notes and/or other documents which are provided for hereunder or as a Purchaser may reasonably request.

**3.2.1.4 Aggregate Investments.** Prior to, or contemporaneously with the Closing, each Purchaser shall have actually subscribed for the Subordinated Note Amount set forth on such Purchaser's signature page.

**3.2.2 Conditions to the Company's Obligation.** With respect to a given Purchaser, the obligation of the Company to consummate the sale of the Subordinated Notes and to effect the Closing is subject to delivery by or at the direction of such Purchaser to the Company of this Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement, each duly authorized and executed by such Purchaser, and the Company's receipt of the Subordinated Note Amount set forth on such Purchaser's signature page to this Agreement.

**4. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF THE COMPANY.**

The Company hereby represents and warrants to each Purchaser as follows:

**4.1 Organization and Authority.**

**4.1.1 Organization Matters of the Company and Its Subsidiaries**

**4.1.1.1** The Company is a duly organized corporation, is validly existing under the laws of the State of Alabama and has all requisite corporate power and authority to conduct its business and activities as presently conducted, to own its properties, and to perform its obligations under the Transaction Documents. The Company is duly qualified as a foreign corporation to transact business and is in good standing in each other jurisdiction in which such qualification is required, whether by reason of the ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of business, except where the failure so to qualify or to be in good standing would not result in a Material Adverse Effect. The Company is duly registered as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

**4.1.1.2** The entities listed on Schedule 4.1.1.2, attached hereto and incorporated herewith, are the only direct or indirect Subsidiaries of the Company. Each Subsidiary of the Company has been duly organized and is validly existing as a corporation or limited liability company, or, in the case of the Bank, has been duly chartered and is validly existing as an Alabama banking corporation, in each case in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation, has corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business and is duly qualified as a foreign corporation to transact business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which such qualification is required,

whether by reason of the ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of business, except where the failure so to qualify or to be in good standing would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect. All of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity interests in each Subsidiary of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued, are fully paid and non-assessable and are owned by the Company, directly or through Subsidiaries of the Company, free and clear of any security interest, mortgage, pledge, lien, encumbrance or claim, except those arising under the Line of Credit; none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of, or other Equity Interests in, any Subsidiary of the Company were issued in violation of the preemptive or similar rights of any security holder of such Subsidiary of the Company or any other entity.

**4.1.1.3** The Bank is an Alabama banking corporation. The deposit accounts of the Bank are insured by the FDIC up to applicable limits. The Bank has not received any notice or other information indicating that the Bank is not an "insured depository institution" as defined in 12 U.S.C. Section 1813, nor has any event occurred which could reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the status of the Bank as an FDIC-insured institution.

**4.1.2 Capital Stock and Related Matters.** The Certificate of Incorporation of the Company authorizes the Company to issue 30,000,000 shares of voting common stock, par value \$5.00 per share (the "Company Voting Common Stock"), 5,000,000 shares of non-voting common stock, par value \$5.00 per share (the "Company Non-Voting Common Stock"), and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Company Preferred Stock"). As of September 30, 2022, there are 8,705,920 shares of Company Voting Common Stock issued and outstanding, no shares of Company Non-Voting Common Stock issued and outstanding and no shares of Company Preferred Stock issued and outstanding. All of the outstanding capital stock of the Company has been duly authorized and validly issued and is fully paid and non-assessable. There are, as of the date hereof, no outstanding options, rights, warrants or other agreements or instruments obligating the Company to issue, deliver or sell, or cause to be issued, delivered or sold, additional shares of the capital stock of the Company or obligating the Company to grant, extend or enter into any such agreement or commitment to any Person other than the Company, except pursuant to the Company's equity incentive plans or employee stock ownership plan duly adopted by the Company's Board of Directors.

#### **4.2 No Impediment to Transactions**

**4.2.1 Transaction is Legal and Authorized.** The issuance of the Subordinated Notes pursuant to the Indenture, the borrowing of the aggregate of the Subordinated Note Amount, the execution of the Transaction Documents and compliance by the Company with all of the provisions of the Transaction Documents are within the corporate and other powers of the Company.

**4.2.2 Agreement, Indenture and Registration Rights Agreement.** This Agreement, the Indenture and the Registration Rights Agreement have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company, and, assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by the other parties thereto, including the Trustee for purposes of the Indenture, constitute the legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally or by general equitable principles.

**4.2.3 Subordinated Notes.** The Subordinated Notes have been duly authorized by the Company and when executed by the Company and completed and authenticated by the Trustee in accordance with, and in the forms contemplated by the Indenture and issued, delivered to and paid for by the Purchasers in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, will have been duly issued under the Indenture and will constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, entitled to the benefits of the Indenture, and enforceable in accordance with their terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally or by general equitable principles. When executed and delivered, the Subordinated Notes will be substantially in the form attached as an exhibit to the Indenture.

**4.2.4 Exemption from Registration.** Neither the Company, nor any of its Subsidiaries or Affiliates, nor any Person acting on its or their behalf, has engaged in any form of general solicitation or

general advertising (within the meaning of Regulation D) in connection with the offer or sale of the Subordinated Notes. Assuming the accuracy of the representations and warranties of each Purchaser set forth in this Agreement, the Subordinated Notes will be issued in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. No “bad actor” disqualifying event described in Rule 506(d)(1)(i)-(viii) of the Securities Act (a “Disqualification Event”) is applicable to the Company or, to the Company’s knowledge, any Person described in Rule 506(d)(1) (each, a “Company Covered Person”). The Company has exercised reasonable care to determine whether any Company Covered Person is subject to a Disqualification Event. The Company has complied, to the extent applicable, with its disclosure obligations under Rule 506(e).

**4.2.5 No Defaults or Restrictions.** Neither the execution and delivery of the Transaction Documents by the Company nor compliance by the Company with their respective terms and conditions will (whether with or without the giving of notice or lapse of time or both) (i) violate, conflict with or result in a breach of, or constitute a default under: (1) the Certificate of Incorporation or By-Laws of the Company; (2) any of the terms, obligations, covenants, conditions or provisions of any corporate restriction or of any contract, agreement, indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, bank loan or credit agreement, or any other agreement or instrument to which Company or the Bank, as applicable, is now a party or by which it or any of its properties may be bound or affected; (3) any judgment, order, writ, injunction, decree or demand of any court, arbitrator, grand jury, or Governmental Agency applicable to the Company or the Bank; or (4) any statute, rule or regulation applicable to the Company, *except*, in the case of items (2), (3) or (4), for such violations and conflicts that would not reasonably be expected to have, singularly or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole, or (ii) result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever upon any property or asset of the Company. Neither the Company nor the Bank is in default in the performance, observance or fulfillment of any of the terms, obligations, covenants, conditions or provisions contained in any indenture or other agreement creating, evidencing or securing Indebtedness of any kind or pursuant to which any such Indebtedness is issued, or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company or the Bank, as applicable, is a party or by which the Company or the Bank, as applicable, or any of its properties may be bound or affected, except, in each case, only such defaults that would not reasonably be expected to have, singularly or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on the Company.

**4.2.6 Governmental Consent.** No governmental orders, permissions, consents, approvals or authorizations are required to be obtained by the Company that have not been obtained, and no registrations or declarations are required to be filed by the Company that have not been filed in connection with, or, in contemplation of, the execution and delivery of, and performance under, the Transaction Documents, except for applicable requirements, if any, of the Securities Act, the Exchange Act or state securities laws or “blue sky” laws of the various states and any applicable federal or state banking laws and regulations.

**4.3 Possession of Licenses and Permits.** The Company and its Subsidiaries possess such permits, licenses, approvals, consents and other authorizations (collectively, “Governmental Licenses”) issued by the appropriate Governmental Agencies necessary to conduct the business now operated by them except where the failure to possess such Governmental Licenses would not, singularly or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company or such applicable Subsidiary; the Company and each Subsidiary of the Company is in compliance with the terms and conditions of all such Governmental Licenses, except where the failure so to comply would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company or such applicable Subsidiary of the Company; all of the Governmental Licenses are valid and in full force and effect, except where the invalidity of such Governmental Licenses or the failure of such Governmental Licenses to be in full force and effect would not have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company or such applicable Subsidiary of the Company; and neither the Company nor any Subsidiary of the Company has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such Governmental Licenses.

#### **4.4 Financial Condition.**

**4.4.1 Company Financial Statements.** The financial statements of the Company included in the Company’s Reports (including the related notes, where applicable), which have been made available to



the Purchasers (i) have been prepared from, and are in accordance with, the books and records of the Company; (ii) fairly present in all material respects the results of operations, cash flows, changes in shareholders' equity and financial position of Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries, for the respective fiscal periods or as of the respective dates therein set forth (subject in the case of unaudited statements to recurring year-end audit adjustments normal in nature and amount), as applicable; (iii) complied as to form, as of their respective dates of filing in all material respects with applicable accounting and banking requirements as applicable, with respect thereto; and (iv) have been prepared in accordance with GAAP consistently applied during the periods involved, except, in each case, (x) as indicated in such statements or in the notes thereto, (y) for any statement therein or omission therefrom that was corrected, amended, supplemented or otherwise disclosed or updated in a subsequent Company's Report, and (z) to the extent that any unaudited interim financial statements do not contain the footnotes required by GAAP for annual financial statements, and were or are subject to normal and recurring year-end adjustments, which were not or are not expected to be material in amount, either individually or in the aggregate. The books and records of the Company have been, and are being, maintained in all material respects in accordance with GAAP and any other applicable legal and accounting requirements. The Company does not have any material liability of any nature whatsoever (whether absolute, accrued, contingent or otherwise and whether due or to become due), except for those liabilities that are reflected or reserved against on the consolidated balance sheet of the Company contained in the Company's Reports for the Company's most recently completed quarterly or annual fiscal period, as applicable, and for liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

**4.4.2 Absence of Default.** Since the end of the Company's fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, no event has occurred which either of itself or with the lapse of time or the giving of notice or both, would give any creditor of the Company the right to accelerate the maturity of any material Indebtedness of the Company. The Company is not in default under any other Lease, agreement or instrument, or any law, rule, regulation, order, writ, injunction, decree, determination or award, non-compliance with which could reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on the Company.

**4.4.3 Solvency.** After giving effect to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Company has capital sufficient to carry on its business and transactions and is solvent and able to pay its debts as they mature. No transfer of property is being made and no Indebtedness is being incurred in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement with the intent to hinder, delay or defraud either present or future creditors of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company.

**4.4.4 Ownership of Property.** The Company and each of its Subsidiaries has good and marketable title as to all real property owned by it and good title to all assets and properties owned by the Company and such Subsidiary in the conduct of its businesses, whether such assets and properties are real or personal, tangible or intangible, including assets and property reflected in the most recent balance sheet contained in the Company's Reports or acquired subsequent thereto (except to the extent that such assets and properties have been disposed of in the ordinary course of business, since the date of such balance sheet), subject to no encumbrances, liens, mortgages, security interests or pledges, except (i) those items which secure liabilities for public or statutory obligations or any discount with, borrowing from or other obligations to the Federal Home Loan Bank, inter-bank credit facilities, reverse repurchase agreements or any transaction by the Bank acting in a fiduciary capacity, (ii) statutory liens for amounts not yet delinquent or which are being contested in good faith and (iii) such as do not, individually or in the aggregate, materially and adversely affect the value of such property and do not materially and adversely interfere with the use made and proposed to be made of such property by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries. The Company and each of its Subsidiaries, as lessee, has the right under valid and existing Leases of real and personal properties that are material to the Company or such Subsidiary, as applicable, in the conduct of its business to occupy or use all such properties as presently occupied and used by it. Such existing Leases and commitments to Lease constitute or will constitute operating Leases for both tax and financial accounting purposes except as otherwise disclosed in the Company's Reports and the Lease expense and minimum rental commitments with respect to such Leases and Lease commitments are as disclosed in all material respects in the Company's Reports.

**4.5 No Material Adverse Change.** Since the end of the Company's fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, there has been no development or event which has had or could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

#### **4.6 Legal Matters.**

**4.6.1 Compliance with Law.** The Company and each of its Subsidiaries (i) has complied with and (ii) to the Company's knowledge, is not under investigation with respect to, and has not been threatened to be charged with or given any notice of any material violation of any applicable statutes, rules, regulations, orders and restrictions of any domestic or foreign government, or any instrumentality or agency thereof, having jurisdiction over the conduct of its business or the ownership of its properties, except where any such failure to comply or violation would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole. The Company and each of its Subsidiaries is in compliance with, and at all times prior to the date hereof has been in compliance with, (x) all statutes, rules, regulations, orders and restrictions of any domestic or foreign government, or any Governmental Agency, applicable to it, and (y) its own privacy policies and written commitments to customers, consumers and employees, concerning data protection, the privacy and security of personal data, and the nonpublic personal information of its customers, consumers and employees, in each case except where any such failure to comply, would not result, individually or in the aggregate, in a Material Adverse Effect. At no time during the two years prior to the date hereof has the Company or any of its Subsidiaries received any written notice asserting any violations of any of the foregoing.

**4.6.2 Regulatory Enforcement Actions.** The Company, the Bank and its other Subsidiaries are in compliance in all material respects with all laws administered by and regulations of any Governmental Agency applicable to it or to them, the failure to comply with which would have a Material Adverse Effect. None of the Company, the Bank, the Company's or the Bank's Subsidiaries nor any of their officers or directors is now operating under any restrictions, agreements, memoranda, commitment letter, supervisory letter or similar regulatory correspondence, or other commitments (other than restrictions of general application) imposed by any Governmental Agency, nor are, to the Company's knowledge, (a) any such restrictions threatened, (b) any agreements, memoranda or commitments being sought by any Governmental Agency, or (c) any legal or regulatory violations previously identified by, or penalties or other remedial action previously imposed by, any Governmental Agency remains unresolved.

**4.6.3 Pending Litigation.** There are no actions, suits, proceedings or written agreements pending, or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened or proposed, against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries at law or in equity or before or by any federal, state, municipal, or other governmental department, commission, board, or other administrative agency, domestic or foreign, that, either separately or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and any of its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or affect issuance or payment of the Subordinated Notes; and neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or named as subject to the provisions of any order, writ, injunction, or decree of, or any written agreement with, any court, commission, board or agency, domestic or foreign, that either separately or in the aggregate, will have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and any of its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

**4.6.4 Environmental.** The Company and each of its Subsidiaries are in compliance in all material respects with all Hazardous Materials Laws, except where such noncompliance would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole. There are no claims or actions pending or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries by any Governmental Agency or by any other Person relating to any Hazardous Materials or pursuant to any Hazardous Materials Law, except for such actions or claims that would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

**4.6.5 Brokerage Commissions.** Except for commissions paid or payable to the Placement Agent, neither the Company nor any Affiliate of the Company is obligated to pay any brokerage commission or finder's fee to any Person in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

**4.6.6 Investment Company Act.** Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is an “investment company” or a company “controlled” by an “investment company,” within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

**4.7 No Misstatement.** None of the representations, warranties, covenants and agreements made in this Agreement or in any certificate or other document delivered to the Purchasers by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement contains any untrue statement of a material fact, or omits to state a material fact necessary to make the statements contained therein not misleading in light of the circumstances when made or furnished to Purchasers and as of the date of this Agreement.

**4.8 Internal Accounting Controls.** The Company, the Bank and each other Subsidiary has established and maintains a system of internal control over financial reporting that pertains to the maintenance of records that accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the Company’s assets (on a consolidated basis), provides reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and that the Company’s and the Bank’s receipts and expenditures and receipts and expenditures of each of the Company’s other Subsidiaries are being made only in accordance with authorizations of the Company’s management and Board of Directors, and provides reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of assets of the Company on a consolidated basis that could have a Material Adverse Effect. Such internal control over financial reporting is effective to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Company’s financial reporting and the preparation of the Company’s financial statements for external purposes in accordance with GAAP. Since the conclusion of the Company’s last completed fiscal year there has not been and there currently is not (i) any significant deficiency or material weakness in the design or operation of its internal control over financial reporting which is reasonably likely to adversely affect its ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information, or (ii) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a role in the Company’s or the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting. The Company (A) has implemented and maintains disclosure controls and procedures reasonably designed and maintained to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company by others within the Company and (B) has disclosed, based on its most recent evaluation prior to the date hereof, to the Company’s outside auditors and the audit committee of the Company’s Board of Directors any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting. Such disclosure controls and procedures are effective for the purposes for which they were established.

**4.9 Tax Matters.** The Company, the Bank and each Subsidiary of the Company have (i) filed all material foreign, U.S. federal, state and local tax returns, information returns and similar reports that are required to be filed (taking into account extensions), and all such tax returns are true, correct and complete in all material respects, and (ii) paid all material taxes required to be paid by it and any other material assessment, fine or penalty levied against it other than taxes (taking into account extensions) (x) currently payable without penalty or interest, or (y) being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings.

**4.10 Exempt Offering.** Assuming the accuracy of the Purchasers’ representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement, no registration under the Securities Act is required for the offer and sale of the Subordinated Notes by the Company to the Purchasers.

**4.11 Representations and Warranties Generally.** The representations and warranties of the Company set forth in this Agreement, or in any other agreement entered into by the Company pursuant to the requirements of this Agreement, are true and correct in all material respects as of the date hereof and as otherwise specifically provided herein or therein.

## **5. GENERAL COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS.**

The Company hereby further covenants and agrees with each Purchaser as follows:

**5.1 Compliance with Transaction Documents.** The Company shall comply with, observe and timely perform in all material respects each and every one of the covenants, agreements and obligations under the Transaction Documents.

**5.2 Affiliate Transactions.** The Company shall not itself, nor shall it cause, permit or allow any of its Subsidiaries to enter into any transaction, including, the purchase, sale or exchange of property or the rendering of any service, with any Affiliate of the Company except in the ordinary course of business and pursuant to the reasonable requirements of the Company's or such Affiliate's business and upon terms consistent with applicable laws and regulations and reasonably found by the appropriate board(s) of directors to be fair and reasonable and no less favorable to the Company or such Affiliate than would be obtained in a comparable arm's length transaction with a Person not an Affiliate.

**5.3 Compliance with Laws**

**5.3.1 Generally.** The Company shall comply and cause the Bank and each of its other Subsidiaries to comply in all material respects with all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, orders and restrictions in respect of the conduct of its business and the ownership of its properties, except, in each case, where such noncompliance would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company.

**5.3.2 Regulated Activities.** The Company shall not itself, nor shall it cause, permit or allow the Bank or any other of its Subsidiaries to (i) engage in any business or activity not permitted by all applicable laws and regulations, except where such business or activity would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company, the Bank and/or such of its Subsidiaries or (ii) make any loan or advance secured by the capital stock of another bank or depository institution, or acquire the capital stock, assets or obligations of or any interest in another bank or depository institution, in each case other than in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and safe and sound banking practices.

**5.3.3 Taxes.** The Company shall and shall cause the Bank and any other of its Subsidiaries to promptly pay and discharge all taxes, assessments and other governmental charges imposed upon the Company, the Bank or any other of its Subsidiaries or upon the income, profits, or property of the Company or any Subsidiary and all claims for labor, material or supplies which, if unpaid, might by law become a lien or charge upon the property of the Company, the Bank or any other of its Subsidiaries. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the Company, the Bank or any other of its Subsidiaries shall be required to pay any such tax, assessment, charge or claim, so long as the validity thereof shall be contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings, and appropriate reserves therefor shall be maintained on the books of the Company, the Bank and such other Subsidiary.

**5.3.4 Corporate Existence.** Except as described in Article VII of the Indenture, the Company shall do or cause to be done all things reasonably necessary to maintain, preserve and renew its corporate existence and that of the Bank and the other Subsidiaries and its and their rights and franchises, and comply in all material respects with all related laws applicable to the Company, the Bank or the other Subsidiaries.

**5.3.5 Tier 2 Capital.** If all or any portion of the Subordinated Notes ceases to be deemed to be Tier 2 Capital, other than due to the limitation imposed on the capital treatment of subordinated debt during the five (5) years immediately preceding the Maturity Date of the Subordinated Notes, the Company will immediately notify the Holder (as defined in the Subordinated Note) of the Subordinated Notes, and thereafter the Company and the Holder (as defined in the Subordinated Note) will work together in good faith to execute and deliver all agreements as reasonably necessary in order to restructure the applicable portions of the obligations evidenced by the Subordinated Notes to qualify as Tier 2 Capital; *provided, however*, that nothing contained in this Agreement shall limit the Company's right to redeem the Subordinated Notes upon the occurrence of a Tier 2 Capital Event as described in the Subordinated Notes.

**5.4 Absence of Control.** It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement that in no event shall the Purchasers, by reason of any of the Transaction Documents, be deemed to control, directly or indirectly, the Company, and the Purchasers shall not exercise, or be deemed to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of the Company.

**5.5 Secondary Market Transactions.** To the extent and so long as not in violation of Section 6.4 hereof, each Purchaser shall have the right at any time and from time to time to securitize its Subordinated Notes or any portion thereof in a single asset securitization or a pooled loan securitization of rated single or multi-class securities secured by or evidencing ownership interests in the Subordinated Notes (each such securitization is referred to herein as a “Secondary Market Transaction”). In connection with any such Secondary Market Transaction, the Company shall reasonably cooperate with the Purchasers and otherwise reasonably assist the Purchasers in satisfying the market standards to which Purchasers customarily adhere or which may be reasonably required in the marketplace or by applicable rating agencies in connection with any such Secondary Market Transaction, but in no event shall the Company be required to incur any costs or expenses in excess of \$7,500 in connection therewith. Subject to any written confidentiality obligation, including the terms of any non-disclosure agreements between Purchaser and the Company, all information regarding the Company may be furnished, without liability except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct, to any the Purchaser and to any Person reasonably deemed necessary by the Purchaser in connection with participation in such Secondary Market Transaction. The Purchaser shall cause any Person to whom the Purchaser wishes to deliver Company confidential information related to the Secondary Market Transaction to execute and deliver to the Company a non-disclosure agreement reasonably acceptable to the Company unless such Person is a party to a commercially reasonable non-disclosure agreement to which the Company is a third party beneficiary. All documents, financial statements, appraisals and other data relevant to the Company or the Subordinated Notes may be retained by any such Person, subject to the terms of any applicable nondisclosure agreement.

**5.6 Insurance.** At its sole cost and expense, the Company shall maintain, and shall cause each Subsidiary to maintain, bonds and insurance to such extent, covering such risks as is required by law or as is usual and customary for owners of similar businesses and properties in the same general area in which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries operates. All such bonds and policies of insurance shall be in a form, in an amount and with insurers recognized as adequate by prudent business persons.

**5.7 DTC Registration: Partial Redemption through DTC.** The Company shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause the Subordinated Notes to be quoted on Bloomberg and, with respect to Subordinated Notes held by QIBs, shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause such Subordinated Notes to be registered in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee of DTC. With respect to any partial redemption of the Subordinated Notes, partial redemptions will be processed through the Depository Trust Issuer Corporation, in accordance with its rules and procedures, as a Pro Rata Pass-Through Distribution of Principal.

**5.8 Rule 144A Information.** While any Subordinated Notes remain “restricted securities” within the meaning of the Securities Act, the Company will make available, upon request, to any seller of such Subordinated Notes the information specified in Rule 144A(d)(4) under the Securities Act, unless the Company is then subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

**5.9 NRSRO Rating.** The Company will use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSRO”) while any Subordinated Notes remain outstanding.

## **6. REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS OF PURCHASERS**

Each Purchaser hereby represents and warrants to the Company, and covenants with the Company, severally and not jointly, as follows:

**6.1 Legal Power and Authority.** The Purchaser has all necessary power and authority to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The Purchaser is an entity duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization.

**6.2 Authorization and Execution.** The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of such Purchaser, and, assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by the other parties thereto, this

Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement are each a legal, valid and binding obligation of such Purchaser, enforceable against such Purchaser in accordance with its terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally or by general equitable principles.

**6.3 No Conflicts.** Neither the execution, delivery or performance of the Transaction Documents nor the consummation of any of the transactions contemplated thereby will conflict with, violate, constitute a breach of or a default (whether with or without the giving of notice or lapse of time or both) under (i) the Purchaser's organizational documents, (ii) any agreement to which the Purchaser is party, (iii) any law applicable to the Purchaser or (iv) any order, writ, judgment, injunction, decree, determination or award binding upon or affecting the Purchaser.

**6.4 Purchase for Investment.** The Purchaser is purchasing the Subordinated Note for its own account and not with a view to distribution and with no present intention of reselling, distributing or otherwise disposing of the same. The Purchaser has no present or contemplated agreement, undertaking, arrangement, obligation, Indebtedness or commitment providing for, or which is likely to compel, a disposition of the Subordinated Notes in any manner.

**6.5 Institutional Accredited Investor.** The Purchaser is and will be on the Closing Date either (i) a QIB, or (ii) an institutional "accredited investor" as such term is defined in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D and as contemplated by subsections (1), (2), (3) and (7) of Rule 501(a) of Regulation D, and has no less than \$5,000,000 in total assets.

**6.6 Financial and Business Sophistication.** The Purchaser has such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters that it is capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the prospective investment in the Subordinated Notes. The Purchaser has relied solely upon its own knowledge of, and/or the advice of its own legal, financial or other advisors with regard to, the legal, financial, tax and other considerations involved in deciding to invest in the Subordinated Notes.

**6.7 Ability to Bear Economic Risk of Investment.** The Purchaser recognizes that an investment in the Subordinated Notes involves substantial risk. The Purchaser has the ability to bear the economic risk of the prospective investment in the Subordinated Notes, including the ability to hold the Subordinated Notes indefinitely, and further including the ability to bear a complete loss of all of the Purchaser's investment in the Company. The Purchaser further acknowledges that it has reviewed the information set forth in Exhibit D hereto regarding "Risk Factors" related to an investment in the Subordinated Notes.

**6.8 Information.** The Purchaser acknowledges that: (i) the Purchaser is not being provided with the disclosures that would be required if the offer and sale of the Subordinated Notes were registered under the Securities Act, nor is the Purchaser being provided with any offering circular or prospectus prepared in connection with the offer and sale of the Subordinated Notes; (ii) the Purchaser has conducted its own examination of the Company and the terms of the Subordinated Notes to the extent the Purchaser deems necessary to make its decision to invest in the Subordinated Notes; and (iii) the Purchaser has availed itself of publicly available financial and other information concerning the Company to the extent the Purchaser deems necessary to its decision to purchase the Subordinated Notes. The Purchaser has reviewed the information set forth in the Company's Reports, the Company's other filings with the SEC, the Company's other public announcements and documents, the exhibits and schedules thereto and hereto and the information contained in the data room established by the Company in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

**6.9 Access to Information.** The Purchaser acknowledges that the Purchaser and its advisors have been furnished with all materials relating to the business, finances and operations of the Company that have been requested by the Purchaser or its advisors and have been given the opportunity to ask questions of, and to receive answers from, persons acting on behalf of the Company concerning terms and conditions of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement in order to make an informed and voluntary decision to enter into this Agreement.

**6.10 Investment Decision.** The Purchaser has made its own investment decision based upon its own judgment, due diligence and advice from such advisors as it has deemed necessary and not upon any view

expressed by any other person or entity, including the Placement Agent (or, with respect to the Indenture, the Trustee). Neither such inquiries nor any other due diligence investigations conducted by it or its advisors or representatives, if any, shall modify, amend or affect its right to rely on the Company's representations and warranties contained herein. The Purchaser is not relying upon, and has not relied upon, any advice, statement, representation or warranty made by any Person by or on behalf of the Company, including the Placement Agent (or, with respect to the Indenture, the Trustee), except for the express statements, representations and warranties of the Company made or contained in this Agreement. Furthermore, the Purchaser acknowledges that (i) the Placement Agent has not performed any due diligence review on behalf of it and (ii) nothing in this Agreement or any other materials presented by or on behalf of the Company to the Purchaser in connection with the purchase of the Subordinated Notes constitutes legal, tax or investment advice.

**6.11 Private Placement; No Registration; Restricted Legends.** The Purchaser understands and acknowledges that the Subordinated Notes are being sold by the Company without registration under the Securities Act in reliance on the exemption from federal and state registration set forth in, respectively, Rule 506(b) of Regulation D promulgated under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Section 18 of the Securities Act, or any state securities laws, and accordingly, may be resold, pledged or otherwise transferred only if exemptions from the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws are available to it or in compliance with registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. The Purchaser is not subscribing for Subordinated Notes as a result of or subsequent to any advertisement, article, notice or other communication published in any newspaper, magazine or similar media or broadcast over television or radio, or presented at any seminar or meeting, or any other method of "General Solicitation" as that term is defined in Regulation D. The Purchaser further acknowledges and agrees that all certificates or other instruments representing the Subordinated Notes will bear the restrictive legend set forth in the form of Subordinated Note, which is attached as an exhibit to the Indenture. The Purchaser further acknowledges its primary responsibilities under the Securities Act and, accordingly, will not sell or otherwise transfer the Subordinated Notes or any interest therein without complying with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and the requirements set forth in this Agreement.

**6.12 Placement Agent.** The Purchaser will purchase the Subordinated Note(s) directly from the Company and not from the Placement Agent and understands that neither the Placement Agent nor any other broker or dealer have any obligation to make a market in the Subordinated Notes.

**6.13 Tier 2 Capital.** If the Company provides notice as contemplated in Section 5.3.5 of the occurrence of the event contemplated in such section, thereafter the Company and the Purchasers will work together in good faith to execute and deliver all agreements as reasonably necessary in order to restructure the applicable portions of the obligations evidenced by the Subordinated Notes to qualify as Tier 2 Capital; *provided, however*, that nothing contained in this Agreement shall limit the Company's right to redeem the Subordinated Notes upon the occurrence of a Tier 2 Capital Event as described in the Subordinated Notes.

**6.14 Accuracy of Representations.** The Purchaser understands that each of the Placement Agent and the Company will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations, acknowledgements and agreements in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and agrees that if any of the representations or acknowledgements made by it are no longer accurate as of the Closing Date, or if any of the agreements made by it are breached on or prior to the Closing Date, it shall promptly notify the Placement Agent and the Company.

**6.15 Representations and Warranties Generally.** The representations and warranties of Purchaser set forth in this Agreement are true and correct as of the date hereof and will be true and correct as of the Closing Date and as otherwise specifically provided herein. Any certificate signed by a duly authorized representative of Purchaser and delivered to the Company or to counsel for the Company shall be deemed to be a representation and warranty by Purchaser to the Company as to the matters set forth therein.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS.**

**7.1 Prohibition on Assignment by the Company.** Except as described in Article VII of the Indenture, the Company may not assign, transfer or delegate any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement or the Subordinated Notes without the prior written consent of the Purchasers.

**7.2 Time of the Essence.** Time is of the essence for this Agreement.

**7.3 Waiver or Amendment.** No waiver or amendment of any term, provision, condition, covenant or agreement herein shall be effective unless in writing and signed by all of the parties hereto. No failure to exercise or delay in exercising, by a Purchaser or any Holder of the Subordinated Notes (as defined therein), of any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, power or privilege preclude any other or further exercise thereof, or the exercise of any other right or remedy provided by law. The rights and remedies provided in this Agreement are cumulative and not exclusive of any right or remedy provided by law or equity.

**7.4 Severability.** Any provision of this Agreement which is unenforceable or invalid or contrary to law, or the inclusion of which would adversely affect the validity, legality or enforcement of this Agreement, shall be of no effect and, in such case, all the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement shall subsist and be fully effective according to the tenor of this Agreement the same as though any such invalid portion had never been included herein. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing to the contrary, if any provisions of this Agreement or the application thereof are held invalid or unenforceable only as to particular persons or situations, the remainder of this Agreement, and the application of such provision to persons or situations other than those to which it shall have been held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, but shall continue valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**7.5 Notices.** Any notice which any party hereto may be required or may desire to give hereunder shall be deemed to have been given if in writing and if delivered personally, or if mailed, postage prepaid, by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or if delivered by a responsible overnight commercial courier promising next Business Day delivery, addressed:

if to the Company:

Southern States Bancshares, Inc.  
615 Quintard Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36201  
Attn: Lynn Joyce  
Email: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Office: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Fax: [Intentionally omitted.]

with a copy to:

Jones Walker LLP  
420 20<sup>th</sup> St. N.  
Suite 1100  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Attn: Mike Waters; Clint Smith  
Email: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Office: [Intentionally omitted.]  
Fax: [Intentionally omitted.]

if to the Purchasers:

To the address indicated on such Purchaser's signature page.



or to such other address or addresses as the party to be given notice may have furnished in writing to the party seeking or desiring to give notice, as a place for the giving of notice; provided that no change in address shall be effective until five (5) Business Days after being given to the other party in the manner provided for above. Any notice given in accordance with the foregoing shall be deemed given when delivered personally or, if mailed, three (3) Business Days after it shall have been deposited in the United States mails as aforesaid or, if sent by overnight courier, the Business Day following the date of delivery to such courier (provided next Business Day delivery was requested).

**7.6 Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors and assigns; except that, unless a Purchaser consents in writing, no assignment made by the Company in violation of this Agreement shall be effective or confer any rights on any purported assignee of the Company. The term "successors and assigns" will not include a purchaser of any of the Subordinated Notes from any Purchaser merely because of such purchase.

**7.7 No Joint Venture.** Nothing contained herein or in any document executed pursuant hereto and no action or inaction whatsoever on the part of a Purchaser, shall be deemed to make a Purchaser a partner or joint venturer with the Company.

**7.8 Documentation.** All documents and other matters required by any of the provisions of this Agreement to be submitted or furnished to a Purchaser shall be in form and substance satisfactory to such Purchaser.

**7.9 Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, the Indenture, the Registration Rights Agreement and the Subordinated Notes along with the exhibits thereto constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and may not be modified or amended in any manner other than by supplemental written agreement executed by the parties hereto. No party, in entering into this Agreement, has relied upon any representation, warranty, covenant, condition or other term that is not set forth in this Agreement, the Indenture, the Registration Rights Agreement or in the Subordinated Notes.

**7.10 Choice of Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York without giving effect to its laws or principles of conflict of laws. Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit any rights, powers or privileges which a Purchaser may have pursuant to any law of the United States of America or any rule, regulation or order of any department or agency thereof and nothing herein shall be deemed to make unlawful any transaction or conduct by a Purchaser which is lawful pursuant to, or which is permitted by, any of the foregoing.

**7.11 No Third Party Beneficiary.** This Agreement is made for the sole benefit of the Company and the Purchasers, and no other Person shall be deemed to have any privity of contract hereunder nor any right to rely hereon to any extent or for any purpose whatsoever, nor shall any other Person have any right of action of any kind hereon or be deemed to be a third party beneficiary hereunder; *provided*, that the Placement Agent may rely on the representations and warranties contained herein to the same extent as if it were a party to this Agreement.

**7.12 Legal Tender of United States.** All payments hereunder shall be made in coin or currency which at the time of payment is legal tender in the United States of America for public and private debts.

**7.13 Captions; Counterparts.** Captions contained in this Agreement in no way define, limit or extend the scope or intent of their respective provisions. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original and all of which taken together shall constitute but one and the same instrument. In the event that any signature is delivered by facsimile transmission, or by e-mail delivery of a ".pdf" format data file, such signature shall create a valid and binding obligation of the party executing (or on whose behalf such signature is executed) with the same force and effect as if such facsimile signature page were an original thereof.

**7.14 Knowledge; Discretion.** All references herein to a Purchaser's or the Company's knowledge shall be deemed to mean the knowledge of such party based on the actual knowledge of such party's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer or such other persons holding equivalent offices.

Unless specified to the contrary herein, all references herein to an exercise of discretion or judgment by a Purchaser, to the making of a determination or designation by a Purchaser, to the application of a Purchaser's discretion or opinion, to the granting or withholding of a Purchaser's consent or approval, to the consideration of whether a matter or thing is satisfactory or acceptable to a Purchaser, or otherwise involving the decision making of a Purchaser, shall be deemed to mean that such Purchaser shall decide using the reasonable discretion or judgment of a prudent lender.

**7.15 Waiver Of Right To Jury Trial.** TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, THE PARTIES HEREBY KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY AND INTENTIONALLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LITIGATION ARISING IN ANY WAY IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE TRANSACTION DOCUMENTS, OR ANY OTHER STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS OF THE COMPANY OR THE PURCHASERS. THE PARTIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED IN THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT AND IN THE MAKING OF THIS WAIVER BY INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL SELECTED OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL. THE PARTIES FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT (I) THEY HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS WAIVER, (II) THIS WAIVER HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL AND IS A MATERIAL INDUCEMENT FOR ENTRY INTO THIS AGREEMENT AND THE REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT AND (III) THIS WAIVER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AS TO EACH OF SUCH TRANSACTION DOCUMENTS AS IF FULLY INCORPORATED THEREIN.

**7.16 Expenses.** Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each of the parties will bear and pay all other costs and expenses incurred by it or on its behalf in connection with the transactions contemplated pursuant to this Agreement.

**7.17 Survival.** Each of the representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement shall survive the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby for a period of one year after the date hereof. Except as otherwise provided herein, all covenants and agreements contained herein shall survive until, by their respective terms, they are no longer operative.

*[Signature Pages Follow]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative as of the date first above written.

**COMPANY:**

**SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Lynn Joyce  
Title: Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Purchaser has caused this Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative as of the date first above written.

**PURCHASER:**

[INSERT PURCHASER'S NAME]

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: [●]  
Title: [●]

Address of Purchaser:

[●]

Principal Amount of Purchased Subordinated Note:

\$[●]

SCHEDULE 4.1.1.2  
COMPANY SUBSIDIARIES

Southern States Bank

**EXHIBIT A**  
**REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT**  
*[attached]*

**EXHIBIT B**

**INDENTURE**

*[attached]*

**EXHIBIT C****OPINION OF COUNSEL**

1. The Company is a corporation, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of the State of Alabama. This opinion is based solely upon a certificate of good standing for the Company issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Alabama dated [●] and a certificate of compliance from the State of Alabama Department of Revenue dated [●] (collectively, the "Company Status Certificates") without further investigation as to the criteria for existence and good standing or any related legal issues, and such opinion is not intended to provide any conclusion or assurance beyond that conveyed by the Company Status Certificates. We have made no additional investigation after the date of the Company Status Certificates.

2. The Bank is a state-chartered bank, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of the State of Alabama. This opinion is based solely upon a certificate of good standing for the Company issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Alabama dated [●] and a certificate of compliance from the State of Alabama Department of Revenue dated [●] (collectively, the "Bank Status Certificates") without further investigation as to the criteria for existence and good standing or any related legal issues, and such opinion is not intended to provide any conclusion or assurance beyond that conveyed by the Bank Status Certificates. We have made no additional investigation after the date of the Bank Status Certificate.

3. The Bank is duly qualified or licensed to do business and is in good standing as a foreign corporation authorized to do business in the State of Georgia. This opinion is based solely upon a certificate of status issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia dated [●] (the "Bank Foreign Status Certificate") without further investigation as to the criteria for existence and good standing or any related legal issues, and such opinion is not intended to provide any conclusion or assurance beyond that conveyed by the Bank Foreign Status Certificate. We have made no additional investigation after the date of the Bank Foreign Status Certificate.

4. Based solely upon the Certificate of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, dated [●], the Company is a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

5. Based solely upon the Certificate of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, dated [●], the deposit accounts of the Bank are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

6. Each of the Company and the Bank has all requisite corporate power and authority to carry on its business and to own, lease and operate its properties and assets as described in the Company's Reports.

7. The Company has the corporate power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under the Transaction Documents to which it is a party and to consummate the transactions contemplated by the Transaction Documents.

8. The execution, delivery, and performance by the Company of each Transaction Document has been duly authorized by all requisite corporate action on the part of the Company.

9. Each of the Agreement, the Indenture and the Registration Rights Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company, and each of the Agreement, the Indenture and the Registration Rights Agreement constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable under the Covered Law of the State of New York against the Company in accordance with its terms, except that the enforcement thereof may be subject to (a) bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, receivership, moratorium, fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or other similar laws now or hereafter in effect relating to creditors' rights generally and (b) general principles of equity (whether applied by a court of law or equity) and the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought.



10. The Notes have been duly executed and delivered by the Company and when executed and authenticated by the Trustee and delivered to and paid for by the Purchasers in accordance with the terms of the Indenture, will constitute the legal, valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable under the Covered Law of the State of New York against the Company in accordance with its terms, except that the enforcement thereof may be subject to (a) bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, receivership, moratorium, fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or other similar laws now or hereafter in effect relating to creditors' rights generally and (b) general principles of equity (whether applied by a court of law or equity) and the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought.

11. The execution and delivery by the Company of the Agreement, the Indenture and the Registration Rights Agreement do not, and the performance by it of its obligations thereunder will not result in a violation by the Company of (a) the Charter or By-Laws, (b) any Alabama Covered Law to which the Company is subject, (c) any contract, indenture, mortgage, loan agreement, note, lease or any other agreement or instrument that has been filed as an exhibit to the Company's Reports, through the date hereof (collectively, the "Scheduled Agreements" and individually, a "Scheduled Agreement"), or (d) any decree, judgment, or order of any Alabama, New York, or United States federal government, governmental instrumentality, court, regulatory body, administrative agency or other governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company listed on Schedule 1 hereto (collectively, the "Scheduled Orders" and individually, a "Scheduled Order"), but excluding any violation of any Scheduled Agreement or Scheduled Order which (i) is not readily ascertainable from the face of such Scheduled Agreement or such Scheduled Order or (ii) arises under or is based upon (A) any cross-default or similar provision contained in such Scheduled Agreement or such Scheduled Order insofar as it relates to a default, event of default, violation or similar event or circumstance under any agreement, contract, instrument, decree, judgment, or order that is not a Scheduled Agreement or a Scheduled Order, (B) any covenant or other provision of a financial or numerical nature or which requires any computation or any subjective determination to be made by any party, or (C) the occurrence of a "material adverse effect" or "material adverse change" or words or concepts to similar effect, except, in the case of clauses (c) and (d), for violations that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect.

12. Assuming the accuracy of the representations and warranties and compliance with the agreements contained in the Agreement, no registration of the Notes under the Securities Act is required, for the issuance and delivery of the Notes in the manner contemplated by the Agreement; provided, however, we express no opinion whatsoever as to when or under what circumstances any Notes sold to the Purchasers may be reoffered or resold.

13. The Company is not and, after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Subordinated Notes, will not be an "investment company" or a company "controlled" by an "investment company" within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

"Covered Law" means (a) the federal law of the United States of America, (b) the Alabama Business Corporation Law, and (c) the laws of the State of New York, but in each case only to laws that in our experience are typically applicable to transactions of the type contemplated by the Transaction Documents and in effect on the date hereof. The term "Covered Law" does not include any law, rule or regulation that, as a matter of customary practice, is understood to be covered only when an opinion refers to it expressly. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing and except as specifically stated herein, the term "Covered Law" does not include any law, rule or regulation relating to: (i) local or municipal law; (ii) antitrust; (iii) unfair competition; (iv) communications; (v) energy; (vi) environmental matters; (vii) land use; (viii) construction; (ix) admiralty, maritime or aviation; (x) copyright, patent or trademark; (xi) securities or "blue sky" matters (except as set forth in paragraph 12); (xii) broker-dealer, margin regulation or investment company laws; (xiii) [reserved]; (xiv) [reserved]; (xv) tax; (xvi) pension; (xvii) labor; (xviii) employee benefits; (xix) occupational safety; (xx) health care; (xxi) insurance; (xxii) bankruptcy or insolvency; (xxiii) fraudulent transfer; (xxiv) privacy; (xxv) national security or national or local emergencies (including, without limitation, those relating to the COVID-19 pandemic); (xxvi) antiterrorism; (xxvii) money laundering; (xxviii) racketeering; (xxix) criminal and civil forfeiture; (xxx) foreign corrupt practices; or (xxxi) foreign asset or trading control; in each case with respect to each of the foregoing, (A) as interpreted, construed or enforced pursuant to any judicial, arbitral or other decision or pronouncement, (B) as enacted, promulgated or issued by, or otherwise existing in effect in, any

jurisdiction and (C) including, without limitation, any and all authorizations, permits, consents, applications, licenses, approvals, filings, registrations, publications, exemptions and the like required by any of them.

**EXHIBIT D****RISK FACTORS**

An investment in the 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032 (the "Subordinated Notes") issued by Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the "Company," "we," "our" and "us"), involves a number of risks. You should read carefully and consider the following risks before making an investment decision. The following risks are not, however, exclusive or exhaustive, and only represent typical risks that may impact an investment in the Subordinated Notes. In evaluating an investment in any of our securities, investors should consider carefully, among other things, the risks previously disclosed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021 filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and its subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC, and such other risk factors as the Company may disclose in other reports and statements filed or furnished with the SEC. The order of these risk factors does not reflect their relative importance or likelihood of occurrence. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Subordinated Notes.

**Risks Related to the Subordinated Notes**

**You should not rely on indicative or historical data concerning the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR").**

Under the terms of the Subordinated Notes, the interest rate on the Subordinated Notes for each interest period during the floating rate period will be based on Three-Month Term SOFR, a forward-looking term rate for a tenor of three months that will be based on SOFR ("Three-Month Term SOFR") (unless a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date occur with respect to Three-Month Term SOFR, in which case the rate of interest will be based on the next-available Benchmark Replacement). In the following discussion of SOFR, when we refer to SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes, we mean the Subordinated Notes at any time when the interest rate on the Subordinated Notes is or will be determined based on SOFR, including Three-Month Term SOFR.

SOFR is published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("FRBNY") and is intended to be a broad measure of the cost of borrowing cash overnight collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities. FRBNY reports that SOFR includes all trades in the Broad General Collateral Rate, plus bilateral U.S. Treasury repurchase agreement ("repo") transactions cleared through the delivery-versus-payment service offered by the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (the "FICC"), a subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). SOFR is filtered by FRBNY to remove a portion of the foregoing transactions considered to be "specials." According to FRBNY, "specials" are repos for specific-issue collateral which take place at cash-lending rates below those for general collateral repos because cash providers are willing to accept a lesser return on their cash in order to obtain a particular security.

FRBNY reports that SOFR is calculated as a volume-weighted median of transaction-level tri-party repo data collected from The Bank of New York Mellon, which currently acts as the clearing bank for the tri-party repo market, as well as general collateral finance repo transaction data and data on bilateral U.S. Treasury repo transactions cleared through the FICC's delivery-versus-payment service.

FRBNY states that it obtains information from DTCC Solutions LLC, an affiliate of DTCC. FRBNY currently publishes SOFR daily on its website at <https://apps.newyorkfed.org/markets/autorates/sofr>. FRBNY states on its publication page for SOFR that use of SOFR is subject to important disclaimers, limitations and indemnification obligations, including that

FRBNY may alter the methods of calculation, publication schedule, rate revision practices or availability of SOFR at any time without notice. The foregoing Internet website is an inactive textual reference only.

FRBNY started publishing SOFR in April 2018. FRBNY has also started publishing historical indicative SOFRs dating back to 2014, although this historical indicative data inherently involves assumptions, estimates and approximations. You should not rely on this historical indicative data or on any historical changes or trends in SOFR as an indicator of the future performance of SOFR.

***The amount of interest payable on the Subordinated Notes will vary on and after October 26, 2027.***

As the interest rate of the Subordinated Notes will be calculated based on SOFR from and including October 26, 2027 to but excluding the maturity date or earlier redemption date and SOFR is a floating rate, the interest rate on the Subordinated Notes will vary on and after October 26, 2027. During this period, the Subordinated Notes will bear a floating interest rate set each quarterly interest period at a per annum rate equal to the Benchmark rate (which is expected to be Three-Month Term SOFR) plus a spread of 306 basis points; *provided*, that in the event that the Benchmark rate for any floating rate period is less than zero, the Benchmark rate for such floating rate period shall be deemed to be zero. The per annum interest rate that is determined on the relevant determination date will apply to the entire quarterly interest period following such determination date even if the Benchmark rate increases during that period.

Floating rate notes bear additional significant risks not associated with fixed rate debt securities. These risks include fluctuation of the interest rates and the possibility that you will receive an amount of interest that is lower than expected. We have no control over a number of matters, including economic, financial, and political events, that are important in determining the existence, magnitude, and longevity of market volatility and other risks and their impact on the value of, or payments made on, the floating rate Subordinated Notes.

***SOFR may be more volatile than other benchmark or market rates.***

Since the initial publication of SOFR, daily changes in the rate have, on occasion, been more volatile than daily changes in comparable benchmark or market rates, and SOFR over time may bear little or no relation to the historical actual or historical indicative data. In addition, the return on and value of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes may fluctuate more than floating rate securities that are linked to less volatile rates.

***Changes in the calculation of SOFR could adversely affect the amount of interest that accrues on the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes and the trading prices for the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes.***

Because SOFR is published by FRBNY based on data received from other sources, we have no control over its determination, calculation, or publication. There can be no assurance that SOFR will not be discontinued or fundamentally altered in a manner that is materially adverse to the interests of holders of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes. If the manner that SOFR is calculated is changed, that change may result in a reduction in the amount of interest that accrues on the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes, which may adversely affect the trading prices of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes. In addition, the interest rate on the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes for any day will not be adjusted for any modification or amendment to SOFR for that day that FRBNY may publish if the interest rate for that day has already been determined prior to such publication. Further, if the Benchmark rate on the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes for any interest period declines to zero or becomes negative, then the Benchmark rate for such interest period will be deemed to be zero. There is no assurance that changes in SOFR could not have a material adverse effect on the yield on, value of, and trading prices of, the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes.

***SOFR differs fundamentally from, and may not be a comparable substitute for, U.S. dollar LIBOR.***

In June 2017, the Alternative Reference Rates Committee (the “ARRC”) convened by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”) and FRBNY announced SOFR as its recommended alternative to the London interbank offered rate for U.S. dollar obligations (“U.S. dollar LIBOR”). However, because SOFR is a broad U.S. Treasury repo financing rate that represents overnight secured funding transactions, it differs fundamentally from U.S. dollar LIBOR. For example, SOFR is a secured overnight rate, while U.S. dollar LIBOR is an unsecured rate that represents interbank funding over different maturities. In addition, because SOFR is a transaction-based rate, it is backward-looking, whereas U.S. dollar LIBOR is forward-looking. Because of these and other differences, there can be no assurance that SOFR will perform in the same way as U.S. dollar LIBOR would have done at any time, and there is no guarantee that it is a comparable substitute for U.S. dollar LIBOR.

***Any failure of SOFR to gain market acceptance could adversely affect the trading prices of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes.***

SOFR may fail to gain market acceptance. SOFR was developed for use in certain U.S. dollar derivatives and other financial contracts as an alternative to U.S. dollar LIBOR in part because it is considered to be a good representation of general funding conditions in the overnight U.S. Treasury repo market. However, as a rate based on transactions secured by U.S. Treasury securities, it does not measure bank-specific credit risk and, as a result, is less likely to correlate with the unsecured short-term funding costs of banks. This may mean that market participants would not consider SOFR to be a suitable substitute or successor for all of the purposes for which U.S. dollar LIBOR historically has been used (including, without limitation, as a representation of the unsecured short-term funding costs of banks), which may, in turn, lessen its market acceptance. Any failure of SOFR to gain market acceptance could adversely affect the return on, value of and trading prices of, the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes.

***Any market for the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes may be illiquid or unpredictable.***

Since SOFR is a relatively new market index, SOFR-linked debt securities likely will have no established trading market when issued, and an established trading market for the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes may never develop or may be illiquid. Market terms for securities that are linked to SOFR, such as the spread over the base rate reflected in the interest rate provisions, may evolve over time, and as a result, trading prices of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes may be lower than those of later-issued securities that are linked to SOFR. Similarly, if SOFR does not prove to be widely used in securities that are similar or comparable to the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes, the trading price of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes may be lower than those of securities that are linked to rates that are more widely used. You may not be able to sell the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes at all or may not be able to sell the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes at prices that will provide you with a yield comparable to similar investments that have a developed secondary market, and may consequently suffer from increased pricing volatility and market risk. The manner of adoption or application of reference rates based on SOFR in the bond and equity markets may differ materially compared with the application and adoption of SOFR in other markets, such as the derivatives and loan markets. You should carefully consider how any potential inconsistencies between the adoption of reference rates based on SOFR across these markets may impact any hedging or other financial arrangements which you may put in place in connection with any acquisition, holding or disposal of the SOFR-linked Subordinated Notes.

***The implementation of Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes could adversely affect the amount of interest that accrues on the Subordinated Notes and the trading prices for the Subordinated Notes.***

Under the benchmark transition provisions of the Subordinated Notes, if a particular Benchmark Replacement or Benchmark Replacement Adjustment cannot be determined, then the next-available Benchmark Replacement or Benchmark Replacement Adjustment will apply. These replacement rates and adjustments may be selected or formulated by (i) the Relevant Governmental Body (such as the ARRC), (ii) ISDA or (iii) in certain circumstances, the calculation agent. In addition, the benchmark transition provisions expressly authorize the calculation agent to make certain changes, which are defined in the terms of the Subordinated Notes as “Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes,” with respect to, among other things, the determination of interest periods, and the timing and frequency of determining rates and making payments of interest. The application of a Benchmark Replacement and Benchmark Replacement Adjustment, and any implementation of Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes, could result in adverse consequences to the amount of interest that accrues on the Subordinated Notes during the floating rate period, which could adversely affect the return on, value of and trading prices of, the Subordinated Notes. Further, there is no assurance that the characteristics of any Benchmark Replacement will be similar to the then-current Benchmark that it is replacing, or that any Benchmark Replacement will produce the economic equivalent of the then-current Benchmark that it is replacing.

***We will act as the initial calculation agent and may have economic interests adverse to the interests of the holders of the Subordinated Notes.***

We will act as the initial calculation agent, and we may continue to serve as calculation agent during the floating rate period. The calculation agent will make certain determinations, decisions or elections with respect to the interest rate during the floating rate period. Any exercise of discretion by us under the terms of the Subordinated Notes, including, without limitation, any discretion exercised by us acting as calculation agent, could present a conflict of interest. In making the required determinations, decisions and elections, we may have economic interests that are adverse to the interests of the holders of the Subordinated Notes, and those determinations, decisions or elections could have a material adverse effect on the yield on, value of and trading prices of, the Subordinated Notes. Any determination by us, as the calculation agent, will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error.

***Your ability to transfer the Subordinated Notes may be limited by the absence of an active trading market, and there is no assurance that any active trading market will develop for the Subordinated Notes.***

There is no established public market for the Subordinated Notes, and we cannot assure you that an active trading market for the Subordinated Notes will develop. If no active trading market develops, you may not be able to resell the Subordinated Notes at a price favorable to you or at all. Subject to any registration rights held by holders of the Subordinated Notes, we do not intend to apply for listing the Subordinated Notes on any securities exchange. Future trading prices of the Subordinated Notes and the liquidity of any market for the Subordinated Notes will depend on many factors, including, among other things, the number of holders of the Subordinated Notes, the prevailing interest rates, our operating results, our financial condition, the market for similar securities and the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the Subordinated Notes. We cannot assure you as to the development of or liquidity of any trading market for the Subordinated Notes. We cannot assure you that the market, if any, for the Subordinated Notes will be free from disruptions or that any such disruptions may not adversely affect the prices at which you may sell your Subordinated Notes. Therefore, we cannot assure you that you will be able to sell your Subordinated Notes at a particular time or the price that you receive when you sell will be favorable.

***Changes in our credit ratings may adversely affect your investment in the Subordinated Notes.***

The credit ratings on the Subordinated Notes are an assessment by rating agencies of our ability to pay our debts when due. These ratings are not recommendations to purchase, hold or sell the Subordinated Notes, inasmuch as the ratings do not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor, are limited in scope, and do not address all material risks relating to an investment in the Subordinated Notes, but rather reflect only the view of each rating agency at the time the rating is issued. The ratings are based on current information furnished to the ratings agencies by us and information obtained by the ratings agencies from other sources. An explanation of the significance of such rating may be obtained from such rating agency. There can be no assurance that such credit ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that such ratings will not be lowered, suspended or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies, if, in each rating agency's judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any ratings of our long-term debt are based on a number of factors, including our financial strength as well as factors not entirely within our control, including conditions affecting the financial services industry generally. There can be no assurance that we will not receive adverse changes in our ratings in the future, which could adversely affect the cost and other terms upon which we are able to obtain funding and the way in which we are perceived in the capital markets. Actual or anticipated changes or downgrades in our credit ratings, including any announcement that our ratings are under review for a downgrade, could affect the market value and liquidity of the Subordinated Notes and increase our borrowing costs.

***In the event we redeem the Subordinated Notes before maturity, you may not be able to reinvest your principal at the same or a higher rate of return.***

We may redeem the Subordinated Notes, in whole or in part, and without premium or penalty, at any time five years after the issue date, subject to certain conditions. You should assume that we will exercise our redemption option if we are able to obtain capital at a lower cost than we must pay on the Subordinated Notes or if it is otherwise in our interest to redeem the Subordinated Notes. We may also redeem the Subordinated Notes, in whole, but not in part, and without premium or penalty, upon the occurrence of certain events at any time, including within the first five years after the issue date. If the Subordinated Notes are redeemed, you may be required to reinvest your principal at a time when you may not be able to earn a return that is as high as you were earning on the Subordinated Notes.

***As a holder of the Subordinated Notes, you will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our capital stock.***

If you hold a Subordinated Note, you will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our capital stock (including, without limitation, voting rights and rights to receive any dividends or other distributions on our capital stock) by virtue of holding a Subordinated Note.

***Holders of the Subordinated Notes will have no say over our management and affairs.***

Our officers and directors will make all decisions with respect to our management. Holders of the Subordinated Notes have no right or power to take part in our management. Prospective investors will be entirely reliant on our officers and directors to effectively manage our business so that we may meet our debt obligations when they fall due.

***Your right to receive payments on the Subordinated Notes is effectively subordinated to those lenders who have a security interest in our assets.***

Our obligations under the Subordinated Notes are unsecured and we may be able to obtain indebtedness from time to time that is secured by all or substantially all of our assets. If we are declared bankrupt or insolvent, or if we default under such secured indebtedness, the lenders could declare all of the funds borrowed thereunder, together with accrued interest, immediately due and payable. If we were unable to repay such indebtedness, the lenders could foreclose on the pledged assets to the exclusion of holders of the Subordinated Notes, even if an event of default exists under the Subordinated Notes. In any such event, because the Subordinated Notes are not secured by any of our assets, it is possible that there would be no assets remaining from which your claims could be satisfied or, if any assets remained, they might be insufficient to satisfy your claims fully.

***Your right to receive payments on the Subordinated Notes is structurally subordinated to indebtedness of our bank subsidiary, Southern States Bank, an Alabama bank (the "Bank"), and our other subsidiaries.***

The Subordinated Notes will be our obligations only, are not obligations of or deposits in the Bank or its other subsidiaries, and are not insured by any government or private agency. Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the Subordinated Notes, to participate in any distribution of the assets of the Bank or our other subsidiaries, upon a liquidation, reorganization, or insolvency of the Bank or our other subsidiaries (and the consequent right of the holders of the Subordinated Notes to participate in those assets) will be subject to the claims of the creditors of the Bank or our other subsidiaries (including depositors in our subsidiaries). If we are a creditor of the Bank or its other subsidiaries, our claims would be subject to any prior security interest in the assets of the Bank or our other subsidiaries and any indebtedness of our subsidiaries senior to our indebtedness.

The Subordinated Notes are also effectively subordinated to all of the liabilities of the Bank or our other subsidiaries, to the extent of their assets, since they are separate and distinct legal entities with no obligation to pay any amounts due under our indebtedness, including the Subordinated Notes, or to make any funds available to make payments on the Subordinated Notes, whether by paying dividends or otherwise.

***We will have increased debt service obligations upon issuance of the Subordinated Notes.***

Upon issuance of the Subordinated Notes, we will have incurred additional debt service in addition to normal operating expenses and planned capital expenditures. Our increased level of indebtedness may have several important effects on our future operations including, without limitation, a portion of our cash flow must be dedicated to the payment of interest and principal on the Subordinated Notes, reducing funds available for dividends and distributions to shareholders and our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and general corporate and other purposes may be limited. Our ability to meet our debt service obligations and to reduce our total indebtedness will be dependent upon the future performance of the Bank and its ability to pay dividends to us, which will be subject to regulatory restrictions, general economic, industry and competitive conditions and to financial, business and other factors affecting us and the Bank, many of which are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that the Bank will be able to continue to generate cash flow at or above its current level and that we will be able to pay principal and interest on the Subordinated Notes as it becomes due.



***Regulatory guidelines may restrict our ability to pay the principal of, and accrued and unpaid interest on, the Subordinated Notes.***

The Company is a bank holding company with no material activities other than the provision of funds to our subsidiaries, including the Bank, in the ordinary course of business. Our principal source of funds to pay dividends on our capital stock and to service any of our debt obligations, including the Subordinated Notes, other than further issuances of securities, would be dividends received from the Bank. The Bank is not obligated to make payments to us, and any payments to us would depend on the earnings or financial condition of the Bank and various business considerations, and may also require prior regulatory approval.

Moreover, pursuant to federal law and regulations promulgated by the Federal Reserve, a bank holding company is required to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to each of its banking subsidiaries and commit resources to their support, including the guarantee of capital plans of an undercapitalized bank subsidiary. Such support may be required at times when a holding company may not otherwise be inclined to provide it. As a result of the foregoing, we may be unable to pay the principal of, and accrued but unpaid interest on, the Subordinated Notes at the maturity of the Subordinated Notes.

***We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our debt, including the Subordinated Notes.***

Our ability to make scheduled payments of principal and interest, or to satisfy our obligations in respect of our debt or to refinance our debt, including the Subordinated Notes, will depend on the future performance of our operating subsidiaries, primarily the Bank. Prevailing economic conditions (including interest rates), regulatory constraints, including, among other things, limiting dividends and distributions to us from the Bank and required capital levels with respect to the Bank, and financial, business and other factors, many of which are beyond our control, will also affect our ability to meet these needs. The Bank may not be able to generate sufficient cash flows from operations, or we may be unable to obtain future borrowings in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our debt, or to fund our other liquidity needs. We may need to refinance all or a portion of our debt on or before maturity. We may not be able to refinance any of our debt when needed on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

***Government regulation may affect the priority of the Subordinated Notes in the case of a bankruptcy or liquidation.***

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) created a new resolution regime known as the “orderly liquidation authority,” which may apply to us as a bank holding company. Under the orderly liquidation authority, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”) may be appointed as receiver for an entity for purposes of liquidating the entity if the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the entity is in severe financial distress and that the entity’s failure would have serious adverse effects on the U.S. financial system.

If the FDIC is appointed as receiver under the orderly liquidation authority, then the Dodd-Frank Act, rather than applicable insolvency laws, would determine the powers of the receiver, and the rights and obligations of creditors and other parties who have dealt with the institution. There are substantial differences in the rights of creditors under the orderly liquidation authority compared to those under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, including the right of the FDIC to disregard the strict priority of creditor claims in some circumstances, the use of an administrative claims procedure to determine creditors’ claims (as opposed to the judicial procedure utilized in bankruptcy proceedings) and the right of the FDIC to transfer claims to a “bridge” entity. As a consequence of the rights of the FDIC under the orderly liquidation authority, the holders of the Subordinated Notes may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S.

government in the event that we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding. While the FDIC has issued regulations to implement the orderly liquidation authority, not all aspects of how the FDIC might exercise this authority are known and additional rulemakings are likely. Further, it is uncertain how the FDIC might exercise its discretion under the orderly liquidation authority in a particular case.

***Holders of the Subordinated Notes are not protected in the event of a material adverse change in our financial condition or results of operations and there is limited covenant protection in the Subordinated Notes.***

The covenants in the Subordinated Notes are limited and do not protect holders of the Subordinated Notes in the event of a material adverse change in our financial condition or results of operations. Additionally, payments of principal of the Subordinated Notes can be accelerated only upon bankruptcy of the Company. There is no right of acceleration of payment of the Subordinated Notes in the case of default in the performance of any covenant by the Company, including payment of principal or interest. Our regulators can, in the event we or the Bank become subject to an enforcement action, prohibit the Bank from paying dividends to us, and prevent payment of interest or principal on the Subordinated Notes and any dividends on our capital stock, but such limits will not permit acceleration of the Subordinated Notes. The Subordinated Notes do not contain any provisions which restrict us or our subsidiaries from incurring, assuming or becoming liable with respect to any indebtedness or other obligations, whether secured or unsecured, including indebtedness which will rank senior to the Subordinated Notes.

The Subordinated Notes do not contain any financial ratios, covenants, or specified levels of liquidity to which we must adhere. In addition, the Subordinated Notes do not contain any provisions which require us to repurchase, redeem, or modify the terms of the Subordinated Notes upon any events involving the Company which may adversely affect our creditworthiness. Therefore, neither the covenants nor the other provisions of the Subordinated Notes should be a significant factor in evaluating whether we will be able to comply or will comply with our obligations under the Subordinated Notes.

***We will be able to incur additional debt, which could result in a further increase of our leverage and thereby have an adverse effect on our ability to pay our obligations under the Subordinated Notes.***

The terms of the Subordinated Notes do not and will not prohibit us from incurring additional debt. We may seek to raise additional capital in the form of senior debt in the future. If we do incur more debt, the related risks that we would face with an increase in leverage could result in an adverse effect on our ability to pay our obligations under the Subordinated Notes.

***The Subordinated Notes are not an insured deposit.***

Your investment in the Subordinated Notes will not be a bank deposit and would not be insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. Your investment will be subject to investment risk, and you must be capable of affording the loss of your entire investment.

***There can be no assurance that the Subordinated Notes will qualify for the tax treatment for which the Company intends the Subordinated Notes to qualify.***

Although the Company intends for the Subordinated Notes to qualify for tax treatment that is favorable to the Company, the Company has not sought advice from its accountants, nor has it sought a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), as to the federal income tax consequences of issuing the Subordinated Notes. There can be no assurance that upon future review, the Company's

accountants will determine that the Subordinated Notes do not qualify for the intended tax treatment. Similarly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not successfully challenge the intended tax treatment of the Subordinated Notes. If at any time within the first five years after the issue date, the interest payable by the Company on the Subordinated Notes is not, or will not be, deductible by the Company, in whole or in part, for federal income tax purposes, we may redeem the Subordinated Notes in whole, but not in part, and without premium or penalty.

## REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT

This REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is dated as of October 26, 2022 and is made by and among Southern States Bancshares, Inc., an Alabama corporation (the "Company"), and the several purchasers of the Subordinated Notes (as defined below) identified on the signature pages to the Purchase Agreement (as defined below) (collectively, the "Purchasers").

This Agreement is made pursuant to the Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement dated October 26, 2022 by and among the Company and the Purchasers (the "Purchase Agreement"), which provides for the sale by the Company to the Purchasers of \$40,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company's 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032, which were issued on October 26, 2022 (the "Subordinated Notes"). In order to induce the Purchasers to enter into the Purchase Agreement and in satisfaction of a condition to the Purchasers' obligations thereunder, the Company has agreed to provide to the Purchasers and their respective direct and indirect transferees and assigns the registration rights set forth in this Agreement. The execution and delivery of this Agreement is a condition to the closing under the Purchase Agreement.

In consideration of the foregoing, the parties hereto agree as follows:

**1. Definitions.** As used in this Agreement, the following capitalized defined terms shall have the following meanings:

"1933 Act" shall mean the Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder.

"1934 Act" shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder.

"Additional Interest" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2(e) hereof.

"Agreement" shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble to this Agreement.

"Business Day" means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any other day on which the SEC is closed or banking institutions in the State of Alabama are permitted or required by any applicable law or executive order to close.

"Closing Date" shall mean October 26, 2022.

"Company" shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble to this Agreement and also includes the Company's successors.

"Depository" shall mean The Depository Trust Company, or any other depository appointed by the Company, including any agent thereof; *provided, however*, that any such depository must at all times have an address in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York.

"Event Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2(e).

"Exchange Offer" shall mean the exchange offer by the Company of Exchange Securities for Registrable Securities pursuant to Section 2(a) hereof.

"Exchange Offer Registration" shall mean a registration under the 1933 Act effected pursuant to Section 2(a) hereof.

"Exchange Offer Registration Statement" shall mean an exchange offer registration statement on Form S-4 (or, if applicable, on another appropriate form) offering to exchange the Exchange Securities for the Registrable Securities, and all amendments and supplements to such registration statement, in each

case including the Prospectus contained therein, all exhibits thereto and all material incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

“Exchange Securities” shall mean the 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032 issued by the Company under the Indenture containing terms substantially identical to the Subordinated Notes (except that (i) interest thereon shall accrue from the last date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for on the Subordinated Notes or, if no such interest has been paid or duly provided for, from the Interest Accrual Date, (ii) provisions relating to an increase in the stated rate of interest thereon upon the occurrence of a Registration Default shall be eliminated, (iii) the transfer restrictions and legends relating to restrictions on ownership and transfer thereof as a result of the issuance of the Subordinated Notes without registration under the 1933 Act shall be eliminated, (iv) the minimum denominations thereof shall be \$100,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 and (v) all of the Exchange Securities will be represented by one or more global Exchange Securities in book-entry form unless exchanged for Exchange Securities in definitive certificated form under the circumstances provided in the Indenture) to be offered to Holders of Registrable Securities in exchange for Registrable Securities pursuant to the Exchange Offer.

“FINRA” shall mean the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.

“Holders” shall mean (i) the Purchasers, for so long as they own any Registrable Securities, and each of their respective successors, assigns and direct and indirect transferees who become registered owners of Registrable Securities under the Indenture and (ii) each Participating Broker-Dealer that holds Exchange Securities for so long as such Participating Broker-Dealer is required to deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the 1933 Act in connection with any resale of such Exchange Securities.

“Indenture” shall mean the indenture, dated as of October 26, 2022, by and between the Company and UMB Bank, N.A., as trustee, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof.

“Interest Accrual Date” means October 26, 2022.

“Majority Holders” shall mean the Holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of Registrable Securities outstanding, excluding Exchange Securities referred to in clause (ii) of the definition of “Holders” above; *provided* that whenever the consent or approval of Holders of a specified percentage of Registrable Securities or Exchange Securities is required hereunder, Registrable Securities and Exchange Securities held by the Company or any of its affiliates (as such term is defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act) shall be disregarded in determining whether such consent or approval was given by the Holders of such required percentage.

“Notifying Broker-Dealer” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3(f).

“Participating Broker-Dealer” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3(f).

“Person” shall mean an individual, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, corporation, trust or unincorporated organization, or a government or agency or political subdivision thereof.

“Prospectus” shall mean the prospectus included in a Registration Statement, including any preliminary prospectus, and any such prospectus as amended or supplemented by any prospectus supplement, including a prospectus supplement with respect to the terms of the offering of any portion of the Registrable Securities covered by a Shelf Registration Statement, and by all other amendments and supplements to a prospectus, including post-effective amendments, and in each case including all material incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

“Purchase Agreement” shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble to this Agreement.

“Purchasers” shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble of this Agreement.

"**Registrable Securities**" shall mean the Subordinated Notes; *provided, however*, that any Subordinated Notes shall cease to be Registrable Securities when (i) a Registration Statement with respect to such Subordinated Notes shall have become effective under the 1933 Act and such Subordinated Notes shall have been exchanged or disposed of pursuant to such Registration Statement, (ii) such Subordinated Notes shall have been sold to the public pursuant to Rule 144 (or any similar provision then in force, but not Rule 144A) under the 1933 Act, or are eligible to be resold pursuant to Rule 144 without regard to the public information requirements thereunder, (iii) such Subordinated Notes shall have ceased to be outstanding, (iv) such Subordinated Notes were eligible for exchange under an Exchange Offer Registration Statement that was declared effective under the 1933 Act but were not exchanged at the election of the Holder during the period the Exchange Offer was open, or (v) such Subordinated Notes have been exchanged for Exchange Securities which have been registered pursuant to the Exchange Offer Registration Statement upon consummation of the Exchange Offer unless, in the case of any Exchange Securities referred to in this clause (v), such Exchange Securities are held by Participating Broker-Dealers or otherwise are not freely tradable by such Participating Broker-Dealers without any limitations or restrictions under the 1933 Act (in which case such Exchange Securities will be deemed to be Registrable Securities until such time as such Exchange Securities are sold to a purchaser in whose hands such Exchange Securities are freely tradeable without any limitations or restrictions under the 1933 Act).

"**Registration Default**" shall have the meaning set forth in **Section 2(e)**.

"**Registration Expenses**" shall mean any and all reasonable expenses incident to performance of or compliance by the Company with this Agreement, including without limitation: (i) all SEC, stock exchange or FINRA registration and filing fees, (ii) all fees and expenses incurred in connection with compliance with state or other securities or blue sky laws and compliance with the rules of FINRA (including reasonable fees and disbursements of one counsel for any Holders in connection with qualification of any of the Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities under state or other securities or blue sky laws and any filing with and review by FINRA), (iii) all expenses of any Persons in preparing, printing and distributing any Registration Statement, any Prospectus, any amendments or supplements thereto, securities sales agreements, certificates representing the Subordinated Notes or Exchange Securities and other documents relating to the performance of and compliance with this Agreement, (iv) all rating agency fees, (v) all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing, if any, of any of the Subordinated Notes or Exchange Securities on any securities exchange or exchanges or on any quotation system, (vi) all fees and disbursements relating to the qualification of the Indenture under applicable securities laws, (vii) the fees and disbursements of counsel for the Company and the fees and expenses of independent public accountants for the Company or for any other Person, business or assets whose financial statements are included in any Registration Statement or Prospectus, including the expenses of any special audits or "cold comfort" letters required by or incident to such performance and compliance, and (viii) the fees and expenses of the Trustee, any registrar, any depository, any paying agent, any escrow agent or any custodian, in each case including fees and disbursements of their respective counsel, but excluding any underwriting discounts and commissions, brokerage commissions and transfer taxes, if any, relating to the sale or disposition of Registrable Securities by a Holder.

"**Registration Statement**" shall mean any registration statement of the Company relating to any offering of the Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement (including, without limitation, any Exchange Offer Registration Statement and any Shelf Registration Statement), and all amendments and supplements to any such Registration Statement, including post-effective amendments, in each case including the Prospectus contained therein, all exhibits thereto and all material incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

"**SEC**" shall mean the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any successor thereto.

"**Shelf Registration**" shall mean a registration effected pursuant to **Section 2(b)** hereof.

"**Shelf Registration Statement**" shall mean a "shelf" registration statement of the Company pursuant to the provisions of **Section 2(b)** of this Agreement which covers all of the Registrable Securities, as the case may be, on an appropriate form under Rule 415 under the 1933 Act, or any similar

rule that may be adopted by the SEC, and all amendments and supplements to such registration statement, including post-effective amendments, in each case including the Prospectus contained therein, all exhibits thereto and all material incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

“**Subordinated Notes**” shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble to this Agreement.

“**TIA**” shall mean the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder.

“**Trustee**” shall mean the trustee with respect to the Subordinated Notes and the Exchange Securities under the Indenture.

For purposes of this Agreement: (i) all references in this Agreement to any Registration Statement, preliminary prospectus or Prospectus or any amendment or supplement to any of the foregoing shall be deemed to include the copy filed with the SEC pursuant to its Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system; (ii) all references in this Agreement to financial statements and schedules and other information which is “contained,” “included” or “stated” in any Registration Statement, preliminary prospectus or Prospectus (or other references of like import) shall be deemed to mean and include all such financial statements and schedules and other information which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in such Registration Statement, preliminary prospectus or Prospectus, as the case may be; (iii) all references in this Agreement to amendments or supplements to any Registration Statement, preliminary prospectus or Prospectus shall be deemed to mean and include the filing of any document under the 1934 Act which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in such Registration Statement, preliminary prospectus or Prospectus, as the case may be; (iv) all references in this Agreement to Rule 144, Rule 144A, Rule 405 or Rule 415 under the 1933 Act, and all references to any sections or subsections thereof or terms defined therein, shall in each case include any successor provisions thereto; and (v) all references in this Agreement to days (but not to Business Days) shall mean calendar days.

## 2. **Registration Under the 1933 Act.**

(a) **Exchange Offer Registration.** The Company shall (A) use its commercially reasonable efforts to file with the SEC on or prior to the 90th day after the Closing Date an Exchange Offer Registration Statement covering the offer by the Company to the Holders to exchange all of the Registrable Securities for a like aggregate principal amount of Exchange Securities, (B) use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause such Exchange Offer Registration Statement to become effective with the SEC no later than the 120th day after the Closing Date, (C) use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause such Registration Statement to remain effective until the closing of the Exchange Offer and (D) use its commercially reasonable efforts to consummate the Exchange Offer no later than 45 days after the effective date of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement. Upon the effectiveness of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, the Company shall promptly commence the Exchange Offer, it being the objective of such Exchange Offer to enable each Holder eligible and electing to exchange Registrable Securities for Exchange Securities (assuming that such Holder is not an affiliate of the Company within the meaning of Rule 405 under the 1933 Act, acquires the Exchange Securities in the ordinary course of such Holder’s business and has no arrangements or understandings with any Person to participate in the Exchange Offer for the purpose of distributing such Exchange Securities) to trade such Exchange Securities from and after their receipt without any limitations or restrictions under the 1933 Act or under the securities or blue sky laws of the states of the United States.

In connection with the Exchange Offer, the Company shall:

(i) promptly mail or otherwise transmit, in compliance with the applicable procedures of the depository for such Registrable Securities, to each Holder a copy of the Prospectus forming part of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, together with an appropriate letter of transmittal and related documents;

(ii) keep the Exchange Offer open for not less than 20 Business Days (or longer if required by applicable law) after the date notice thereof is mailed to the Holders and, during the

Exchange Offer, offer to all Holders who are legally eligible to participate in the Exchange Offer the opportunity to exchange their Registrable Securities for Exchange Securities;

(iii) use the services of a depository with an address in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York for the Exchange Offer;

(iv) permit Holders to withdraw tendered Registrable Securities at any time prior to the close of business, Eastern time, on the last Business Day on which the Exchange Offer shall remain open, by sending to the institution and at the address specified in the Prospectus or the related letter of transmittal or related documents setting forth the name of such Holder, the principal amount of Registrable Securities delivered for exchange, and a statement that such Holder is withdrawing its election to have such Subordinated Notes exchanged and otherwise comply with the applicable procedures of the Depository;

(v) notify each Holder that any Registrable Security not tendered will remain outstanding and continue to accrue interest, but will not retain any rights under this Agreement (except in the case of Participating Broker-Dealers as provided herein); and

(vi) otherwise comply in all material respects with all applicable laws relating to the Exchange Offer.

The Exchange Securities shall be issued under the Indenture, which shall be qualified under the TIA. The Indenture shall provide that the Exchange Securities and the Subordinated Notes shall vote and consent together on all matters (as to which any such Exchange Securities and Subordinated Notes may vote or consent) as a single class and shall constitute a single series of debt securities issued under the Indenture.

As soon as reasonably practicable after the close of the Exchange Offer, the Company shall:

(i) accept for exchange all Registrable Securities duly tendered and not validly withdrawn pursuant to the Exchange Offer in accordance with the terms of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement and the letter of transmittal which is an exhibit thereto;

(vii) deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the Trustee for cancellation all Registrable Securities so accepted for exchange by the Company; and

(viii) cause the Trustee promptly to authenticate and deliver Exchange Securities to each Holder of Registrable Securities so accepted for exchange equal in principal amount to the principal amount of the Registrable Securities of such Holder so accepted for exchange.

For the avoidance of doubt, notwithstanding any provision herein purporting to require physical mailing, delivery or acceptance of any document or instrument, the Company may conduct the Exchange Offer exclusively through the automated tender offer program of the Depository, provided that this provision shall apply only to Registrable Securities held in the form of beneficial interests in a global note deposited with (or held by a custodian for) the Depository.

Interest on each Exchange Security will accrue from the last date on which interest was paid or duly provided for on the Subordinated Notes surrendered in exchange therefor or, if no interest has been paid or duly provided for on such Subordinated Notes, from the Interest Accrual Date. The Exchange Offer shall not be subject to any conditions, other than (i) that the Exchange Offer, or the making of any exchange by a Holder, does not violate any applicable law or any applicable interpretation of the staff of the SEC, (ii) that no action or proceeding shall have been instituted or threatened in any court or by or before any governmental agency with respect to the Exchange Offer which, in the Company's judgment, would reasonably be expected to impair the ability of the Company to proceed with the Exchange Offer, and (iii) that the Holders tender the Registrable Securities to the Company in accordance with the Exchange Offer. Each Holder of Registrable Securities (other than Participating Broker-Dealers) who wishes to exchange such Registrable Securities for Exchange Securities in the Exchange Offer will be required to represent that (i) it is not an affiliate (as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act) of the



Company, (ii) any Exchange Securities to be received by it will be acquired in the ordinary course of business, (iii) it has no arrangement with any Person to participate in the distribution (within the meaning of the 1933 Act) of the Exchange Securities, (iv) if such Holder is a broker-dealer that will receive Exchange Securities for its own account in exchange for Registrable Securities acquired as a result of market-making or other trading activities, then such broker-dealer will deliver a Prospectus or otherwise make it available to purchasers in connection with any resale of the Exchange Notes; and (v) it is not acting on behalf of any Person who could not truthfully make the statements set forth in clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) immediately above, and shall be required to make such other representations as may be reasonably necessary under applicable SEC rules, regulations or interpretations to render the use of Form S-4 or another appropriate form under the 1933 Act available.

(b) Shelf Registration. (i) If, because of any change in law or applicable interpretations thereof by the staff of the SEC, the Company is not permitted to effect the Exchange Offer as contemplated by Section 2(a), hereof, or (ii) if for any other reason (A) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is not effective within 120 days following the Closing Date or (B) the Exchange Offer is not consummated within 45 days after effectiveness of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement (*provided* that if the Exchange Offer Registration Statement shall become effective after such 120-day period or if the Exchange Offer shall be consummated after such 45-day period, then the Company's obligations under this clause (ii) arising from the failure of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement to be effective within such 120-day period or the failure of the Exchange Offer to be consummated within such 45-day period, respectively, shall terminate), or (iii) if any Holder delivers a written representation to the Company that such holder is not eligible to participate in the Exchange Offer or validly elects to participate in the Exchange Offer but does not receive Exchange Securities which are freely tradeable without any limitations or restrictions under the 1933 Act, then the Company shall, at its cost:

(A) use its commercially reasonable efforts to file with the SEC on or prior to (a) the 180th day after the Closing Date or (b) the 90th day after any such filing obligation arises, whichever is later, a Shelf Registration Statement relating to the offer and sale of the Registrable Securities by the Holders from time to time in accordance with the methods of distribution elected by the Majority Holders of such Registrable Securities and set forth in such Shelf Registration Statement;

(B) use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause such Shelf Registration Statement to become effective with the SEC as promptly as practicable, but in no event later than (a) the 225th day after the Closing Date or (b) the 105th day after an obligation to file with the SEC a Shelf Registration Statement arises, whichever is later. In the event that the Company is required to file a Shelf Registration Statement pursuant to clause 2(b)(iii) above, the Company shall file and use its commercially reasonable efforts to have effective with the SEC both an Exchange Offer Registration Statement pursuant to Section 2(a) with respect to all Registrable Securities and a Shelf Registration Statement (which may be a combined Registration Statement with the Exchange Offer Registration Statement) with respect to offers and sales of Registrable Securities held by such Holder described in clause 2(b)(iii) above;

(C) use its commercially reasonable efforts to keep the Shelf Registration Statement continuously effective, supplemented and amended as required, in order to permit the Prospectus forming part thereof to be usable by Holders for a period of one year after the latest date on which any Subordinated Notes are originally issued by the Company (subject to extension pursuant to the last paragraph of Section 3) or, if earlier, when all of the Registrable Securities covered by such Shelf Registration Statement (i) have been sold pursuant to the Shelf Registration Statement in accordance with the intended method of distribution thereunder, or (ii) cease to be Registrable Securities; and

(D) notwithstanding any other provisions hereof, use its commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that (i) any Shelf Registration Statement and any amendment thereto and any Prospectus forming a part thereof and any supplements thereto comply in all material respects with the 1933 Act, (ii) any Shelf Registration Statement and any amendment thereto does not, when it becomes effective, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not

misleading and (iii) any Prospectus forming part of any Shelf Registration Statement and any amendment or supplement to such Prospectus does not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; *provided, however*, clauses (ii) and (iii) shall not apply to any statement in or omission from a Shelf Registration Statement or a Prospectus made in reliance upon and conformity with information relating to any Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer of Registrable Securities furnished to the Company in writing by such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, respectively, expressly for use in such Shelf Registration Statement or Prospectus.

The Company further agrees, if necessary, to supplement or amend the Shelf Registration Statement if reasonably requested by the Majority Holders with respect to information relating to the Holders and otherwise as required by Section 3(b) below, to use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause any such amendment to become effective and such Shelf Registration Statement to become usable as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter and to furnish to the Holders of Registrable Securities copies of any such supplement or amendment promptly after its being used or filed with the SEC.

(c) Expenses. The Company shall pay all Registration Expenses in connection with the registration pursuant to Section 2(a) and 2(b) and, in the case of any Shelf Registration Statement, will reimburse the Holders for the reasonable fees and disbursements of one counsel (in addition to any local counsel) designated in writing by the Majority Holders to act as counsel for the Holders of the Registrable Securities in connection therewith; *provided, however*, that the Company shall not be responsible for the fees and disbursements of such counsel in an aggregate amount in excess of \$7,500. Each Holder shall pay all fees and disbursements of its counsel other than as set forth in the preceding sentence or in the definition of Registration Expenses and all underwriting discounts and commissions and transfer taxes, if any, relating to the sale or disposition of such Holder's Registrable Securities pursuant to a Shelf Registration Statement.

(d) Effective Registration Statement.

(ix) The Company shall be deemed not to have used its commercially reasonable efforts to cause the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or any Shelf Registration Statement, as the case may be, to become, or to remain, effective during the requisite periods set forth herein if the Company voluntarily takes any action that could reasonably be expected to result in any such Registration Statement not being effective or remaining effective or in the Holders of Registrable Securities (including, under the circumstances contemplated by Section 3(f) hereof, Exchange Securities) covered thereby not being able to exchange or offer and sell such Registrable Securities during that period unless (A) such action is required by applicable law or (B) such action is taken by the Company in good faith and for valid business reasons (but not including avoidance of the Company's obligations hereunder), including, but not limited to, the acquisition or divestiture of assets or a material corporate transaction or event, or if the Company determines in good faith that effecting or maintaining the availability of the registration would materially and adversely affect an offering of securities of the Company or if the Company is in possession of material non-public information the disclosure of which would not be in the best interests of the Company, in each case so long as the Company promptly complies with the notification requirements of Section 3(k) hereof, if applicable. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the accrual of Additional Interest on any Registrable Securities or Exchange Securities.

(x) An Exchange Offer Registration Statement pursuant to Section 2(a) hereof or a Shelf Registration Statement pursuant to Section 2(b) hereof shall not be deemed to have become effective unless it has been declared effective by the SEC or becomes effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 8(a) of the 1933 Act; *provided, however*, that if, after such Registration Statement has become effective, the offering of Registrable Securities pursuant to a Registration Statement is interfered with by any stop order, injunction or other order or requirement of the SEC or any other governmental agency or court, such Registration Statement shall be deemed not to have been effective during the period of such interference until the offering of Registrable Securities pursuant to such Registration Statement may legally resume.

(xi) During any 365-day period, the Company may, by notice as described in Section 3(e), suspend the availability of a Shelf Registration Statement (and, if the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is being used in connection with the resale of Exchange Securities by Participating Broker-Dealers as contemplated by Section 3(f), the Exchange Offer Registration Statement) and the use of the related Prospectus for up to two periods of up to 60 consecutive days each (except for the consecutive 60-day period immediately prior to final maturity of the Subordinated Notes), but no more than an aggregate of 120 days during any 365-day period, upon (A) the happening of any event or the discovery of any fact referred to in Section 3(e)(v), or (B) if the Company determines in good faith that effecting or maintaining the availability of the registration would materially and adversely affect an offering of securities of the Company or if the Company is in possession of material non-public information the disclosure of which would not be in the best interests of the Company, in each case subject to compliance by the Company with its obligations under the last paragraph of Section 3.

(e) Increase in Interest Rate. In the event that:

- (i) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is not filed with the SEC on or prior to the 90th day following the Closing Date, or
- (ii) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is not effective with the SEC on or prior to the 120th day following the Closing Date, or
- (iii) the Exchange Offer is not consummated on or prior to the 45<sup>th</sup> day following the effective date of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, or
- (iv) if required, a Shelf Registration Statement is not filed with the SEC on or prior to (A) the 180th day following the Closing Date or (B) the 90th day after the obligation to file with the SEC a Shelf Registration Statement arises, whichever is later, or
- (v) if required, a Shelf Registration Statement is not effective on or prior to (a) the 225th day following the Closing Date or (b) the 105th day after an obligation to file with the SEC a Shelf Registration Statement arises, whichever is later, or
- (vi) a Shelf Registration Statement is effective with the SEC but such Shelf Registration Statement ceases to be effective or such Shelf Registration Statement or the Prospectus included therein ceases to be usable in connection with resales of Registrable Securities due to any act or omission of the Company and (A) the aggregate number of days in any consecutive 365-day period for which the Shelf Registration Statement or such Prospectus shall not be effective or usable exceeds 120 days, (B) the Shelf Registration Statement or such Prospectus shall not be effective or usable for more than two periods (regardless of duration) in any consecutive 365-day period or (C) the Shelf Registration Statement or such Prospectus shall not be effective or usable for a period of more than 90 consecutive days, or
- (vii) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is effective with the SEC but, if the Exchange Offer Registration Statement is being used in connection with the resale of Exchange Securities as contemplated by Section 3(f) of this Agreement, the Exchange Offer Registration Statement ceases to be effective or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or the Prospectus included therein ceases to be usable in connection with resales of Exchange Securities due to any act or omission of the Company during the 180-day period referred to in Section 3(f)(B) of this Agreement (as such period may be extended pursuant to the last paragraph of Section 3 of this Agreement) and (A) the aggregate number of days in any consecutive 365-day period for which the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or such Prospectus shall not be effective or usable exceeds 120 days, (B) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or such Prospectus shall not be effective or usable for more than two periods (regardless of duration) in any consecutive 365-day period or (C) the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or the Prospectus shall not be effective or usable for a period of more than 90 consecutive days,

(each of the events referred to in clauses (i) through (vii) above being hereinafter called a “Registration Default”), then the per annum interest rate borne by the Registrable Securities shall be increased (“Additional Interest”) by one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) per annum immediately following such 90-day period in the case of clause (i) above, immediately following such 120-day period in the case of clause (ii) above, immediately following such 45-day period in the case of clause (iii) above, immediately following any such 180-day period or 90-day period, whichever ends later, in the case of clause (iv) above, immediately following any such 225-day period or 105-day period, as applicable, in the case of clause (v) above, immediately following the 120th day in any consecutive 365-day period, as of the first day of the third period in any consecutive 365-day period or immediately following the 90th consecutive day, whichever occurs first, that a Shelf Registration Statement shall not be effective or a Shelf Registration Statement or the Prospectus included therein shall not be usable as contemplated by clause (vi) above, or immediately following the 120th day in any consecutive 365-day period, as of the first day of the third period in any consecutive 365-day period or immediately following the 90th consecutive day, whichever occurs first, that the Exchange Offer Registration Statement shall not be effective or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or the Prospectus included therein shall not be usable as contemplated by clause (vii) above, which rate will be increased by an additional one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) per annum immediately following each 90-day period that any Additional Interest continues to accrue under any circumstances; *provided* that, if at any time more than one Registration Default has occurred and is continuing, then, until the next date that there is no Registration Default, the increase in interest rate provided for by this paragraph shall apply as if there occurred a single Registration Default that begins on the date that the earliest such Registration Default occurred and ends on such date that there is no Registration Default; *provided further*, that the aggregate increase in such annual interest rate may in no event exceed one-half of one percent (0.50%) per annum. Upon the filing of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement after the 90-day period described in clause (i) above, the effectiveness of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement after the 120-day period described in clause (ii) above, the consummation of the Exchange Offer after the 45-day period described in clause (iii) above, the filing of the Shelf Registration Statement after the 180-day period or 90-day period, as the case may be, described in clause (iv) above, the effectiveness of a Shelf Registration Statement after the 225-day period or 105-day period, as applicable, described in clause (v) above, or the Shelf Registration Statement once again being effective or the Shelf Registration Statement and the Prospectus included therein becoming usable in connection with resales of Registrable Securities, as the case may be, in the case of clause (vi) above, or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement once again becoming effective or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement and the Prospectus included therein becoming usable in connection with resales of Exchange Securities, as the case may be, in the case of clause (vii) thereof, the interest rate borne by the Registrable Securities from the date of such filing, effectiveness, consummation or resumption of effectiveness or usability, as the case may be, shall be reduced to the original interest rate so long as no other Registration Default shall have occurred and shall be continuing at such time and the Company is otherwise in compliance with this paragraph; *provided, however*, that, if after any such reduction in interest rate, one or more Registration Defaults shall again occur, the interest rate shall again be increased pursuant to the foregoing provisions (as if it were the original Registration Default). Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the Company will not be obligated to pay any Additional Interest in the case of a Shelf Registration Statement with respect to any Holder of Registrable Securities who fails to timely provide all information with respect to Holder that is reasonably requested by the Company to enable it to timely comply with its obligations under Section 2(b).

The Company shall notify the Trustee within three Business Days after each and every date on which an event occurs in respect of which Additional Interest is required to be paid (an “Event Date”). Additional Interest shall be paid by depositing with the Trustee, in trust, for the benefit of the Holders of Registrable Securities, on or before the applicable interest payment date, immediately available funds in sums sufficient to pay the Additional Interest then due. The Additional Interest due shall be payable on each interest payment date to the record Holder of Registrable Securities entitled to receive the interest payment to be paid on such date as set forth in the Indenture. Each obligation to pay Additional Interest shall be deemed to accrue from and including the day following the applicable Event Date.

Anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding, any Holder who was, at the time the Exchange Offer was pending and consummated, eligible to exchange, and did not validly tender, its Subordinated Notes for Exchange Securities in the Exchange Offer will not be entitled to receive any Additional Interest.

(f) **Specific Enforcement.** Without limiting the remedies available to the Holders or any Participating Broker-Dealer, the Company acknowledges that any failure by the Company to comply with its obligations under Sections 2(a) and 2(b) hereof may result in material irreparable injury to the Holders or the Participating Broker-Dealers for which there is no adequate remedy at law, that it will not be possible to measure damages for such injuries precisely and that, in the event of any such failure, any Holder and any Participating Broker-Dealer may seek such relief as may be required to specifically enforce the Company's obligations under Sections 2(a) and 2(b).

3. **Registration Procedures.** In connection with the obligations of the Company with respect to the Registration Statements pursuant to Sections 2(a) and 2(b) hereof, the Company shall:

(g) prepare and file with the SEC a Registration Statement or, if required, Registration Statements, within the time periods specified in Section 2 on the appropriate form under the 1933 Act, which form (i) shall be selected by the Company, (ii) shall, in the case of a Shelf Registration Statement, be available for the sale of the Registrable Securities by the selling Holders thereof and (iii) shall comply as to form in all material respects with the requirements of the applicable form and include or incorporate by reference all financial statements required by the SEC to be filed therewith or incorporated by reference therein, and use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause such Registration Statement to become effective and remain effective for the applicable period in accordance with Section 1 hereof;

(h) prepare and file with the SEC such amendments and post-effective amendments to each Registration Statement as may be necessary under applicable law to keep such Registration Statement effective for the applicable period in accordance with Section 2 hereof; cause each Prospectus to be supplemented by any required prospectus supplement, and as so supplemented to be filed pursuant to Rule 424 under the 1933 Act; and comply with the provisions of the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act with respect to the disposition of all Registrable Securities covered by each Registration Statement during the applicable period in accordance with the intended method or methods of distribution by the selling Holders thereof;

(i) in the case of a Shelf Registration, (i) notify each Holder of Registrable Securities, at least 10 Business Days prior to filing, that a Shelf Registration Statement with respect to the Registrable Securities is being filed and advising such Holders that the distribution of Registrable Securities will be made in accordance with the method elected by the Majority Holders; (ii) furnish to each Holder of Registrable Securities and counsel for the Holders, without charge, as many copies of each Prospectus, including each preliminary Prospectus, and any amendment or supplement thereto and such other documents as such Holder or counsel may reasonably request, including financial statements and schedules and, if such Holder or counsel so requests, all exhibits (including those incorporated by reference) in order to facilitate the public sale or other disposition of the Registrable Securities; and (iii) subject to the penultimate paragraph of this Section 3, the Company hereby consents to the use of the Prospectus, including each preliminary Prospectus, or any amendment or supplement thereto by each of the Holders of Registrable Securities in accordance with applicable law in connection with the offering and sale of the Registrable Securities covered by and in the manner described in any Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto;

(j) use its commercially reasonable efforts to register or qualify the Registrable Securities under all applicable state securities or "blue sky" laws of such jurisdictions as any Holder of Registrable Securities covered by a Registration Statement shall reasonably request, to cooperate with the Holders of any Registrable Securities in connection with any filings required to be made with FINRA, to keep each such registration or qualification effective during the period such Registration Statement is required to be effective and do any and all other acts and things which may be reasonably necessary or advisable to enable such Holder to consummate the disposition in each such jurisdiction of such Registrable Securities owned by such Holder; *provided, however*, that the Company shall not be required to (i) qualify as a foreign corporation or entity or as a dealer in securities in any jurisdiction where it would not otherwise be required to qualify but for this Section 3(d) or (ii) take any action which would subject it to general service of process or taxation in any such jurisdiction if it is not then so subject;

(k) in the case of a Shelf Registration, notify each Holder of Registrable Securities and counsel for such Holders promptly and, if requested by such Holder or counsel, confirm such advice in writing promptly

(i) when a Registration Statement has become effective and when any post-effective amendments and supplements thereto become effective,

(ii) of any request by the SEC or any state securities authority for post-effective amendments or supplements to a Registration Statement or Prospectus or for additional information after a Registration Statement has become effective (other than comments to 1934 Act reports incorporated therein by reference),

(iii) of the issuance by the SEC or any state securities authority of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of a Registration Statement or the initiation of any proceedings for that purpose,

(iv) of the receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification of the Registrable Securities for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for such purpose,

(v) of the happening of any event or the discovery of any facts during the period a Shelf Registration Statement is effective which is contemplated in Section 2(d)(i) or which makes any statement made in such Shelf Registration Statement or the related Prospectus untrue in any material respect or which constitutes an omission to state a material fact in such Shelf Registration Statement or Prospectus and

(vi) of any determination by the Company that a post-effective amendment to a Registration Statement would be appropriate. Without limitation to any other provisions of this Agreement, the Company agrees that this Section 3(e) shall also be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, with respect to the Exchange Offer Registration Statement and the Prospectus included therein to the extent that such Prospectus is being used by Participating Broker-Dealers as contemplated by Section 3(f);

(l) (A) in the case of an Exchange Offer, (i) include in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement (1) a "Plan of Distribution" section covering the use of the Prospectus included in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement by broker-dealers who have exchanged their Registrable Securities for Exchange Securities for the resale of such Exchange Securities and (2) a statement to the effect that any such broker-dealers who wish to use the related Prospectus in connection with the resale of Exchange Securities acquired as a result of market-making or other trading activities will be required to notify the Company to that effect, together with instructions for giving such notice (which instructions shall include a provision for giving such notice by checking a box or making another appropriate notation on the related letter of transmittal) (each such broker-dealer who gives notice to the Company as aforesaid being hereinafter called a "Notifying Broker-Dealer"), (ii) furnish to each Notifying Broker-Dealer who desires to participate in the Exchange Offer, without charge, as many copies of each Prospectus included in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, including any preliminary prospectus, and any amendment or supplement thereto, as such broker-dealer may reasonably request, (iii) include in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement a statement that any broker-dealer who holds Registrable Securities acquired for its own account as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities (a "Participating Broker-Dealer"), and who receives Exchange Securities for Registrable Securities pursuant to the Exchange Offer, may be a statutory underwriter and must deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the 1933 Act in connection with any resale of such Exchange Securities, (iv) subject to the penultimate paragraph of this Section 3, the Company hereby consents to the use of the Prospectus forming part of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or any amendment or supplement thereto by any Notifying Broker-Dealer in accordance with applicable law in connection with the sale or transfer of Exchange Securities, and (v) include in the transmittal letter or similar documentation to be executed by an exchange offeree in order to participate in the Exchange Offer the following provision:

"If the undersigned is not a broker-dealer, the undersigned represents that it is not engaged in, and does not intend to engage in, a distribution of Exchange Securities. If the undersigned is a broker-dealer that will receive Exchange Securities for its own account in exchange for Registrable Securities, it represents that the Registrable Securities to be exchanged for Exchange Securities were acquired by it as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities and acknowledges that it will deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the 1933 Act in connection with any resale of such Exchange Securities pursuant to the Exchange Offer; however, by so acknowledging and by delivering a prospectus, the undersigned will not be deemed to admit that it is an "underwriter" within the meaning of the 1933 Act;"

(B) to the extent any Notifying Broker-Dealer participates in the Exchange Offer, (i) the Company shall use its commercially reasonable efforts to maintain the effectiveness of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement for a period of 180 days (subject to extension pursuant to the last paragraph of this Section 3) following the last date on which exchanges are accepted pursuant to the Exchange Offer, and (ii) the Company will comply, insofar as it relates to the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, the Prospectus included therein and the offering and sale of Exchange Securities pursuant thereto, with its obligations under Section 2(b)(D), the last paragraph of Section 2(b), Sections 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(g), 3(i), 3(j), 3(k), 3(o), 3(p), 3(q), and 3(r), and the last three paragraphs of this Section 3 as if all references therein to a Shelf Registration Statement, the Prospectus included therein and the Holders of Registrable Securities referred, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, the Prospectus included therein and the applicable Notifying Broker-Dealers and, for purposes of this Section 3(f), all references in any such paragraphs or sections to the "Majority Holders" shall be deemed to mean, solely insofar as relates to this Section 3(f), the Notifying Broker-Dealers who are the Holders of the majority in aggregate principal amount of the Exchange Securities which are Registrable Securities; and

(C) the Company shall not be required to amend or supplement the Prospectus contained in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement as would otherwise be contemplated by Section 3(b) or 3(k) hereof, or take any other action as a result of this Section 3(f), for a period exceeding 180 days (subject to extension pursuant to the last paragraph of this Section 3) after the last date on which exchanges are accepted pursuant to the Exchange Offer and Notifying Broker-Dealers shall not be authorized by the Company to, and shall not, deliver such Prospectus after such period in connection with resales contemplated by this Section 3;

(m) in the case of a Shelf Registration, furnish counsel for the Holders of Registrable Securities copies of any request by the SEC or any state securities authority for amendments or supplements to a Registration Statement or Prospectus or for additional information (other than comments to 1934 Act reports incorporated therein by reference);

(n) use its commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the withdrawal of any order suspending the effectiveness of a Registration Statement as soon as practicable and provide immediate notice to each Holder of the withdrawal of any such order;

(o) in the case of a Shelf Registration, upon request furnish to each Holder of Registrable Securities, without charge, at least one conformed copy of each Registration Statement and any post-effective amendments thereto (without documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated therein by reference or exhibits thereto, unless requested);

(p) in the case of a Shelf Registration, cooperate with the selling Holders of Registrable Securities to facilitate the timely preparation and delivery of certificates representing Registrable Securities to be sold and not bearing any restrictive legends; and cause such Registrable Securities to be in such denominations (consistent with the provisions of the Indenture) and in a form eligible for deposit with the Depository and registered in such names as the selling Holders may reasonably request in writing at least two Business Days prior to the closing of any sale of Registrable Securities;

(q) in the case of a Shelf Registration, upon the occurrence of any event or the discovery of any facts as contemplated by Section 3(e)(v) hereof, use its commercially reasonable efforts to prepare a supplement or post-effective amendment to a Registration Statement or the related Prospectus or any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated therein by reference or file any other required

document so that, as thereafter delivered to the purchasers of the Registrable Securities, such Prospectus will not contain at the time of such delivery any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The Company agrees to notify each Holder to suspend use of the Prospectus as promptly as practicable after the occurrence of such an event, and each Holder hereby agrees to suspend use of the Prospectus until the Company has amended or supplemented the Prospectus to correct such misstatement or omission. At such time as such public disclosure is otherwise made or the Company determines that such disclosure is not necessary, in each case to correct any misstatement of a material fact or to include any omitted material fact, the Company agrees promptly to notify each Holder of such determination and to furnish each Holder such number of copies of the Prospectus, as amended or supplemented, as such Holder may reasonably request;

(r) obtain CUSIP and ISIN numbers for all Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities, as the case may be, not later than the effective date of a Registration Statement, and provide the Trustee with printed or word-processed certificates for the Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities, as the case may be, in a form eligible for deposit with the Depository;

(s) (i) cause the Indenture to be qualified under the TIA in connection with the registration of the Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities, as the case may be, (ii) cooperate with the Trustee and the Holders to effect such changes, if any, to the Indenture as may be required for the Indenture to be so qualified in accordance with the terms of the TIA and (iii) execute, and use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause the Trustee to execute, all documents as may be required to effect such changes, if any, and all other forms and documents required to be filed with the SEC to enable the Indenture to be so qualified in a timely manner;

(t) in the case of a Shelf Registration, upon request make available for inspection by representatives of the Holders of the Registrable Securities participating in any disposition pursuant to a Shelf Registration Statement and any one counsel or accountant retained by such Holders (with such inspection to occur at such time as mutually agreed between the Company and such Persons), all financial statements and other records, documents and properties of the Company reasonably requested by any such Persons, and cause the respective officers, directors, employees, and any other agents of the Company to supply all information reasonably requested by any such Persons in connection with a Shelf Registration Statement; *provided*, that any such Persons shall be required to execute a customary confidentiality agreement;

(u) in the case of a Shelf Registration, a reasonable time prior to filing any Shelf Registration Statement, any Prospectus forming a part thereof, any amendment to such Shelf Registration Statement or amendment or supplement to such Prospectus, provide copies of such document to the Holders of Registrable Securities and to counsel for any such Holders, and make such changes in any such document prior to the filing thereof as the Holders of Registrable Securities, or any of their counsel may reasonably request, and cause the representatives of the Company to be available for discussion of such documents as shall be reasonably requested by the Holders of Registrable Securities and shall not at any time make any filing of any such document of which such Holders or their counsel shall not have previously been advised and furnished a copy or to which such Holders or their counsel shall reasonably object within a reasonable time period;

(v) in the case of a Shelf Registration, use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause the Registrable Securities to be rated by the same rating agency that initially rated the Subordinated Notes, if so requested by the Majority Holders of Registrable Securities, unless the Registrable Securities are already so rated;

(w) otherwise use its commercially reasonable efforts to comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and, with respect to each Registration Statement and each post-effective amendment, if any, thereto and each filing by the Company of an Annual Report on Form 10-K, make available to its security holders, as soon as reasonably practicable, an earnings statement covering at least twelve months which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the 1933 Act and Rule 158 thereunder; and



(x) cooperate and assist in any filings required to be made with FINRA.

In the case of a Shelf Registration Statement, the Company may (as a condition to such Holder's participation in the Shelf Registration) require each Holder of Registrable Securities to furnish to the Company such information regarding such Holder and the proposed distribution by such Holder of such Registrable Securities as the Company may from time to time reasonably request in writing and require such Holder to agree in writing to be bound by all provisions of this Agreement applicable to such Holder.

In the case of a Shelf Registration Statement, each Holder agrees and, in the event that any Participating Broker-Dealer is using the Prospectus included in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement in connection with the sale of Exchange Securities pursuant to Section 3(f), each such Participating Broker-Dealer agrees that, upon receipt of any notice from the Company of the happening of any event or the discovery of any facts of the kind described in Section 3(e)(ii), 3(e)(iii) or 3(e)(iv) through 3(e)(vi) hereof, such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, as the case may be, will forthwith discontinue disposition of Registrable Securities pursuant to a Registration Statement until receipt by such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, as the case may be, of (i) the copies of the supplemented or amended Prospectus contemplated by Section 3(k) hereof or (ii) written notice from the Company that the Shelf Registration Statement or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, respectively, are once again effective or that no supplement or amendment is required. If so directed by the Company, such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, as the case may be, will deliver to the Company (at the Company's expense) all copies in its possession, other than permanent file copies then in its possession, of the Prospectus covering such Registrable Securities current at the time of receipt of such notice. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the accrual of Additional Interest on any Registrable Securities.

If the Company shall give any such notice to suspend the disposition of Registrable Securities pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph, the Company shall be deemed to have used its commercially reasonable efforts to keep the Shelf Registration Statement or, in the case of Section 3(f), the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, as the case may be, effective during such period of suspension; *provided* that (i) such period of suspension shall not exceed the time periods provided in Section 2(d)(iii) hereof and (ii) the Company shall use its commercially reasonable efforts to file and have become effective (if an amendment) as soon as practicable thereafter an amendment or supplement to the Shelf Registration Statement or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or both, as the case may be, or the Prospectus included therein and shall extend the period during which the Shelf Registration Statement or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or both, as the case may be, shall be maintained effective pursuant to this Agreement (and, if applicable, the period during which Participating Broker-Dealers may use the Prospectus included in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement pursuant to Section 3(f) hereof) by the number of days during the period from and including the date of the giving of such notice to and including the earlier of the date when the Holders or Participating Broker-Dealers, respectively, shall have received copies of the supplemented or amended Prospectus necessary to resume such dispositions and the effective date of written notice from the Company to the Holders or Participating Broker-Dealers, respectively, that the Shelf Registration Statement or the Exchange Offer Registration Statement, respectively, are once again effective or that no supplement or amendment is required.

#### **4. Indemnification and Contribution.**

(y) The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Holder, each Participating Broker-Dealer and each Person, if any, who controls any Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer within the meaning of either Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act, as follows:

(viii) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in any Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) pursuant to which Exchange Securities or Registrable Securities were registered under the 1933 Act, including all documents incorporated therein by reference, or any omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, or arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in any preliminary prospectus or Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) or any omission

or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(ix) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, to the extent of the aggregate amount paid in settlement of any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or of any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission described in subparagraph (i) above; *provided* that any such settlement is effected with the written consent of the Company; and

(x) against any and all expense whatsoever, as incurred (including, subject to Section 4(c) below, the fees and disbursements of counsel chosen by any indemnified party), reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission described in subparagraph (i) above, to the extent that any such expense is not paid under subparagraph (i) or (ii) above;

*provided, however*, that this indemnity agreement shall not apply to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by any Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer with respect to such Holder, Participating Broker-Dealer, as the case may be, expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto).

(z) Each Holder, severally but not jointly, agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, each director of the Company, each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement, each Participating Broker-Dealer and each other selling Holder and each Person, if any, who controls the Company, any Participating Broker-Dealer or any other selling Holder within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense described in the indemnity contained in Section 4(a) hereof, as incurred, but only with respect to untrue statements or omissions, or alleged untrue statements or omissions, made in the Shelf Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) or any Prospectus included therein (or any amendment or supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with written information with respect to such Holder furnished to the Company by such Holder expressly for use in the Shelf Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) or such Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto); *provided, however*, that no such Holder shall be liable for any claims hereunder in excess of the amount of net proceeds received by such Holder from the sale of Registrable Securities pursuant to such Shelf Registration Statement.

(aa) Each indemnified party shall give notice as promptly as reasonably practicable to each indemnifying party of any action commenced against it in respect of which indemnity may be sought hereunder, but failure so to notify an indemnifying party shall not relieve such indemnifying party from any liability hereunder to the extent it is not materially prejudiced as a result thereof and in any event shall not relieve it from any liability which it may have otherwise than on account of this indemnity agreement. Counsel to the respective indemnified parties shall be selected as follows: (i) counsel to the Company, its directors, each of its officers who signed the Registration Statement and all Persons, if any, who control the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall be selected by the Company; (ii) counsel to the Holders (other than Participating Broker-Dealers) and all Persons, if any, who control any Holders (other than any Participating Broker-Dealers) within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall be selected by the Holders who held or hold, as the case may be, a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Registrable Securities held by all such Holders; and (iii) counsel to the Participating Broker-Dealers and all Persons, if any, who control any such Participating Broker-Dealer within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall be selected by the Participating Broker-Dealers who held or hold, as the case may be, a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Exchange Securities referred to in Section 3(f) hereof held by all such Participating Broker-Dealers. In no event shall the indemnifying party or parties be liable for (A) the fees and expenses of more than one counsel (in addition to any local counsel)

separate from the indemnifying parties' own counsel for the Company and all other Persons referred to in clause (i) of this paragraph, (B) the fees and expenses of more than one counsel (in addition to any local counsel) separate from the indemnifying parties' own counsel for all Holders (other than Participating Broker-Dealers) and all other Persons referred to in clause (ii) of this paragraph, and (C) the fees and expenses of more than one counsel (in addition to any local counsel) separate from the indemnifying parties' own counsel for all Participating Broker-Dealers and all other Persons referred to in clause (iv) of this paragraph, in each case in connection with any one action or separate but similar or related actions in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances. The indemnifying party shall be entitled to participate therein and, to the extent that it shall elect, jointly with any other indemnifying party similarly notified, to assume the defense thereof, with counsel reasonably satisfactory to such indemnified party, *provided, however*, if the defendants in any such action include both the indemnified party and the indemnifying party and the indemnified party shall have reasonably concluded that a conflict may arise between the positions of the indemnifying party and the indemnified party in conducting the defense of any such action or that there may be legal defenses available to it and/or other indemnified parties which are different from or additional to those available to the indemnifying party, the indemnified party or parties shall have the right to select separate counsel to assume such legal defenses and to otherwise participate in the defense of such action on behalf of such indemnified party or parties. After notice from the indemnifying party to such indemnified party of its election so to assume the defense thereof, the indemnifying party shall not be liable to such indemnified party under such subsection for any legal expenses of other counsel or any other expenses, in each case subsequently incurred by such indemnified party, in connection with the defense thereof other than reasonable costs of investigation unless (A) the indemnified party shall have employed separate counsel in accordance with the proviso to the preceding sentence (it being understood, however, that the indemnifying party shall not be liable for the expenses of more than one separate counsel, approved by the indemnifying party) or (B) the indemnifying party shall not have employed counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party within a reasonable time after notice of commencement of the action, in each of which cases the fees and expenses of counsel shall be at the expense of the indemnifying party. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified parties, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever in respect of which indemnification or contribution could be sought under this Section 4 (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties thereto), unless such settlement, compromise or consent (i) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such litigation, investigation, proceeding or claim and (ii) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

(ab) If the indemnification provided for in this Section 4 is for any reason unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses referred to therein, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the aggregate amount of such losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by such indemnified party, as incurred, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative fault of the indemnifying party or parties on the one hand and of the indemnified party or parties on the other hand in connection with the statements or omissions that resulted in such losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative fault of such indemnifying party or parties on the one hand and the indemnified party or parties on the other hand shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by such indemnifying party or parties or such indemnified party or parties, and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

(ac) The Company and the Holders agree that it would not be just or equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 4 were determined by pro rata allocation or by any other method of allocation that does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in paragraph (d) above. The aggregate amount of losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by an indemnified party and referred to above in this Section 4 shall be deemed to include any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 4, other than in the case of intentional misrepresentation or omission of a material fact, no Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which Registrable Securities sold by it were offered exceeds the amount of any damages that such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer has otherwise been required to pay by reason of any such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission.

No Person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the 1933 Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any Person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

For purposes of this Section 4, each Person, if any, who controls a Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall have the same rights to contribution as such Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, as the case may be, and each director of the Company, each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement and each Person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company.

The respective obligations of the Holders and Participating Broker-Dealers to contribute pursuant to this Section 4 are several in proportion to the principal amount of Subordinated Notes purchased by them and not joint.

The indemnity and contribution provisions contained in this Section 4 shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any termination of this Agreement, (ii) any investigation made by or on behalf of any Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer or any Person controlling any Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer, or by or on behalf of the Company, its officers or directors or any Person controlling the Company, (iii) acceptance of any of the Exchange Securities and (iv) any sale of Registrable Securities or Exchange Securities pursuant to a Shelf Registration Statement.

5. **Miscellaneous.**

(ad) Rule 144 and Rule 144A. For so long as the Company is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15 of the 1934 Act, the Company covenants that it will file all reports required to be filed by it under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the 1934 Act and the rules and regulations adopted by the SEC thereunder, that if it ceases to be so required to file such reports, it will upon the request of any Holder or beneficial owner of Registrable Securities (i) make publicly available such information (including, without limitation, the information specified in Rule 144(c)(2) under the 1933 Act) as is necessary to permit sales pursuant to Rule 144 under the 1933 Act, (ii) deliver or cause to be delivered, promptly following a request by any Holder or beneficial owner of Registrable Securities or any prospective purchaser or transferee designated by such Holder or beneficial owner, such information (including, without limitation, the information specified in Rule 144A(d)(4) under the 1933 Act) as is necessary to permit sales pursuant to Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, and (iii) take such further action that is reasonable in the circumstances, in each case to the extent required from time to time to enable such Holder to sell its Registrable Securities without registration under the 1933 Act within the limitation of the exemptions provided by (x) Rule 144 under the 1933 Act, as such Rule may be amended from time to time, (y) Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, as such Rule may be amended from time to time, or (z) any similar rules or regulations hereafter adopted by the SEC. Upon the request of any Holder or beneficial owner of Registrable Securities, the Company will deliver to such Holder a written statement as to whether it has complied with such requirements.

(ae) No Inconsistent Agreements. The Company has not entered into nor will the Company on or after the date of this Agreement enter into any agreement which is inconsistent with the rights granted to the Holders of Registrable Securities in this Agreement or otherwise conflicts with the provisions hereof; *provided* that the Company will not be precluded from entering into any agreement after the date hereof which may or does result, directly or indirectly, in the payment of Additional Interest. The rights granted to the Holders hereunder do not and will not in any way conflict in any material respects with and are not and will not be inconsistent in any material respects with the rights granted to the holders of any of

the Company's other issued and outstanding securities under any other agreements entered into by the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

(af) Amendments and Waivers. The provisions of this Agreement, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions hereof may not be given, unless the Company has obtained the written consent of Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Registrable Securities affected by such amendment, modification, supplement, waiver or departure.

(ag) Notices. All notices and other communications provided for or permitted hereunder shall be made in writing by hand-delivery, registered first-class mail, electronic mail, or any courier guaranteeing overnight delivery (i) if to a Holder or Participating Broker-Dealer at the most current address set forth on the records of the registrar under the Indenture, and (ii) if to the Company, initially at the address set forth in the Purchase Agreement and thereafter at such other address, notice of which is given in accordance with the provisions of this Section 5(d).

All such notices and communications shall be deemed to have been duly given: at the time delivered by hand, if personally delivered; five Business Days after being deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, if mailed; when receipt is acknowledged, if sent via electronic mail; and on the next Business Day if timely delivered to an air courier guaranteeing overnight delivery.

Copies of all such notices, demands or other communications shall be concurrently delivered by the Person giving the same to the Trustee, at the address specified in the Indenture.

(ah) Successors and Assigns. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors, assigns and transferees of each of the parties, including, without limitation and without the need for an express assignment, subsequent Holders; *provided* that nothing herein shall be deemed to permit any assignment, transfer or other disposition of Registrable Securities in violation of the terms hereof or of the Purchase Agreement or the Indenture. If any transferee of any Holder shall acquire Registrable Securities, in any manner, whether by operation of law or otherwise, such Registrable Securities shall be held subject to all of the terms of this Agreement, and by taking and holding such Registrable Securities, such Person shall be conclusively deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to perform all of the terms and provisions of this Agreement, including the restrictions on resale set forth in this Agreement and, if applicable, the Purchase Agreement, and such Person shall be entitled to receive the benefits hereof.

(ai) Third Party Beneficiary. Each Holder and Participating Broker-Dealer shall be a third party beneficiary of the agreements made hereunder and shall have the right to enforce such agreements directly to the extent it deems such enforcement necessary or advisable to protect its rights or the rights of other Holders hereunder. Each Holder, by its acquisition of Subordinated Notes, shall be deemed to have agreed to the provisions of Section 5(b) hereof.

(aj) Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement. In the event that any signature is delivered by facsimile transmission, or by electronic mail delivery of a ".pdf" format data file, such signature shall create a valid and binding obligation of the party executing (or on whose behalf such signature is executed) with the same force and effect as if such facsimile signature page were an original thereof.

(ak) Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not limit or otherwise affect the meaning hereof.

(al) Restriction on Resales. If the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates (as defined in Rule 144 under the 1933 Act) shall redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire any Registrable Security or any Exchange Security which is a "restricted security" within the meaning of Rule 144 under the 1933 Act, the Company will deliver or cause to be delivered such Registrable Security or Exchange Security, as the case may be, to the Trustee for cancellation and neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries or

affiliates will hold or resell such Registrable Security or Exchange Security or issue any new security or Exchange Security to replace the same.

(am) GOVERNING LAW. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

(an) Entire Agreement; Severability. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all oral statements and prior writings with respect hereto. In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained herein, or the application thereof in any circumstance, is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of any such provision in every other respect and of the remaining provisions contained herein shall not be affected or impaired thereby.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Company has caused this Registration Rights Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative as of the date first above written.

**COMPANY:**

**SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC.**

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Lynn Joyce

Title: Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Purchaser has caused this Registration Rights Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative as of the date first above written.

**PURCHASER:**

[•]

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: [•]  
Title: [•]



## **SOUTHERN STATES BANCSHARES, INC. ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF \$40 MILLION SUBORDINATED NOTES OFFERING**

ANNISTON, Ala., October 26, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Southern States Bancshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: SSBK) ("Southern States" or the "Company"), the holding company for Southern States Bank, an Alabama state-chartered commercial bank (the "Bank"), announced today the completion of a private placement of \$40 million in aggregate principal amount of 7.00% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032 (the "Notes") to certain "accredited investors," as defined in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and "qualified institutional buyers," as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act.

Stephen Whatley, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Southern States, said, "We are pleased with the positive response of the market, which speaks not only to the attractive nature of the offering, but also to the Company's performance and strength. This transaction strengthens our ability to take advantage of market opportunities and create value for shareholders regardless of the operating environment."

Southern States expects to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Notes for general corporate purposes.

The Notes mature on October 26, 2032, and bear interest at an initial fixed rate of 7.00% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears. From and including October 26, 2027, to but excluding the maturity date or early redemption date, the interest rate will reset quarterly to a Three-Month Term Secured Overnight Financing Rate plus 306 basis points, payable quarterly in arrears. Southern States will be entitled to redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, on any interest payment on or after October 26, 2027, and to redeem the Notes in whole upon certain other events. The Notes have been structured to qualify as Tier 2 capital for regulatory capital purposes.

In connection with the issuance and sale of the Notes, Southern States entered into a registration rights agreement with the purchasers of the Notes pursuant to which Southern States has agreed to take certain actions to provide for the exchange of the Notes for subordinated notes that are registered under the Securities Act, with substantially the same terms as the Notes. Under certain circumstances, if the Company fails to meet its obligations under each registration rights agreement, it would be required to pay additional interest to the holders of the Notes.

Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC served as placement agent for the offering, Jones Walker LLP provided legal counsel to Southern States, and Troutman Pepper provided legal counsel to the placement agent.

This press release is for informational purposes only and shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any offer, solicitation or sale of the securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful. The Notes have not been registered under the Securities Act, or any state securities laws and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements. The indebtedness evidenced by the Notes is not a deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency or fund.

### **Forward Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws, which reflect our current expectations and beliefs with respect to, among other things, future events and our financial performance. Such forward-looking statements include statements with respect to the offering, including the uses of proceeds. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, and are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs and certain assumptions made by management, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and beyond our control. This may be especially true given the inflationary environment, the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental responses. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable as of the dates made, we cannot give any assurance that such expectations will prove correct and actual results may prove to be materially different from the results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements are set forth in Southern States' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021 and in other SEC filings under the sections entitled "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors". Accordingly, we caution you that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, assumptions and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. The Company expressly disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company or its subsidiaries, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or future events, or for any other reason.

### **About Southern States Bancshares, Inc.**

Headquartered in Anniston, Alabama, Southern States Bancshares, Inc. is a bank holding company that operates primarily through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Southern States Bank (the "Bank"). The Bank is a full service community banking institution, which offers an array of deposit, loan and other banking-related products and services to businesses and individuals in its communities. The Bank operates 13 branches in Alabama and Georgia and two loan production offices in Atlanta.

### **Contact Information**

Lynn Joyce  
(205) 820-8065  
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CONFIDENTIAL



SOUTHERN STATES  
BANCSHARES, INC.

## **Subordinated Notes Offering Presentation**

NASDAQGS: SSBK

September 2022



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## Notice to Recipients

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This confidential presentation (this "Presentation") has been prepared solely for general informational purposes by Southern States Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company," the "holding company," "we" or "our"), and is being furnished solely for use by prospective participants in considering participation in the proposed private offering (the "Offering") of the Company's subordinated notes (the "Securities"). The Company reserves the right to withdraw or amend this Offering for any reason and to reject any subscription in whole or in part.

The Company has authorized Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC ("Performance Trust") to act as its sole placement agent in the Offering.

The Securities are not a deposit or bank account, and are not, and will not be, insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") or any other federal or state government agency. Neither the Securities nor the investment in the Securities has not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), the FDIC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or any other federal or state regulatory authority, nor has any authority passed upon or endorsed the merits of the Offering or the accuracy or adequacy of this Presentation. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The Securities have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold absent registration or an exemption from registration under applicable law. The Securities will be subject to significant restrictions and limitations on their liquidity. Only potential investors who can bear the risk of an unregistered illiquid investment should consider investment in the Securities. The Securities are being offered only to individuals and entities that qualify as an "accredited investor," as defined in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act, or a "qualified institutional buyer," as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act. This Presentation does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities of the Company by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offering or solicitation.

This Presentation has been prepared based on information regarding our operations, as well as information from public sources. The information contained herein is intended only as an outline and summary that has been prepared to assist interested parties in making their own evaluations of the Company and the Offering. It does not purport to be all-inclusive or to contain all of the information that a prospective participant may desire. Each recipient of the information and data contained herein should perform its own independent investigation and analysis of the Offering and the value of the Company. The information and data contained herein are not a substitute for a recipient's independent evaluation and analysis. In making an investment decision, prospective participants must rely on their own examination of the Company, including the merits and risks involved. The Company is not providing you with any legal, business, tax or other advice regarding an investment in the Securities. Prospective participants are urged to consult with their own legal, tax, investment and accounting advisers with respect to the consequences of an investment in the Securities. In the event that any portion of this Presentation is inconsistent with or contrary to any of the terms of the subordinated note purchase agreement (the "NPA"), the NPA shall control. Except as otherwise indicated, this Presentation speaks as of the date hereof. The delivery of this Presentation shall not, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Company after the date hereof.

Certain of the information contained herein may be derived from information provided by industry sources. The Company believes that such information is accurate and that the sources from which it has been obtained are reliable. The Company cannot guarantee the accuracy of such information, however, and has not independently verified such information. The Company is not making any implied or express representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information summarized herein or made available in connection with any further investigation by the Company. The Company expressly disclaims any and all liability which may be based on such information, errors therein or omissions therefrom.

You will be given the opportunity to ask questions of and receive answers from Company representatives concerning the Company's business and the terms and conditions of the Offering, and the Company may provide you with additional relevant information that you may reasonably request to the extent the Company possesses such information or can obtain it without unreasonable effort or expense. Except for information provided in response to such requests, the Company has not authorized any other person to give you information that is not found in this Presentation. If such unauthorized information is obtained or provided, the Company cannot and does not assume responsibility for its accuracy, credibility or validity. This Presentation may contain statistics and other data that in some cases has been obtained from or compiled from information made available by third-party service providers, including references to the Performance Trust PT Score™ developed by Performance Trust. The Company makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of such information.

No representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fairness of any of the foregoing information is being made by the Company or any other person, including Performance Trust, and neither the Company nor any other person shall have any liability for any information contained herein, or for any omissions from this Presentation or any other written or oral communications transmitted or made available to the recipient by the Company or any other person in the course of the recipient's evaluation of the Offering or the Company, except for any liabilities expressly assumed by the Company in the NPA and the related documentation for each purchase of Securities. This Presentation is for information purposes only and is being furnished on a confidential basis to a limited number of institutional accredited investors and qualified institutional buyers. The information in this Presentation is confidential and may not be reproduced or redistributed, passed on or divulged, directly or indirectly, to any other person. The Company reserves the right to request the return of this Presentation at any time.

In addition to reporting results calculated under United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), the Company reports non-GAAP financial measures in this Presentation and other disclosures. Our management believes that these non-GAAP financial measures and the information they provide are useful to investors since these measures permit investors to view our performance using the same tools that our management uses to evaluate our performance. While we believe that these non-GAAP financial measures are useful in evaluating our performance, this information should be considered as supplemental in nature and not as a substitute for or superior to the related financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. Additionally, these non-GAAP financial measures may differ from similar measures presented by other companies. For a reconciliation of the non-GAAP measures we use to the most comparable GAAP measures, see the Appendix to this Presentation.

## Offering Disclaimer

Any offering, purchase and sale of Securities may be made only by the NPA and the information contained herein will be superseded in its entirety by such NPA. Each potential investor should review the NPA, make such investigation as it deems necessary to arrive at an independent evaluation of an investment in the Securities and should consult legal counsel and financial, accounting, regulatory and tax advisors to determine the consequences of such an investment prior to making an investment decision and should not rely on any information set forth in this Presentation.

This Presentation and oral statements made from time to time by the Company's representatives may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are subject to risks and uncertainties. You should not place undue reliance on those statements because they are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties relating to the Company's operations and business environment, all of which are difficult to predict and may be beyond our control. Forward-looking statements include information concerning the Company's future results, interest rates and the interest rate environment, loan and deposit growth, loan performance, operations, employees and business strategy. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may," "can," "should," "could," "to be," "predict," "potential," "believe," "will likely result," "expect," "continue," "will," "likely," "anticipate," "seek," "estimate," "intend," "plan," "target," "project," "would" and "outlook," or the negative version of those words or other similar words or phrases of a future or forward-looking nature. Annualized, pro forma, projected and estimated numbers are used for illustrative purpose only and are not forecasts and may not reflect actual results. Forward-looking statements are not a guarantee of future performance or results, are based on information available at the time the statements are made and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the information in the forward-looking statements and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us or in our control. These factors include but are not limited to: (i) potential risks and uncertainties relating to the effects of COVID-19, including the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, actions that have been and will be taken by governmental authorities to contain the COVID-19 outbreak or to treat its impact, and the potential negative impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy and financial markets, including U.S. GDP decreases and increases in unemployment; (ii) our ability to execute and prudently manage our growth and execute our strategy, including expansion activities; (iii) our ability to adequately measure and limit our credit risk; (iv) business, market and economic conditions generally and in the financial services industry, nationally and within our local markets; (v) factors that can impact the performance of our loan portfolio, including real estate values and liquidity in our markets and the financial health of our commercial borrowers; (vi) the failure of assumptions and estimates, as well as differences in, and changes to, economic, market, and credit conditions, including changes in borrowers' credit risks and payment behaviors; (vii) compliance with governmental and regulatory requirements, including the Dodd-Frank Act and others relating to banking, consumer protection, securities and tax matters, and our ability to maintain licenses required in connection with mortgage origination, sale and servicing operations; (viii) compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act, OFAC rules and anti-money laundering laws and regulations; (ix) governmental monetary and fiscal policies; (x) the effectiveness of our risk management framework, including internal controls; (xi) the composition of and changes in our management team and our ability to attract and retain key personnel; (xii) geographic concentration of our business in certain Alabama and Georgia markets; (xiii) our ability to attract and retain customers; (xiv) the risks of changes in interest rates on the levels, composition and costs of deposits, loan demand, and the values and liquidity of loan collateral, securities, and interest-sensitive assets and liabilities, and the risks and uncertainty of the amounts realizable; (xv) changes in the availability and cost of credit and capital in the financial markets, and the types of instruments that may be included as capital for regulatory purposes; (xvi) changes in the prices, values and sales volumes of residential and commercial real estate; (xvii) the effects of competition from a wide variety of local, regional, national and other providers of financial, investment, trust and other wealth management services and insurance services, including the disruption effects of financial technology and other competitors who are not subject to the same regulations as the Company; (xviii) the failure of assumptions and estimates underlying the establishment of allowances for possible loan losses and other asset impairments, losses, valuations of assets and liabilities and other estimates; (xix) the risks of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, including, without limitation, the related time and costs of implementing such transactions, integrating operations as part of these transactions and possible failures to achieve expected gains, revenue growth and/or expense savings from such transactions; (xx) changes in technology or products that may be more difficult, costly, or less effective than anticipated; (xxi) systems failures or interruptions involving our risk management framework, our information technology and telecommunications systems or third-party servicers; (xxii) unauthorized data access, cyber-crime and other threats to data security and customer privacy; (xxiii) our ability to maintain our historical rate of growth; (xxiv) our ability to identify potential candidates for, consummate, and achieve synergies resulting from, potential future acquisitions; (xxv) deterioration of our asset quality or the value of collateral securing loans; (xxvi) changes in the laws, rules, regulations, interpretations or policies relating to financial institutions, accounting, tax, trade, monetary and fiscal matters and appropriate compliance with applicable law and regulation; (xxvii) operational risks associated with our business; (xxviii) volatility and direction of market interest rates and the shape of the yield curve; (xxix) our ability to maintain important deposit customer relationships, maintain our reputation or otherwise avoid liquidity risks; (xxx) the obligations associated with being a public company; (xxxi) the commencement and outcome of litigation and other legal proceedings against us or to which we may become subject; (xxxii) natural disasters and adverse weather, acts of terrorism, an outbreak of hostilities or other international or domestic calamities as well as national and international economic conditions and health issues, such as COVID-19, and other matters beyond our control and (xxxiii) other factors disclosed by the Company in its filings with the SEC.

All statements in this Presentation, including forward-looking statements, speak only as of the date they are made. Although the Company believes that these forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, beliefs and expectations, if a change occurs or our beliefs, assumptions and expectations were incorrect, our business, financial condition, liquidity or results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and we cannot predict these events or how they may affect the Company. The Company has no duty to, and does not intend to, update or revise the forward-looking statements after the date on which they are made. In light of these risks and uncertainties, you should keep in mind that any forward-looking statement made in this Presentation or elsewhere might not reflect our actual results.



## I. Executive Summary



## Offering Summary

<b>Issuer</b>	Southern States Bancshares, Inc., holding company of Southern States Bank (the "Bank")
<b>Ticker / Exchange</b>	SSBK / NASDAQ Global Select Market
<b>Aggregate Principal Size</b>	\$40 million
<b>Term</b>	10-year, no-call 5-year Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2032
<b>Coupon</b>	Fixed [X%] for 5 years; Floating at SOFR + X% thereafter
<b>Optional Redemption &amp; Registration Rights</b>	Registration rights included; redeemable at par in whole or in part any time after 5 years from date of issuance
<b>Credit Rating</b>	Egan-Jones BBB+
<b>Regulatory Capital</b>	Structured consistent with requirements for Tier 2 capital treatment at the holding company and Tier 1 capital treatment at the Bank
<b>Use of Proceeds</b>	General corporate purposes
<b>Expected Pricing Date</b>	September 2022
<b>Sole Placement Agent</b>	Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC



# Overview of Southern States Bancshares, Inc.

- **Southern States Bancshares** was founded in August 2007 by current CEO and Chairman, Steve Whatley, and a group of organizing directors, and priced its IPO on August 11, 2021
- Management team with **200 years of collective experience** in the banking industry and deep ties to local markets
- History of **solid responsible growth, top-tier profitability** and a **strong credit culture**
- **Bifurcated growth strategy** through organic growth and disciplined M&A
- Focused on being a **dominant bank** in our smaller markets and a **competitive player** in the larger metropolitan areas
- **Diversified loan portfolio** complemented by **low-cost, core funding base**



## Q2 '22 Financial Highlights

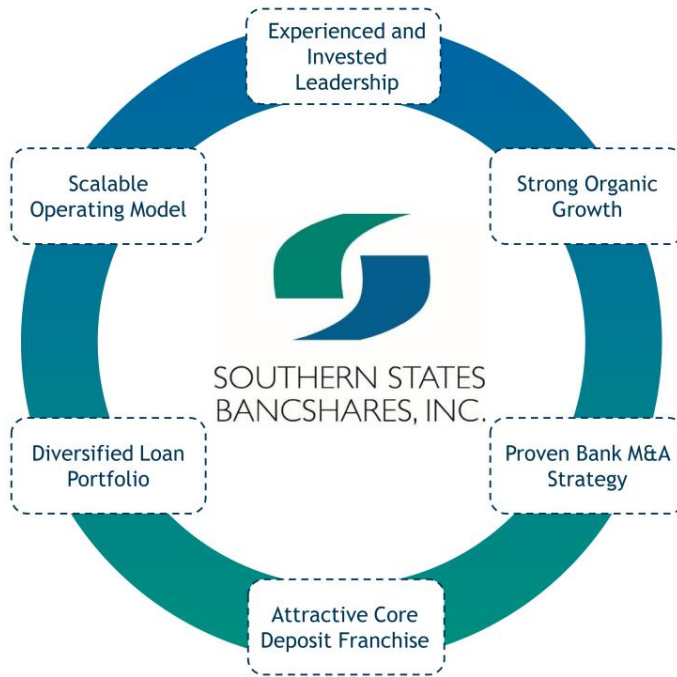
Assets (\$B):	\$1.9	YoY Asset Growth:	25.6%	NPLs / Loans:	0.34%	Core Net Income <sup>(3)</sup> (\$M):	\$5.3
Gross Loans (\$B):	\$1.4	YoY Loan Growth:	30.3%	LLR / Loans:	1.18%	Core ROAA <sup>(3)</sup> :	1.16%
Deposits (\$B):	\$1.6	YoY Deposit Growth:	25.3%	YTD NCOs / Avg. Loans:	0.01%	NIM:	3.84%
Loans / Deposits <sup>(2)</sup> :	87.0%	YoY Core Deposit Growth:	25.2%	TCE / TA <sup>(3)</sup> :	7.95%	Core Efficiency Ratio <sup>(3)</sup> :	54.19%

Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings

Consolidated financial data as of the three months ended 06/30/2022 unless otherwise noted; core deposits defined as total deposits less jumbo time deposits; jumbo time deposits classified as deposits larger than \$250,000

- 7 (1) Pro forma for the pending sale of the Company's Heflin, AL and Ranburne, AL branches announced on 05/23/2022  
 (2) Loans are net of unearned income  
 (3) Please refer to non-GAAP reconciliation in the appendix

# Investment Highlights



Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
Bank level financial data unless otherwise noted; 2022YTD as of 06/30/2022

- (1) Refers to management and directors; includes exercisable options  
(2) As of Q2 2022; details of calculation of PT Score can be found starting on page 16  
(3) Core deposits defined as total deposits less time deposits greater than \$250,000

## Experienced and Invested Leadership

- ☛ Led by Chairman & CEO, Steve Whatley, with over 49 years of banking experience
- ☛ Approximately 13.6% insider ownership<sup>(1)</sup>
- ☛ 180 Pre-Raise PT Score<sup>TM(2)</sup>
- ☛ Opportunistically raising subordinated debt to optimize capital structure and further fortify balance sheet for growth

## Consistent Organic Growth

- ☛ Proven growth with 24.4% asset CAGR since 2018
- ☛ Opportunistic commercial banker hirings driven by talent dislocation from recent bank consolidation in our markets
- ☛ Ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in Alabama by asset size

## Strong Bank Capital Ratios

- ☛ The Bank expects to be well capitalized post-raise with a pro forma total capital ratio of 14.01% and leverage ratio of 12.67%
- ☛ Strong institutional shareholder support / pre- and post-IPO and NASDAQ listing
- ☛ The Company's pro forma debt / equity ratio is expected to be 52.7%
- ☛ Double leverage expected to be 145.1% post capital raise

## Attractive Core Deposit Franchise

- ☛ 97.6% core deposits<sup>(3)</sup> with cost of interest-bearing deposits of 0.34% year to date as of 06/30/2022
- ☛ 46.3% demand deposit CAGR since 2018

## Robust Profitability Metrics

- ☛ Strong earnings highlighted in YTD ROAA of 1.19% and ROAE of 10.63%
- ☛ Stable efficiency ratio, which has remained below 65% each of the past four years and 2022YTD
- ☛ Approximately 7.2x debt service coverage post issuance based on 2023 mean pre-tax earnings estimate from analysts



SOUTHERN STATES  
BANCSHARES, INC.

## Q2 2022 Highlights

### Operating Results



- **Net income** of \$5.2 million, or \$0.59 per diluted share, and **core net income** of \$5.3 million<sup>(1)</sup>, or \$0.59 per diluted share<sup>(1)</sup>
- **ROAA** of 1.15% and **ROATCE** of 13.80%; **Core ROAA** of 1.16%<sup>(1)</sup> and **Core ROATCE** of 13.89%<sup>(1)</sup>
- **Net interest margin** of 3.84%
- **Core efficiency ratio** of 54.19%<sup>(1)</sup>

### Loans



- **Annualized Loan growth** of 36.8% from Q1 2022
- **Loan portfolio** of \$1.4 billion increased 9.2% from Q1 2022
- **Average yield on loans** of 4.80% grew from 4.68% for Q1 2022
- **Loans / deposits ratio** of 87.0%<sup>(2)</sup> compared to 85.0% for Q1 2022

### Deposits



- **Deposits** of \$1.6 billion increased \$103.1 million, or 6.7%, from Q1 2022
- **Average cost of total deposits** remained at 0.23% from Q1 2022
- **Noninterest-bearing deposits** comprised 31.2% of total deposits compared to 33.4% at Q1 2022

### Asset Quality



- **Nonperforming loans to gross loans** of 0.34% at Q2 2022
- **Net recoveries** at \$11,000
- **Allowance for loan losses to gross loans** of 1.17%
- **OREO balance** remained at \$2.9 million from Q1 2022

### Capital

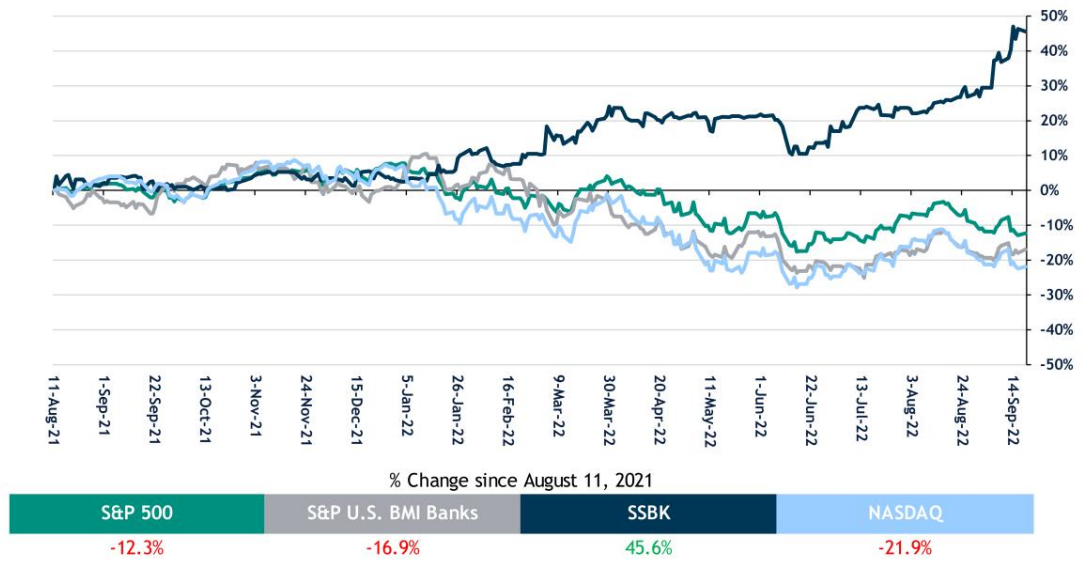


- **Announced and paid quarterly dividend** of \$0.09 per share
- **Tangible common equity to tangible assets** of 7.95%<sup>(1)</sup>
- **Tangible book value per share** of \$17.23<sup>(1)</sup>
- **Repurchased 58,258 shares** at an average price of \$21.03 per share

9 Sources: Company provided documents and filings  
Consolidated financial data as of the three months ended 06/30/2022 unless otherwise noted  
<sup>(1)</sup> Please refer to non-GAAP reconciliation in the appendix  
<sup>(2)</sup> Loans are net of unearned income

# SSBK Stock Performance

SSBK vs Major Indexes Price Performance (Since IPO)



## SSBK Top Institutional Ownership

Top Holders	Shares Held as of 06/30/2022	Ownership % as of 06/30/2022	Investor Type
1 Strategic Value Bank Partners, LLC	850,000	9.78%	Hedge Fund
2 Davis Capital Partners, LLC	800,000	9.20%	Hedge Fund
3 Fourthstone, LLC	646,892	7.44%	Hedge Fund
4 The Banc Funds Company, LLC	446,322	5.14%	Value
5 AllianceBernstein, L.P. (U.S.)	407,743	4.69%	Value
6 The Vanguard Group, Inc.	216,279	2.49%	Index
7 Mendon Capital Advisors Corporation	151,926	1.75%	Hedge Fund
8 JCSD Capital, LLC	150,755	1.73%	Hedge Fund
9 Basswood Capital Management, LLC	100,212	1.16%	Hedge Fund
10 BHZ Capital Management, L.P.	70,000	0.82%	Hedge Fund

- SSBK's largest institutional owners at June 30, 2022 were largely post-IPO investors, in addition to existing pre-IPO investors and investors that received IPO allocations
- As of June 30, 2022, SSBK's institutional owners totaled 33 (up from 27 in the prior quarter), with most investors representing actively managed, low turnover firms
- Institutional owners outside of the top 10 largest own 2.72% of SSBK's outstanding shares in the aggregate as of June 30, 2022

# Robust Market Dynamics Creates Growth Opportunities

## Market Highlights

### Atlanta, GA



- 9<sup>th</sup> largest metro area in the U.S.
- Voted 3<sup>rd</sup> metro area for corporate headquarters
- Ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Best Places for Business and Careers
- 16 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Atlanta

### Birmingham, AL



- Largest market in Alabama
- One of the lowest costs of living in America
- A top 10 moving destination for new college graduates
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham serves as an international leader in healthcare

### Huntsville, AL



- Voted 3<sup>rd</sup> best place to live in the country by US News
- One of the highest per capita concentrations of engineers in the U.S.
- A top 10 best city for jobs in STEM
- Home of the Redstone Arsenal, which includes the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command

### Auburn / Opelika, AL



- One of the fastest growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas ("MSAs") in the Southeast
- Auburn University contributes \$5.6 billion annually and 27,000 jobs to the Alabama economy
- A U.S. city with most job growth per USA Today
- Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> MSA for migration growth

### Columbus, GA



- Fort Benning Military Base
  - U.S. Army Infantry and Armor Training Post
  - Columbus Chamber of Commerce estimates annual economic impact of \$4.8 billion
- Major companies headquartered include Aflac and Synovus

## '22 - '26 Projected Median HHI (\$M)



## '22 - '26 Projected Population Growth (%)



## Major Employers



## \$40mm Subordinated Debt Issuance

For illustrative purposes, the capital ratios assume \$35mm of \$39mm in net proceeds are downstreamed to the Bank.

The remaining \$4.0mm is retained at the holding company for future debt service and optionality.

June 30, 2022 (Consolidated) (\$000s)



Pro Forma (Consolidated) (\$000s)



■ Common Equity Tier 1 Capital ■ Existing Sub Debt ■ ALLL ■ New Sub Debt

Consolidated Pro Forma Regulatory Capital	Actual 06/30/22	Sub Debt Adj.	Pro Forma 06/30/22
Common Equity Before Adjustments	\$ 167,947	\$ (1,000)	\$ 166,947
Less: Goodwill Net of DTLs	16,862	-	16,862
Less: Other Intangible Assets Net of DTLs	1,368	-	1,368
Less: AOCI - Unrealized Gains	(8,439)	-	(8,439)
<b>Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Pre-Deductions</b>	<b>158,156</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>157,156</b>
Additional Tier 1 Capital	\$ -	-	-
<b>Total Tier 1 Capital</b>	<b>\$ 158,156</b>		<b>\$ 157,156</b>
Tier 2 Capital Instruments	\$ 48,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 88,000
ALLL Includable in Tier 2 Capital	16,807	-	16,807
<b>Total Tier 2 Capital</b>	<b>64,807</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>104,807</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$ 222,963</b>		<b>\$ 261,963</b>
Average Total Consolidated Assets	\$1,801,321	39,000	1,840,321
Less: Deductions from CET1 and Additional T1	18,230	-	18,230
Less: Other Deductions from Leverage Ratio	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets for Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>1,783,091</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>1,822,091</b>
<b>Total Risk-Weighted Assets</b>	<b>1,772,361</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>1,780,161</b>
<b>Common Equity Tier 1 RBC Ratio</b>	<b>8.92%</b>		<b>8.83%</b>
<b>Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>8.87%</b>		<b>8.63%</b>
<b>Tier 1 RBC Ratio</b>	<b>8.92%</b>		<b>8.83%</b>
<b>Total RBC Ratio</b>	<b>12.58%</b>		<b>14.72%</b>

Bank Level Pro Forma Regulatory Capital	Actual 06/30/22	Sub Debt Adj.	Pro Forma 06/30/22
Common Equity Before Adjustments	\$ 207,315	\$ 35,000	\$ 242,315
Less: Goodwill Net of DTLs	16,862	-	16,862
Less: Other Intangible Assets Net of DTLs	1,368	-	1,368
Less: AOCI - Unrealized Gains	(8,439)	-	(8,439)
<b>Common Equity Tier 1 Capital</b>	<b>197,524</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>232,524</b>
Additional Tier 1 Capital	-	-	-
<b>Total Tier 1 Capital</b>	<b>\$ 197,524</b>		<b>\$ 232,524</b>
Tier 2 Capital Instruments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ALLL Includable in Tier 2 Capital	16,807	-	16,807
<b>Total Tier 2 Capital</b>	<b>16,807</b>		<b>16,807</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$ 214,331</b>		<b>\$ 249,331</b>
Average Total Assets	1,818,746	35,000	1,853,746
Less: Deductions from CET1 and Additional T1	18,230	-	18,230
Less: Other Deductions from Leverage Ratio	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets for Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>1,800,516</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>1,835,516</b>
<b>Total Risk-Weighted Assets</b>	<b>1,772,895</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>1,779,895</b>
<b>Common Equity Tier 1 RBC Ratio</b>	<b>11.14%</b>		<b>13.06%</b>
<b>Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>10.97%</b>		<b>12.67%</b>
<b>Tier 1 RBC Ratio</b>	<b>11.14%</b>		<b>13.06%</b>
<b>Total RBC Ratio</b>	<b>12.09%</b>		<b>14.01%</b>

13

Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
Invested proceeds from \$40.0mm capital assumed to have 20% risk-weighting; assumes \$35.0mm of proceeds from new sub debt issuance are downstreamed to the bank as common equity after accounting for transaction costs equal to 2.50% of gross proceeds (including placement agent, credit rating and legal fees)



## Interest Coverage & Double Leverage (\$40mm Offering)

(*\$ in thousands*)

Interest Coverage	2023E Stand Alone	2023E Pro Forma
<b>Consolidated Pre-Tax Earnings</b>		
Consolidated Pre-Tax Income <sup>(1)</sup>	29,650	29,650
Interest Expense on Existing Borrowings <sup>(1)</sup>	1,680	1,680
<b>A Pre-Tax Earnings Before Debt Interest Expense</b>	<b>31,330</b>	<b>31,330</b>
<b>BHC Debt Interest Expense</b>		
New Subordinated Debt Interest Expense at 6.50%	-	2,600
New Subordinated Debt Interest Expense at 6.75%	-	2,700
New Subordinated Debt Interest Expense at 7.00%	-	2,800
Interest Expense on Existing Borrowings	1,680	1,680
<b>B Pre-Tax Interest Expense - New Subordinated Debt at 6.50%</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>4,280</b>
<b>C Pre-Tax Interest Expense - New Subordinated Debt at 6.75%</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>4,380</b>
<b>D Pre-Tax Interest Expense - New Subordinated Debt at 7.00%</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>4,480</b>
<b>Pro Forma Interest Coverage - A / B</b>	<b>18.6x</b>	<b>7.3x</b>
<b>Pro Forma Interest Coverage - A / C</b>	<b>18.6x</b>	<b>7.2x</b>
<b>Pro Forma Interest Coverage - A / D</b>	<b>18.6x</b>	<b>7.0x</b>
<b>Pro Forma Debt / Equity, Double Leverage<sup>(2)</sup> &amp; Concentrations</b>		
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pro Forma</b>
	<b>06/30/22</b>	<b>06/30/22</b>
Consolidated Equity	\$167,947	\$166,947
Existing Sub Debt	48,000	48,000
Newly Issued Subordinated Debt	-	40,000
<b>Debt / Equity</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>52.7%</b>
<b>Debt / Equity (ex. AOCI)</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>50.2%</b>
Bank Equity	\$207,315	\$242,315
<b>Double Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>123.4%</b>	<b>145.1%</b>
<b>Tier 1 Capital Double Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>124.9%</b>	<b>148.0%</b>

14 Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
 (1) 2023E Pro Forma reflects mean consensus pre-tax earnings estimate from analysts  
 (2) Double Leverage = Bank Common Equity / Consolidated Common Equity



## Offering Size Sensitivities

Offering Size (\$000s)	Standalone	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000	50,000
Consol. CET1 RBC Ratio	8.92%	8.85%	8.84%	8.83%	8.82%	8.80%
Consol. Leverage Ratio	8.87%	8.69%	8.66%	8.63%	8.60%	8.57%
Consol. Tier 1 RBC Ratio	8.92%	8.85%	8.84%	8.83%	8.82%	8.80%
Consol. Total RBC Ratio	12.58%	14.18%	14.45%	14.72%	14.98%	15.25%

Offering Size (\$000s)	Standalone	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000	50,000
Bank CET1 RBC Ratio	11.14%	12.58%	12.82%	13.06%	13.30%	13.54%
Bank Leverage RBC Ratio	10.97%	12.25%	12.46%	12.67%	12.88%	13.08%
Bank Tier 1 RBC Ratio	11.14%	12.58%	12.82%	13.06%	13.30%	13.54%
Bank Total RBC Ratio	12.09%	13.53%	13.77%	14.01%	14.25%	14.49%

Double Leverage Ratio	123.4%	139.7%	142.4%	145.1%	147.9%	150.6%
Debt / Equity	28.6%	46.7%	49.7%	52.7%	55.7%	58.8%
Interest Coverage 2023E <sup>(1)</sup>	18.6x	8.5x	7.8x	7.2x	6.6x	6.2x

**Assumptions:**

- 6.75% interest rate on new subordinated debt
- Net proceeds from new subordinated debt issuance are downstreamed to the Bank as Tier 1 Capital after retaining 10% of gross proceeds at the holding company for future debt service and accounting for one-time transaction costs

15 Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
Pro forma financial data as of 06/30/2022  
(1) 2023E Pro Forma reflects mean consensus pre-tax earnings estimate from analysts

# Southern States Bank | Q2 2022 PT Score™

## PT SCORE™ OVERVIEW



NATIONAL MEDIAN: 25



NATIONAL MEDIAN: 29



NATIONAL MEDIAN: 30



NATIONAL MEDIAN: 11



NATIONAL MEDIAN: 44

● Very Low Risk ● Low Risk ● Moderate Risk ● Elevated Risk ● High Risk

## ASSET SIZE MEDIANS

PEER GROUP	SCORE
0 - 100M	→ 153
100M - 300M	→ 150
300M - 1B	→ 154
1B - 3B	→ 167
3B - 10B	→ 179
10B - 50B	→ 172
50B+	→ 204

## PT SCORE™ OVER TIME



**Note:** PT Score™ is a proprietary risk assessment system created using numerous call report based ratios selected by Performance Trust. PT Score™ is based on bank level data and does not incorporate holding company leverage or any other consolidated financial metrics. PT Score™ is based on unadjusted call report data and does not incorporate adjustments for one-time or other unusual items. PT Score™ is a risk management model designed to identify, measure, and track significant risk trends in depository financial institutions. An institution's PT Score™ corresponds to a CAMELS equivalent rating to help provide an accurate picture of such institution's level of risk. An institution's score ranges from 0 to 500. The higher an institution's PT Score™, the higher the implied level of risk. With respect to the information contained herein that has been obtained from public sources, while Performance Trust believes this information to be reliable, Performance Trust does not guarantee its accuracy, adequacy or completeness and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from the use of such information. The content is the proprietary and confidential material of Performance Trust and so designated pursuant to a confidentiality agreement between the intended recipient and Performance Trust. It is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. The information is derived from research by Performance Trust. It is not a legal or investment opinion and should not be construed to provide legal or investment advice. The content is subject to change at any time and without notice.

## PT Score™ | Pro Forma Balance Sheet

This analysis assumes a \$40 million sub debt issuance at the holding company with \$35.0 million of proceeds downstreamed to the Bank. All other simulation adjustments based on standard PT Score assumptions, including no leverage and a static balance sheet as of June 30, 2022.

OVERALL RESULTS	ACTUAL		SIMULATION			
	2022Q2		2023Q2		2024Q2	
	Score	Change	Score	Change	Score	Change
Capital	55		15	-40	0	-55
Asset Quality	71		38	-33	28	-43
Earnings	15		19	+4	19	+4
Liquidity	15		7	-8	7	-8
Sensitivity To Market Risk	24		24	0	24	0
<b>PT Score™</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>-77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-102</b>

CAPITAL RESULTS	2022Q2			2023Q2			2024Q2		
	Ratio	Pts.	Pct.	Ratio	Pts.	Pct.	Ratio	Pts.	Pct.
T1 Leverage Ratio	11	0	35	13.8	0	15	14.9	0	11
CE T1 Risk-Based Ratio	11.1	10	92	14.5	0	59	15.9	0	48
T1 Risk-Based Ratio	11.1	10	92	14.5	5	59	15.9	0	48
Total Risk-Based Ratio	12.1	15	93	15.4	5	61	16.8	0	50
Equity Growth Less Asset Growth	12.2	0	8	26.9	0	2	8.2	0	13
Asset Quality Score	71	10	92	38	5	63	28	0	48
Asset Growth Rate	29.1	10	93	3.1	0	25	1.3	0	18
Liquidity Score	15	0	61	7	0	42	7	0	42
Sensitivity Score	24	0	13	24	0	13	24	0	13



## Recent Financial Highlights

(\$000s)	2019	2020	2021	1Q 2022	2Q 2022
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$1,095,491	\$1,332,506	\$1,782,592	\$1,798,834	\$1,902,495
<b>Total Loans<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	\$837,441	\$963,559	\$1,241,097	\$1,309,177	\$1,430,205
<b>Total Deposits</b>	\$950,513	\$1,139,661	\$1,556,451	\$1,541,839	\$1,644,946
<b>Total Equity</b>	\$126,637	\$140,656	\$177,198	\$169,189	\$167,947
<b>Loans / Deposits<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	88.10%	84.55%	79.74%	84.91%	86.95%
<b>Loans / Assets<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	76.44%	72.31%	69.62%	72.78%	75.18%
<b>NPAs / Assets</b>	2.11%	1.12%	0.31%	0.40%	0.41%
<b>NCOs / Avg. Loans</b>	0.57%	0.07%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%
<b>TCE / TA<sup>(2)</sup></b>	10.01%	9.29%	9.00%	8.47%	7.95%
<b>Net Income</b>	\$5,602	\$12,107	\$18,567	\$4,557	\$5,223
<b>ROAA</b>	0.57%	0.98%	1.23%	1.02%	1.15%
<b>ROAE</b>	5.22%	9.04%	11.81%	10.28%	12.29%

Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
 Consolidated financial data; ROAA, ROAE, and NCOs / Avg. Loans annualized for 1Q and 2Q 2022  
 (1) Excludes PPP loans and net of unearned income; no outstanding PPP loans as of 06/30/2022  
 (2) Please refer to non-GAAP reconciliation in the appendix

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## II. Company Overview



# Our History & Growth

Historical Highlights

- August 2007**

Established Anniston, AL headquarters and Opelika, AL Office with \$31 million in capital at \$10.00 per share
- 2008**

Established a full-service banking office in Birmingham, AL
- May 2012**

Acquired Alabama Trust Bank in Sylacauga, AL
- 2015**

Opened offices in Huntsville, AL, Carrollton, GA, and an LPO in Atlanta, GA  
Acquired Columbus Community Bank in Columbus, GA and opened a second location in Columbus
- 2016**

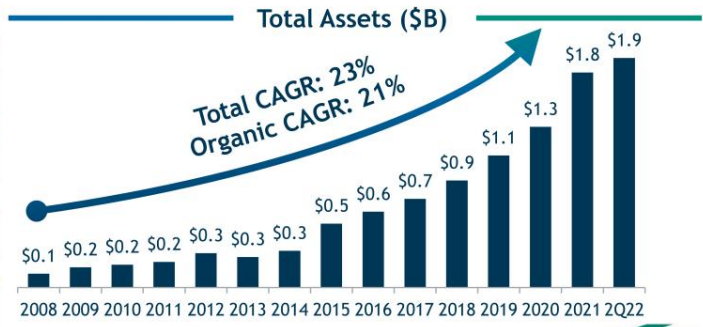
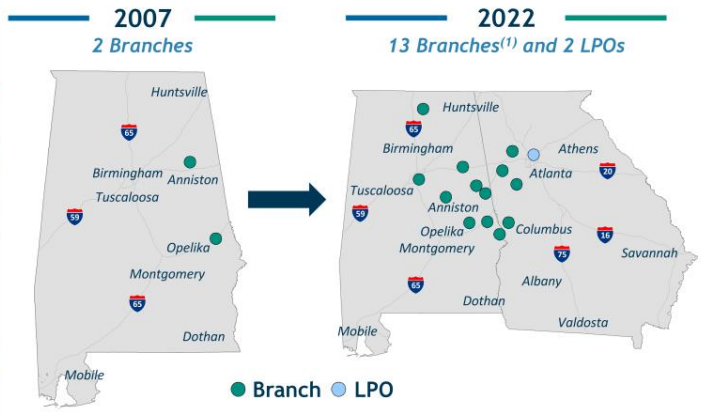
Opened Auburn, AL office  
Issued \$4.5 million of 10-year subordinated notes  
Completed \$41.2 million capital raise at \$14 per share
- February 2017**

Completed \$3.4 million local capital raise at \$14 per share
- 2018**

Established a full-service banking office in Newnan, GA
- September 2019**

Closed acquisition of Small Town Bank in Wedowee, AL
- 2020 through Q2 2022**

Hired 4 commercial bankers in Georgia franchise  
Priced initial public offering and completed \$48.0mm subordinated debt offering



<sup>20</sup> Sources: Company provided documents and filings  
<sup>(1)</sup> Pro forma for the pending sale of the Company's Heflin, AL and Ranburne, AL branches announced on 05/23/2022



# Experienced Management Team

Our management team has over 200 years of collective experience in the banking industry



**Steve Whatley**

*Founder, Chairman & CEO*

- **1982-2006** Market President Colonial Bank
- **1980-1982** Vice President Commercial Lender AmSouth Bank
- **1978-1980** Vice President Trust Company Bank
- **1973-1978** Loan Officer / Mgt. Trainee Security Pacific Bank



**Mark Chambers**

*President*

- **2007-2019** SEVP & President Southeast Region Southern States Bank
- **2004-2007** Market President Wachovia Bank
- **1998-2004** Commercial Lender Aliant Bank



**Lynn Joyce**

*SEVP & Chief Financial Officer*

- **1992-2013** EVP & CFO First Financial Bank, a NASDAQ listed Financial Institution
- **1986-1992** Arthur Andersen & Co



**Greg Smith**

*SEVP & Chief Risk and Credit Officer*

- **2006-2019** SEVP & CCO Southern States Bank
- **1986-2006** Credit Admin, Commercial Loan Officer and Market President Regions Bank



**Jack Swift**

*SEVP & Chief Operating Officer*

- **2006-2019** SEVP & President Central Region Southern States Bank
- **1996-2006** Senior Vice President Colonial Bank
- **1992-1996** Vice President SouthTrust Bank

Company insiders own approximately 13.6% of the common shares and equivalents<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>21</sup>

Sources: Company provided documents and filings

(1) Refers to management and directors; includes exercisable options



## Near-Term Outlook

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- ☛ **Loan balances** expected to continue growing and the pipeline remains robust
  - Loan growth aided by prior year opportunistic commercial banker hires driven by talent dislocation from bank consolidation in our markets
- ☛ **Deposit balances** expected to increase slightly
- ☛ **Net interest income** expected to increase incrementally from loan growth and rate increases
  - Net interest margin expected to increase modestly as rates rise
- ☛ **Core noninterest income** expected to be fairly consistent with Q2 2022 as swaps decline and mortgage income moderates
- ☛ Quarterly **adjusted noninterest expense** is expected to remain fairly consistent with Q2 2022
- ☛ Continued **strong credit metrics** are expected to allow for modest provision levels based on growth, but we are monitoring for credit issues as rates rise
- ☛ **Balanced approach to capital deployment** with flexibility to support strong organic loan growth trajectory and cash dividend while evaluating stock repurchases
- ☛ Well-positioned to capitalize on additional **accretive acquisition opportunities**

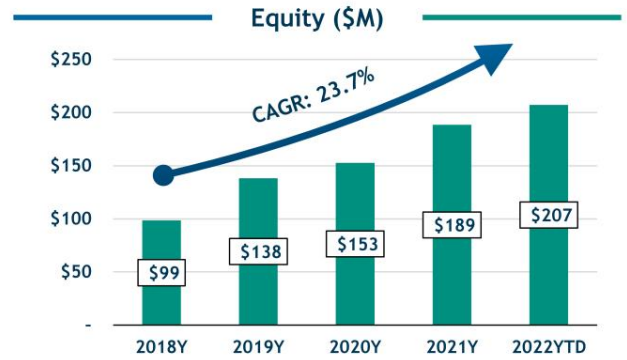
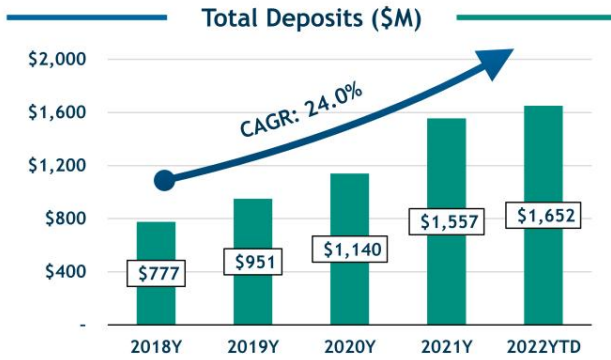
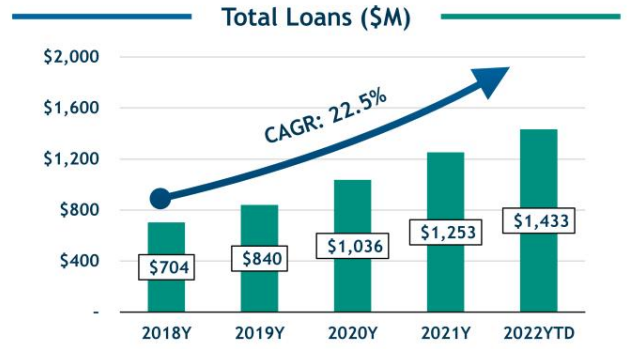
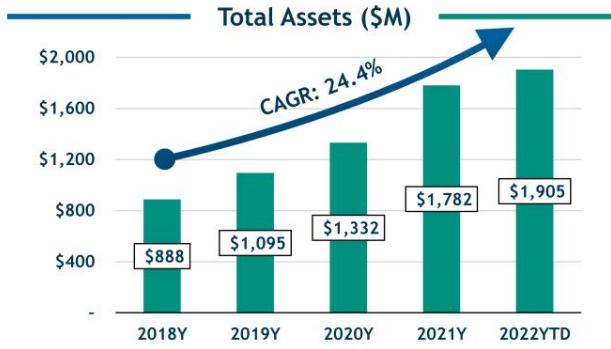




### III. Assets Highlights

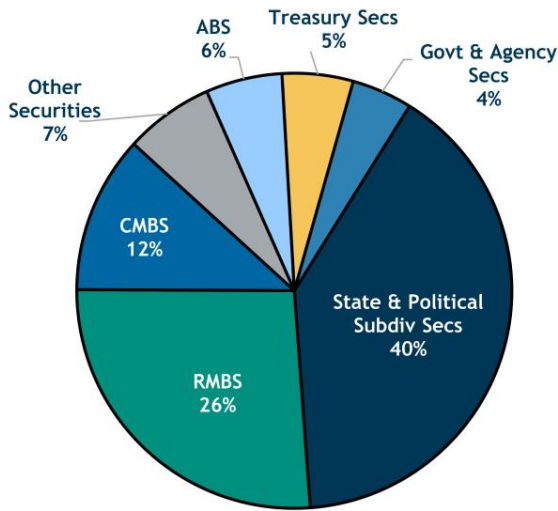


# Balance Sheet Growth



# Investment Portfolio Detail

## Asset Class Breakdown



## Portfolio Management Statistics

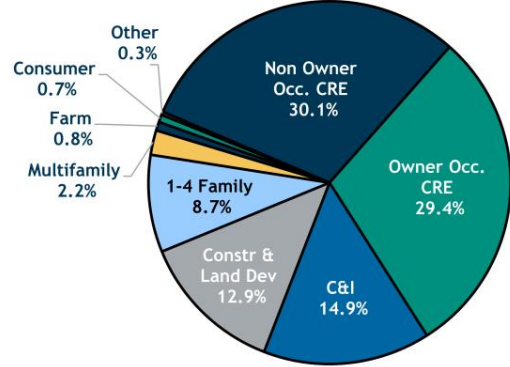
- The securities portfolio largely consists of state and political securities
- Effective duration of investments of 4.95 years
- Historical investment portfolio total returns:
  - 1 year: (4.00)%, 60th percentile
  - 3 year: 0.23%, 66th percentile
  - 5 year: 1.09%, 64th percentile

# Loan Portfolio Diversification & Growth

Loan Trends (\$M)



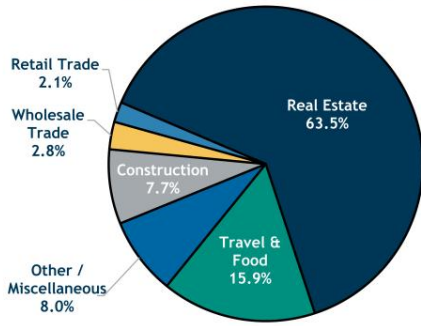
Q2 2022 Loan Composition



- As of 06/30/2022, the Bank has no PPP loans remaining on the balance sheet
- Pre-Raise Concentrations:
  - CRE: 297.1%
  - C&D: 85.2%

# CRE and C&D Loan Detail

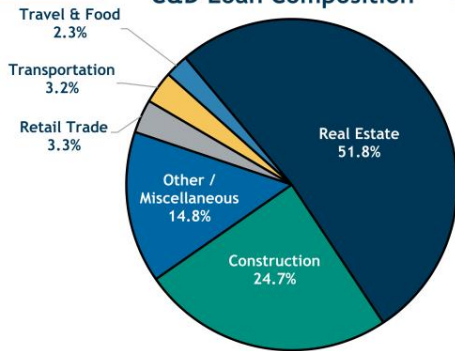
## CRE Loan Composition



## Largest CRE Groupings

Sector and Industry Groupings	Funded (\$)
<b>Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing</b>	<b>404,613,705</b>
Lessors of Real Estate	360,809,889
Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers	1,244,925
Activities Related to Real Estate	41,940,141
Other Investment Pools and Funds	618,750
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	<b>101,262,541</b>
Traveler Accommodation	86,969,586
Recreational Vehicle Parks and Camps	9,703,711
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	4,589,244

## C&D Loan Composition



## Largest C&D Groupings

Sector and Industry Groupings	Funded (\$)
<b>Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing</b>	<b>94,516,866</b>
Lessors of Real Estate	73,002,841
Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers	93,488
Activities Related to Real Estate	20,801,786
Other Investment Pools and Funds	618,750
<b>Construction</b>	<b>45,017,612</b>
Nonmetallic Minerals	45,017,612

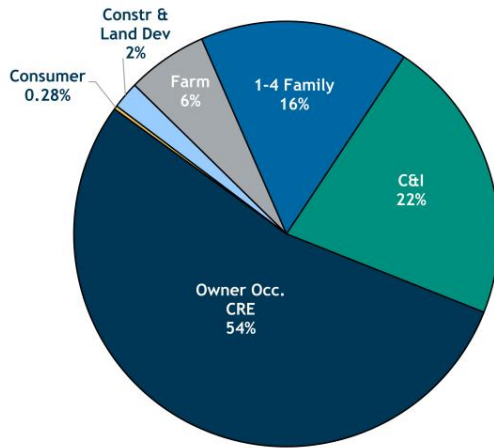
# Historical Loan Composition & Yields

## Southern States Bank Loan Composition Since 2018

(S000s)	12/31/2018		12/31/2019		12/31/2020		12/31/2021		Q2 2022	
	Balance	% of Total	Balance	% of Total	Balance	% of Total	Balance	% of Total	Balance	% of Total
<b>Loan Composition</b>										
Construction	\$77,197	11.0%	\$93,011	11.1%	\$102,707	9.9%	\$174,480	13.9%	\$185,163	12.9%
1-4 Family	97,317	13.8%	121,892	14.5%	113,697	11.0%	124,567	9.9%	124,658	8.7%
Multifamily	28,087	4.0%	33,302	4.0%	44,522	4.3%	25,368	2.0%	31,354	2.2%
Comm RE (Non Farm/Res)	351,335	49.9%	417,383	49.7%	498,369	48.1%	703,169	56.1%	856,501	59.8%
C&I	126,195	17.9%	130,234	15.5%	246,274	23.8%	201,764	16.1%	214,604	15.0%
Farm RE	12,243	1.7%	24,811	3.0%	16,650	1.6%	13,414	1.1%	11,345	0.8%
Agricultural	1,346	0.2%	2,173	0.3%	813	0.1%	995	0.1%	855	0.1%
Consumer	7,480	1.1%	12,002	1.4%	9,665	0.9%	8,719	0.7%	9,557	0.7%
Leases	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	2,779	0.4%	5,391	0.6%	3,114	0.3%	223	0.0%	-1,124	-0.1%
<b>Total Gross Loans</b>	<b>\$703,979</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$840,199</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$1,035,811</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$1,252,699</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$1,432,913</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<i>Yield on 1-4 Family Loans</i>	5.54%		5.85%		5.48%		5.01%		5.20%	
<i>Yield on All Other RE Loans</i>	5.49%		5.77%		5.06%		4.75%		4.72%	
<i>Yield on C&amp;I Loans</i>	5.42%		5.70%		4.55%		5.30%		4.80%	
<i>Yield on Loans and Leases</i>	5.51%		5.77%		5.00%		4.89%		4.78%	
<i>Yield on Earning Assets</i>	5.08%		5.14%		4.43%		4.16%		4.18%	

# Asset Quality Detail

## Nonaccrual Loans By Type

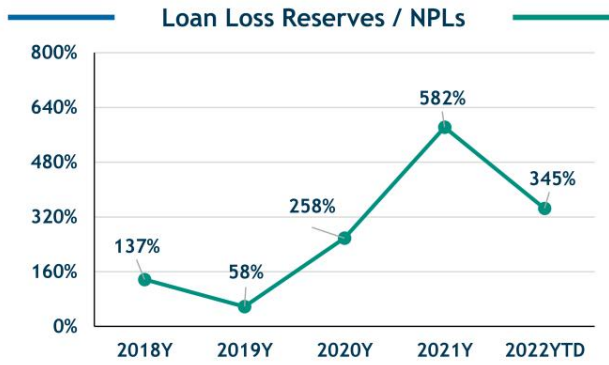
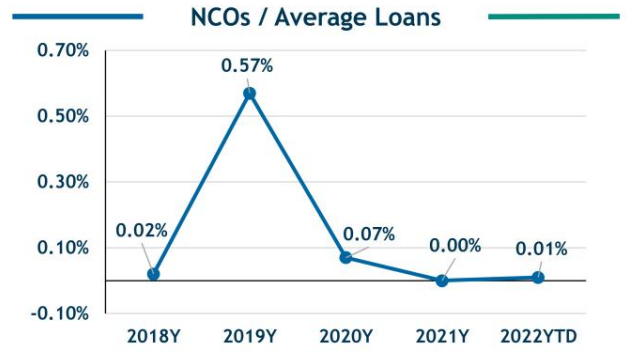
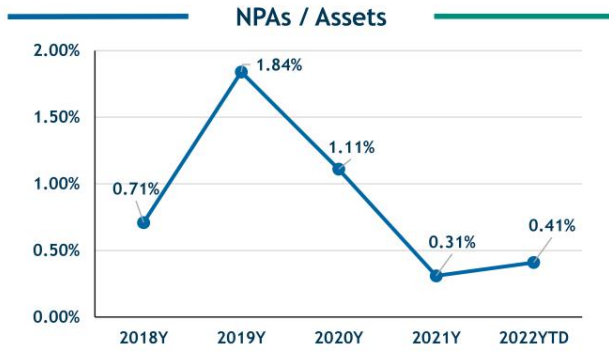


## Portfolio Management Statistics

### As of 06/30/2022:

- Strong asset quality with NPAs / Assets of 0.41%
- Year to date net charge-offs of \$40 thousand
- Allowance for loan losses to gross loans of 1.17%

# Asset Quality & Reserve Coverage Ratios





## Historical Net Charge-Offs & Non-performing Assets

Generally lower losses vs. other Alabama banks during 2008-2012 downturn, driven by conservative lending standards

### Net Chargeoffs / Average Loans (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Southern States Bank	0.18	0.61	0.65	0.22	0.04
AL Banks Aggregate	1.51	2.35	2.70	1.88	1.02
Southern States Bank vs. AL Banks	(1.33)	(1.74)	(2.05)	(1.66)	(0.98)

### NPAs / Assets (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Southern States Bank	0.48	1.02	1.23	3.16	4.63
AL Banks Aggregate	1.82	4.01	3.90	3.93	3.01
Southern States Bank vs. AL Banks	(1.34)	(2.99)	(2.67)	(0.77)	1.62

...and disciplined lending reflected by consistently low credit costs during times of growth

### Net Chargeoffs / Average Loans (%)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Q2
Southern States Bank	0.10	0.02	0.57	0.07	0.00	0.01
AL Banks Aggregate	0.38	0.40	0.56	0.51	0.19	0.15
Southern States Bank vs. AL Banks	(0.28)	(0.38)	0.01	(0.44)	(0.19)	(0.14)

### NPAs / Assets (%)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Q2
Southern States Bank	0.42	0.71	1.84	1.11	0.31	0.41
AL Banks Aggregate	1.11	0.87	0.80	0.98	0.48	0.46
Southern States Bank vs. AL Banks	(0.69)	(0.16)	1.04	0.13	(0.17)	(0.05)

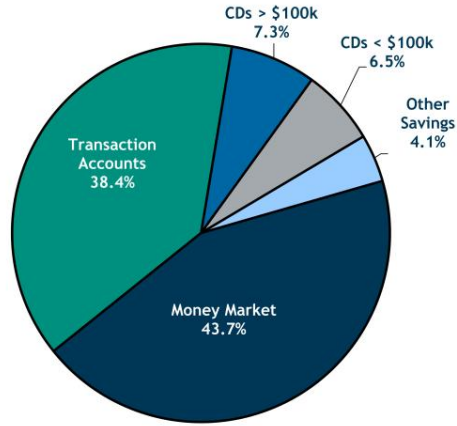
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## IV. Liabilities Highlights

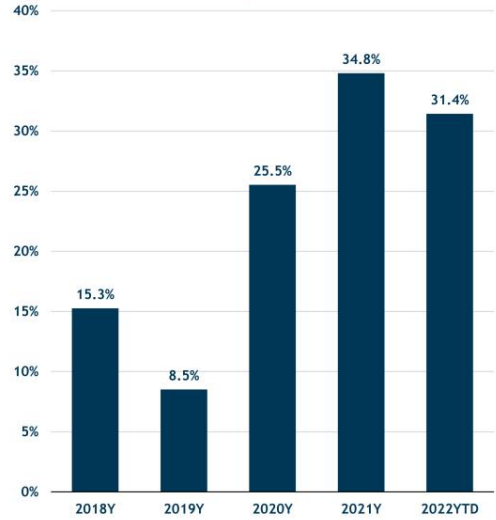
# Deposit Composition

- Core deposit growth initiatives continue to fuel our organic strategy
- Bankers are incentivized to grow core deposits
- Minimal dependence on brokered deposits

Q2 2022 Composition



Noninterest Bearing Deposits / Total Deposits (%)



## Deep Presence in Current Markets

Lee County (Auburn-Opelika, AL)				
2022 Rank	Institution (ST)	2022 Branches	2022 Deposits (\$000s)	2022 Market Share (%)
1	Auburn National Bancorp. (AL)	7	953,705	23.52
2	SouthState Corp. (FL)	3	430,511	10.62
3	The PNC Finl Svcs Grp (PA)	7	364,339	8.99
4	River Financial Corp. (AL)	3	349,670	8.62
5	Regions Financial Corp. (AL)	2	347,618	8.57
6	Wells Fargo & Co. (CA)	3	319,238	7.87
7	Truist Financial Corp. (NC)	2	295,177	7.28
8	<b>Southern States Bancshares Inc (AL)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>269,772</b>	<b>6.65</b>
9	Cadence Bank (MS)	3	250,054	6.17
10	MetroCity Bankshares Inc. (GA)	1	93,341	2.30
Total For Institutions In Market		44	4,054,259	

Muscookee County (Columbus, GA-AL)				
2022 Rank	Institution (ST)	2022 Branches	2022 Deposits (\$000s)	2022 Market Share (%)
1	Synovus Financial Corp. (GA)	10	4,054,733	57.60
2	Truist Financial Corp. (NC)	4	1,266,489	17.99
3	Wells Fargo & Co. (CA)	6	931,415	13.23
4	<b>Southern States Bancshares Inc (AL)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>262,541</b>	<b>3.73</b>
5	Bank of America Corporation (NC)	2	197,356	2.80
6	Regions Financial Corp. (AL)	1	106,955	1.52
7	Colony Bankcorp Inc. (GA)	1	98,255	1.40
8	Bank OZK (AR)	1	65,227	0.93
9	Renasant Corp. (MS)	1	36,210	0.51
10	ServisFirst Bankshares Inc. (AL)	1	15,430	0.22
Total For Institutions In Market		30	7,039,809	

Calhoun County (Anniston-Oxford, AL)				
2022 Rank	Institution (ST)	2022 Branches	2022 Deposits (\$000s)	2022 Market Share (%)
1	Regions Financial Corp. (AL)	6	503,039	21.10
2	Wells Fargo & Co. (CA)	3	482,863	20.25
3	Noble Bancshares Inc. (AL)	4	323,825	13.58
4	F&M Financial Corp (AL)	4	284,008	11.91
5	<b>Southern States Bancshares Inc (AL)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>242,962</b>	<b>10.19</b>
6	Investar Holding Corp. (LA)	4	189,823	7.96
7	Truist Financial Corp. (NC)	3	185,867	7.80
8	The PNC Finl Svcs Grp (PA)	3	113,316	4.75
9	Firstbanc of Alabama Inc. (AL)	1	55,154	2.31
10	Woodforest Financial Grp Inc. (TX)	2	3,109	0.13
Total For Institutions In Market		31	2,383,966	

Coweta County (Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA)				
2022 Rank	Institution (ST)	2022 Branches	2022 Deposits (\$000s)	2022 Market Share (%)
1	Truist Financial Corp. (NC)	3	642,606	23.26
2	Synovus Financial Corp. (GA)	3	395,693	14.32
3	Bank of America Corporation (NC)	2	314,980	11.40
4	Wells Fargo & Co. (CA)	2	262,355	9.49
5	<b>Southern States Bancshares Inc (AL)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>203,057</b>	<b>7.35</b>
6	Ameris Bancorp (GA)	2	193,932	7.02
7	United Bank Corp. (GA)	2	158,534	5.74
8	Bank OZK (AR)	3	147,351	5.33
9	Regions Financial Corp. (AL)	2	130,249	4.71
10	SouthState Corp. (FL)	1	118,725	4.30
Total For Institutions In Market		25	2,763,089	



## V. Capital Highlights

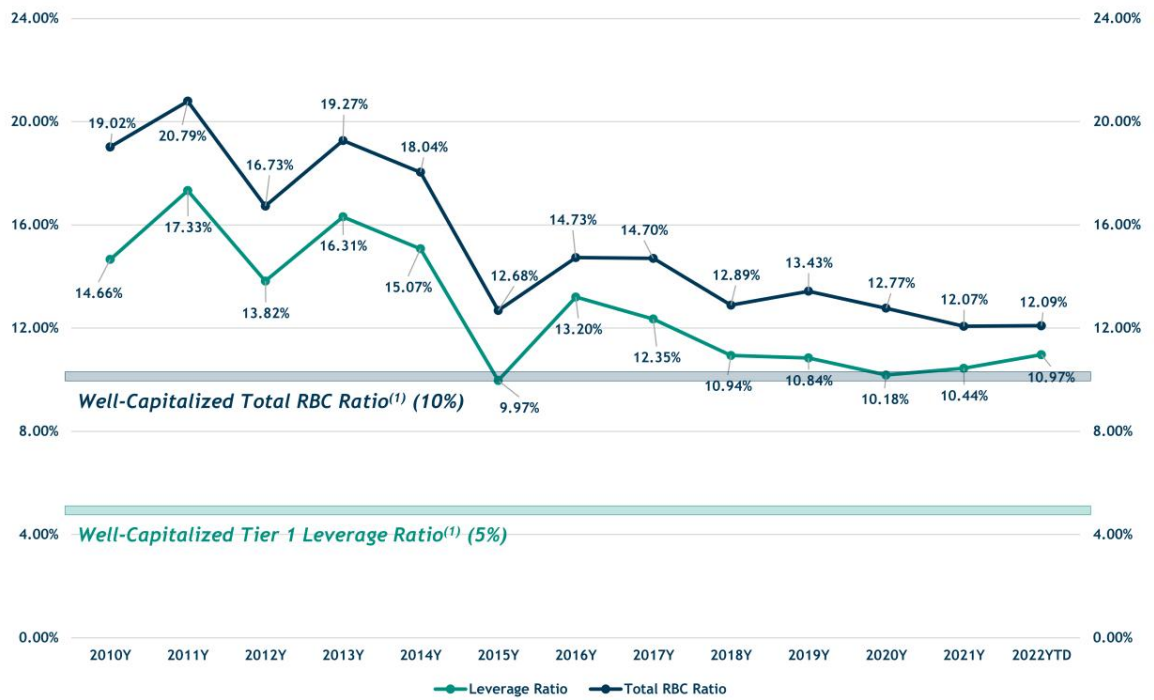


## Capitalization, Liquidity and Funding Sources

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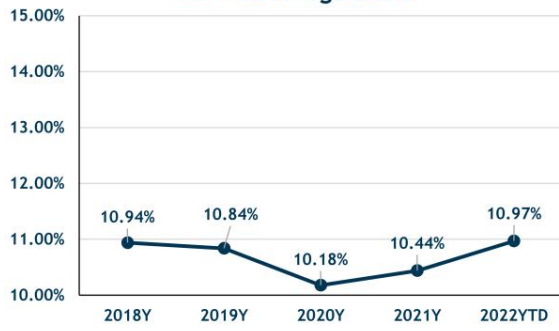
- Cash and cash equivalents at the holding company of **\$6.6mm**
  - Available to be pushed down to the Bank to support capital needs
- Current borrowings outstanding of approximately **\$73.0mm**
  - Subordinated debt of **\$48.0mm**
    - Interest rate of 3.50%
    - Callable in 2027
  - FHLB advances of **\$25.0mm**
    - **\$145.4mm** in lines of credit available
      - **\$87.2mm** from FHLB
      - **\$58.2mm** in fed fund lines from four separate institutions
- Available CD funding sources of approximately **\$706.9mm**
  - Internet CD funding of **\$374.2mm**
  - Brokered CD funding of **\$332.7mm**

# Total Risk-Based & Tier 1 Leverage Bank Capital Ratios

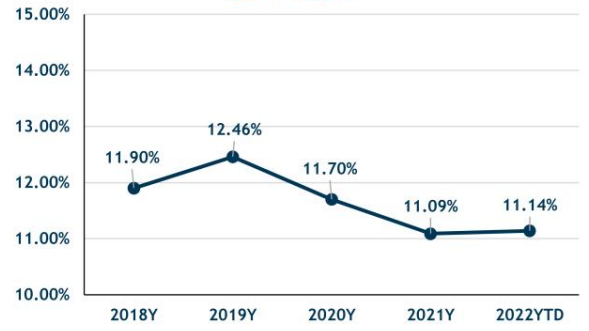


# Historical Regulatory Capital Ratios

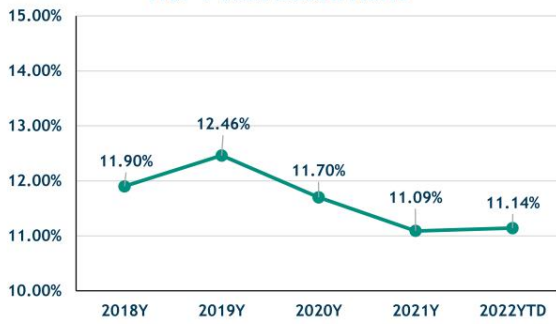
**Tier 1 Leverage Ratio**



**CET1 Ratio**



**Tier 1 Risk Based Ratio**



**Total Risk Based Ratio**





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## VI. Income Statement Highlights

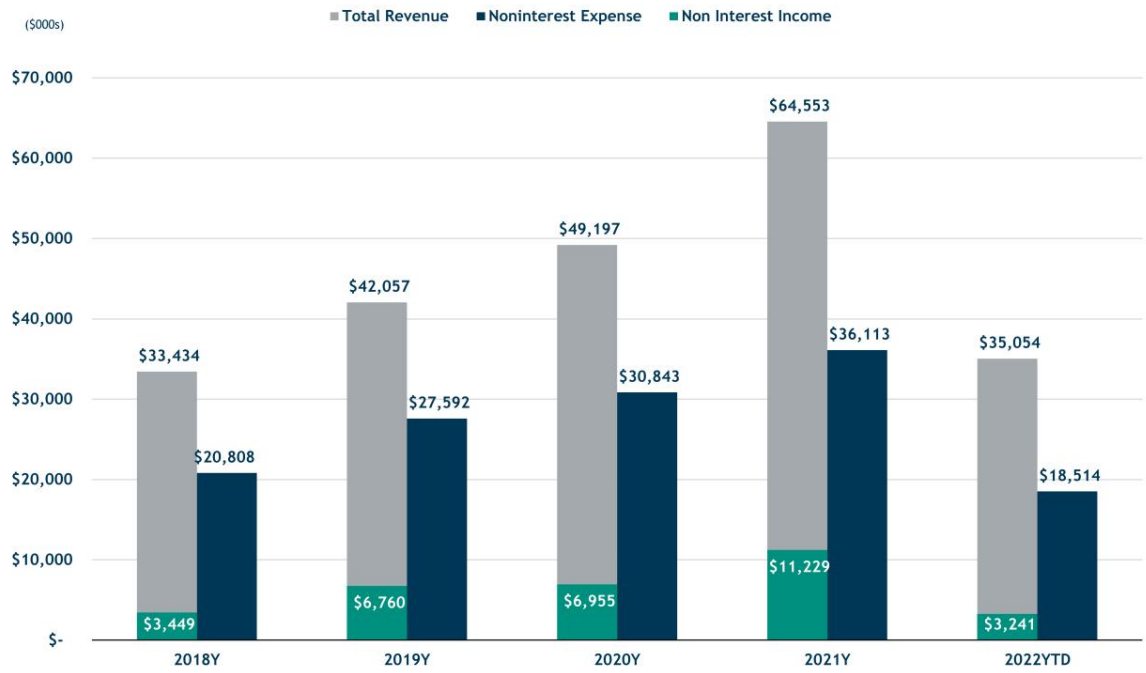
# Historical Profitability



40 Sources: S&P Capital IQ Pro; Company provided documents and filings  
 Bank level financial data; 2022YTD annualized as of 06/30/2022; past performance does not guarantee future results  
 (1) 2015 and 2019 metrics are inclusive of expenses related to the acquisition of Columbus Community Bank and East Alabama Financial Group, Inc. respectively



## Core Revenue Detail

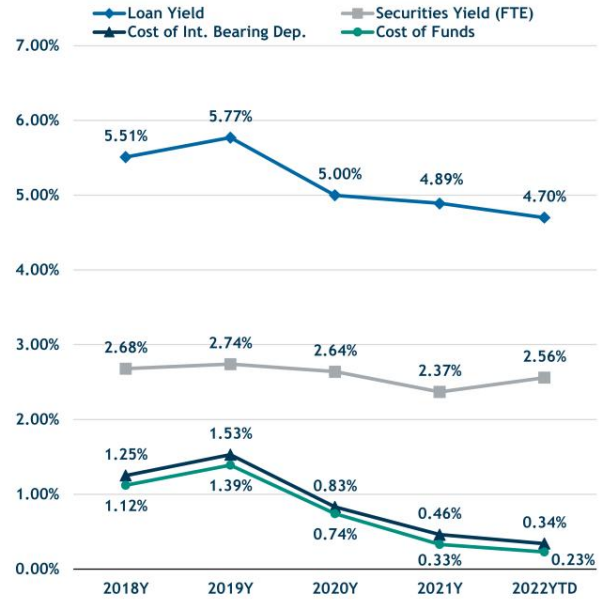


# Net Interest Income and Net Interest Margin

## Net Interest Income (NII) & Net Interest Margin (NIM)

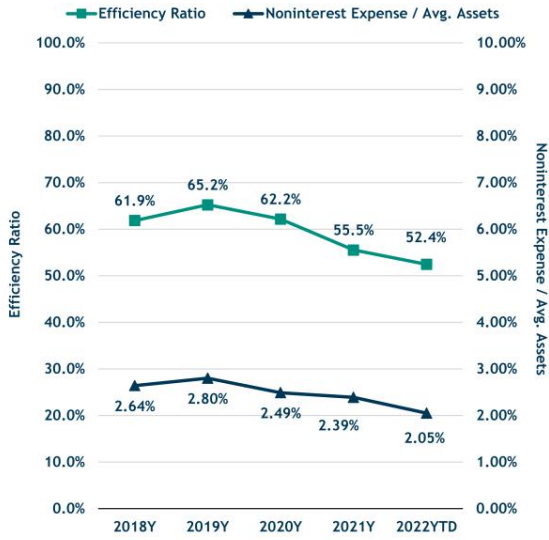


## Key Components of NII and NIM

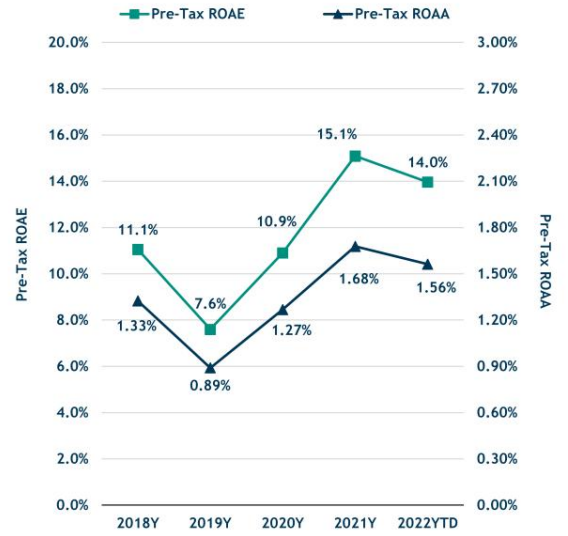


# Profitability and Expense Controls

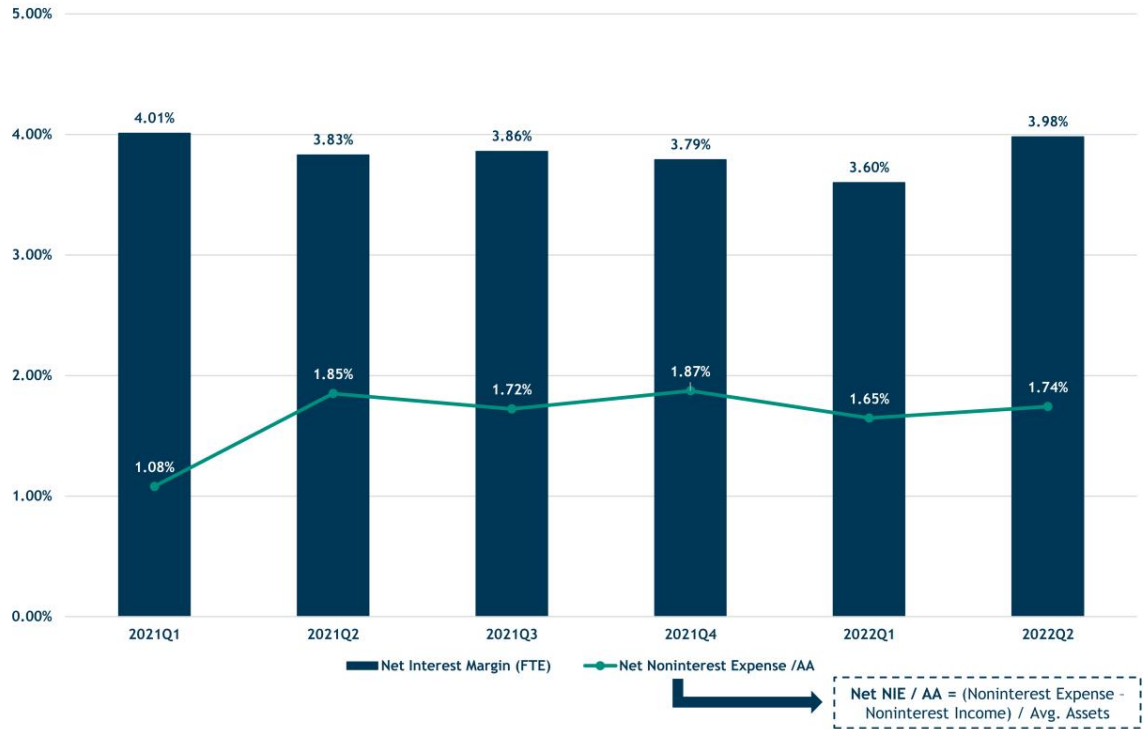
## Efficiency Ratio & NIE / Average Assets



## Pre-Tax ROAE & ROAA



# Net Interest Margin vs. Net Noninterest Expense



## Asset-Liability Management Profile

### Net Interest Margin Sensitivity Profile

Interest Rate Scenario	-400	-300	-200	-100	Base	100	200	300	400
Net Interest Income Change - Next 12 Months	-32.49%	-27.84%	-17.59%	-6.69%	0.00%	5.59%	11.06%	16.59%	22.08%

### Economic Value Sensitivity Profile

Interest Rate Scenario	-400	-300	-200	-100	Base	100	200	300	400
EVE Change	-20.54%	-20.41%	-12.66%	-3.64%	0.00%	2.52%	4.97%	7.24%	9.16%

---

## VII. Appendix



## Financial Highlights (Bank Regulatory)

	For the Years Ended:				For the Quarters Ended:				6/30/2022
	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	CAGR
<b>Balance Sheet</b>									
Total Assets (\$000)	888,073	1,095,493	1,332,475	1,781,732	1,557,978	1,781,732	1,799,583	1,904,800	24.4%
Total Loans (\$000)	703,979	840,199	1,035,811	1,252,699	1,147,544	1,252,699	1,312,579	1,432,913	22.5%
Total Deposits (\$000)	777,047	951,124	1,139,822	1,556,849	1,337,285	1,556,849	1,550,274	1,651,588	24.0%
Tangible Equity (\$000)	92,227	119,386	134,045	170,140	166,948	170,140	188,628	189,085	
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (%)	10.9	10.8	10.2	10.4	10.8	10.4	10.9	11.0	
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio (%)	12.9	13.4	12.8	12.1	13.2	12.1	13.3	12.1	
<b>Profitability</b>									
Net Income (\$000)	8,012	6,112	12,960	19,376	5,085	4,270	4,999	5,758	
ROAA (%)	1.02	0.62	1.04	1.28	1.31	1.05	1.12	1.27	
ROAE (%)	8.51	5.29	8.94	11.51	11.75	9.14	10.11	11.12	
Net Interest Margin (%)	4.10	3.86	3.72	3.84	3.84	3.76	3.58	3.96	
Efficiency Ratio (%)	61.9	65.2	62.2	55.5	56.2	58.3	54.0	51.0	
Noninterest Inc/ Operating Rev (%)	10.3	16.1	14.1	17.4	15.3	10.8	10.4	8.2	
Noninterest Exp/ AA (%)	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	
<b>Asset Quality (%)</b>									
NPLs / Loans (%)	0.8	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	
NPAs / Assets (%)	0.7	1.8	1.1	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	
Texas Ratio (%)	6.3	16.0	10.2	3.2	8.0	3.2	3.5	3.8	
Reserves / Loans (%)	1.11	1.10	1.14	1.18	1.23	1.18	1.18	1.17	
NCOs / Avg Loans (%)	0.02	0.57	0.07	-	-	-	0.02	-	

# Consolidated Balance Sheet

(dollars shown in thousands)	Year-Ended December 31,				YTD
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash & Due From Banks	\$ 7,029	\$ 13,545	\$ 23,229	\$ 6,397	\$ 22,167
Interest Bearing Deposits in Banks	63,405	77,574	51,503	203,537	95,156
Federal Funds Sold	15,994	24,116	10,175	74,022	73,024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	86,428	115,235	84,907	283,956	190,347
Investment Securities	52,133	59,947	114,001	132,172	151,749
Securities Held to Maturity, at Cost	-	-	-	19,672	19,662
Other Equity Securities, at Fair Value	-	-	5,017	9,232	6,958
Restricted Equity Securities, at Cost	1,381	2,022	3,224	2,600	2,825
Loans Held for Sale	233	2,578	5,696	2,400	2,709
Net Loans	695,913	828,176	1,018,256	1,235,456	1,413,398
Premises & Equipment, Net	16,310	20,126	24,426	27,044	28,467
Accrued Interest Receivable	2,642	2,986	4,243	4,170	4,839
Bank Owned Life Insurance	12,215	22,078	22,458	22,201	29,509
Annuities	10,314	12,903	12,903	12,888	15,540
Foreclosed Assets	572	7,042	10,224	2,930	2,930
Goodwill	6,041	16,862	16,862	16,862	16,862
Core Deposit Intangible	334	2,027	1,764	1,500	1,368
Other Assets	3,091	3,509	8,525	9,509	15,332
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>887,607</b>	<b>1,095,491</b>	<b>1,332,506</b>	<b>1,782,592</b>	<b>1,902,495</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Deposits	\$ 775,785	\$ 950,513	\$ 1,139,661	\$ 1,556,451	\$ 1,644,946
Other Borrowings	7,500	7,984	7,975	12,498	-
Federal Home Loan Bank Advances	-	-	30,900	25,950	25,000
Subordinated Notes	4,462	4,478	4,493	-	47,013
Accrued Interest Payable	349	473	278	132	88
Other Liabilities	4,036	5,406	8,543	10,363	17,501
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>792,132</b>	<b>968,854</b>	<b>1,191,850</b>	<b>1,605,394</b>	<b>1,734,548</b>
<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>					
Common Stock	32,416	38,254	38,391	45,064	43,458
Capital Surplus	43,735	64,592	65,327	80,640	75,597
Retained Earnings	20,688	23,918	34,183	49,858	58,039
AOCI	(1,236)	265	3,194	2,113	(8,439)
Unvested Restricted Stock	(128)	(392)	(439)	(477)	(708)
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>95,475</b>	<b>126,637</b>	<b>140,656</b>	<b>177,198</b>	<b>167,947</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 887,607</b>	<b>\$ 1,095,491</b>	<b>\$ 1,332,506</b>	<b>\$ 1,782,592</b>	<b>\$ 1,902,495</b>

## Consolidated Income Statement

(dollars shown in thousands)	Year-Ended December 31,				YTD
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Interest Income	\$ 37,193	\$ 46,955	\$ 50,285	\$ 57,777	\$ 33,624
Total Interest Expense	\$ 7,528,044	\$ 12,106	\$ 8,708	\$ 4,864	\$ 2,605
Net Interest Income	29,665	34,849	41,577	52,913	31,019
Provision for Loan Losses	2,196	5,700	3,300	2,982	2,004
Net Interest Income after Provision for Loan Losses	27,469	29,149	38,277	49,931	29,015
Total Noninterest Income	3,464	6,710	8,541	10,803	2,737
Noninterest Expense:	20,924	27,771	32,185	36,435	18,942
<b>Pre-Tax Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,009</b>	<b>\$ 8,088</b>	<b>\$ 14,633</b>	<b>\$ 24,299</b>	<b>\$ 12,810</b>
Income Tax Expense	2,296	2,486	2,526	5,732	3,030
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,713</b>	<b>\$ 5,602</b>	<b>\$ 12,107</b>	<b>\$ 18,567</b>	<b>\$ 9,780</b>

## Non-GAAP Financial Measures Reconciliations

(Dollars shown in thousands, except share and per share amounts)	Three Months Ended		
	June 30, 2022	March 31, 2022	June 30, 2021
Net Income	\$5,223	\$4,557	\$3,906
Add: Net OREO Write-Downs (Gains)	-	-	(8)
Less: Gain (Loss) on Securities	(42)	(361)	27
Less: Tax Effect	11	94	(9)
<b>Core Net Income</b>	<b>\$5,254</b>	<b>\$4,824</b>	<b>\$3,880</b>
Average Assets	\$1,821,437	\$1,787,015	\$1,491,372
<b>Core Return on Average Assets</b>	<b>1.16 %</b>	<b>1.09 %</b>	<b>1.04 %</b>
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$167,947	\$169,189	\$148,903
Less: Intangible Assets	18,230	18,296	18494
<b>Tangible Common Equity</b>	<b>\$149,717</b>	<b>\$150,893</b>	<b>\$130,409</b>
Core Net Income	\$5,254	\$4,824	\$3,880
Diluted Weighted Average Shares Outstanding	8,894,577	9,065,364	7,810,952
<b>Diluted Core Earnings Per Share</b>	<b>\$0.59</b>	<b>\$0.53</b>	<b>\$0.50</b>
Common Shares Outstanding at Period End	8,691,620	8,749,878	7,716,428
<b>Tangible Book Value Per Share</b>	<b>\$17.23</b>	<b>\$17.25</b>	<b>\$16.90</b>

## Non-GAAP Financial Measures Reconciliations (Continued)

(Dollars shown in thousands, except share and per share amounts)	Three Months Ended		
	June 30, 2022	March 31, 2022	June 30, 2021
Total Average Shareholders' Equity	\$170,038	\$177,244	\$147,483
Less: Average Intangible Assets	18,270	18,337	18,535
Average Tangible Common Equity	\$151,768	\$158,907	\$128,948
Net Income to Common Shareholders	\$5,223	\$4,557	\$3,906
<b>Return on Average Tangible Common Equity</b>	<b>13.80 %</b>	<b>11.63 %</b>	<b>12.15 %</b>
Core Net Income	\$5,254	\$4,824	\$3,880
<b>Core Return on Average Tangible Common Equity</b>	<b>13.89 %</b>	<b>12.31 %</b>	<b>12.07 %</b>
Net Interest Income	\$14,096	\$13,640	\$12,893
Add: Noninterest Income	1,404	1,333	2,045
Less: Gain (Loss) on Securities	(42)	(361)	(27)
Operating Revenue	\$15,887	\$15,218	\$14,911
Expenses:			
Total Noninterest Expense	\$9,652	\$9,290	\$9,106
Less: Net OREO Write-Down (Gains)	-	-	(8)
Adjusted Noninterest Expenses	\$9,652	\$9,290	\$9,114
<b>Core Efficiency Ratio</b>	<b>54.19 %</b>	<b>56.83 %</b>	<b>61.12 %</b>

## Non-GAAP Financial Measures Reconciliations (Continued)

(Dollars shown in thousands, except share and per share amounts)	Three Months Ended				
	2019	2020	2021	March 31, 2022	June 30, 2022
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$126,637	\$140,656	\$177,198	\$169,189	\$167,947
Less: Intangible Assets	18,889	18,626	18,362	18,296	18,230
<b>Tangible Common Equity</b>	<b>\$107,748</b>	<b>\$122,030</b>	<b>\$158,836</b>	<b>\$150,893</b>	<b>\$149,717</b>
Total assets at end of period	\$1,095,491	\$1,332,506	\$1,782,970	\$1,798,834	\$1,902,495
Less: Intangible assets	18,889	18,626	18,362	18,428,000	18,230
Adjusted assets at end of period	\$1,076,602	\$1,313,880	\$1,764,608	\$1,780,538	\$1,884,265
<b>Tangible common equity to tangible assets</b>	<b>10.01 %</b>	<b>9.29 %</b>	<b>9.00 %</b>	<b>8.47 %</b>	<b>7.95 %</b>
Core loans	\$838,989	\$967,177	\$1,244,914	\$1,312,994	\$1,435,089
Add: PPP loans	-	66,556	9,203	893	-
Less: Unearned income	1,548	3,618	3,817	3,817	4,884
Loans, net of unearned income	\$837,441	\$1,030,115	\$1,250,300	\$1,310,070	\$1,430,205
Less: PPP loans	-	66,556	9,203	893	-
Loans (excluding PPP loans and net of unearned income)	837,441	963,559	1,241,097	1,309,177	1,430,205
Total deposits	\$950,513	\$1,139,661	\$1,556,451	\$1,541,839	\$1,644,946
<b>Loans / deposits (excluding PPP loans and net of unearned income)</b>	<b>88.10 %</b>	<b>84.55 %</b>	<b>79.74 %</b>	<b>84.91 %</b>	<b>86.95 %</b>
Total assets	\$1,095,491	\$1,332,506	\$1,782,970	\$1,798,834	\$1,902,495
<b>Loans / assets (excluding PPP loans and net of unearned income)</b>	<b>76.44 %</b>	<b>72.31 %</b>	<b>69.61 %</b>	<b>72.78 %</b>	<b>75.18 %</b>

