

WEST BANCORPORATION INC

Form S-3

March 02, 2017

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 2, 2017

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

WEST BANCORPORATION, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its
charter)

Iowa 42-1230603

(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1601 22nd Street

West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

(515) 222-2300

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Douglas R. Gulling, EVP, Treasurer & CFO

West Bancorporation, Inc.

1601 22nd Street

West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

(515) 222-2300

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

Donald L. Norman, Jr., Esq.

Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP

200 West Madison Street, Suite 3900

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 984-3100

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of the
Registration Statement.

Edgar Filing: WEST BANCORPORATION INC - Form S-3

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be registered (1) | Proposed maximum price per unit (1) | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (1) | Amount of registration fee (1)(2) |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, no par value per share (3) | | | | |
| Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share (3) | | | | |
| Debt Securities (4) | | | | |
| Warrants (5) | | | | |
| Depositary Shares (6) | | | | |
| Subscription Rights (7) | | | | |
| Stock Purchase Contracts | | | | |
| Stock Purchase Units | | | | |
| Units | | | | |
| Total: | | | \$75,000,000 | \$0 |

Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933. The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance of the securities registered by this registration statement. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been (1) estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. In no event will the aggregate maximum offering price of all securities issued under this registration statement exceed \$75,000,000. The amount registered is not specified as to each class of securities to be registered hereunder pursuant to General Instruction II.D. to Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933.

(2) Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act of 1933, the \$75,000,000 of securities registered pursuant to this registration statement includes \$75,000,000 of unsold securities (collectively, the "Unsold Securities") previously registered by the registrant on its Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed on March 7, 2014 and declared effective on March 20, 2014 (File No. 333-194392) (the "Prior Registration Statement"). In connection

with the registration of the Unsold Securities, the registrant previously paid a registration fee of \$3,483 for the registration of \$30,000,000 of the Unsold Securities on its Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed on March 11, 2011 and declared effective on March 21, 2011 (File No. 333-172743) and \$6,177 for the registration of an additional \$45,000,000 of the Unsold Securities on the Prior Registration Statement. As of the date hereof, all of the Unsold Securities remain unsold. Accordingly, the "Amount of registration fee" above reflects no fee being due for the Unsold Securities.

Shares of common stock or preferred stock may be issued in primary offerings, upon conversion of debt securities (3) or preferred stock registered hereby or upon the exercise of warrants or subscription rights to purchase preferred stock or common stock.

(4) The debt securities to be offered hereunder will consist of one or more series of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, or any combination thereof, as more fully described herein.

(5) Warrants exercisable for common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities or other securities.

(6) The depositary shares registered hereunder will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to a deposit agreement. If the registrant elects to offer to the public fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, then depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional interests and the shares will be issued to the depositary under the deposit agreement.

(7) Subscription rights evidencing the right to purchase common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities or other securities.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement containing this prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED MARCH 2, 2017

PROSPECTUS

\$75,000,000

Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants
Depositary Shares
Subscription Rights
Stock Purchase Contracts
Stock Purchase Units
Units

West Bancorporation, Inc. (“we,” “us,” “our” or the “Company”) may offer and sell, from time to time, in one or more series, and in any combination, the securities described in this prospectus. The aggregate offering price of the securities that we offer will not exceed \$75,000,000.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which we will offer them. Each time that we offer and sell securities using this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the securities and their terms and the manner in which we will offer them for sale. The prospectus supplement also may add or update information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any supplement to this prospectus, as well as any documents we have incorporated into this prospectus by reference, before you invest in any of these securities.

References herein to “prospectus supplement” are deemed to refer to any pricing supplement or free writing prospectus describing the specific pricing or other terms of the applicable offering that we prepare and distribute.

We may offer and sell these securities through underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. We will provide the names of any such underwriters, dealers or agents used in connection with the sale of any of these securities, as well as any fees, commissions or discounts we may pay to such underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the sale of these securities, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “WTBA”. On March 1, 2017, the closing price of our common stock was \$22.75 per share.

These securities are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. Our principal executive offices are located at 1601 22nd Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, and our telephone number is (515) 222-2300.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should refer to the section entitled “Risk Factors” on page 2 of this prospectus, as well as the risk factors included in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and carefully consider that information before buying our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated _____, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>WEST BANCORPORATION, INC.</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u> | <u>8</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u> | <u>15</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS</u> | <u>17</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK REPURCHASE UNITS</u> | <u>17</u> |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u> | <u>18</u> |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | <u>18</u> |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | <u>19</u> |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | <u>19</u> |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | <u>19</u> |
| <u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u> | <u>20</u> |

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves certain risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, as well as those contained in any applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. This prospectus and documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus also contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks faced by us.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, on a continuous or delayed basis, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus for an aggregate offering price of up to \$75,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. Such prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus (including the documents incorporated by reference) and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information referred to under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of its date only.

Any of the securities described in this prospectus and in a prospectus supplement may be convertible or exchangeable into, or exercisable for, other securities that are described in this prospectus or will be described in a prospectus supplement, and may be issued separately, together or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities, which may or may not be separate from one another. The securities offered hereby may include new or hybrid securities developed in the future that combine features of any of the securities described in this prospectus.

The registration statement that contains this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, also contains additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. You can find the registration statement at the SEC’s website or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, other than purely historical information, including estimates, projections, statements relating to the Company's business plans, objectives and expected operating results, and the assumptions upon which those statements are based, are "forward-looking statements" within the meanings of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements may appear throughout this prospectus. These forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "believes," "expects," "intends," "anticipates," "projects," "future," "may," "should," "will," "strategy," "plan," "opportunity," "will be," "will likely result," "will continue" or similar references to estimates, predictions or future events. Such forward-looking statements are based upon certain underlying assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Because of the possibility that the underlying assumptions are incorrect or do not materialize as expected in the future, actual results could differ materially from these forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties that may affect future results include: interest rate risk; competitive pressures; pricing pressures on loans and deposits; changes in credit and other risks posed by the Company's loan and investment portfolios, including declines in commercial or residential real estate values or changes in the allowance for loan losses dictated by new market conditions or regulatory requirements; actions of bank and nonbank competitors; changes in local, national and international economic conditions; changes in regulatory requirements, limitations and costs; changes in customers' acceptance of the Company's products and services; cyber-attacks; unexpected outcomes of existing or new litigation involving the Company; and any other risks described in the "Risk Factors" sections of this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and other reports filed by the Company with the SEC. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update such forward-looking statements to reflect current or future events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

WEST BANCORPORATION, INC.

We are an Iowa corporation and a financial holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company was formed in 1984 to own West Des Moines State Bank, an Iowa chartered bank headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, which is now known as West Bank. West Bank is a business-focused community bank that was organized in 1893. At December 31, 2016, we had assets of \$1.9 billion, deposits of \$1.5 billion and shareholders' equity of \$165.4 million.

West Bank provides full-service community banking and trust services to customers located primarily in the Des Moines and Iowa City, Iowa and the Rochester, Minnesota metropolitan areas. West Bank has eight offices in the Des Moines metropolitan area, one office in Iowa City, Iowa, one office in Coralville, Iowa, and one office in Rochester, Minnesota. West Bank offers all basic types of credit to its customers, including commercial, real estate and consumer loans. West Bank offers trust services typically found in a commercial bank with trust powers, including the administration of estates, conservatorships, personal trusts and agency accounts. In addition, West Bank offers a full range of deposit services, including checking, savings, money market accounts and time certificates of deposit. Our principal executive office is located at 1601 22nd Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, and our telephone number is (515) 222-2300.

Additional information about us is included in our filings with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" in this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the securities offered hereby for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things, investments in or advances to our subsidiary, working capital, capital expenditures, stock repurchases, debt repayment or the financing of possible acquisitions. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities by us will identify

the particular use of proceeds for that offering. Until we use the net proceeds from an offering, we may place the net proceeds in temporary investments or hold the net proceeds in deposit accounts at West Bank.

3

Table of Contents

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. We did not pay any preferred stock dividends during the periods presented because no shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during such periods. Consequently, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for these periods were the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges. For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of earnings before income taxes plus interest and rent expense. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and rent expense. "Fixed charges including interest on deposits" consists of all interest expense on deposits and other debt and the amortization of debt issuance costs. The calculation of interest included in operating lease rental expense is representative of the interest factor attributable to the lease payment.

| | Year Ended December | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 31, | | | | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges: | | | | | |
| Including Interest on Deposits | 4.97 | 5.78 | 4.95 | 4.16 | 3.28 |
| Excluding Interest on Deposits | 7.70 | 8.16 | 7.15 | 6.71 | 5.17 |

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, depositary shares, subscription rights, stock purchase contracts, stock purchase units and units that we may offer and sell from time to time. When one or more of these securities are offered in the future, a prospectus supplement will explain the particular terms of the securities and the extent to which these general provisions may apply. These summary descriptions and any summary descriptions in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete descriptions of the terms and conditions of each security and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended (our "Articles of Incorporation"), our Bylaws, as amended (our "Bylaws"), the Iowa Business Corporation Act and any other documents referenced in such summary descriptions and from which such summary descriptions are derived. If any particular terms of a security described in the applicable prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then the terms described in this prospectus will be deemed superseded by the terms set forth in that prospectus supplement.

We may issue securities in book-entry form through one or more depositaries, such as The Depository Trust Company, Euroclear or Clearstream, named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each sale of a security in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the applicable depositary, unless otherwise stated. We will issue the securities in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any securities are to be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system, the applicable prospectus supplement will say so.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a summary of the material terms, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of our capital stock as contained in our Articles of Incorporation, which are incorporated by reference herein. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the terms and conditions of our capital stock in all respects and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Articles of Incorporation, our Bylaws, the Iowa Business Corporation Act and any other documents referenced in the summary descriptions and from which the summary descriptions are derived. Although we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of our capital stock set forth in our Articles of Incorporation, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you.

Authorized Shares of Capital Stock

We have the authority to issue 50,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of March 1, 2017, we had 16,137,999 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

Dividend Rights. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive any cash dividends that may be declared by our board of directors. We are subject to the limitations of the Iowa Business Corporation Act and various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. Subject to these restrictions, the declaration and payment of future dividends to holders of our common stock will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our earnings and financial condition, our capital requirements and those of our subsidiary, regulatory conditions and considerations and other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant. No cash dividends will be paid with respect to our common stock for any period unless dividends for the same period, and any accumulated but unpaid dividends, with respect to any outstanding series of our preferred stock having preferential rights with respect to dividends have been paid.

Voting Rights. Each share of common stock entitles the holder thereof to one vote per share on all matters on which the holders of our common stock are entitled to vote. The common stock does not have cumulative voting rights.

Liquidation Rights. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive, pro rata, our assets which are legally available for distribution, after payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any holders of preferred stock then outstanding.

Preemptive Rights. The holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights.

Miscellaneous. Shares of our common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock. The issued and outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

General. We may issue up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 per value per share, from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors, without further approval of our shareholders, has the authority to fix the dividend rights and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences, sinking funds and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each series of preferred stock. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could, among other things, adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock.

Table of Contents

We will describe the particular terms of any series of preferred stock being offered in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. Those terms may include:

- the number of shares being offered;
 - the title and liquidation preference per share;
 - the purchase price;
 - the dividend rate or method for determining that rate;
 - the dates on which dividends will be paid;
 - whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will begin to accumulate;
 - any applicable redemption or sinking fund provisions;
 - any applicable conversion provisions;
 - whether we have elected to offer depositary shares with respect to that series of preferred stock; and
 - any additional dividend, liquidation and other rights and restrictions applicable to that series of preferred stock.
- The shares of preferred stock will, when issued against full payment of their purchase price, be fully paid and nonassessable.

Dividend Rights. If you purchase preferred stock being offered by use of this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement, you will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, dividends at the rates and on the dates set forth in the prospectus supplement. Dividend rates may be fixed, variable or both. The nature, amount, rates, timing and other details of dividend rights for a series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and will be payable in preference to, or in such relation to, the dividends payable on any other class or classes or series of our stock, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We are subject to various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums.

Voting Rights. The voting rights of preferred stock of any series being offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Liquidation Rights. In the event that we liquidate, dissolve or wind-up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, holders of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions in the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, before we make any distribution of assets to the holders of our common stock or any junior preferred stock. If we fail to pay in full all amounts payable with respect to preferred stock being offered by us and any stock having the same rank as that series of preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock and of that other stock will share in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After the holders of each series of preferred stock and any stock having the same rank as the preferred stock are paid in full, they will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. For any series of preferred stock being offered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement, neither the sale of all or substantially all of our property or business nor a merger or consolidation by us with any other corporation will be considered a dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of our business or affairs.

Redemption. The terms, if any, on which shares of a series of preferred stock being offered may be redeemed will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The preferred stock of a series may be redeemed in such amount or amounts, and at such time or times, if any, as may be provided in respect of that particular series of preferred stock. Preferred stock may be redeemed by the Company only to the extent legally permissible.

Conversion Rights. The applicable prospectus supplement will state the terms, if any, on which shares of a series of preferred stock being offered are convertible into shares of our common stock or another series of our preferred stock.

Description of Certain Provisions of Our Articles of Incorporation, Our Bylaws and Iowa Law

Certain provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a shareholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the then current market price for the shares held by shareholders. These provisions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Table of Contents

Authorized Shares of Capital Stock. Authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock under our Articles of Incorporation could (within the limits imposed by applicable law and NASDAQ Global Select Market rules) be issued in one or more transactions that could make a change of control of us more difficult, and therefore more unlikely. The additional authorized shares could be used to discourage persons from attempting to gain control of us by diluting the voting power of shares then outstanding or increasing the voting power of persons who would support the board of directors in a potential takeover situation, including by preventing or delaying a proposed business combination that is opposed by the board of directors although perceived to be desirable by some shareholders.

Limitations on Right to Call Special Meetings. Under our Bylaws, special meetings of our shareholders may be called by our President or a majority of our board of directors. Our shareholders are entitled to request that our President convene a special meeting of shareholders only upon the request by the holders of at least 50 percent of all the outstanding shares of the Company entitled to vote at the meeting. These provisions could have the effect of delaying until the next annual shareholders' meeting shareholder actions which are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities.

Iowa Law. The Iowa Business Corporation Act contains an anti-takeover provision referred to as the "business combinations with interested shareholders" provision. This provision prevents a corporation from engaging in any business combination with an "interested shareholder" (as defined in the Iowa Business Corporation Act) for a period of three years following the time that the shareholder became an interested shareholder, unless one of the following conditions applies: (i) prior to the time that the shareholder became an interested shareholder, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder; (ii) upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder owned at least 85 percent of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced; or (iii) at or subsequent to the time the shareholder became an interested shareholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of shareholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3 percent of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested shareholder.

Moreover, under Section 490.1108A of the Iowa Business Corporation Act, in determining what he or she believes to be in the best interests of the Company when considering an acquisition, merger or similar proposal, a director may, in addition to considering the effects of any action on shareholders, consider the effects of the action on employees, suppliers, creditors, customers, and the communities in which we operate as well as "long-term [and] short-term interests of the corporation and its shareholders, including the possibility that those interests may be best served by the continued independence of the corporation." The Iowa Business Corporation Act also provides that "[c]onsideration of any or all of the community interest factors is not a violation of the business judgment rule or of any duty of the director to the shareholders, or a group of shareholders, even if the director reasonably determines that a community interest factor or factors outweigh the financial or other benefits to the corporation or a shareholder or group of shareholders." This provision may have anti-takeover effects in situations where the interests of our stakeholders, other than shareholders, conflict with the short-term maximization of shareholder value.

In addition, the Iowa Business Corporation Act permits an Iowa corporation to issue stock rights or options in connection with a defense against a hostile acquisition. Such defense is commonly called a "Shareholder Rights Plan." Generally, a Shareholder Rights Plan allows a company to issue stock rights or options on favorable terms upon the consummation of a merger or similar transaction. The rights or options are issued to outstanding shareholders and may be canceled or redeemed by the board of directors for a nominal sum. If not canceled or redeemed, those rights or options can make a takeover unduly expensive. Consequently, a Shareholder Rights Plan has the effect of encouraging an acquirer to negotiate with our board of directors on a potential sale.

Federal Law Restrictions. The Change in Bank Control Act of 1978 prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring "control" of a bank holding company, such as the Company, unless:

- the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve Board") has been given 60 days prior written notice of the proposed acquisition; and

within that time period, the Federal Reserve Board has not issued a notice disapproving the proposed acquisition or extending for an additional 30 days the period during which such a disapproval may be issued or unless the acquisition otherwise requires Federal Reserve Board approval. An acquisition may be made before expiration of the disapproval period if the Federal Reserve Board issues written notice that it intends not to disapprove the action. It is generally assumed that the acquisition of more than 10 percent of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with publicly held securities, such as the Company, would constitute the acquisition of control.

Table of Contents

In addition, any company would be required to obtain Federal Reserve Board approval before acquiring 25 percent or more of our outstanding voting stock. If the acquirer is a bank holding company, this approval is required before acquiring 5 percent of our outstanding common stock. Obtaining “control” over the Company would also require Federal Reserve Board prior approval. “Control” generally means:

- the ownership or control of 25 percent or more of any class of voting securities of a bank holding company;
- the ability to elect a majority of the bank holding company’s directors; or
- the ability otherwise to exercise a controlling influence over the bank holding company’s management and policies.

In evaluating an application for acquiring control over the Company, the Federal Reserve Board would consider a number of factors, including whether the acquisition would lessen competition, the financial and managerial resources of the applicant and the Company and the competence, experience, and integrity of the officers, shareholders, and directors of the applicant. Additionally, under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, an entity which acquires control of a bank holding company, such as the Company, would have its activities limited to those financial activities which are closely related to banking.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The debt securities that we may offer using this prospectus consist of notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness. Any debt securities that we offer and sell will be our direct obligations. Debt securities may be issued in one or more series. All debt securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time, and unless otherwise provided, a series of debt securities may be reopened, with the required consent of the holders of outstanding debt securities, for issuance of additional debt securities of that series or to establish additional terms of that series of debt securities (with such additional terms applicable only to unissued or additional debt securities of that series). The form of indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and is subject to any amendments or supplements that we may enter into with the trustee(s). The material terms of the indenture are summarized below and we refer you to the indenture for a detailed description of these material terms. Additional or different provisions that are applicable to a particular series of debt securities will, if material, be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities of that series. These provisions may include, among other things and to the extent applicable, the following:

- the title of the debt securities, including, as applicable, whether the debt securities will be issued as senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities or subordinated debt securities, and any subordination provisions particular to the series of debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- if other than 100 percent of the aggregate principal amount, the percentage of the aggregate principal amount at which we will sell the debt securities (i.e., original issuance discount);
- the date or dates, whether fixed or extendable, on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;
- the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which we will pay any such interest, the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, and, in the case of registered securities, the record dates for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable;
- any provisions relating to the issuance of the debt securities of the series at an original issue discount;
- the place or places where the principal of, and interest on, the debt securities will be payable and, if applicable, where the debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;
- whether we may, at our option, redeem the debt securities, and if so, the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, we may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to any sinking fund or otherwise;
- if other than 100 percent of the aggregate principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities which will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date thereof or provable in bankruptcy, or, if applicable, which is convertible or exchangeable;

Table of Contents

any obligation we may have to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities, and the price or prices at which, the currency in which and the period or periods within which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities will be redeemed, purchased or repaid, in whole or in part, pursuant to any such obligation, and any provision for the remarketing of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be registered securities or unregistered securities or both, and the rights of the holders of the debt securities to exchange unregistered securities for registered securities, or vice-versa, and the circumstances under which any such exchanges, if permitted, may be made;

- the denominations, which may be in U.S. dollars or in any foreign currency, in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities, and if so, the form of the debt securities (or forms thereof if unregistered and registered securities are issuable in that series), including the legends required by law or as we deem necessary or appropriate, the form of any coupons or temporary global security which may be issued and the forms of any other certificates which may be required under the indenture or which we may require in connection with the offering, sale, delivery or exchange of the debt securities;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which payments of principal, interest and other amounts payable with respect to the debt securities will be denominated, payable, redeemable or repurchasable, as the case may be;

whether the debt securities may be issuable in tranches;

the obligations, if any, we may have to permit the conversion or exchange of the debt securities into common stock, preferred stock or other capital stock or property, or a combination thereof, and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange will be effected (including the conversion price or exchange ratio), and any limitations on the ownership or transferability of the securities or property into which the debt securities may be converted or exchanged;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or any other agents with respect to the debt securities;

if the debt securities do not bear interest, the applicable dates required under the indenture for furnishing information to the trustee regarding the holders of the debt securities;

- any deletions from, modifications of or additions to (i) the events of default with respect to the debt securities or (ii) the rights of the trustee or the holders of the debt securities in connection with events of default;
- any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the covenants with respect to the debt securities;

if the amount of payments of principal of, and make-whole amount, if any, and interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, the manner in which such amount will be determined;

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the global form of one or more debt securities and, if so, the depositary for such debt securities, the circumstances under which any such debt security may be exchanged for debt securities registered in the name of, and under which any transfer of debt securities may be registered in the name of, any person other than such depositary or its nominee, and any other provisions regarding such debt securities;

whether, under what circumstances and the currency in which, we will pay additional amounts on the debt securities to any holder of the debt securities who is not a U.S. person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts (and the terms of any such option);

whether the debt securities, in whole or specified parts, will be defeasible, and, if the securities may be defeased, in whole or in specified part, any provisions to permit a pledge of obligations other than certain government obligations to satisfy the requirements of the indenture regarding defeasance of securities and, if other than by resolution of our board of directors, the manner in which any election to defease the debt securities will be evidenced;

- whether the debt securities will be secured by any property, assets or other collateral and, if so, a general description of the collateral and the terms of any related security, pledge or other agreements;
-

the persons to whom any interest on the debt securities will be payable, if other than the registered holders thereof on the regular record date therefor;

the dates on which interest, if any, will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates;

9

Table of Contents

any restrictions, conditions or requirements for transfer of the debt securities; and
any other material terms or conditions upon which the debt securities will be issued.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and in integral multiples of \$1,000, and interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. If any interest payment date or the maturity date falls on a day that is not a business day, then the payment will be made on the next business day without additional interest and with the same effect as if it were made on the originally scheduled date.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee will act as paying agent and registrar for the debt securities under the indenture. We may also act as paying agent under the indenture.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain a description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the debt securities, to the extent applicable.

Covenants

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any covenants, such as restrictive covenants restricting us or our subsidiary from incurring, issuing, assuming or guarantying any indebtedness or restricting us or our subsidiary from paying dividends or acquiring any of our or its capital stock.

Consolidation, Merger and Transfer of Assets

The indenture permits a consolidation or merger between us and another entity and/or the sale, conveyance or lease by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets; provided, however, that:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of a U.S. jurisdiction and assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indenture;

immediately after the transaction, and giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the indenture exists; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate stating that the transaction and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with the transaction, the supplemental indenture, comply with the indenture and that all conditions precedent to the transaction contained in the indenture have been satisfied.

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other entity, or sell or lease all or substantially all of our assets in compliance with the terms and conditions of the indenture, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the indenture and the debt securities with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture and the debt securities. As a result, such successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indenture and the debt securities, in our name, and, except in the case of a lease, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under the indenture and under the debt securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may transfer all of our property and assets to another entity if, immediately after giving effect to the transfer, such entity is our wholly owned subsidiary. The term "wholly owned subsidiary" means any subsidiary in which we and/or our other wholly owned subsidiary owns all of the outstanding capital stock.

Table of Contents

Modification and Waiver

Under the indenture, some of our rights and obligations and some of the rights of the holders of the debt securities may be modified or amended with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities affected by the modification or amendment. However, the following modifications and amendments will not be effective against any holder without its consent:

- a change in the stated maturity date of any payment of principal or interest;
- a reduction in the principal amount of, or interest on, any debt securities;
- an alteration or impairment of any right to convert at the rate or upon the terms provided in the indenture;
- a change in the currency in which any payment on the debt securities is payable;
- an impairment of a holder's right to sue us for the enforcement of payments due on the debt securities; or
- a reduction in the percentage of outstanding debt securities required to consent to a modification or amendment of the indenture or required to consent to a waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or certain defaults under the indenture.

Under the indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may, on behalf of all holders of the debt securities:

- waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the indenture; and
- waive any past default under the indenture in accordance with the applicable provisions of the indenture, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any series of debt securities.

Finally, we and the indenture trustee may, from time to time, amend the indenture without the consent of holders of the debt securities for certain purposes, including but not limited to the following:

- to evidence the succession of another entity to us or successive successions and the assumption by such entity of our covenants, agreements and obligations under the indenture;
- to add additional events of default for the protection of the holders of debt securities;
- to add covenants for the protection of the holders of debt securities; and
- to make certain other administrative modifications which do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities.

Events of Default

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, "event of default" under the indenture will mean, with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

- failure to pay interest on any debt security for 30 days after the payment is due;
- failure to pay the principal of any debt security when due, either at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration or otherwise;
- failure on our part to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement in the indenture that applies to the debt securities for 90 days after we have received written notice of the failure to perform in the manner specified in the indenture; and
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

Table of Contents

If an event of default occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities to be due and payable immediately, except that, if the event of default is caused by certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the entire principal of all of the debt securities of such series will become due and payable immediately without any act on the part of the trustee or holders of the debt securities. If such a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series can, subject to conditions, rescind the declaration.

The indenture requires us to furnish to the trustee, not less often than annually, a certificate from our principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer, as the case may be, as to such officer's knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except defaults in the payment of principal of, or interest on, any debt securities if the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of notice is in the best interests of the holders. For purposes of this paragraph, "default" means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default under the indenture.

The trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders of debt securities, unless the holders offer the trustee satisfactory security or indemnity. If satisfactory security or indemnity is provided, then, subject to other rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may direct the time, method and place of:

- conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or
- exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee.

The holder of a debt security will have the right to begin any proceeding with respect to the indenture or for any remedy only if:

- the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default;
- the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities have made a written request of, and offered reasonable indemnity to, the trustee to begin such proceeding;
- the trustee has not started such proceeding within 60 days after receiving the request; and
- no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee under the indenture.

However, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute right to receive payment of principal of, and interest on, the debt security when due and to institute suit to enforce payment.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if at any time,

we have paid or caused to be paid the principal of and interest on all the debt securities of any series, except for debt securities which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid in accordance with the indenture, as and when the same has become due and payable;

we have delivered to the trustee for cancellation all debt securities of any series theretofore authenticated, except for debt securities of such series which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid as provided in the indenture; or

all the debt securities of such series not theretofore delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year, and we have deposited with the trustee, in trust, sufficient money or government obligations, or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums due on the debt securities, on the dates the payments are due or become due under the indenture and the terms of the debt securities;

then the indenture shall cease to be of further effect with respect to the debt securities of such series, except for (i) rights of registration of transfer and exchange, and our right of optional redemption, (ii) substitution of mutilated, defaced, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, (iii) rights of holders to receive payments of principal thereof and

interest thereon upon the original stated due dates therefor (but not upon acceleration) and remaining rights of the holders to receive mandatory sinking fund payments, if any, (iv) the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee under the indenture, and (v) the rights of the holders of such series of debt securities as beneficiaries thereof with respect to the property so deposited with the trustee payable to all or any of them.

Table of Contents

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect with respect to any debt securities of any series either:

- to defease and be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to such debt securities (“defeasance”), with certain exceptions described below; or
- to be released from our obligations with respect to such debt securities under such covenants as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with those obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to such debt securities (“covenant defeasance”).

We must comply with the following conditions before the defeasance or covenant defeasance can be effected:

- we must irrevocably deposit with the indenture trustee or other qualifying trustee, under the terms of an irrevocable trust agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the trustee, trust funds in trust solely for the benefit of the holders of such debt securities, sufficient money or government obligations, or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums on the due dates for those payments; and
- we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, to be effected with respect to such debt securities and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, had not occurred.

In connection with defeasance, any irrevocable trust agreement contemplated by the indenture must include, among other things, provision for (i) payment of the principal of and interest on such debt securities, if any, appertaining thereto when due (by redemption, sinking fund payments or otherwise), (ii) the payment of the expenses of the trustee incurred or to be incurred in connection with carrying out such trust provisions, (iii) rights of registration, transfer, substitution and exchange of such debt securities in accordance with the terms stated in the indenture, and (iv) continuation of the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee as against the holders of such debt securities as stated in the indenture.

The accompanying prospectus supplement may further describe any provisions permitting or restricting defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities of a particular series.

Global Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each debt security offered by this prospectus will be issued in the form of one or more global debt securities representing all or part of that series of debt securities. This means that we will not issue certificates for that series of debt securities to the holders. Instead, a global debt security representing that series will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a securities depository and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Any such depository must be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act. We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities to be represented by a global security in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Notices

We will give notices to holders of the debt securities by mail at the addresses listed in the security register. In the case of notice in respect of unregistered securities or coupon securities, we may give notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in New York, New York.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, is applicable.

Regarding the Trustee

General. We will enter into the indenture with a trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act and with any other trustees chosen by us and appointed in a supplemental indenture for a particular series of debt securities.

Table of Contents

Resignation or Removal of Trustee. If the trustee has or acquires a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee must either eliminate its conflicting interest or resign, to the extent and in the manner provided by, and subject to the provisions of, the Trust Indenture Act and the indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor trustee under the indenture in accordance with the terms and conditions of the indenture.

The trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of debt securities and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may remove the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

Annual Trustee Report to Holders of Debt Securities. The trustee will be required to submit certain reports to the holders of the debt securities regarding, among other things, the trustee's eligibility to serve as such, the priority of the trustee's claims regarding advances made by it, and any action taken by the trustee materially affecting the debt securities.

Certificates and Opinions to Be Furnished to Trustee. The indenture provides that, in addition to other certificates or opinions specifically required by other provisions of the indenture, every application by us for action by the trustee must be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of our officers and an opinion of counsel (who may be our counsel) stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent to such action have been complied with by us.

Certain Relationships in the Ordinary Course. From time to time, we may maintain deposit accounts and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee to be appointed under the indenture or its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, other securities of the Company or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued alone or together with securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to, or separate from, those securities. The particular terms of any warrants will be described more specifically in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants we are offering will include specific terms relating to the offering. We will file the form of any warrant agreement with the SEC, and you should read the warrant agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following information:

- the title and specific designation of the warrants;
- the aggregate number of warrants offered;
- the amount of warrants outstanding, if any;
- the designation, number and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and procedures that will result in the adjustment of those numbers;
- the exercise price or prices of the warrants;
- the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;
- the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued;
- if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;
- if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;
- any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- the anti-dilution, redemption or call provisions of the warrants, if any;
- if applicable, the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;
- any terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange or exercise of the warrants; and
- any other material terms of the warrants.

Table of Contents

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to exercise voting rights, if any.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

This following is a summary of the general terms of the deposit agreement to govern any depositary shares we may offer representing fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, the depositary shares themselves and the related depositary receipts. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects and is subject to and qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipt with respect to the depositary shares relating to any particular series of preferred stock. A copy of the deposit agreement and form of depositary receipt relating to any depositary shares we issue will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to a filing incorporated by reference in the registration statement. The specific terms of any depositary shares we may offer will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

General

We may offer fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock, most likely in the event that our then authorized but yet undesignated shares of preferred stock is not sufficient to offer full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company having its principal office in the U.S. and having a combined capital and surplus of such amount as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, which we refer to in this section as the depositary. We will name the depositary in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will have a fractional interest in all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying the depositary share. Those rights include any dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. If you purchase fractional interests in shares of the related series of preferred stock, you will receive depositary receipts as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, you will not be entitled to receive the whole shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares.

Dividend Rights

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to each record holder of depositary shares based on the number of the depositary shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary shares.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, adopt the method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and distribution of the net proceeds from this sale to the applicable holders.

The deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of the preferred stock will be made available to the holders of depositary shares.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

When the depositary receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock may vote, the depositary will mail information about the meeting contained in the notice, and any accompanying proxy materials, to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to how the preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares should be voted.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

Redemption

If the series of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, all or a part of the depositary shares will be redeemed from the redemption proceeds of that series of the preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will bear the same relationship to the redemption price per share of preferred stock that the depositary share bears to the underlying preferred stock. Whenever we redeem preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock redeemed. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will cease, except the right to receive money or other property that the holders of the depositary shares were entitled to receive upon the redemption. Payments will be made when holders surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary.

Taxation

Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares. If necessary, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide a description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the depositary shares and the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary at any time. However, certain amendments as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be effective unless approved by the record holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then-outstanding. A deposit agreement may be terminated by us or the depositary only if:

- all outstanding depositary shares relating to the deposit agreement have been redeemed; or
- there has been a final distribution on the preferred stock of the relevant series in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business and the distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related depositary shares.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay associated charges of the depositary for the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges that are stated to be their responsibility in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us. We may also remove the depositary at any time. Resignations or removals will take effect when a successor depositary is appointed and it accepts the appointment.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

This following is a summary of the general terms of the subscription rights to purchase common stock or other securities that we may offer to shareholders using this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects and is subject to and qualified entirely by reference to the applicable forms of subscription agent agreement and subscription certificate for a full understanding of all terms of any series of subscription rights. Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other security and may or may not be transferable. As part of any subscription rights offering, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement under which the underwriters or any other person would purchase any securities that are not purchased in such subscription rights offering. If we issue subscription rights, they will be governed by a separate subscription agent agreement that we will sign with a bank or trust company, as rights agent, that will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation to any holders of subscription rights certificates or beneficial owners of subscription rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any subscription rights we offer will describe the specific terms of the offering and the subscription rights, including the record date for shareholders entitled to the subscription rights distribution, the number of subscription rights issued and the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the subscription rights, the exercise price of the subscription rights, the date on which the subscription rights will become effective and the date on which the subscription rights will expire, and any material U.S. federal income tax considerations.

In general, a subscription right entitles the holder to purchase for cash a specific number of shares of common stock or other securities at a specified exercise price. The rights are normally issued to shareholders as of a specific record date, may be exercised only for a limited period of time and become void following the expiration of such period. If we determine to issue subscription rights, we will accompany this prospectus with a prospectus supplement that will describe, among other things:

- the record date for shareholders entitled to receive the subscription rights;
- the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of each subscription right;
- the exercise price of the subscription rights;
- whether the subscription rights are transferable;
- the period during which the subscription rights may be exercised and when they will expire;
- the steps required to exercise the subscription rights;
- whether the subscription rights include “oversubscription rights” so that the holder may purchase more securities if other holders do not purchase their full allotments; and
- whether we intend to sell the shares of common stock or other securities that are not purchased in the rights offering to an underwriter or other purchaser under a contractual “standby” commitment or other arrangement.

If fewer than all of the subscription rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than shareholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date of a subscription rights offering, all unexercised subscription rights will become void.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of our common stock at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as “Stock Purchase Contracts.” The price per share, and number of shares, of our common stock may be fixed at the time the Stock Purchase Contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the Stock Purchase Contracts. The Stock Purchase Contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units consisting of a Stock Purchase Contract and our debt securities or debt obligations of third parties, including Treasury securities, securing the holders’ obligations to purchase the shares of our common stock under the Stock Purchase Contracts, which we refer to in this prospectus as “Stock Purchase Units.” The Stock Purchase Contracts may require

holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner. The Stock Purchase Contracts also may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the Stock Purchase Units or vice-versa and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. The description in the prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete, and reference will be made to the Stock Purchase Contracts, and, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements, relating to the Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. Material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the Stock Purchase Units and the Stock Purchase Contracts will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or warrants or any combination of such securities, including guarantees of any securities.

A prospectus supplement and any other offering materials relating to any units issued under the registration statement containing this prospectus will specify the terms of the units, including:

the terms of the units and of any of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and guarantees comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus from time to time at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at negotiated prices or at fixed prices, which may change from time to time. We may sell the securities directly to one or more purchasers, through agents, to dealers, through underwriters, brokers or dealers, or through a combination of any of these sales methods or through any other method permitted by law (including in “at the market” equity offerings as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act). We reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities, whether the purchase is to be made directly or through agents.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement, if required, that contains the specific terms of the offering, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, and the types and amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

the public offering price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts or other items constituting agents’ or underwriters’ compensation;

any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters that we have named in a prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

Table of Contents

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock or other outstanding securities, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Under the securities laws of some states, to the extent applicable, the securities may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, if our common stock is no longer listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market or another national securities exchange, in some states the securities may not be sold unless such securities have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering of securities made by this prospectus generally will be passed upon for us by Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. of Des Moines, Iowa. Certain other legal matters particular to any offering of debt securities made by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP of Chicago, Illinois. If the securities are being distributed in an underwritten offering, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by counsel identified in the related prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, have been audited by RSM US LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated by reference herein, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon such reports and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and file with the SEC proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as required of a U.S. listed company. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov or on our website at www.westbankstrong.com. However, other than our available SEC filings, the information on, or that can be accessible through, our website does not constitute a part of, and is not incorporated by reference in, this prospectus. Written requests for copies of the documents we file with the SEC should be directed to West Bancorporation, Inc., 1601 22nd Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, Attention: Secretary, telephone: (515) 222-2300.

Table of Contents

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by us with the SEC under the Securities Act. As permitted by the SEC, this prospectus does not contain all the information in the registration statement filed with the SEC. For a more complete understanding of this offering, you should refer to the complete registration statement, including exhibits, on Form S-3 that may be obtained as described above. Statements contained in this prospectus about the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. If we have filed any contract or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement or any other document incorporated by reference in the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the contract or other document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual contract or other document.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with it into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following documents and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering (other than information “furnished” rather than “filed” and information that is modified or superseded by subsequently filed documents prior to the termination of this offering):

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on March 1, 2017;
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 26, 2017 (except the information furnished under Item 2.02 thereof); and

The description of our common stock set forth in Amendment No. 1 to our Registration Statement on Form 10 filed with the SEC on April 11, 2002, including all amendments and reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. Requests should be directed to:

West Bancorporation, Inc.
Attention: Secretary
1601 22nd Street
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Telephone number: (515) 222-2300

Table of Contents

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth the estimated expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered. We will pay all of these expenses.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|
| SEC registration Fee | \$ | — |
| Trustee Fees | * | |
| Printing Expenses | * | |
| Rating Agency Fees | * | |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | * | |
| Accounting Fees and Expenses | * | |
| Miscellaneous | * | |
| Total | \$ | * |

* These fees are not presently known and cannot be estimated at this time, as they will be based upon, among other things, the amount and type of security being offered as well as the number of offerings.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Iowa Law. Under the Iowa Business Corporation Act, we must indemnify a director who was wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which the director was a party because the director is or was a director of the Company against reasonable expenses incurred by the director in connection with the proceeding. We may indemnify only those directors and officers who have met the relevant standard of conduct under the Iowa Business Corporation Act, which includes acting in good faith and not against the best interests of the Company. We may not indemnify a director or officer in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the Company (except to the extent of the reasonable expenses incurred by the director or officer in connection with the proceeding) or where the director or officer received a financial benefit to which he or she was not entitled. Additionally, we may not indemnify an officer in connection with any proceeding for liability arising out of conduct that constitutes an intentional infliction of harm on the Company or its shareholders, or an intentional violation of criminal law.

Articles of Incorporation. Under our Articles of Incorporation, we will indemnify, hold harmless and pay expenses to, any director or officer of the Company who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party, to any suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of the Company or, while a director or officer of the Company, is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, partner, trustee, administrator, employee or agent of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, against all expenses, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection therewith, to the fullest extent authorized by the Iowa Business Corporation Act, as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Company to provide

broader indemnification rights than said law permitted the Company to provide prior to such amendment). Such indemnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be such a director or officer and shall inure to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors and administrators.

The foregoing description of our Articles of Incorporation is qualified in its entirety by reference to such document, which is listed as Exhibit 3.1 hereto.

Liability Insurance. As permitted by our Articles of Incorporation, we have also purchased directors' and officers' liability insurance to insure our directors and officers against certain liabilities.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

II-1

Table of Contents

Item 16. Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|----------------|---|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement.* |
| 1.2 | Form of Placement Agreement.* |
| 3.1 | Restatement of the Restated Articles of Incorporation of West Bancorporation, Inc. filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Iowa on February 16, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 1, 2017). |
| 3.2 | Bylaws of West Bancorporation, Inc., as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Form S-3 (File No. 333-157027) filed with the SEC on January 30, 2009). |
| 4.1 | Form of Common Stock Certificate.* |
| 4.2 | Form of Certificate of Designations of Preferred Stock.* |
| 4.3 | Form of Preferred Stock Certificate.* |
| 4.4 | Form of Warrant and Warrant Certificate.* |
| 4.5 | Form of Indenture. |
| 4.6 | Form of Senior Debt Security.* |
| 4.7 | Form of Subordinated Debt Security.* |
| 4.8 | Form of Purchase Contract Agreement.* |
| 4.9 | Form of Depositary Agreement and Depositary Receipt.* |
| 4.10 | Form of Subscription Certificate.* |
| 4.11 | Form of Subscription Agent Agreement.* |
| 4.12 | Form of Unit Agreement and Unit Certificate.* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. (including consent). |
| 5.2 | Opinion of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP (including consent). |
| 12.1 | Calculation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges. |
| 23.1 | Consent of RSM US LLP. |
| 23.2 | Consent of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. (included in Exhibit 5.1). |
| 23.3 | Consent of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP (included in Exhibit 5.2). |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to the registration statement). |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 for the Senior Indenture and Subordinated Indenture.** |

* To be filed either by amendment or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Exchange Act, and incorporated herein by reference.

** To be filed separately pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust indenture Act of 1939, if applicable.

Table of Contents

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(ii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

(iii) provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment (2) shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such

(ii) date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

Table of Contents

That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to the registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (5) (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the indemnification provisions described in Item 15 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of West Des Moines, state of Iowa, on the 2nd day of March, 2017.

WEST BANCORPORATION, INC.
(Registrant)

March 2, 2017 By: /s/ David D. Nelson
David D. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer and President

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints each of David D. Nelson and Douglas R. Gulling his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, acting alone, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to sign on his or her behalf, individually and in each capacity stated below, all amendments and post-effective amendments to this registration statement on Form S-3 (including any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, and all amendments thereto) and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and any other documents in connection therewith, with the SEC under the Securities Act, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as each might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming each act that said attorneys-in-fact and agents may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated on March 2, 2017.

| Signature | Title |
|--|--|
| /s/ David R. Milligan David R. Milligan | Chairman of the Board |
| /s/ David D. Nelson David D. Nelson | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) |
| /s/ Douglas R. Gulling Douglas R. Gulling | Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) |
| /s/ Marie I. Roberts Marie I. Roberts | Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer) |
| /s/ Frank W. Berlin Frank W. Berlin | Director |
| /s/ Joyce A. Chapman Joyce A. Chapman | Director |

II-5

Table of Contents

/s/ Steven K. Gaer Director
Steven K. Gaer

/s/ Michael J. Gerdin Director
Michael J. Gerdin

/s/ Kaye R. Lozier Director
Kaye R. Lozier

/s/ Sean P. McMurray Director
Sean P. McMurray

/s/ George D. Milligan Director
George D. Milligan

/s/ James W. Noyce Director
James W. Noyce

/s/ Robert G. Pulver Director
Robert G. Pulver

/s/ Lou Ann Sandburg Director
Lou Ann Sandburg

/s/ Philip Jason Worth Director
Philip Jason Worth

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|----------------|---|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement.* |
| 1.2 | Form of Placement Agreement.* |
| 3.1 | Restatement of the Restated Articles of Incorporation of West Bancorporation, Inc. filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Iowa on February 16, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 1, 2017). |
| 3.2 | Bylaws of West Bancorporation, Inc., as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Form S-3 (File No. 333-157027) filed with the SEC on January 30, 2009). |
| 4.1 | Form of Common Stock Certificate.* |
| 4.2 | Form of Certificate of Designations of Preferred Stock.* |
| 4.3 | Form of Preferred Stock Certificate.* |
| 4.4 | Form of Warrant and Warrant Certificate.* |
| 4.5 | Form of Indenture. |
| 4.6 | Form of Senior Debt Security.* |
| 4.7 | Form of Subordinated Debt Security.* |
| 4.8 | Form of Purchase Contract Agreement.* |
| 4.9 | Form of Depositary Agreement and Depositary Receipt.* |
| 4.10 | Form of Subscription Certificate.* |
| 4.11 | Form of Subscription Agent Agreement.* |
| 4.12 | Form of Unit Agreement and Unit Certificate.* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. (including consent). |
| 5.2 | Opinion of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP (including consent). |
| 12.1 | Calculation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges. |
| 23.1 | Consent of RSM US LLP. |
| 23.2 | Consent of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. (included in Exhibit 5.1). |
| 23.3 | Consent of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP (included in Exhibit 5.2). |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to the registration statement). |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 for the Senior Indenture and Subordinated Indenture.** |

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference herein.

** To be filed separately pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, if applicable.