

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 10, 2002

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Proxy Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential, for Use of the Commission
Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definitive Proxy Statement | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitive Additional Materials | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12 | |

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

[] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

[] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

(Regions Logo)

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 10247
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202-0247
TELEPHONE 205 944-1300

To the Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the thirty-first annual meeting of the stockholders of Regions Financial Corporation to be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 20, 2002, at the Regions Bank Building, 8 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama.

We hope you will plan to attend the stockholders' meeting. However, in order that we may be assured of a quorum, we urge you to sign and return the enclosed proxy in the postage-paid envelope provided as promptly as possible, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting in person. If you do attend the meeting, you may withdraw your proxy.

A reception and coffee will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., on the fourth floor of the Regions Bank Building. We hope you will find it convenient to come early enough to enjoy this social time prior to the stockholders' meeting. To help us plan for the meeting and the reception, please complete and return the accompanying postage-paid postcard if you plan to attend the annual meeting.

/s/ Carl E. Jones, Jr.

Carl E. Jones, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

April 10, 2002

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 10247
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202-0247
TELEPHONE 205 944-1300

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
To be held May 20, 2002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of stockholders of Regions Financial Corporation (Regions or Company), a Delaware corporation, will be held at the Regions Bank Building, 8 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama, on Monday, May 20, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. local time, for the purpose of considering and acting on the following:

1. To elect the three nominees named in the Proxy Statement as directors to serve for three year terms or until their successors have been elected and qualified.
2. Proposal to ratify the Board of Directors' selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2002.
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 1, 2002, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting. A complete list of the stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting, arranged in alphabetical order and showing the address of each stockholder and the number of shares registered in the name of each stockholder shall be open to examination by any stockholder, for any purpose germane to the meeting, during ordinary business hours, for a period of at least 10 days prior to the meeting at the main office of Regions Bank, 417 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. Stockholders are invited to attend the meeting in person.

Please sign and date the accompanying proxy card and return it promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope whether or not you plan to attend the meeting in person. Alternatively, you may vote your shares by telephone or via the Internet. Instructions are included with the proxy card. If you attend the annual meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you previously have returned your proxy card or voted by telephone or on the Internet. The proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ SAMUEL E. UPCHURCH, JR.

Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr.
Corporate Secretary

April 10, 2002

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 10247
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202-0247
TELEPHONE 205 944-1300

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS -----

Regions Financial Corporation (Regions or the Company) is furnishing this Proxy Statement to the stockholders in connection with the 2002 annual meeting of stockholders to be held on Monday, May 20, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Regions Bank Building, 8 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama, and at any adjournment thereof. The matters to be considered and acted upon are (1) the election of three nominees as directors of the corporation, (2) proposal to ratify the Board of Directors' selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2002, and (3) such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the board of directors of Regions and is revocable by the stockholder at any time prior to the voting of such proxy. All properly executed proxies delivered pursuant to this solicitation will be voted at the meeting and in accordance with instructions, if any.

Participants in Regions' Dividend Reinvestment Plan and Directors' Stock Incentive Plan will note that shares held by the administrator for such plans are shown on the enclosed proxy card in addition to shares held directly by the stockholder in certificate form. Signing and returning the proxy card will enable voting of all shares, including those held in such plans.

The annual report of Regions Financial Corporation for the year 2001, including financial statements, has been mailed to all stockholders. Such report and financial statements are not a part of this proxy statement except as specifically incorporated herein.

The date of this proxy statement is April 10, 2002.

SOLICITATION, VOTING, AND REVOCABILITY OF PROXIES

This is the first mailing of proxy solicitation materials to stockholders. Regions will solicit proxies by mail and also may solicit proxies by telephone or telegram or in person by the directors, officers, and employees of Regions, who will receive no additional compensation for such solicitation but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. Brokerage houses, nominees, fiduciaries, and other custodians will be requested to forward solicitation materials to beneficial owners and will be reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses. Regions has retained D.F. King & Co., Inc. to assist in the solicitation of proxies. It is anticipated that the fee of such firm will not exceed \$7,000 plus reasonable out-of-pocket costs and expenses authorized by Regions.

Stockholders are urged to sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it as promptly as possible in the envelope enclosed for that purpose. Stockholders of record can also give proxies by calling a toll-free telephone number or by using the Internet. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate Regions stockholders' identities, to allow Regions stockholders to give their voting instructions, and to confirm that Regions stockholders' instructions have been recorded properly. Regions has been advised by counsel that the procedures that have been put in place for telephone and Internet voting are consistent with the requirements of applicable law. Stockholders who wish to vote over the Internet should be aware that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies, and that there may be some risk a stockholder's vote might not be properly recorded or counted because of an unanticipated electronic malfunction.

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

Any Regions stockholder who has delivered a proxy or voted by telephone or the Internet may revoke it at any time before it is voted by giving notice of revocation in writing or submitting to Regions a signed proxy card bearing a later date, provided that such notice or proxy card is actually received by Regions before the vote of stockholders or in open meeting prior to the taking of stockholder vote at the Regions annual meeting. Any notice of revocation should be sent to Regions Financial Corporation, 417 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203; Attention: Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr., Corporate Secretary. A proxy will not be revoked by death or supervening incapacity of the stockholder executing the proxy unless, before the vote, notice of such death or incapacity is filed with the Corporate Secretary.

The shares of Regions Common Stock represented by properly executed proxies received at or prior to the annual meeting and not subsequently revoked will be voted as directed in such proxies. If instructions are not given, shares represented by proxies received will be voted for the election of the three nominees for director named in this proxy statement, for the proposal to ratify the Board of Directors' selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2002, and in the discretion of the proxy holder as to any other matters that properly may come before the annual meeting. If necessary, and unless contrary instructions are given, the proxy holder also may vote in favor of a proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies in order to obtain sufficient votes to approve the matters presented or any other matter that properly comes before the annual meeting. Proxies representing shares which were voted against any of the matters presented will not be voted in favor of any proposal to adjourn the annual meeting.

Please note that the procedures for voting by telephone or over the Internet differ depending on whether Regions shares are held in your own name or are held for you in a nominee or brokerage account ("street" name).

For Regions shares held in your name:

Any Regions stockholder of record desiring to vote by telephone or over the Internet will be required to enter the unique control number imprinted on such holder's Regions proxy card, and therefore should have the proxy card in hand when initiating the session.

- To vote by telephone, dial 1-877-PRX-VOTE (1-877-779-8683) on a touch tone telephone, and follow the simple menu instructions provided. There is no charge for this call.
- To vote over the Internet, log on to the website <http://www.eproxyvote.com/rgbk> and follow the simple instructions provided. Similar instructions are included on the enclosed Regions proxy card.

2

For Regions shares held in nominee accounts ("street" name):

A number of brokerage firms and banks are participating in a program provided through ADP Investor Communication Services that offers telephone and Internet voting options. This program is different than the program for shares registered in the name of the stockholder. If your shares are held in an account at a brokerage firm or bank participating in the ADP program, you may vote those shares telephonically by calling the telephone number referenced on your voting form. Votes submitted via the Internet through the ADP program must be received by May 16, 2002. The giving of such proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the annual meeting.

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF

As of April 1, 2002, Regions had issued 230,854,787 shares of common stock, of which 1,196,000 shares were held as treasury stock and 229,658,787 shares were outstanding. Stockholders are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters to come before the meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 1, 2002, will be entitled to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

As of December 31, 2001, all Regions' affiliate banks beneficially held in a fiduciary capacity for others under numerous trust relationships, 10,988,148 shares or 4.8% of Regions' outstanding common stock. Regions' affiliate bank trust departments have sole voting power with respect to 10,356,559 of these shares or 4.5%, shared voting power with respect to 55,392 of these shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 3,559,241 of these shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 1,803,913 of these shares. No entity is known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of any class of voting securities.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

As of April 1, 2002, Allen B. Morgan, Jr. was the only director or nominee for director who is deemed to beneficially own more than 1% of Regions common stock. As of such date, Mr. Morgan beneficially owned 3,433,040 shares or 1.49% of the Company's outstanding common stock. All directors and executive officers of Regions, as a group, owned beneficially a total of 7,991,228 shares (which includes 1,866,090 shares that are the subject of presently exercisable options) or 3.48% of the Company's outstanding common stock. Information with respect to beneficial ownership is based upon information furnished by each officer, director or nominee, or contained in filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

3

The following table presents information concerning the beneficial ownership of Regions' common stock by certain of its executive officers at April 1, 2002. For beneficial ownership information of each director, see "Election of Directors."

NAME AND ADDRESS -----	TITLE OF CLASS -----	REGIONS STOCK BENEFICIAL	
		NO. OF SHARES (1)	%
Carl E. Jones, Jr..... Birmingham, Alabama	Common	873,164	
Richard D. Horsley..... Birmingham, Alabama	Common	599,460	
Allen B. Morgan, Jr..... Memphis, Tennessee	Common	3,433,040	
John I. Fleischauer, Jr..... Little Rock, Arkansas	Common	199,399	
Peter D. Miller..... Gainesville, Georgia	Common	426,582	

(1) The amounts shown represent the total shares beneficially owned by such individuals, restricted shares (90,641 for Mr. Jones, 37,820 for Mr. Horsley, 35,000 for Mr. Fleischauer, and 35,000 for Mr. Miller) and shares which are issuable upon the exercise of all stock options which are currently exercisable and exercisable within 60 days. Specifically, the following individuals have the right to acquire the shares indicated after their names, upon the exercise of such stock options: Mr. Jones, 362,903; Mr. Horsley, 273,304; Mr. Morgan, 41,666; Mr. Fleischauer, 133,804; and Mr. Miller 238,386.

No change in control of Regions has occurred since January 1, 2001, and no arrangements are known to Regions which may at a later date result in a change in control of the Company.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Regions recommends the election of Sheila S. Blair, Allen B. Morgan, Jr. and C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr. as directors, to hold office for a term of three years expiring with the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2005 or until their successors are elected and qualified. The proxy will be voted FOR the nominees, unless otherwise directed. If any nominee is not available for election, the proxies will be voted for such substitute nominee as the board of directors may designate. Regions has no reason to believe that any substitute nominee or nominees will be required. The proxies will not be voted for more than three nominees.

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

The following table indicates the age, residence, principal occupation or employment for the last five years of each nominee and director whose term of office continues after the meeting, position and offices held with Regions or its subsidiaries, the year the director was first elected, and the number of shares of common stock of the Company beneficially owned at April 1, 2002.

NAME OF NOMINEE OR DIRECTOR, RESIDENCE, AND AGE	PRESENT OCCUPATION AND PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION FOR LAST FIVE YEARS	POSITION AND OFFICES HELD WITH REGIONS AND SUBSIDIARIES	YEAR FIRST ELECTED AS DIRECTOR	YEARS TERM OFFICE WILL EXPIRE
Sheila S. Blair(1) Birmingham, Alabama 67	Retired, formerly Executive Director, The Greater Birmingham Foundation (Community foundation)	Director, Regions	1989	20
James B. Boone, Jr. Tuscaloosa, Alabama 66	Chairman of the Board, Boone Newspapers, Inc. (Newspaper publishing, management and ownership)	Director, Regions	1985	20
James S.M. French Birmingham, Alabama 62	Chairman and President, Dunn Investment Co. (Construction, construction materials, investments)	Director, Regions	1986	20
Richard D. Horsley	Vice Chairman of the	Director, Regions;	1982	20

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

Birmingham, Alabama 59	Board and Executive Financial Officer, Regions and Regions Bank	Director, Regions Bank, Regions Agency, Inc., Regions Mortgage, Inc., Regions Life Insurance Company, and EFC Holdings Corporation		
Carl E. Jones, Jr. Birmingham, Alabama 61	Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Regions and Regions Bank, formerly Regional President, Regions	Director, Regions; Director, Regions Bank, Regions Mortgage, Inc., Regions Interstate Billing Service, Inc., and EFC Holdings Corporation	1997	20
Allen B. Morgan, Jr.(1) Memphis, Tennessee 59	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Keegan, Inc. and Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.	2001	20
Michael W. Murphy El Dorado, Arkansas 54	President, Marmick Oil Company (Oil and gas exploration and production)	Director, Regions	1998	20

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY
OWNED AT APRIL 1, 2002

NAME OF NOMINEE OR DIRECTOR, RESIDENCE, AND AGE -----	-----		
	DIRECTLY -----	(2) INDIRECTLY -----	PERCENT OF CLASS -----
Sheila S. Blair(1) Birmingham, Alabama 67	107,082	17,048	.05%
James B. Boone, Jr. Tuscaloosa, Alabama 66	31,609	11,733	.02
James S.M. French Birmingham, Alabama 62	30,470	103,696	.06
Richard D. Horsley Birmingham, Alabama 59	599,460 (3)	0	.26
Carl E. Jones, Jr. Birmingham, Alabama 61	835,990 (3)	37,174	.38%
Allen B. Morgan, Jr.(1) Memphis, Tennessee 59	3,167,565 (3)	265,475	1.49
Michael W. Murphy El Dorado, Arkansas 54	0	3,639	.00

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

5

NAME OF NOMINEE OR DIRECTOR, RESIDENCE, AND AGE -----	PRESENT OCCUPATION AND PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION FOR LAST FIVE YEARS -----	POSITION AND OFFICES HELD WITH REGIONS AND SUBSIDIARIES -----	YEAR FIRST ELECTED AS DIRECTOR -----	YE TER OFF WI EXP -----
Henry E. Simpson Birmingham, Alabama 67	Attorney, Lange, Simpson, Robinson & Somerville LLP	Director, Regions	1973	20
W. Woodrow Stewart Gainesville, Georgia 63	Attorney, Stewart, Melvin & Frost	Director, Regions	1999	20
John H. Watson Dothan, Alabama 64	Chairman, Smith, Inc. (Heating and air conditioning)	Director, Regions	1999	20
C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr.(1) Memphis, Tennessee 55	Chairman, Wilson Hotel Management Co., Inc. (Hotel management and franchising)	Director, Regions	1999	20

NAME OF NOMINEE OR DIRECTOR, RESIDENCE, AND AGE -----	NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED AT APRIL 1, 2002 -----		
	DIRECTLY -----	(2) INDIRECTLY -----	PERCENT OF CLASS -----
Henry E. Simpson Birmingham, Alabama 67	148,202	57,523	.09%
W. Woodrow Stewart Gainesville, Georgia 63	14,750	0	.01
John H. Watson Dothan, Alabama 64	170,604	18,778	.08
C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr.(1) Memphis, Tennessee 55	188,964	0	.08

(1) Nominee for election at 2002 stockholders' meeting.

(2) Indirect beneficial ownership includes shares, if any, (a) owned as trustee in which the director or any member of his/her immediate family has a beneficial interest, or (b) held in a trust in which the director has a beneficial interest, or (c) owned and traded in the name of the spouse,

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

minor children or other relative of the director living in his/her home, or (d) owned by a corporation, partnership or other legal organization in which the director has a substantial beneficial interest.

- (3) Includes 273,304 shares for Mr. Horsley, 362,903 shares for Mr. Jones, and 41,666 for Mr. Morgan that are the subject of presently exercisable options.

Of the directors or nominees for director, none is a "control person" of the Company by virtue of stock ownership. The only persons who might be considered "control persons" of the Company are Carl E. Jones, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer and Richard D. Horsley, Vice Chairman and Executive Financial Officer, who gain any control they may exercise by virtue of office.

Of the nominees and directors listed above, two also serve as directors of other companies with a class of securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. James S. M. French serves as a director of Energen Corporation, Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Company, and Protective Life Corporation and Michael W. Murphy as a director of Murphy Oil Company.

THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Regions held eight directors' meetings during 2001. All directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the meetings held by the board and by committees of which they were members, except Michael W. Murphy, who attended 50% of such meetings and James S.M. French, who attended 73% of such meetings. Among other board committees, Regions has an audit committee and a compensation committee that meet as needed. While Regions has no nominating committee designated as such, the functions of a nominating committee are performed by the personnel committee.

AUDIT COMMITTEE. The Audit Committee, which held four meetings in 2001, consists of Sheila S. Blair (Chairman), Henry E. Simpson, and Lee J. Styslinger, Jr. Committee members satisfy the independence requirements of both the Nasdaq listing criteria and the Company's audit committee charter. Duties of the Committee include reviewing with the Company's independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, the planning and results of the auditing engagement, reviewing the activities and recommendations of the Company's internal auditors, and reviewing the adequacy of internal accounting controls. Additional information regarding the functions performed by the Committee and its membership is set forth in the "Report of Audit Committee," included immediately below.

6

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Regions' audited financial statements at and for the three year period ended December 31, 2001, are included in Regions Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year 2001. Regions, acting through its management and board of directors, has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the systems of internal accounting controls. Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors engaged by Regions, are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The Audit Committee oversees Regions' financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Committee has reviewed the audited financial statements with Regions' management, including a discussion of 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 Audit Committee has reviewed with Ernst & Young LLP their judgments as

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Committee under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States.

The Audit Committee has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP their independence in relation to Regions and Regions' management, including the matters addressed in the written disclosures provided to Regions by Ernst & Young, as required by the Independence Standards Board, the standard-setting body governing the independence of auditors in relation to their public company clients. Fees for the last annual audit were \$823,000. Fees for audit related services were \$964,000 and fees for non-audit services were \$3.7 million, totaling \$4.7 million for other fees. Audit related services include fees for subsidiary audits, statutory audits, employee benefit plan audits, FDICIA reviews, SAS-70 reviews, and SEC registration statements. Non-audit services included fees for tax services, human resources actuarial services and risk management services. No information technology consulting services were provided by the independent auditors. The Committee has considered whether the provision of non-audit services by Ernst & Young is compatible with maintaining their independence.

The Audit Committee has discussed with the Company's internal auditors and Ernst & Young LLP the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Committee regularly meets with Regions' internal auditors and Ernst & Young, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal accounting and financial reporting controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

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, 2001 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sheila S. Blair
Henry E. Simpson
Lee J. Styslinger, Jr.

Compensation Committee. The compensation committee, which held two meetings during 2001, consists of Lee J. Styslinger, Jr. (Chairman), Sheila S. Blair, and C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr.

The role of the compensation committee is to establish and monitor compensation issues within the broad area of human resources management. The compensation committee exercises administrative responsibility in working with Company management on the development and clarification of the Company's compensation philosophy, articulating reasons behind design of the Company's pay and benefits programs and their relationship to corporate objectives and competitive practices.

The functions of the compensation committee are recommending to the board the compensation arrangements for executive management, approving compensation arrangements for senior company officers, making recommendations to the board concerning compensation plans in which officers are eligible to participate and recommending to the board the establishment of or changes in benefit plans in which officers

7

are eligible to participate, and recommending to the board the establishment of or changes in benefit plans in which officers and employees participate (including the authority to make amendments to tax-qualified plans in which officers participate).

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

In discharging its responsibility, the compensation committee has, from time to time, used the services of compensation consultants for guidance with respect to competitive data and practices of other banks.

SECTION 16 TRANSACTIONS

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires Regions' executive officers and directors to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership of Regions' stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Executive officers and directors are required by SEC regulations to furnish Regions with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based on a review of the forms filed during 2001, Regions believes that its executive officers and directors complied with all applicable filing requirements.

8

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS

The following table is a summary of certain information concerning the compensation earned by Regions' chief executive officer and each of the other four most highly compensated executive officers during the last three fiscal years.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	ANNUAL COMPENSATION			LONG TERM COMPENSATION	
		SALARY	BONUS	OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION	RESTRICTED STOCK (1)	STOCK OPTIONS
Carl E. Jones, Jr. Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	2001	\$750,000	\$ 871,875	0	\$1,532,500	200,000
	2000	650,000	459,225	0	703,281	100,000
	1999	650,000	184,860	0	0	33,750
Richard D. Horsley Vice Chairman and Executive Financial Officer	2001	357,000	375,388	0	558,100	80,000
	2000	326,999	206,473	0	301,406	60,000
	1999	317,000	67,616	0	0	26,250
Allen B. Morgan, Jr. (4)	2001	130,000	1,370,000	0	0	125,000
John I. Fleischauer, Jr. Regional President	2001	320,000	334,404	0	558,100	80,000
	2000	302,702	127,000	0	301,406	60,000
	1999	282,703	108,762	0	0	18,804
Peter D. Miller Regional President	2001	310,000	266,009	0	558,100	80,000
	2000	280,000	135,303	0	301,406	60,000
	1999	240,000	87,106	0	0	26,250

(1) The Terms of the Restricted Stock awards are determined by the compensation committee. Under the terms of the currently outstanding Restricted Stock

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

awards, the named executives must remain employed with Regions for the duration of the restrictive period at the same or higher level in order for the shares to be released. During the restriction period, the named executive is eligible to receive dividends and exercise voting privileges on such restricted shares. If any of the restrictions are removed at the discretion of the compensation committee, the named executive officer will receive a stock certificate for some percentage or all of the awarded restricted shares. The restricted shares are not transferable by the named executive during the restriction period. The compensation committee has the discretion to modify the terms of the Restricted Stock awards. The restrictive period for the restricted stock awarded in 2000 is seven years from the date of grant, but the restrictions will automatically lapse sooner if specified performance criteria are met. The performance criteria relate to total stockholder return objectives relative to a group of peer institutions. At December 31, 2001, Mr. Jones had 90,641 shares of Restricted Stock with a fair market value of \$2.7 million, Mr. Horsley had 37,820 shares of Restricted Stock with a fair market value of \$1.1 million, Mr. Morgan had no shares of Restricted Stock, Mr. Fleischauer had 35,000 shares of Restricted Stock with a fair market value of \$1.1 million, and Mr. Miller had 35,000 shares of Restricted Stock with a fair market value of \$1.1 million.

- (2) Includes \$72,092 allocated to Mr. Jones in 2001 under the 401k plan; \$37,404 allocated to Mr. Jones in 2001 under the profit sharing plan; and \$58,879 representing the estimated term component of the premium paid and the estimated interest cost to Regions in 2001 resulting from premium payments for a life insurance benefit plan for Mr. Jones. This plan serves as an offset to an existing supplemental retirement plan.
- (3) Includes \$32,846 allocated to Mr. Horsley in 2001 under the 401k plan; \$17,821 allocated to Mr. Horsley in 2001 under the profit sharing plan; and \$79,858 representing the estimated term component of the premium paid and the estimated interest cost to Regions in 2001 resulting from premium payments for a life insurance benefit plan for Mr. Horsley. This plan serves as an offset to an existing supplemental retirement plan.
- (4) Mr. Morgan became employed by Regions on March 30, 2001; all amounts were accrued and paid after that date.

9

- (5) Represents the amount allocated to Mr. Morgan in 2001 under the 401k plan.
- (6) Includes \$25,146 allocated to Mr. Fleischauer in 2001 under the 401k plan and \$16,649 allocated to Mr. Fleischauer in 2001 under the profit sharing plan.
- (7) Includes \$26,580 allocated to Mr. Miller in 2001 under the 401k plan and \$15,471 allocated to Mr. Miller in 2001 under the profit sharing plan.

STOCK OPTIONS

The following table presents information concerning individual grants of options to purchase Regions' common stock made during 2001 to the named executive officers.

OPTION GRANTS IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

NAME	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED	% OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN 2001	EXERCISE PRICE (PER SHARE)	EXPIRATION
----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Carl E. Jones, Jr.	150,000	1.7%	\$27.905	1/16

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

	50,000	.6	30.65	4/18
Richard D. Horsley.....	80,000	.9	27.905	1/16
Allen B. Morgan, Jr.	125,000	1.4	28.81	3/30
John I. Fleischauer, Jr.	80,000	.9	27.905	1/16
Peter D. Miller.....	80,000	.9	27.905	1/16

-
- (1) Based on the Black-Scholes option pricing model adapted for use in valuing executive stock options. The actual value, if any, an executive may realize depends on the excess of the stock price over the exercise price on the date the option is exercised, so there is no assurance the value realized by an executive will be at or near the value estimated by the Black-Scholes model. The estimated values under that model are based on the assumptions of expected stock price volatility of .222, risk-free rate of return of 4.3%, dividend yield of 3.7% and expected time to exercise of 5 years.
- (2) All options granted in 2001 become exercisable graduated over a three year period, with 50% exercisable after 12 months, 25% exercisable after 24 months, and 25% exercisable after 36 months, except that exercisability is delayed for an additional 12 months to the extent the value of incentive stock options (determined as of the date of grant) first exercisable in a calendar year exceeds \$100,000 as to any recipient.

10

The following table presents information concerning exercises of stock options to purchase Regions' common stock during 2001 and the number and value of unexercised options and stock appreciation rights (SAR) held by the named executive officers.

AGGREGATED OPTION/SAR EXERCISES IN 2001

NAME	SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE	VALUE REALIZED	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS/SARS AT 12-31-01	VALUE OF UNEX IN-THE-MO OPTIONS/S
			EXERCISABLE/ UNEXERCISABLE (1)	AT 12-31- EXERCISAB UNEXERCISAB
Carl E. Jones, Jr.	12,080	\$147,731	262,903/204,976	\$2,002,070/\$
Richard D. Horsley.....	0	0	228,328/ 84,976	1,961,615/
Allen B. Morgan, Jr.	0	0	0/125,000	0/
John I. Fleischauer, Jr.	0	0	93,804/ 80,000	600,975/
Peter D. Miller.....	0	0	142,500/ 80,000	722,400/

-
- (1) None of the currently exercisable options were granted with tandem SARs.

LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS IN 2001

No performance shares were awarded to Regions' named executive officers in 2001. Information concerning restricted stock awards during 2001 is included in the summary compensation table on page 9.

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

RETIREMENT PLANS

The named executive officers are covered by the Regions Financial Corporation Retirement Plan, a qualified defined benefit retirement plan, as complimented by retirement compensation agreements pursuant to its supplemental executive retirement program.

The following table shows estimated annual benefits payable at retirement, including both qualified plan benefits and supplemental benefits, based on combinations of final compensation and age at retirement.

PENSION PLAN TABLE

COMPENSATION	AGE AT RETIREMENT					
	55	60	62	63	64	65
\$125,000.....	\$ 50,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 67,500	\$ 70,000	\$ 72,500	\$ 75,000
150,000.....	60,000	75,000	81,000	84,000	87,000	90,000
175,000.....	70,000	87,500	94,500	98,000	101,500	105,000
200,000.....	80,000	100,000	108,000	112,000	116,000	120,000
250,000.....	100,000	125,000	135,000	140,000	145,000	150,000
300,000.....	120,000	150,000	162,000	168,000	174,000	180,000
350,000.....	140,000	175,000	189,000	196,000	203,000	210,000
400,000.....	160,000	200,000	216,000	224,000	232,000	240,000
450,000.....	180,000	225,000	243,000	252,000	261,000	270,000
500,000.....	200,000	250,000	270,000	280,000	290,000	300,000
550,000.....	220,000	275,000	297,000	308,000	319,000	330,000
600,000.....	240,000	300,000	324,000	336,000	348,000	360,000
650,000.....	260,000	325,000	351,000	364,000	377,000	390,000
700,000.....	280,000	350,000	378,000	392,000	406,000	420,000
750,000.....	300,000	375,000	405,000	420,000	435,000	450,000

11

In 2001, compensation covered by the plans for the five highest paid executive officers was as follows: Mr. Jones, \$750,000; Mr. Horsley, \$357,000; Mr. Morgan, \$130,000; Mr. Fleischauer, \$320,000; and Mr. Miller, \$310,000.

Benefits are based on average compensation (limited to base salary) over the three years prior to retirement, and are payable as a single life annuity for single participants and a joint and 50% survivor annuity for married participants. Other forms of payment are available on an actuarially equivalent basis. Amounts shown are subject to offset for Company-sponsored long-term disability payments and executive life insurance program cash values exceeding premiums paid. Benefits are not offset by Social Security benefits. Benefits will be reduced or eliminated if the participant terminates employment voluntarily before age 55.

CHANGE OF CONTROL AGREEMENTS

Certain executive officers of Regions, including the five executive officers named in the compensation table, have change of control agreements with Regions which became effective in 2001. The terms of the agreements, which are identical with respect to all the signatories, are summarized as follows.

The change of control agreement provides to each signatory executive

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

officer certain protections in the event a "change of control" in Regions occurs. For this purpose, the agreement defines "change of control" to include, generally, the acquisition by any person or group of beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the combined voting power of Regions; a change in composition of the board of directors such that incumbent directors make up less than a majority of the board; completion of a merger, consolidation, or reorganization (subject to exceptions for certain noncontrol transactions); and a liquidation or dissolution of Regions or sale of all or substantially all of its assets.

Commencing on the date of a change of control and for the three year period following, each signatory executive officer agrees to remain employed by Regions, subject to the terms of the agreement, and to devote reasonable time and attention and reasonable best efforts to perform the responsibilities of the position. Regions agrees that the authority, duties, and responsibilities of each signatory executive officer shall be at least commensurate with those in effect prior to the change of control.

Also, during such three year period, the base salary of each signatory executive officer may not be less than the base salary in effect prior to the change of control, and the bonus may not be less than the highest bonus in the preceding three years. Each signatory executive will be entitled to participate in all incentive and retirement plans on terms comparable to other peer executives, and to participate in all welfare benefit plans on comparable terms.

During such three year period following a change of control, Regions may terminate the employment of a signatory executive officer only for "cause," defined generally as willfully failing to perform reasonably assigned duties, or engaging in illegal conduct or gross misconduct which materially injures Regions. The signatory executive officer may terminate employment for "good reason," which includes Regions' reduction of the officer's duties or status, and includes breach of the agreement by Regions.

If the signatory executive officer terminates employment for good reason, or if the Company terminates employment for other than cause, the Company must pay the executive officer accrued compensation and benefits plus an amount equal to three times the aggregate base salary and highest annual bonus within the past three years. If the executive officer's employment is terminated by death or disability, Regions' liability is limited to benefits and accrued compensation.

The signatory executive officer may resign for any reason during the 30 day period following the first anniversary of a change of control. In that event, the Company must pay the executive officer accrued compensation and benefits plus an amount equal to three times the aggregate base salary and highest annual bonus within the past three years.

If any payment under the agreement causes the signatory executive officer to become subject to the excise tax imposed under section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, then Regions must make an additional

12

payment such that, after tax on the additional payment, the executive will retain an amount of the additional payment equal to the excise tax.

DIRECTORS' COMPENSATION

In 2001, directors of Regions were paid an annual directors' fee retainer of \$25,000, plus an additional annual retainer of \$4,000 for each committee of the board on which a director serves (or \$6,000 in the case of the credit committee), and an additional annual chairman's retainer of \$2,000 for each

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

committee chairman. Directors who are employees of Regions or its subsidiaries receive no fees for company board membership or attendance at company board or board committee meetings. Directors are reimbursed for the reasonable cost of travel and lodging for attendance at board and committee meetings.

Non-employee directors of Regions are eligible to participate in Regions directors' deferred stock plan, under which a participating director may elect to defer receipt of the participant's directors' fee retainer, which is invested in Regions common stock and maintained in a rabbi trust. Regions contributes 25% of the amount contributed by each participating director. Receipt and taxability of benefits are deferred until the later of the time the participant reaches age 65 or terminates as a director.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The compensation committee of the Regions board consisted in 2001 of Mr. Styslinger, Ms. Blair, and Mr. Wilson. In reaching compensation decisions concerning executive officers other than Mr. Jones, the chief executive officer, the committee took into account discussions with and recommendations by Mr. Jones and Regions' senior personnel officer. There is no other involvement by Regions' executive personnel in the committee's deliberations. Mr. Jones did not participate in deliberations and decisions regarding his own compensation.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION REPORT

Set forth below is the Executive Compensation Committee Report of the Compensation Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION REPORT

General. Under the direct control of the compensation committee of the Regions board, Regions has developed and installed compensation policies, plans, and procedures that seek to enhance the profitability of Regions. Stockholder value is aligned with the financial interests of Regions' senior managers as financial goals are set for each year. Regions recognizes the importance of annual and long-term incentive compensation plans to attract and retain corporate officers and other key employees who are accordingly motivated to perform to the best of their abilities. Both forms of incentive compensation are variable and accordingly reflect corporate, strategic business unit, and individual performance levels that encourage an explicit and continuing focus on increasing profitability and stockholder value.

The committee's methodology and approach incorporate both qualitative and quantitative considerations, which are reflected in the committee's determinations concerning executive compensation and the specific components thereof. In particular, the total compensation of the executive officers of Regions can be divided into the categories of (i) annual base salary, (ii) annual incentive compensation, and (iii) long-term incentive compensation. In general, and as set forth in greater detail below, annual base salary is intended to be comparable with executive base compensation paid by other similar financial institutions; annual incentive compensation is intended to be tied quantitatively to the achievement by Regions of pre-determined, objective financial performance goals; and share-based grants for long-term incentive compensation are intended to reward the executive recipients with incremental value commensurate with long-term increases in value of Regions Common Stock. The compensation decisions of the committee relative to Regions' principal executive officers, including the five officers named above in the compensation tables, are described below as to each of the three categories.

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

Base Salary. Annual base salaries are generally set at competitive levels with similar financial institutions. Specifically the committee considers peer group comparisons from survey data for other financial companies, recommendations from an independent compensation consultant, and individual performance assessments. For executives other than the chief executive officer, the committee also considers the chief executive officer's recommendations. While these factors are fully considered and discussed by the committee, the committee members are not required to express or record the weight they assign to any particular factor. In each instance the committee members reach a consensus and the committee sets a base salary level for each executive.

In evaluating and establishing the base salaries of the executive officers, the committee, in conjunction with its independent compensation consultant, surveys the base salaries of the corresponding officers of other bank holding companies in a survey group consisting of 18 companies closest to Regions in asset size and deposit size, and also including the two other largest bank holding companies headquartered in Alabama. The committee attempts to establish the base salaries of the named executive officers to be competitive with the base salaries of the corresponding executive officers of the companies in the survey group, based on the most recent information available. Based on data as of October 1, 2000, the information most recently available, the actual base salaries of Regions named executive officers group was slightly below amounts indicated by the survey comparison.

It should be noted that the survey comparison group is not the same as the group of companies which make up the bank indices presented in the Comparison of Five-year Cumulative Total Return graph included in this Proxy Statement. The committee believes the use of a smaller survey group tailored by asset and deposit size is more valid for salary evaluation purposes, even though not all the survey companies are included in the indices, and even though numerous companies included in the indices are not included in the survey group.

Based on the survey comparison, advice of an independent compensation consultant, recommendations from the chief executive officer, and an inherently subjective assessment of the comparative contributions of the executive personnel to Regions' continued financial and operating success, the 2001 base salaries for the other named officers were determined by the committee.

Annual Incentive Compensation. In the first quarter of 2001, the compensation committee approved Regions' 2001 annual performance goals, as prepared by Regions' comptroller, and as used for the purpose of determining potential annual incentive compensation for the executive officers. The performance goals were quantitative in nature, resulting in an incentive plan formula that was weighted towards their overall importance in attaining Regions' annual profit plan, and focused on the accomplishment of financial objectives, before certain nonrecurring items, in the areas of: earnings per share, minimizing growth in non-interest expense, consolidated interest margin, total non-interest income, and combined revenues of Regions' securities subsidiaries Morgan Keegan and Regions Investment Company. Regions exceeded threshold levels in all five company-wide performance goals. Regions exceeded target performance in three of the goals. Based on the various levels of goal achievement, the chief executive and the other named officers received cash incentive awards as a formula driven percentage of 2001 base salary levels.

Long Term Incentive Compensation. During 2001, the compensation committee evaluated the merits of granting the chief executive officer, the named officers and other key employees, further awards under Regions' long term incentive plans. These plans provide the flexibility to grant long-term incentives in a variety of forms, including stock options, performance shares and restricted stock. With respect to stock-based compensation, the compensation committee placed relatively more reliance on the advice of Regions' independent consultant than in the cases of base salary and non stock-based compensation. As intended

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

with the establishment of the plans, the committee believes that it is highly desirable to increase management's equity ownership interest in Regions. The committee further believes that its incentive awards under the plans successfully focused and committed Regions' management on building profitability and stockholder value. The primary purpose of LTIP awards is to encourage management members to take long-term steps to achieve and sustain earnings per share and return on equity objectives. Accordingly, the committee further awarded LTIP grants during 2001, including the award of performance accelerated restrictive shares, which

14

are designed to accelerate vesting in return for an increased level of total shareholder return. The committee, based on information from surveys and its independent consultant, also awarded the overall 2001 grant at a level of approximately 150% that of the 2000 grant. This was done in order to bring the LTIP program to a competitive level with that of other peer institutions. The grants also were issued with a graduated vesting schedule of three years.

In establishing the LTIP awards for the named officers, senior management and other key employees, the committee reviewed with the chief executive officer the recommended individual awards, considering the scope of accountability, financial goals, and anticipated performance requirements and contributions expected of the participants. The committee also took into account the number and size of LTIP awards and stock options already held by executive officers considered for additional awards.

Compensation of Chief Executive Officer. In deliberating the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, the committee adheres to the same basic methodology and approach applied to executive compensation generally. Accordingly, the base salary determination reflects the peer group survey comparison described above, the annual incentive compensation is based on an objective formula and tied to Regions' achievement of pre-determined, quantitative financial goals, and the realization of long-term incentive compensation, by its nature, is aligned with the realization of long-term stockholder value.

In addition, the committee, in deliberating the chief executive officer's base compensation, takes into account other factors, most notably, total compensation target, individual performance and general market factors. The committee set Mr. Jones' base salary for 2001 at a level it concluded would be appropriate in light of the circumstances the committee considered, while recognizing that his base salary would remain in the low end of the range of salaries of chief executives of comparable bank holding companies.

LTIP awards for Mr. Jones were set separately and independently of his participation, based on ownership and total compensation objectives that reflected data from selected peer companies, his total compensation, and the committee's desire to set appropriate long-term performance objectives.

Summary. The compensation committee of the board of directors remains dedicated to ensuring that Regions' overall compensation program for its executive officers, senior management and other key employees is properly designed to:

- Attract, motivate, and retain outstanding contributors;
- Maintain a base salary structure that is competitive in Regions' marketplace;
- Link annual incentive awards with specific performance targets that yield

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

superior results; and

- Provide long-term incentive awards that couple management ownership with stockholder value.

Section 162(m) of the Code imposes certain limitations on the deductibility by Regions for federal income tax purposes of compensation amounts paid to highly paid executives. The committee is aware of the potential effects of Section 162(m) of the Code. The committee has concluded that ensuring deductibility under Section 162(m) is not as important as structuring incentive compensation based on methodology and factors it deems appropriate. The committee has chosen not to distort its methodology and application of the factors it believes pertinent so as to ensure that all executive compensation is deductible under Section 162(m). While the committee intends that Regions' compensation plans will meet, to the extent practical, the prerequisites for deductibility under Section 162(m), if it develops that a portion of the compensation of one or more executive officers is not deductible under Section 162(m), then the committee expects that Regions would honor its obligations to the executive officers under the compensation arrangements approved by the committee.

15

The compensation committee will continue to review and evaluate compensation programs at least annually. When and where appropriate, the committee will consult with independent compensation consultants, legal advisors, and Regions' public accounting firm with respect to the proper design of the program toward achieving Regions' objectives as set forth by the chief executive officer and the Regions board.

This report furnished by:
Lee J. Styslenger, Jr., Chairman
Sheila S. Blair
C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Set forth below is a graph comparing the yearly percentage change in the cumulative total return of Regions' common stock against the cumulative total return of the S & P 500 Index, the NASDAQ Banks Index, and the S & P Banks Index for the past five years. This presentation assumes that the value of the investment in Regions' common stock and in each index was \$100 and that all dividends were reinvested. Regions has not previously included the S & P Banks Index in this presentation. Given Regions' present size, geographic coverage, and Regions' plan to list its common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, Regions believes the S & P Bank Index is now more appropriate for comparison purposes.

(PERFORMANCE GRAPH)

	12/31/96	12/31/97	12/31/98	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01
Regions	\$100.00	\$166.50	\$163.00	\$104.70	\$119.30	\$135.90
S&P 500 Index	\$100.00	\$133.50	\$172.20	\$208.50	\$190.00	\$167.60
NASDAQ Bank Index	\$100.00	\$167.40	\$166.30	\$159.90	\$182.40	\$197.40
S & P Banks Index	\$100.00	\$144.00	\$154.00	\$134.00	\$158.00	\$159.00

16

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

Directors and officers of Regions and their associates were customers of, and had transactions with, the affiliate banks in the ordinary course of business during 2001; additional transactions may be expected to take place in the ordinary course of business. Included in such transactions are outstanding loans and commitments from the affiliate banks, all of which were made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons, and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features.

Regions retained during 2001 and prior years and proposes to retain in the future on behalf of the Company or certain of its subsidiaries the law firms Lange, Simpson, Robinson, & Somerville LLP, of which director Henry E. Simpson is a partner. During 2001, the Company or its subsidiaries paid legal fees of \$2.5 million to the firm of Lange, Simpson, Robinson & Somerville LLP.

RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee have selected Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2002. The Board of Directors recommends that the stockholders ratify the selection of Ernst & Young. Ernst & Young (or its predecessor) has served as the Company's independent auditors since the Company's inception in 1971.

Ernst & Young LLP has been engaged to provide auditing services and also to provide tax services and general accounting advice. In making this selection, the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee considered whether the engagement by the Company of Ernst & Young for services other than audit services is compatible with Ernst & Young's independence.

A representative of the firm will be present at the stockholders' meeting to make a statement if he or she so desires and to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

PROPOSALS OF STOCKHOLDERS

Proposals by stockholders intended to be presented at Regions 2003 annual meeting of stockholders must be received by Regions not later than December 11, 2002, for consideration for possible inclusion in the proxy statement relating to that meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regions does not know of any business to be presented for action at the meeting other than those items listed in the notice of the meeting and referred to herein. If any other matters properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof, it is intended that the proxies will be voted in respect thereof in accordance with the recommendations of the board of directors.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr.

Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr.
Corporate Secretary

Dated April 10, 2002

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

17

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 10247
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202-0247

P
R
O
X
Y

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby appoints Carl E. Jones, Jr., Richard D. Horsley, and Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr., and each or any one of them, as Proxies, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorizes each to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side, all the shares of common stock of Regions Financial Corporation ("Regions") held of record by the undersigned on April 1, 2002, at the Annual Meeting of stockholders to be held May 20, 2002, or any adjournment thereof. This card also constitutes voting instructions for all shares beneficially owned and votable, if any, by the undersigned as a participant in the Regions Financial Corporation Dividend Reinvestment Plan, 401(K) Plan (including the Supplemental 401(K) Plan) and/or Directors Stock Investment Plan and held of record by the administrators and trustees of such Plans. If no direction is made as to the manner of voting, the proxy will be voted for the nominees listed in Item 1 and for Item 2.

Should the undersigned be present and elect to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any adjournment thereof and after notification to the Secretary of Regions at the meeting of the stockholder's decision to terminate this proxy, then this proxy shall be deemed terminated and of no further force and effect. This proxy may also be revoked by submission of a properly executed subsequently dated proxy or by written notice to Regions for receipt prior to the Annual Meeting.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

PLEASE MARK YOUR
[X] VOTES AS IN THIS
EXAMPLE.

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE UNDERSIGNED STOCKHOLDER. IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE NOMINEES LISTED IN ITEM 1 AND FOR ITEM 2.

	FOR	WITHHELD	
1. Election of Directors	[]	[]	To elect the three nominees for director of Regions listed below: 01 Sheila S. Blair, 02 Allen B. Morgan, Jr. and 03 C. Kemmons Wilson, Jr.
For, except vote withheld from the following nominee(s):			2. To ratify the Board of Directors' selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of Regions for the year ending December 31, 2002.

3. In their discretion properly come before thereof.

Please sign exactly signing as attorney, or guardian, please held jointly, each h

Please complete, dat promptly in the encl

SIGNATURE (S)

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Regions stockholders can now vote their shares either by telephone or in the Internet. This eliminates the need to return the proxy card. To vote your shares over the telephone or the internet you must have your proxy card and SSN available. The series of numbers that appear in the box above must be used to access the system.

1. To vote over the telephone: On a touch-tone telephone call 1-(877)-PRX-VOTE (1-877-779-8683), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. To vote over the Internet: Log onto the Internet and go the website www.eproxyvote.com/rgbk.

Your vote over the telephone or the internet authorizes the named proxies in the same manner as if you marked, signed, dated and returned your proxy card. If you choose to vote your shares over the telephone or the internet, there is no need for you to mail back the proxy card.

Regions Financial Corporation

RSVP Card for May 20, 2002
Annual Meeting

I am a registered stockholder of Regions Financial Corporation and plan to attend the 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT NAME AS SHOWN ON PROXY CARD)

MAILING ADDRESS NUMBER AND STREET

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE

DAYTIME PHONE EMPLOYEE

Edgar Filing: REGIONS FINANCIAL CORP - Form DEF 14A

/ / yes / / no

I will be accompanied by ___ guest(s) (names and relationships)