

FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 03, 2009

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

**First Financial Bankshares, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant As Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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1) Amount Previously Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Filing Party: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.**

**400 Pine Street  
Abilene, Texas 79601  
325.627.7155**

**NOTICE OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD APRIL 28, 2009**

To our shareholders:

We cordially invite you to attend the annual meeting of our shareholders, which will be held in the Abilene Civic Center, 1100 North 6th Street, Abilene, Texas, at 10:30 a.m., Central time, on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect 12 directors;
- (2) To ratify the appointment by our audit committee of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2009;
- (3) To act on such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2009, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting or any continuation of the meeting if it is adjourned.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to be Held on April 28, 2009. The proxy statement and other information for security holders are available at <http://www.ffin.com/invrel.asp?req=docs>.**

We have included, along with this notice and proxy statement, (1) our 2008 annual report, which describes our activities during 2008, (2) our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and (3) an invitation to attend the annual meeting luncheon. These additional materials do not form any part of the material for solicitation of proxies.

We hope that you will be present at the annual meeting and the luncheon to be held immediately afterward. We respectfully urge you, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, to sign, date and mail the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided in order to eliminate any question of your vote being counted. You can revoke your proxy in writing at any time before the annual meeting, so long as your written request is received by our corporate secretary before your proxy is voted. Alternatively, if you submitted a proxy and attend the annual meeting in person, you may revoke the proxy and vote in person on all matters submitted at the annual meeting. We can accommodate everyone at the annual meeting; however, there is limited seating for the luncheon so we request that you confirm your attendance by completing the enclosed reply card and returning it to us as soon as possible.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
F. SCOTT DUESER, Chairman  
March 2, 2009

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**FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.**  
**400 Pine Street**  
**Abilene, Texas 79601**  
**325.627.7155**  
**PROXY STATEMENT**  
**2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**  
**TO BE HELD APRIL 28, 2009**  
**INTRODUCTION**

The board of directors of First Financial Bankshares, Inc. hereby solicits your proxy for use at the 2009 annual meeting of our shareholders and any continuation of this meeting if it is adjourned. The annual meeting will be held in the Abilene Civic Center, 1100 North 6th Street, Abilene, Texas, at 10:30 a.m., Central time, on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

Our principal executive office is located at 400 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. Our telephone number is 325.627.7155.

We mailed this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card on March 2, 2009. The date of this proxy statement is March 2, 2009.

**VOTING OF SECURITIES**

**Record Date**

Our board of directors has established the close of business on March 2, 2009, as the record date for determining the shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. On the record date, we had 20,804,668 shares of our common stock outstanding.

**Quorum**

In order for any business to be conducted at the annual meeting, a quorum consisting of shareholders having voting rights with respect to a majority of our outstanding common stock on the record date must be present in person or by proxy. You may only vote if you hold your shares directly in your name. If your shares are held in street name by your broker, your broker will send you instructions on how you can instruct your broker to vote your shares. Your broker generally cannot vote your shares on non-routine matters without instructions from you. Shares that are represented at the annual meeting but abstain from voting on any or all matters and shares that are broker non-votes will be counted in determining whether a quorum is present at our annual meeting. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or nominee votes on some matters on the proxy card but not others because he does not have authority to do so from the beneficial owner of the underlying shares.

If a quorum is not present at the annual meeting, we will adjourn the meeting, and the board of directors will continue to solicit proxies.

**Required Vote**

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares cast at the annual meeting is required to elect a nominee for director and to approve the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent accountants. If you abstain from voting or withhold authority to vote in the election of a director, your abstention or withholdings will have no effect. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of director elections or independent accountant ratification.

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### **Shareholder List**

A list of shareholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting, which will show each shareholder's address and the number of shares registered in his, her or its name, will be open to any shareholder to examine for any purpose related to the annual meeting. Any shareholder may examine this list during ordinary business hours commencing March 2, 2009, and continuing through the date of the annual meeting at our principal office, 400 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601.

### **SOLICITATION AND REVOCABILITY OF PROXIES**

#### **Solicitation**

We will bear the expense to solicit proxies, which will include reimbursement of expenses incurred by brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward solicitation materials regarding the annual meeting to beneficial owners. Our officers and directors may further solicit proxies from shareholders and other persons by telephone or oral communication. We will not pay these officers any extra compensation for participating in this solicitation. We may engage Georgeson Shareholder to assist us with the solicitation of proxies and, if so, would expect to pay that firm approximately \$15,000 for their services, plus out-of-pocket expenses.

#### **Proxies and Revocation**

Each executed and returned proxy card will be voted according to the directions indicated on that proxy card. If no direction is indicated, the proxy will be voted according to the board of directors' recommendations, which are contained in this proxy statement. The board of directors does not intend to present, and has no information that others will present, any business at the annual meeting that requires a vote on any other matter. If any other matter requiring a vote properly comes before the annual meeting, the proxies will be voted in the discretion of the proxyholders named on the proxy.

Each shareholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before the shares of our common stock it represents are voted. This revocation is effective upon receipt, at any time before the annual meeting is called to order, by our corporate secretary of either (1) an instrument revoking the proxy or (2) a duly executed proxy bearing a later date than the preceding proxy. Additionally, a shareholder may change or revoke a previously executed proxy by voting in person at the annual meeting.

### **PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

#### **General**

The board of directors of your Company currently consists of 12 directors. At the annual meeting, 12 directors are to be elected, each for a term of one year. Mr. F. L. Stephens has chosen to retire from the board, effective April 28, 2009, and not stand for reelection. Mr. Ron Giddiens, a business consultant and former banker, is being nominated for the board along with the current board, except Mr. Stephens. Under our bylaws, an individual may not stand for election or reelection as a director upon attaining 72 years of age, unless he owns at least one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of our common stock and is less than 75 years of age. While our bylaws fix the number of directors at a number not less than three nor more than 30, the board of directors has fixed the number of directors at 12 for 2009. Although we do not contemplate that any of the nominees will be unable to serve, if such a situation arises before the annual meeting, the proxies will be voted to elect any substitute nominee or nominees designated by the board of directors.

Under Nasdaq rules, a majority of the board of directors must be comprised of independent directors. The board has determined that each director nominated, except Mr. Dueser, is independent under applicable Nasdaq rules.

**Nominees**

The names and principal occupations of the nominees, together with the length of service as a director and the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned by each of them on February 1, 2009, are set forth in the following table; except as otherwise indicated, the named beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power with respect to shares held by him or her. The address for each individual is 400 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Years as Director (1)</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Last Five Years</b>	<b>Shares of Bankshares Beneficially</b>	<b>Percent of Shares</b>
				<b>Owned</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
Tucker S. Bridwell	57	2	President, Mansefeldt Investment Corporation	39,338(2)	0.19%
Joseph E. Canon	66	13	Executive Director, Dodge Jones Foundation, a private charitable foundation	76,368(3)	0.37%
Mac A. Coalson	69	13	Mac A. Coalson Real Estate	233,654	1.12%
David Copeland	53	11	President, SIPCO and Shelton Family Foundation, a private charitable foundation	173,883(4)	0.84%
F. Scott Dueser	55	18	See Executive Officers on page 6 (10)	245,989(5)(6)	1.18%
Murray Edwards	57	3	Principal, The Edwards Group	35,707(7)	0.17%
Ron Giddiens	61		Investments/Business Consulting	1,990	0.01%
Derrell E. Johnson	69	9	Former President and CEO Rady and Associates, Consulting Engineers	42,000	0.20%
Kade L. Matthews	50	11	Ranching and Investments	259,483(8)	1.25%
Kenneth T. Murphy	71	38	Senior Chairman, First Financial Bankshares, Inc. (10)	120,272	0.58%
Dian Graves Stai	68	16	Chair, Dian Graves Owen Foundation, a private charitable foundation	103,842(9)	0.50%

Johnny E. Trotter	57	6	President & CEO, Livestock Investors, Ltd.	105,681	0.51%
Shares beneficially owned by all executive officers and directors*				1,100,227(6)	5.29%

\* See Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.

(1) The years indicated are the approximate number of years each person has continuously served as a director, or, prior thereto, of First Financial Bank, N.A, Abilene, which became our wholly-owned subsidiary in April 1973, when all the then directors of First Financial Bank, N.A., Abilene became our directors.

(2) Includes 31,249 shares that are owned by a private foundation for which Mr. Bridwell serves as president to which he disclaims beneficial ownership.

Mr. Bridwell is also a director of Petrohawk Energy Corporation and Concho Resources, Inc.

- (3) Includes 70,000 shares that are owned by a private foundation for which Mr. Canon serves as executive director to which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Mr. Canon is also a director of Main Street Capital Corporation.

- (4) Includes 163,215 shares that are owned by trusts for which Mr. Copeland serves as trustee or co-trustee to which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Mr. Copeland is also a director of Harte-Hanks, Inc.

- (5) Includes 50,171 shares owned by his wife of which he disclaims beneficial

ownership.

- (6) Includes shares indirectly owned as of February 1, 2009 through the employee stock ownership plan portion of the profit sharing plan which each participant has sole voting powers, as follows:  
Mr. Dueser 25,867 and all executive officers as a group 31,841.
- (7) Includes 833 shares of our common stock owned by Mr. Edwards spouse.
- (8) Includes 113,025 shares that are owned by a private foundation for which Mr. Matthews serves as president and director to which he disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (9) Includes 31,249 shares that are owned by a private foundation for which Ms. Stai



serves as chair  
of the board of  
directors to  
which she  
disclaims  
beneficial  
ownership.

- (10) Effective  
January 1, 2008,  
the Board of  
Directors  
elected  
Mr. Dueser  
Chairman of the  
Board of  
Directors and, in  
light of his years  
of service,  
Mr. Murphy  
was named  
Senior  
Chairman of the  
Board.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS YOU  
VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THESE NOMINEES.  
PROPOSAL 2**

**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The audit committee of your board of directors has selected Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2009 and to serve until the next annual meeting in April 2010. Ernst & Young LLP has served as the Company's independent auditors since 2002. We have been advised by Ernst & Young LLP that neither its firm nor any of its members has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in us, nor has had any connection with us or any of our subsidiaries in any capacity other than independent auditors. The board of directors recommends that you vote for the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP. Shareholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors is not required by our certificate of formation, bylaws or otherwise. Nevertheless, your board of directors is submitting this matter to the shareholders as what we believe is a matter of good corporate practice. If the shareholders do not ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, then the appointment of independent auditors will be reconsidered by our audit committee. Even if the appointment is ratified, the audit committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent audit firm at any time during the year if it is determined that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the annual shareholders meeting, and they may have the opportunity to make a statement, if they desire to do so, and to respond to appropriate questions.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE  
RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS THE COMPANY'S  
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR 2009**

**Executive Officers**

Set forth in the following table are our executive officers, and the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by each of them as of February 1, 2009. Except as otherwise indicated, the named executive officer has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares he holds. The address for each individual is 400 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Years Served in Such Office</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Shares of Bankshares Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Percent of Shares Outstanding</b>
F. Scott Dueser	55	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	8	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Financial Bankshares, Inc.; Chairman, First Financial Bank, N.A., Abilene*	245,989 (1)(2)	1.18%
Gary S. Gragg	49	Executive Vice President	3	Executive Vice President of First Financial Bankshares, Inc.; Senior Vice President of First Financial Bankshares, Inc. (1996 to 2005)	9,787 (1)(3)	0.05%
J. Bruce Hildebrand	53	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	6	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of First Financial Bankshares, Inc.	5,615 (1)	0.03%
Gary L. Webb	51	Executive Vice President	6	Executive Vice President of First Financial Bankshares, Inc.	4,736 (1)(3)	0.02%

\* A bank subsidiary.

(1) Includes shares indirectly owned as of February 1, 2009 through our employee stock ownership plan portion of the profit sharing plan, which each participant has

sole voting  
power, as  
follows:

Mr. Dueser  
25,867,  
Mr. Gragg  
3,248,  
Mr. Hildebrand  
768, and  
Mr. Webb 643.

(2) Includes 50,171  
shares owned by  
his wife of  
which he  
disclaims  
beneficial  
ownership.

(3) Includes 2,650  
and 2,666 shares  
of our common  
stock issuable  
upon exercise of  
options  
presently  
exercisable or  
exercisable  
within 60 days  
of February 1,  
2009 for Mssrs.  
Gragg and  
Webb,  
respectively.

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

### Objectives/Philosophy

The compensation committee's philosophy is to provide a compensation package that attracts and retains executive talent, provides rewards for superior performance and produces consequences for underperformance. It is also the compensation committee's practice to provide a balanced mix of cash and equity-based compensation that the committee believes appropriate to align the short and long-term interests of the Company's executives with that of its shareholders and to encourage executives to participate and perform as equity owners of the Company. From December 2007 to February 2008, the compensation committee retained Hewitt Associates LLC, a human resources and executive compensation consulting firm, to assist it in its review of our executive compensation.

We believe that to attract and retain the quality of executive talent to achieve our long-term strategic business goals, we must offer a competitive compensation package to our executives. The compensation committee seeks to attract executive talent by offering competitive base salaries, annual performance incentive opportunities, and the long-term rewards under the Company's long-term incentive programs (including profit sharing and incentive stock option plans). When considering pay decisions for our named executive officers, we target the median of the market for total compensation. While applying no specific formula or weighting of each factor, we also consider the executive's scope of responsibilities, skills and experience, overall company performance and board evaluation of the executive's individual performance. Based on our business strategy and the results we expect from our executives, we attempt to align their current pay between short- and long-term pay as well as the mix of cash and equity compensation. We believe the design of our compensation programs and the amounts paid have been and continue to be appropriate. We continually review our programs to ensure they are aligned with our business objectives and shareholder interests.

The compensation committee measures the Company's senior management compensation levels with comparable levels in industry benchmark studies and peer group data. We use survey data to benchmark our executive positions to those at other banking institutions with total asset size similar to ours. We also consider the compensation data disclosed by a peer group of companies. The peer group is comprised of companies selected on the basis of asset size, demographics, and structure. The peer group companies considered by the compensation committee are:

BancFirst Corporation	Bank of the Ozarks, Inc.
First State Bancorporation	Glacier Bancorp, Inc.
Hancock Holding Company	IberiaBank Corporation
Park National Corporation	Prosperity Bancshares, Inc.
Renasant Corporation	Simmons First National Corporation
Southside Bancshares, Inc.	Southwest Bancorp, Inc.
Sterling Bancshares, Inc.	Texas Capital Bancshares, Inc.

It is the compensation committee's practice to provide incentives that promote both the short- and long-term financial objectives of the Company. To motivate our executives to achieve our strategic business goals, we offer the opportunity to earn the targeted level of pay through incentive pay that correlates to the Company's short- and long-term performance. These incentives are based on financial objectives of importance to the Company, including earnings growth, return on assets, and enhancement of shareholder value. Annual bonuses reward achievement of short-term objectives that are established to encourage our executives to make decisions currently that promote long-term growth. Long-term incentive programs encourage executives to focus on the Company's long-term strategic goals which will increase shareholder value, while accomplishing a high retention of our executives. Our compensation program also accounts for individual performance, which enables the compensation committee to differentiate among executives and emphasize the link between personal performance and compensation.

## Elements of Compensation

The following is a summary of the elements of compensation provided to our CEO and other members of senior management. Further details and disclosures of each of these elements can be found in the tabular disclosures that follow.

*Base Salary.* Base salaries paid to our executives competitively compensate them for the experience and skills needed to perform their current roles as well as reward their prior individual performance. We seek to provide our senior management with a level of assured cash compensation in the form of base salary that reflects their professional status, accomplishments and experience.

*Bonus.* We offer a bonus plan that provides senior management with an opportunity to receive a cash bonus based on a sliding scale upon satisfaction of pre-determined performance goals. For years 2007 and prior, the scale considered our net income and our return on average assets. The maximum award for senior management of the Company was approximately 16% of the executive's base salary. For 2007, none of the named executive officers qualified under that plan. Effective in 2008 we revised the executive bonus program in light of observations and recommendations of Hewitt Associates. The revised program considered similar measures but is tailored annually to specific goals of the applicable executive. Mr. Dueser's, Mr. Hildebrand's and Mr. Webb's goals were based on earnings growth, return on average assets, return on average equity and efficiency ratio while Mr. Gragg's goals were based on earnings growth, return on average assets and credit quality. The maximum award for senior management of the Company is 30% of the executive's base salary. Subsidiary bank presidents are also included in this revised bonus program and their goals are tailored to specific situations of their subsidiary bank. While the performance goals drive the bonus plan and executive awards, the compensation committee retains discretion to adjust payouts of the awards based on the performance of the Company, including audit, compliance and asset quality issues, and the individual as deemed appropriate.

*Equity Compensation.* We currently offer stock options under our incentive stock option plan approved by shareholders. The purpose of the stock option plan is to attract and retain key officers and to encourage employee performance by providing them a proprietary interest in our Company through the granting of stock options. We believe, at the present time, stock options are the appropriate long term incentive vehicle to maintain our executives focus on stock price appreciation. We continue to review this approach for each new grant to ensure that equity compensation will drive our executives toward successful long-term business results.

Only incentive stock options (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code) may be granted under the stock option plan. Incentive stock options granted under the stock option plan may be exercised solely by the grantee, or in the case of the grantee's death or incapacity, by the grantee's executors, administrators, guardians or other legal representatives and are not assignable or transferable by a grantee. We generally expect the grantee not to dispose of the shares obtained through exercise of the options but rather to keep and build an equity interest in the Company. Our use of incentive stock options further encourages our executives to exercise their options and hold the resulting shares by giving them the opportunity for favorable tax treatment for the exercise gain if certain holding requirements are met.

Generally, the compensation committee grants options every two years, subject to the board of directors approval. The last grant was in January 2007 and we expect to grant stock options in amounts similar to 2007 in May 2009 following the 2009 Annual Shareholders Meeting. Allocation of options is based on competitive market considerations, past and expected performance of the executive, fairness, affordability and retention considerations. Grantees are required to sign confidential information, non-solicitation and non-competition agreements in connection with receipt of the option grants to prohibit actions detrimental to the Company. Day-to-day administration of the stock option plan is delegated to an executive officer of the Company.

The compensation committee does not grant options during any black-out period under our insider trading policy. We do not release material, non-public information for the purpose of affecting the value of executive compensation, nor do we grant options to executives in coordination with the release of material, non-public information. All awards of shares of the Company's common stock under our incentive stock option plan are made at the market price at the time of the award.

In addition, under our insider trading policy, executive officers and directors of the Company may not buy or sell our stock during a trading period beginning fifteen days before the end of a fiscal quarter until three business days following the release of quarterly earnings information. Trading by directors and executive officers of the Company is also prohibited during designated periods when they possess material, non-public information about us.

*Pension Plan.* The defined benefit pension plan requires annual contributions sufficient to provide the pension benefits accruing to employees under the pension plan, as required by the Internal Revenue Service's funding standards and the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The annual benefit for a participant in the pension plan who retires on his normal retirement date is the accrued benefit (as defined in the pension plan) at December 31, 1988, plus 1.25% of average compensation multiplied by years of service from January 1, 1989. Average compensation is defined as the average compensation during the ten years immediately preceding the date of determination or actual employment, whichever is less. Compensation means the total amount paid to an employee during the year including bonuses, commissions, and overtime pay, but excluding reimbursed expenses, group insurance benefits and pension and profit sharing contributions. There are provisions in the pension plan for early retirement with reduced benefits. There is no vesting of benefits until a participant has five or more years of credited service or upon reaching age 65 without regard to credited service. Effective January 1, 2004, the pension plan was frozen and no additional benefits accrue under the plan after this date. New hires to the Company are not eligible to participate in the frozen pension plan.

The pension plan is subject to the minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA. Senior management eligible under the pension plan receive the same benefits as all employees.

*Profit Sharing Plan.* All employees of the Company who satisfy the plan's eligibility conditions participate in our profit sharing plan. Contributions are determined annually based on a formula that includes growth in net income and return on average assets. Contributions under the profit sharing plan are reviewed by the compensation committee and are subject to their discretion and recommendation for approval by the board of directors. The compensation committee oversees the administration of the profit sharing plan. Effective January 1, 2002, we added a 401(k) feature to our profit sharing plan which allows the participants to make pre-tax contributions to the plan. Effective January 1, 2004, the plan includes a safe harbor Company match equal to 100% of each participant's deferral contributions not exceeding 3% of the participant's compensation, plus 50% of each participant's deferral contributions in excess of 3% but not in excess of 5% of the participant's compensation.

Under the profit sharing plan, contributions by employees are not required as a condition of participation. Each participating employer's annual contribution is allocated among the accounts of the eligible plan participants, in the ratio that each participant's compensation bears to the total compensation of all eligible participants. Compensation is defined as the total amount paid to an employee during the year, including bonuses, commissions, and overtime pay, but excluding reimbursed expenses, group insurance benefits and pension and profit sharing contributions. However, the Internal Revenue Service limits the compensation amount used to calculate a participant's benefit to a maximum of \$230,000 (adjusted annually by the IRS). Additionally, the annual addition amount (which is the aggregate of employer and employee contributions) that may be allocated to a participant is limited to \$46,000 (adjusted annually by the IRS). For employees over the age of 50, this limit increased by \$5,000.

Our profit sharing plan includes an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) feature whereby participants are given the option to receive cash dividends on these shares in cash or reinvest the dividends in additional shares.

The profit sharing plan provides for benefits to vest in graduated percentages, with benefits being fully vested after six years of credited service except for amounts contributed to an employee's account under the safe harbor provisions and shares resulting from the reinvestment of dividends in the ESOP which are immediately fully vested. Generally, an employee's benefit will be the contributions allocated to his account while a participant, increased by gains and decreased by losses from investments of the trust, and increased by any forfeitures allocated to his account. An employee is always fully vested with respect to any voluntary contributions he makes. The plan also provides for immediate vesting upon attainment of normal retirement age and upon death or disability. If a participant terminates employment for any other reason, the total amount of his employee contribution account and the vested portion of his employer contribution account become distributable.





Senior management eligible for participation in the plan receive the same benefits as all employees. The maximum employer profit sharing contribution to the plan for an individual in a single year is 15% of the individual's salary, plus the safe harbor Company match, subject to IRS limits.

*Make Whole Plan.* Effective January 1, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Company adopted a make whole program whereby executives, whose Company contributions to the profit sharing plan and employer match under the 401(k) feature are limited due to IRS limitations, will have contributions made to a non-qualified plan equal to the amount under qualified plans as if there were no IRS limitations. This non-qualified plan uses the same contribution formula and vesting requirements as the 401(k) plan. This plan was implemented by the committee to allow senior management whose compensation was in excess of IRS limits to have profit sharing/401(k) matches proportionally equal for all employees.

*Severance Benefits.* We believe that companies should provide reasonable severance benefits to employees. With respect to senior management, these severance benefits should reflect the fact that it may be difficult for employees to find comparable employment within a short period of time. Our policy for all employees provides that full-time employees who are discharged due to a restructuring or layoff are eligible to receive severance pay based on their years of service to the Company. The Company will provide one week of severance pay for each year of employee service, up to a maximum of six months, except that in all cases, severance pay will not be less than four weeks pay. In order to receive severance pay, an employee must sign a release of claims in favor of the Company. Employees who do not sign the required release form will not receive severance pay.

*Change of Control/Executive Recognition Agreement.* In April 1996, our board of directors unanimously approved an executive recognition plan. This plan enabled us to offer our key executive officers and those of our subsidiaries an executive recognition agreement. All of our named executive officers have entered into executive recognition agreements with us.

We believe our executive recognition agreements are conservative when compared to the competitive market. The agreements have been continually renewed since we view them as necessary to ensure the continued focus of our executives on making the appropriate strategic decisions for the Company even if the decision involves a change in control.

Each executive recognition agreement provides severance benefits for each executive officer if, within two years following a change in control, his/her employment with us or our subsidiaries is terminated (i) by us or the subsidiary bank for any reason other than for cause, except for termination as a result of the officer's death, disability or retirement; or (ii) by the executive officer for good reason.

As used in the agreement, a change of control means:

a person or entity directly or indirectly acquires securities of the Company representing more than 50% of the combined voting power entitled to vote generally in the election of directors of the then outstanding securities of the Company; or

any person or entity commences a tender offer or exchange offer to acquire any common stock of the Company (or securities convertible into common stock) for cash, securities or any other consideration in which after consummation of the offer, the person or entity directly or indirectly acquires beneficial ownership of securities of the Company representing more than 50% of the combined voting power entitled to vote generally in the election of directors of the then outstanding securities of the Company; or

the stockholders of the Company approve a reorganization, merger, consolidation, recapitalization, exchange offer, purchase of assets or other transaction, in each case, with respect to which the persons who were the beneficial owners of the Company immediately prior to such a transaction do not immediately after its completion, own more than 50% of the combined voting power entitled to vote generally in the election of directors of the reorganized, merged, recapitalized or resulting company's then outstanding securities; or

the stockholders of the Company approve a liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or



the Company sells or otherwise transfers (or one or more of its subsidiaries, sell or otherwise transfer), in one or more related transactions, assets aggregating 50% or more of the book value of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries (taken as a whole).

As used in the agreement, *cause* means termination of an employee due to the:

willful and continued failure by the employee to substantially perform his duties with the Company (other than any such failure resulting from the employee's physical or mental incapacity due to injury or illness) after written demand for substantial performance is delivered to the employee by the Company, or

willful engaging by the employee in conduct which is demonstrably injurious to the Company, monetarily or otherwise.

As used in the agreement, *good reason* means termination by an employee due to:

a determination by the employee, made in good faith and based on the employee's reasonable belief, that there has been a materially adverse change in his status or position as an executive officer of the Company as in effect immediately prior to the change in control, including, without limitation, any material change in the employee's status or position as a result of a diminution in the employee's duties or responsibilities or the assignment to the employee of any duties or responsibilities which are inconsistent with his status or position, or any removal of the employee from or failure to reappoint or reelect the employee to such position; or

a material reduction by the Company in the employee's annual base salary in effect immediately prior to the change in control; or

the relocation of the employee's principal office outside of the city or metropolitan area in which the employee is residing at the time of any change in control; or

a material reduction by the Company in the budget over which the employee retained authority immediately prior to change of control; or

the failure by the Company to continue in effect any benefit plan in which the employee participates at the time of the change in control other than as a result of the normal expiration of any such plan in accordance with its terms as in effect at the time of the change in control; or

any action or inaction by the Company following a change in control that constitutes a material breach of the agreement under which the employee provides services to the Company; or

any purported termination of the employee not effected pursuant to a notice of termination as required by the executive recognition agreement; or

the failure by the Company to provide and credit the employee with the number of paid vacation days to which the employee is then entitled in accordance with the Company's normal vacation policy as in effect immediately prior to the change in control; or

the failure by any successor corporation to the Company to assume the executive recognition agreement.

Such severance benefits under the executive recognition agreements provide that the executive officer will receive a payment equal to a certain percentage (as set forth in his executive recognition agreement) of his annual base salary immediately preceding the date of termination. The percentage of annual base salary to be received upon a change in control pursuant to his executive recognition agreement is 208%. The total severance payment for the executive officer cannot, however, exceed the amount that would cause such payment to be deemed a *parachute payment* under

Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code.

Each executive recognition agreement has a term of two years. However, if a change in control occurs during the original term of the executive recognition agreements, then the executive recognition agreements will continue in effect for an additional period of two years following the change in control. Similarly, if a second change in control occurs within two years from the date of the first change in control, then the executive recognition agreements will continue in effect for a period of two years from the date of the second change in control. The agreements include confidentiality obligations, but do not bind the executives to non-competition, non-disparagement or non-solicitation clauses.

These executive recognition agreements were renewed in July 2008 with changes only to comply with newly issued Internal Revenue Service regulations affecting such plans. We expect that these executive recognition agreements will be renewed upon maturity in July 2010.

Amounts that would be paid under these agreements upon a change of control or termination for good reason using base salary information as of December 31, 2008 for the named executive officers would be as follows:

Name	Amount
F. Scott Dueser, President and CEO	\$ 988,000
J. Bruce Hildebrand, Executive Vice President & CFO	\$ 634,000
Gary L. Webb, Executive Vice President	\$ 551,000
Gary S. Gragg, Executive Vice President	\$ 374,000

*Perquisites and Other Benefits.* We annually review the perquisites that senior management receives. The primary perquisites for senior management are the reimbursement of initiation fees and dues for one golf or social club. We seek to encourage our senior management to belong to a golf or social club so that they have a convenient entertainment forum for customers and to facilitate interaction with current and potential customers, many of whom belong to these clubs. We do not permit personal use of our Company airplane.

Senior management also participates in the Company's other benefit plans on the same terms as other employees. These plans include medical, life insurance and flex spending account benefits. Relocation benefits also are reimbursed but are individually negotiated when they occur.

#### **Compensation Tables**

For 2008, only four of our executives meet the conditions of a named executive officer (NEO) requiring disclosure. The following tabular disclosures are presented for the following named executive officers:

F. Scott Dueser	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Mr. Dueser's appointment as Chairman of the Board was effective January 1, 2008)	J. Bruce Hildebrand	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Gary L. Webb	Executive Vice President	Operations	
Gary S. Gragg	Executive Vice President	Loans	

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table summarizes the total compensation for our named executive officers in 2008, 2007 and 2006:

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
F. Scott Dueser, President/CEO	2008	468,333			15,537	40,375	51,407	36,165	611,817
	2007	430,833			15,131		46,999	34,485	527,488
	2006	405,833	15,000		10,497	20,664	36,888	26,442	515,324
J. Bruce Hildebrand, EVP/CFO	2008	300,000			8,446	25,925	10,649	36,165	381,185
	2007	270,833			8,192		9,630	34,485	323,140
	2006	246,667			5,401	12,600	5,306	26,446	296,420
Gary L. Webb, EVP	2008	261,666			8,446	22,525	4,608	36,165	333,410
	2007	242,166			8,192		4,492	34,485	289,335
	2006	226,333			5,401	11,491	2,197	26,446	271,868
Gary S. Gragg, EVP	2008	177,500			7,096	5,400	893	25,826	216,715
	2007	162,500			6,843		2,307	23,529	195,179
	2006	146,667			4,139	7,560	2,150	16,395	176,911

(1) Amount represents bonus earned related to achievement of pre-determined performance goals

(2) Amount represents change in pension value plus amount contributed to make whole plan on behalf of each named executive officer

- (3) Amount  
represents  
amount  
contributed to  
profit sharing  
plan and 401(k)  
match on behalf  
of each named  
executive  
officer as well  
as country club  
dues paid for  
each named  
executive  
officer

**Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The compensation committee grants incentive stock options periodically. In 2007, 90,500 options were granted to key employees of which Mr. Dueser, Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Webb and Mr. Gragg received 4,000, 2,500, 2,500 and 2,500 options, respectively. No options were granted in 2008 or 2006.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-end**

At December 31, 2008, the following stock options were outstanding for the respective named executive officers:

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards				
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Option (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unearned Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)(1)	Option Expiration Date	Market Value of Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, or Units (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, or Units (\$)
F. Scott Dueser		1,667		23.10	5-5-13				
		5,333		33.08	1-25-15				
		4,000		40.98	1-31-17				
J. Bruce Hildebrand		667		23.10	5-5-13				
		2,666		33.08	1-25-15				
		2,500		40.98	1-31-17				
Gary L. Webb	2,666	667		23.10	5-5-13				
		2,666		33.08	1-25-15				
		2,500		40.98	1-31-17				
Gary S. Gragg	650			12.48	3-29-10				
	2,000	500		23.10	5-5-13				
		2,000		33.08	1-25-15				
		2,500		40.98	1-31-17				

(1) All of the outstanding stock option



awards vest  
20% annually  
commencing on  
the second  
anniversary of  
the grant date  
and expire  
10 years from  
the grant date.

**Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

During 2008, the following options were exercised by the named executive officers:

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)(1)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
F. Scott Dueser	1,167	26,234		
J. Bruce Hildebrand	667	14,601		
Gary L. Webb				
Gary S. Gragg	581	13,982		

(1) Amount represents the difference between the aggregate option exercise price and the actual aggregate stock price on the date exercised.

**Pension Benefits**

As of December 31, 2008, the following information relates to the Company's defined benefit pension plan for the respective named executive officers:

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years Credited Service (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
F. Scott Dueser	Defined Benefit Pension	27	232,350	
J. Bruce Hildebrand	Defined Benefit Pension	1	11,214	
Gary L. Webb	Defined Benefit Pension			
Gary S. Gragg	Defined Benefit Pension	13	36,153	

We froze our defined benefit pension plan effective January 1, 2004, whereby no additional years of service accrue to participants, unless the pension plan is reinstated at a future date. The Company's funding policy is to contribute annually the amount necessary to satisfy the Internal Revenue Service's funding standards. As a result of freezing the pension plan, we did not expect to make significant future contributions on behalf of the named executive officers. However, as a result of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, we will be required to contribute amounts over seven years to fund any shortfalls in the plan. Mr. Webb joined the Company after the plan was frozen and is not available for participation in the plan.

**Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**

The following amounts represent contributions made in 2008 to the make whole plan described above, which is the only nonqualified deferred compensation program the Company offers, on behalf of the respective named executive officers:

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$)	Aggregate Earnings (Losses) in Last FY (\$)(1)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$)
F. Scott Dueser		34,681	37,258		146,761
J. Bruce Hildebrand		10,185	3,511		27,992
Gary L. Webb		4,608	1,818		13,139

Gary S. Gragg

- (1) Plan invests all funds received in Company Stock, which increased in value 50.20% (including dividends paid) from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

**Director Compensation**

For 2008, we had eleven non-officer directors who received fees for attendance at board of director meetings and committee meetings. Directors who are our executive officers or employees receive no compensation for service as members of either the board of directors or committees thereof. Directors who are not our officers receive \$2,500 for each board meeting attended. In addition, beginning with the second quarter of 2008, the non officer directors received a \$2,500 per quarter retainer fee. The directors who serve on committees and who are not our officers receive \$1,000 for each committee meeting attended. Director fees are paid in cash but a director may elect to defer receipt of fees into a non-qualified Rabbi Trust wherein the funds are used to purchase Company common stock on the open market. No equity awards are granted to the directors for fees and the directors do not participate in the Company's profit sharing or defined benefit pension plan. Directors are reimbursed for actual travel costs to attend the respective meetings. In addition, a director serving on the board of a subsidiary bank receives director fees per meeting which are not included in the table below.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in		Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
	Cash (\$)							
Tucker S. Bridwell	22,500							22,500
Joseph E. Canon	21,500							21,500
Mac A. Coalson	26,500							26,500
David Copeland	27,500							27,500
Murray Edwards	21,500							21,500
Derrell E. Johnson	21,500							21,500
Kade L. Matthews	19,000							19,000
Kenneth T. Murphy								
(1)	22,500							22,500
Dian Graves Stai	20,500							20,500
F. L. Stephens	24,000							24,000
Johnny E. Trotter	25,500							25,500

(1) Amounts above do not include (1) \$33,000 paid under the Company's defined benefit pension plan and (2) \$53,000 paid under a deferred compensation plan that expires in 2009. These

payments were  
earned during  
Mr. Murphy's  
previous  
employment  
with the  
Company before  
his retirement in  
2002.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **Overview**

We have long believed that good corporate governance is important to ensure that the Company is managed for the long-term benefit of our shareholders. We periodically review our corporate governance policies and practices and compare them to those suggested by various authorities in corporate governance and the practices of other public companies. We also monitor new and proposed rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Nasdaq Global Market and the bank regulatory authorities. We may amend our governance policies and procedures when required by law, Nasdaq rules or when we otherwise deem it prudent to do so. Each of our audit, compensation and nominating/corporate governance committees has adopted a charter. Our corporate governance policies, including our code of conduct applicable to all our employees, officers and directors, as well as the charters of our audit, compensation and nominating/corporate governance committees, are available at [www.ffin.com](http://www.ffin.com) under the investor relations/corporate governance caption. Copies of these documents are also available in print to any shareholder who requests them in writing.

### **Communications with Your Board of Directors**

Shareholders may call or write to the board of directors at the address and phone number listed on the first page of this proxy statement. Letters addressed to individual board members and clearly marked as shareholder communications will be forwarded by the Corporate Secretary unopened to the individual addressee. Any letters addressed to the board of directors and clearly marked as shareholder communications will be forwarded by the Corporate Secretary unopened to the chairman of the board.

### **Director Independence**

In accordance with Nasdaq rules, our board of directors affirmatively determines the independence of each director and each nominee for election as director. The board of directors makes its determination based on the elements of independence set forth in the Nasdaq listing standards. We have not adopted any supplemental independence criteria.

Based on these standards, the board of directors has determined that each of the following non-employee directors is independent.

Tucker S. Bridwell  
Joseph E. Canon  
Mac A. Coalson  
David Copeland  
Murray Edwards  
Derrell E. Johnson

Kade L. Matthews  
Kenneth T. Murphy  
Dian Graves Stai  
F. L. Stephens  
Johnny E. Trotter

All members of the audit, compensation and nominating/corporate governance committees are independent under the Nasdaq listing standards. Given his position as President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Dueser is not considered an independent director.

### **Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The board of directors of the Company has four regularly scheduled meetings each year. In 2008, each of the directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the board of directors and the committees of the board of directors on which such director served.

Although we do not have a formal policy regarding attendance by members of the board of directors at our annual meeting of shareholders, we encourage directors to attend and historically more than a majority have done so. All directors attended the 2008 annual meeting of shareholders.

## Committees of the Board of Directors

The board of directors has four committees. The functions and current members of each committee are as follows:

*Executive Committee.* The executive committee acts for the board of directors between board meetings, except to the extent limited by our bylaws or Texas law. The current members are Messrs. Coalson, Copeland, Dueser, Murphy, Stephens and Trotter. Mr. Dueser is the chairman of the committee. The executive committee met four times during 2008 and once in January 2009.

*Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee.* Among other things, the nominating/corporate governance committee recommends director candidates to the board of directors. The nominating/corporate governance committee members are Messrs. Coalson, Bridwell, Copeland, Murphy, Stephens and Trotter. Mr. Coalson is the chairman of the committee. All current directors eligible for re-election to the board (with the exception of Mr. Stephens who has chosen not to stand for reelection) are being nominated for election as directors for 2009 along with one new nominee, Mr. Ron Giddiens. The committee met twice in 2008 and as part of the Executive Committee in January 2009.

Historically, our goal has been to assemble a board of directors that brings diverse perspectives and skills derived from exemplary business and professional experience. Such qualifications provide sound and prudent guidance with respect to our operations and interests. Generally, the committee identifies candidates through the personal, business and organizational contacts of the directors and management. Potential directors should possess the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, and be committed to representing the interests of all of our shareholders. It is also our policy that at all times at least a majority of the board of directors meets the independence standards promulgated by Nasdaq and the SEC. We also require board members to be able to dedicate sufficient time and resources to ensure diligent performance of their duties, including attending board and applicable committee meetings. The committee has also generally considered factors such as:

representation of a major business, profession, industry or segment of the economy;

our needs with respect to the particular talents and experience of our directors;

the knowledge, skills and experience of nominees, particularly with respect to the community banking business in North Central and West Texas;

a nominee's experience with accounting rules and practices, finance, management and leadership opportunities;

leadership in the community and possession of an appreciation of the relationship of our banking business to the communities we serve; and

other requirements that may be imposed by the bank regulatory agencies.

Under our bylaws, an individual may not stand for election or reelection as a director upon attaining age 72 years of age, unless he owns at least 1% of the outstanding shares of our common stock and is less than 75 years of age. Otherwise, there are no stated minimum criteria for director nominees.

We expect that the nominating/corporate governance committee will recommend nominees in the future by first evaluating the current members of the board of directors willing to continue in service. Current members of the board with skills and experience that are relevant to our business and who are willing to continue in service will be considered for re-nomination, balancing the value of continuity of service by existing members of the board with that of obtaining a new perspective. If any member of the board does not wish to continue in service or if the nominating/corporate governance committee of the board decides not to re-nominate a member for re-election, we anticipate that the nominating/corporate governance committee will identify the desired skills and experience of a new nominee in light of the criteria above and begin a search for appropriately qualified individuals. To date, we have not engaged third parties to identify or evaluate or assist in identifying potential nominees, although we reserve the right in the future to retain a third party search firm, if necessary.





The nominating/corporate governance committee will consider qualified director candidates recommended by shareholders. For the 2009 Annual Shareholders Meeting, any shareholder wishing to propose a nominee should submit a recommendation in writing to the nominating/corporate governance committee of First Financial Bankshares, Inc. at 400 Pine Street, Suite 300, Abilene, Texas 79601 at least 120 days in advance of the annual meeting, including the nominee's resume, qualifications and other relevant biographical information and providing confirmation of (1) the name and address of the shareholder, (2) the nominee's consent to serve as a director, (3) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and the nominee and (4) any other information regarding the nominee or shareholder that would be required to be included in a proxy statement relating to the election of directors. Qualified candidates recommended by our shareholders will be evaluated on the same basis as candidates recommended by our officers, directors and other sources.

*Audit Committee.* Among other things, the audit committee reviews the scope and results of the annual audit by our independent auditors, and receives and reviews internal and external audit reports. The committee also monitors the qualifications, independence and performance of our independent auditor and internal auditors. Its members include Messrs. Bridwell, Copeland, Edwards, Johnson and Trotter. Mr. Copeland is the chairman of the committee. The audit committee met four times in 2008 and also in February 2009. The board of directors has determined that it believes all audit committee members are financially literate under the current listing standards of Nasdaq. The board also determined that it believes Mr. Copeland and Mr. Bridwell qualify as audit committee financial experts as defined by the SEC rules adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

*Compensation Committee.* The current members of the compensation committee are Mrs. Stai, Messrs. Canon, Coalson, Matthews and Stephens. Mr. Stephens is the chairman of the committee. The committee meets as needed during the year but generally meets four to five times per year. The committee met four times during 2008 and twice in January 2009. The compensation committee charter can be found on our website at [www.ffin.com](http://www.ffin.com) in the investor relations/corporate governance section.

The compensation committee is responsible for making recommendations to the board of directors concerning compensation matters for the Company's executive officers and directors. Executives of the Company are integral in the compensation process for the Company; however, the committee determines all elements of pay for the CEO. With the assistance of the Chief Financial Officer and the human resources department, the CEO makes recommendations for all Company executives, including the named executive officers, to the committee for their review and approval. For the named executive officers, the committee develops compensation recommendations to the full board of directors for approval.

The committee also oversees the administration of employee benefits and benefit plans for the Company and its subsidiaries including our profit sharing, pension and flexible spending plans as well as our incentive stock option plan for key employees. The committee delegates day-to-day administration of the clerical elements of these programs to the human resources department, trust company as trustee of the pension and profit sharing plans and an executive officer overseeing the stock option plan.

The agenda for meetings of the compensation committee is set by its chairman, acting with the assistance of the Company's CEO, Chief Financial Officer, the trust company and the human resources department. At each meeting, the committee meets in executive session without management and any non-independent directors. In making compensation decisions, the compensation committee obtains information from a variety of public sources and considers the recommendations of the Company's management, human resources department and trust company. The committee makes periodic reports to the full board of directors.

The compensation committee has not routinely engaged compensation consultants from outside the Company, though the committee has the right under its charter to engage compensation consultants or other outside advisors if it so chooses, subject to ratification by the board of directors. The committee may retain, terminate and approve professional fees (subject to board ratification) related to compensation consultants or other advisors as appropriate. In 2003 and 2004, the Company hired KPMG LLP to perform a review of the Company's compensation/employee benefit plans and to prioritize recommendations. From December 2007 to February 2008, the compensation committee retained Hewitt Associates to benchmark executive and board of director's compensation and to review and recommend, considerations related to the Company executive bonus program.



### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

No person who served as a member of the compensation committee was, during 2008, an officer or employee of us or any of our subsidiaries, or had any relationship requiring disclosure in this proxy statement. However, each of the compensation committee members (or related entities) maintained loans from subsidiaries during 2008. The loans were made in the ordinary course of business, on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions on an arms-length basis and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features to the subsidiary bank. None of our executive officers served as a member of the compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions or, in the absence of any such committee, the entire board of directors) or director of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a member of our board of directors.

### **REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The compensation committee reviews the compensation programs for senior management of the Company, including those named executive officers in the tabular presentation included in this definitive proxy statement.

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the compensation discussion and analysis included in this definitive proxy statement with management and based on the reviews and discussions, the compensation committee recommended to the board of directors that the compensation discussion and analysis included herein be included in the definitive proxy statement.

### **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

F. L. Stephens, Chairman

Joseph E. Canon

Mac A. Coalson

Kade L. Matthews

Dian Graves Stai

### **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The audit committee oversees our financial reporting process on behalf of your board of directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process including the system of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the committee, which is composed of independent directors in compliance with Rule 4200 of the Nasdaq listing standards, reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements in the Annual Report with management. The committee also discussed with management the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The committee reviewed with Ernst & Young LLP, our independent auditors for 2008, who were responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of our accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the committee under generally accepted auditing standards and, as applicable, the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Committee also discussed with the independent auditors their audit of the Company's effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. In addition, the committee has discussed with the independent auditors the auditors' independence from management and the Company, including the matters required by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, "Communication with Audit Committees", as amended and as adopted by the PCAOB in Rule 3200T, and considered the compatibility of non-audit services with the auditors' independence. The audit committee has received the written disclosures from our independent auditors regarding the auditors' independence required by PCAOB Ethics and Independence Rule 3526, "Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence."

The committee discussed with our independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their audit. The committee meets with the independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting. The committee held four meetings during the year ended December 31, 2008 and met in February 2009.

The committee has relied, without independent verification, on management's representation that the financial statements have been prepared with integrity and objectivity and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The committee's oversight does not provide it with an independent basis to determine that management has in fact maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or policies. Furthermore, the committee's considerations and discussions with management and the independent auditors do not ensure that our company's financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, that the audit of our company's financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards or the standards of the PCAOB or that our company's independent accountants are in fact independent.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements be included in the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The board of directors approved the audit committee's recommendation. The members of the committee are considered independent because we believe they satisfy the independence requirements for audit committee members prescribed by Nasdaq and the SEC.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

David Copeland, Chairman  
Tucker S. Bridwell  
Murray Edwards  
Derrell E. Johnson  
Johnny E. Trotter

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of February 1, 2009 by each entity or person who is known to beneficially own 5% or more of our common stock:

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Common Stock</b>	
	<b>Owned (1) as of January 1, 2009</b>	
	<b>No. of Shares</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
Barclays Global Investors, NA 400 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105	1,404,816 <sup>(2)</sup>	6.76%

(1) The information contained in this table was furnished to the Company by the persons named in the table and reflects the SEC's definition of beneficial ownership. The nature of beneficial ownership of the holdings shown in this table is set forth in note 2 below.

(2) This information is based solely on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 5, 2009 by Barclays Global Investors, NA and its affiliated entities. Barclays Global Investors, NA is the beneficial owner of 499,340 shares, has sole voting power with

respect to  
445,106 shares  
and sole  
dispositive  
power with  
respect to all  
reported shares.  
Barclays Global  
Fund Advisors  
is the beneficial  
owner of  
891,633 shares,  
has sole voting  
power with  
respect to  
654,926 shares  
and sole  
dispositive  
powers with  
respect to all  
reported shares.  
Barclays Global  
Investors, Ltd.  
is the beneficial  
owner of 13,843  
shares, has sole  
voting power  
with respect to  
546 shares and  
sole dispositive  
power with  
respect to all  
reported shares.  
Barclays Global  
Investors Japan  
Limited,  
Barclays Global  
Investors  
Canada Limited  
and Barclays  
Global Investors  
Australia  
Limited were  
identified in the  
Schedule 13G  
as members of  
the group, but  
did not report  
beneficial  
ownership of  
any shares.

In addition, as of February 1, 2009, First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company, National Association (the Trust Company ) individually acted as sole or co-fiduciary with respect to trusts and other fiduciary accounts which owned, held or controlled through intermediaries in the aggregate 3,319,432 shares or 15.96% of the outstanding common stock over which the Trust Company had, directly or indirectly, sole or shared voting/investment power. No single trust or other fiduciary account held a beneficial ownership interest of 5% or more. Of these shares, the Trust Company had sole voting/investment power with respect to 2,100,418 shares or 10.10% of the outstanding common stock, and the Trust Company shared voting/investment power with respect to 50,553 shares or 0.24% of the outstanding common stock. The Trust Company had no authority to vote 1,076,363 or 5.17% of the outstanding common stock. All the shares held by this subsidiary entity, which are registered in its name as fiduciary or in the name of its nominee, are owned by many different accounts, each of which is governed by a separate instrument that sets forth the powers of the fiduciary with regard to the securities held in such accounts. The board of directors historically has not attempted to, and does not intend to attempt to in the future, exercise any power to vote such shares.

See Proposal 1 Election of Directors Nominees and Executive Officers for information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by each director nominee and named executive officers as of February 1, 2009. In the aggregate, all director nominees and executive officers as a group (16 individuals) beneficially owned 1,100,227 shares of our common stock, or 5.29% of our total outstanding shares, as of February 1, 2009.

#### **SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock, to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission initial reports of our common stock ownership and reports of changes in such ownership. A reporting person must file a Form 3, Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership of Securities, within 10 days after such person becomes a reporting person. A reporting person must file a Form 4, Statement of Changes of Beneficial Ownership of Securities, within two business days after such person's beneficial ownership of securities changes, except for certain changes exempt from the reporting requirements of Form 4. A reporting person must file a Form 5, Annual Statement of Beneficial Ownership of Securities, within 45 days after the end of the issuer's fiscal year to report any changes in ownership during such year not reported on a Form 4, including changes exempt from the reporting requirements of Form 4.



The Securities and Exchange Commission's rules require our reporting persons to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports that they file. Based solely upon a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us, we believe that the reporting persons have complied with all applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements for 2008 and through the date of this statement on a timely basis, except one report for Mr. Dueser filed in 2008 related to shares received by a trust of Mr. Dueser's spouse, of which Mr. Dueser disclaims beneficial ownership, and one report for Mr. William Rowe related to the exercise of certain stock options.

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

We retained Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent auditors for 2008.

The aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young, LLP, the principal auditors who performed the audit of our annual financial statements, review of the quarterly financial statements and audit of internal controls, follows:

	Year ended December 31,	
	2008	2007
Audit Fees	\$318,500	\$330,750
Audit Related Fees	None	None
Tax Fees	None	None
All Other Fees	None	None

Our audit committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax services, and other services performed by the independent auditor. The policy provides for pre-approval by the audit committee of specifically defined audit and non-audit services. Except as permitted under Rule 2-01 of SEC Regulation S-X, unless the specific service has been previously pre-approved with respect to that year, the audit committee must approve the permitted service before the independent auditor is engaged to perform it. The audit committee has delegated to its Chairman the authority to approve permitted services provided that the Chairman reports such decisions to the committee at its next scheduled meeting.

#### **INTEREST IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS**

As has been true in the past, some of our officers and directors, members of their families, and other businesses with which they are affiliated, are or have been customers of one or more of our subsidiary banks. As customers, they have entered into transactions in the ordinary course of business with such banks, including borrowings, all of which were on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions on an arms-length basis. Such borrowings did not involve more than a normal risk of collectibility or present any other unfavorable features to the subsidiary banks involved. None of the transactions involving our subsidiary banks and our officers and directors, or other businesses with which they may be affiliated, has been classified or disclosed as nonaccrual, past due, restructured or potential problems.

The authority of our subsidiary banks to extend credit to our directors, executive officers and principal shareholders, including their immediate family members and corporations and other entities that they control, is subject to substantial restrictions and requirements under Section 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation O promulgated thereunder, as well as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. These statutes and regulations impose specific limits on the amount of loans our subsidiary banks may make to directors and other insiders, and specified approval procedures must be followed in making loans that exceed certain amounts. In addition, all loans our subsidiary banks make to directors and other insiders must satisfy the following requirements:

The loans must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with persons not affiliated with us or the subsidiary banks;

The subsidiary banks must follow credit underwriting procedures at least as stringent as those applicable to comparable transactions with persons who are not affiliated with us or the subsidiary banks; and

The loans must not involve a greater than normal risk of repayment or other unfavorable features.

Furthermore, each subsidiary bank must periodically report all loans made to directors and other insiders to the bank regulators, and these loans are closely scrutinized by the bank regulators for compliance with Sections 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation O. We have developed written procedures for compliance with these rules. Under the provisions of its charter, the audit committee of our board of directors is charged with reviewing all other transactions between related parties and us.

#### **INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

With respect to any future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission into which this proxy statement is incorporated by reference, the material under the headings Report of the Compensation Committee and Report of the Audit Committee shall not be incorporated into such future filings.

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This proxy statement contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. When used in this proxy statement, words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, predict, project, and similar expressions, as the or our management, identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to our management. Actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including but not limited to those listed in Item 1A Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and the following:

General economic conditions, including our local and national real estate markets and employment trends;

Volatility and disruption in national and international financial markets;

Legislative, tax and regulatory actions and reforms;

Political instability;

The ability of the Federal government to deal with the national economic slowdown and the terms of any stimulus package enacted by Congress;

Competition from other financial institutions and financial holding companies;

The effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Governors of the Federal Reserve Board;

Changes in the demand for loans;

Fluctuations in the value of collateral securing our loan portfolio and in the level of the allowance for loan losses;

Soundness of other financial institutions with which we have transactions;

Inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations;

Changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;

Legislative changes and other developments in student loan originations and sales;

Anticipated increases in FDIC deposit insurance assessments;

Our ability to attract deposits;

Consequences of continued bank mergers and acquisitions in our market area, resulting in fewer but much larger and stronger competitors;

Expansion of operations, including branch openings, new product offerings and expansion into new markets;

Acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses; and

Acts of God or of war or terrorism.

Such statements reflect the current views of our management with respect to future events and are subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this paragraph. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or otherwise revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING**

To be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement for the 2010 annual meeting, shareholder proposals must be received at our principal executive offices no later than November 2, 2009. Under Rule 14a-4(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, if any shareholder proposal intended to be presented at the 2010 annual meeting without inclusion in our proxy statement for this meeting is received at our principal executive offices after January 16, 2010, then a proxy will have the ability to confer discretionary authority to vote on this proposal.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

F. SCOTT DUESER, Chairman

March 2, 2009

Z  
T **PLEASE MARK  
VOTES  
AS IN THIS  
EXAMPLE**

**REVOCABLE PROXY  
First Financial Bankshares, Inc.**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.  
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
APRIL 28, 2009**

I hereby appoint Tucker Bridwell and David Copeland, or either of them acting in the absence of the other, as proxyholders, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorize them to represent me and to vote for me as directed at the annual meeting of First Financial Bankshares, Inc., a Texas corporation, to be held on April 28, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., Central time, in the Abilene Civic Center, 1100 North 6th Street, Abilene, Texas, and at any postponement or any adjournment thereof.

Please be sure to date and sign  
this proxy card in the box below.

Date

Sign above

	<b>For</b>	<b>With- hold</b>	<b>For All Except</b>
1. The election of directors:	o	o	o
<b>01. Tucker S. Bridwell</b>			
<b>02. Joseph E. Canon</b>			
<b>03. Mac A. Coalson</b>			
<b>04. David Copeland</b>			
<b>05. F. Scott Dueser</b>			
<b>06. Murray Edwards</b>			
<b>07. Ron Giddiens</b>			
<b>08. Derrell E. Johnson</b>			
<b>09. Kade L. Matthews</b>			
<b>10. Kenneth T. Murphy</b>			
<b>11. Dian Graves Stai and</b>			
<b>12. Johnny E. Trotter.</b>			

**INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, mark For All Except and write that nominee's name in the space provided below.**

- |  | <b>For</b> | <b>Against</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|--|------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2. Ratify the appointment by our audit committee of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2009. | o          | o              | o              |

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE LISTED PROPOSALS.**

**This Proxy, when properly executed will be voted in the manner directed, or if no direction is indicated, in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors on each proposal. This proxy will be voted, in the discretion of the proxyholders, upon such business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.**

x

y

**é Detach above card, date, sign, and mail in the self-addressed and postmarked envelope provided.é  
First Financial Bankshares, Inc.**

By signing in the space provided above, you are hereby acknowledging receipt of the proxy statement dated March 2, 2009, and hereby revoking any proxy or proxies heretofore given to vote at the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof. Please date your proxy and sign in the space provided, exactly as your name or names appear, when signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give title.

Each joint owner is required to sign.

**PLEASE DATE, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED  
SELF-ADDRESSED AND POSTMARKED ENVELOPE.**

**IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, PLEASE CORRECT THE ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED  
BELOW AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH THE PROXY IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.**

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