

GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.
Form PRE 14A
October 31, 2008

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- x Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o **Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- o Definitive Proxy Statement
- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

GREEN 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):

- x No fee required.
- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) 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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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

November __, 2008

Dear Shareholder:

We invite you to attend a Special Meeting of Shareholders (the Special Meeting) of Green Bankshares, Inc. (the Company) to be held at the General Morgan Inn, 111 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee, on _____, December __, 2008 at __ a.m., local time.

The Special Meeting has been called to vote on an amendment to the Company s Charter to authorize a class of blank check preferred stock, consisting of one million (1,000,000) authorized shares, which may be issued in one or more series, with such rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions as shall be fixed by the Company s Board of Directors, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournments thereof. Enclosed is a proxy statement and a proxy card. Directors and officers of the Company will be present to respond to any appropriate questions shareholders may have.

Your vote is important, regardless of the number of shares you own. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we urge you to sign, date and return the enclosed proxy as soon as possible, even if you currently plan to attend the Special Meeting. We also offer telephone and Internet voting, as more particularly described in the attached proxy statement. Voting by telephone, Internet or by returning a proxy in the mail will not prevent you from voting in person at the Special Meeting, but will assure that your vote is counted if you are unable to attend the Special Meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continuing support.

Sincerely,

R. Stan Puckett

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.
100 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1120
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743
(423) 639-5111

Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders
To Be Held on December __, 2008

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of Shareholders (the Special Meeting) of Green Bankshares, Inc. (the Company) will be held on _____, December __, 2008 at ___a.m., local time, at the General Morgan Inn, 111 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743.

A Proxy Card and a Proxy Statement for the Special Meeting are enclosed.

The Special Meeting is for the purpose of considering and acting upon the following matters:

- (1) to consider and act upon a proposal to amend the Company s Charter to authorize a class of blank check preferred stock, consisting of one million (1,000,000) authorized shares, which may be issued in one or more series, with such rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions as shall be fixed by the Company s Board of Directors; and
- (2) to transact such other business as may properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

NOTE: The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Special Meeting.

Any action may be taken on any one of the foregoing proposals at the Special Meeting on the date specified above or on any date or dates to which, by original or later adjournments, the Special Meeting may be adjourned. Shareholders of record at the close of business on November 5, 2008 will be entitled to vote at the Special Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

You are requested to fill in and sign the enclosed form of proxy which is solicited by the Board of Directors and to mail it promptly in the enclosed envelope or vote by telephone or over the Internet as described in the attached proxy statement. The proxy will not be used if you attend and choose to vote in person at the Special Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Adams
Secretary
Greeneville, Tennessee
November __, 2008

It is important that proxies be returned promptly. Therefore, whether or not you plan to be present in person at the Special Meeting, please sign, date, and complete the enclosed proxy card and return it in the enclosed envelope. No postage is required if mailed in the United States. Alternatively, you can vote over the telephone or on the Internet, as more particularly described in the attached proxy statement. Should you subsequently desire to revoke your proxy, you may do so as provided in the attached proxy statement before it is voted at the Special Meeting.

PROXY STATEMENT
of
GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.
100 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1120
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743
(423) 639-5111

SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
December __, 2008

General

This document is being furnished to Green Bankshares, Inc. (the Company) shareholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Company's board of directors to be used at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of the Company (the Special Meeting), to be held on December __, 2008, at __ a.m., local time, at General Morgan Inn, 111 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743. The accompanying Notice of Special Meeting and form of proxy and this proxy statement are first being mailed to shareholders on or about November __, 2008.

The Company's board of directors has fixed the close of business on November 5, 2008 as the record date for determining the holders of shares of the Company's common stock entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Special Meeting. Only holders of record of shares of the Company's common stock at the close of business on that date will be entitled to vote at the Special Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement of that meeting. At the close of business on the record date, there were 12,991,161 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding, held by approximately __ holders of record. Each Company shareholder will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record upon each matter properly submitted at the Special Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement of that meeting.

Matters to be Considered

At this Special Meeting, holders of the Company's common stock will be asked to:

approve an amendment to the Company's Charter to authorize a class of blank check preferred stock, consisting of one million (1,000,000) authorized shares, which may be issued in one or more series, with such rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions as shall be fixed by the Company's Board of Directors; and

to transact such other business as may properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Proxies

Each copy of this document mailed to Company shareholders is accompanied by a proxy card with instructions for voting by mail, by telephone or through the Internet. If voting by mail, you should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this document to ensure that your vote is counted at the Special Meeting, or at any adjournment or postponement of the Special Meeting, regardless of whether you plan to attend the Special Meeting. You may also vote your shares by telephone or through the Internet. Information and applicable deadlines for voting by telephone or through the Internet are set forth in the enclosed proxy card instructions.

The presence of a shareholder at the Special Meeting will not automatically revoke that shareholder's proxy. However, a shareholder may revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise by:

submitting a written revocation prior to the meeting to James E. Adams, Corporate Secretary, Green Bankshares, Inc., 100 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743-4992;

submitting another proxy by mail, internet or telephone that is dated later than the original proxy; or

attending the Special Meeting and voting in person.

If your shares are held by a broker or bank, you must follow the instructions on the form you receive from your broker or bank with respect to changing or revoking your proxy.

The shares represented by any proxy card that is properly executed and received by the Company in time to be voted at the Special Meeting will be voted in accordance with the instructions that are marked on the proxy card. **If you execute your proxy but do not provide the Company with any instructions, your shares will be voted FOR the amendment to the Company's Charter.**

Proxies that are returned to us where brokers have received instructions to vote on one or more proposals but do not vote on other proposal(s) are referred to as broker non-votes with respect to the proposal(s) not voted upon. Broker non-votes are included in determining the presence of a quorum.

Vote Required

In order to have a lawful meeting, a quorum of shareholders must be present at the Special Meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of the record date will constitute a quorum at the meeting. A shareholder will be deemed to be present if the shareholder either attends the meeting or submits a properly executed proxy card that is received at or prior to the meeting (and not revoked). Under the law of Tennessee, the Company's state of incorporation, abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum, but are not counted as votes cast at the meeting. Broker non-votes occur when brokers who hold their customers' shares in street name submit proxies for such shares on some matters, but not others. Generally, this would occur when brokers have not received any instructions from their customers. In these cases, the brokers, as the holders of record, are permitted to vote on routine matters, but not on non-routine matters, such as the amendment to the Company's Charter. As such, unless you instruct your broker how to vote shares of yours held in a broker's name, those shares will not be voted on the proposal to amend the Charter to authorize a class of blank check preferred stock.

If a quorum exists, approval of the amendment to the Company's Charter requires the approval of a majority of the shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of the record date and entitled to be voted at the Special Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of a vote against the amendment to the Company's Charter.

Solicitation of Proxies

In addition to solicitation by mail, directors, officers and employees of the Company may solicit proxies for the Special Meeting from Company shareholders personally or by telephone and other electronic means without additional remuneration for soliciting such proxies. We also will provide persons, firms, banks and corporations holding shares in their names or in the names of nominees, which in either case are beneficially owned by others, proxy material for transmittal to such beneficial owners and will reimburse such record owners for their expenses in taking such actions.

PROPOSAL 1 AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANY'S CHARTER TO AUTHORIZE A CLASS OF PREFERRED SHARES

Description of the Proposal

Upon approval by the Company's shareholders, this proposal would amend the Company's Charter to provide for the creation of a class of preferred stock in the amount of one million (1,000,000) shares, having such rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

The term "blank check" is often used to refer to preferred stock, the creation and issuance of which is authorized by the shareholders in advance and the terms, rights and features of which are determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. The authorization of blank check preferred stock would permit the Board of Directors to create and issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series without further shareholder approval. Subject to the Company's

Charter, as amended from time to time, and the limitations prescribed by law or by any stock exchange or national securities association trading system on which the Company's securities may be listed, the Board of Directors would be expressly authorized, at its discretion, to adopt resolutions to issue preferred shares, to fix the number of shares and to change designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, dividend rates, terms of redemption, redemption prices, voting rights, conversion rights, and liquidation preferences of the shares constituting any series of preferred stock, in each case without any further action or vote by the shareholders. The Board of Directors would be required to make any determination to issue shares of preferred stock based on its judgment that doing so would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

If the shareholders approve this proposal, Article 6 of the Company's Charter would be amended in its entirety to read as follows:

6. The maximum number of shares which the Corporation shall have the authority to issue is:

a) One Hundred Thirty (130) shares of Organizational Common Stock with a par value of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per share, which stock shall be callable by the Corporation at any time at the par value thereof by action of a majority of the Board of Directors.

b) Twenty million (20,000,000) shares of Common Stock, with a par value of Two Dollars (\$2.00) per share. Each share of Common Stock shall be entitled to one vote. No holder of any Common Stock of the Corporation, now or hereafter authorized, shall have any right, as such holder, to purchase, subscribe for or otherwise acquire any shares of stock of the Corporation, or any securities or obligations convertible into, or exchangeable for, or any right, warrant or option to purchase, any shares of any class which the Corporation may at any time hereafter issue or sell, whether now or hereafter authorized, but any and all such stock, securities, obligations, rights, warrants or options may be issued and disposed of by the Board of Directors to such persons, firms or corporations, and for such lawful consideration and on such terms as the Board of Directors in its discretion may, from time to time, determine, without first offering the same to the shareholders of the Corporation.

c) One million (1,000,000) shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. The preferred stock may be issued by the Corporation from time to time in one or more series and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The designations, voting rights, amounts of preference upon distribution of assets, rates of dividends, premiums of redemption, conversion rights and other variations, if any, the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, of the preferred stock, and of each series thereof, shall be such as are fixed by the Board of Directors, authority so to do being hereby expressly granted, and as are stated and expressed in a resolution or resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors providing for the issue of such series of preferred stock.

The Board of Directors approved the proposed amendment to the Company's Charter on October 28, 2008, subject to shareholder approval.

Rationale for Creating Blank Check Preferred Stock

Recent economic developments have adversely affected the capital markets and the availability of capital for financial institutions. The market for trust preferred securities has been particularly impacted. Also, the emergence of credit problems in the banking industry suggests that the industry is entering a period where capital conservation and augmentation will be critically important. In light of these trends, the Board of Directors has concluded that the Company should have a full range of capital financing alternatives available in its Charter to, among other reasons, help support any future growth.

The proposed amendment to the Charter will provide the Company with increased flexibility in meeting future capital requirements by providing another type of security in addition to its common stock, as it will allow the Company to issue preferred stock from time to time with such features as may be determined by the Board of Directors for any proper corporate purpose. Such uses may include, without limitation, issuance for cash as a means of obtaining capital for use by the Company, or issuance as all or part of the consideration to be paid by the Company for acquisitions of other businesses or their assets. The Board of Directors could, among other things, create a series of preferred stock that is convertible into common stock on the basis of either a fixed or floating conversion rate.

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company's management to explore participating in the voluntary TARP Capital Purchase Program offered by the United States Treasury, the details of which were released on October 14,

2008. Under the program, the United States Treasury will purchase an amount of preferred shares from participating financial institutions in amounts ranging from not less than one percent (1%) of the financial institution's risk weighted assets and not more than the lesser of \$25 billion or three percent (3%) of the institution's risk-weighted assets on standardized terms pursuant to a public term sheet issued by the United States Treasury on October 14, 2008. These preferred shares will qualify as Tier 1 capital and will rank senior to the institution's common stock. The senior preferred shares will pay a cumulative dividend rate of five percent (5%) per annum for the first five years and will reset to a rate of nine percent (9%) per annum after year five. The senior preferred shares will be non-voting, other than class voting rights on matters that could adversely affect the shares. The senior preferred shares will be callable at 100% of the issue price after three years. Prior to the end of three years, the shares may be redeemed for 100% of their issue price, with the proceeds from a qualifying equity offering of any Tier 1 perpetual preferred or common stock, the aggregate gross proceeds of which exceed 25% of the issue price of the preferred shares.

If the Company was to issue the preferred shares, the Company would be prohibited from paying or declaring dividends on any junior preferred shares, preferred shares with equal ranking, or common shares unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods have been declared and paid in full. The Company would also be prohibited from repurchasing or redeeming any junior or *pari passu* preferred shares, or common shares during periods dividends on the preferred shares are unpaid. During the initial three-year term, any increase in the Company's common stock dividends or repurchase of common shares or junior or *pari passu* preferred shares, would need to be approved by the United States Treasury unless it had transferred all of the preferred shares it acquired from the Company to third parties.

In addition to the preferred shares, if the Company participates in the program it would be required to issue the United States Treasury 10-year warrants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock having an aggregate market price equal to 15% of the preferred shares. The initial exercise price of these warrants, which will be subject to anti-dilution protection and will be immediately exercisable, will be the market price (based on a trailing 20-day trading average) of the Company's common shares on the date that the preferred shares are issued.

While the Company's Board of Directors has authorized the Company's management to explore the possibility of the Company's participating in the TARP capital purchase program, the Company can give you no assurance that the Company will ultimately participate in the program or that it will be selected by the United States Treasury for participation. If the Company were to participate, the minimum amount of preferred stock issuable would be approximately \$24.1 million and the maximum amount would be approximately \$72.3 million, based on the Company's risk-weighted assets as of September 30, 2008. In addition, the Company does not yet know how many shares of preferred stock, and related warrants, that it would issue to the United States Treasury if it does participate. Financial institutions that desire to participate in the program must notify their primary federal regulator of such desire by 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2008. The Board of Directors, in determining whether to participate in the program, will consider various factors, including but not limited to the ultimate terms of any preferred stock issuable, the impact of additional capital on the Company's strategic plans, growth opportunities, competitive position and safety and soundness, the impact of preferred stock dividends on earnings available to common shareholders, the dilutive impact of the common stock warrants, the restrictions associated with participation in the program, including restrictions on executive compensation and severance payments to executive officers and any other matters relevant.

Anti-Takeover Effects of the Proposed Amendment

This proposal will, if approved, supplement and strengthen the Company's existing takeover defenses.

The issuance of preferred stock with voting rights could, under certain circumstances, have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of the Company by increasing the number of outstanding shares entitled to vote and by increasing the number of votes required to approve a change of control of the Company. Shares of voting or convertible preferred stock could be issued, or rights to purchase such shares could be issued, to make it more difficult to obtain control of the Company by means of a tender offer, proxy contest, merger or otherwise. The ability of the Board of Directors to issue such additional shares of preferred stock, with the rights and preferences it deems advisable, could discourage potential acquirors, and could therefore deprive shareholders of benefits they might otherwise obtain from an attempt to acquire ownership or control of the Company, such as selling their shares at a premium over market price. Moreover, the issuance of such additional shares to persons friendly to the Board of

Directors could make it more difficult to remove incumbent directors from office in the event such change were to be deemed advisable by the shareholders.

While the proposed amendment to the Company's Charter may have anti-takeover consequences, the Board of Directors believes that the benefits it would confer on the Company outweigh any disadvantages. In addition to the ability to participate in the capital purchase program component of the TARP program to support potential future growth, to

finance purchases and secure capital, the Company would gain a degree of protection from hostile takeovers that might be contrary to the interests of the Company and the shareholders. The Board of Directors believes it is in the best interest of the Company and the shareholders to encourage potential acquirers to negotiate directly with the Board of Directors rather than taking unilateral action. Only when empowered to negotiate on behalf of the Company can the board have the best possible opportunity to secure the terms that best serve the interests of the Company and all the shareholders.

Although the Company believes that the material provisions of the amendment to the Charter are set forth above, reference should be made to the text of the amendment, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A.

Vote Required

The Board of Directors has approved adoption of this proposal and recommends a vote FOR approval of this proposal. Approval of the proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the total votes entitled to be cast at the Special Meeting at which a quorum is present.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED STOCK

General

The proposed amendment to the Company's Charter would grant the Board of Directors the authority to issue 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock with no par value per share without further shareholder approval. The preferred stock would be issuable in one or more series, from time to time, with each such series to consist of such number of shares and to have such voting powers, full or limited, or no voting powers, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as shall be stated in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance of such series adopted by the Board of Directors.

Capital Purchase Program

The following is a brief description of the terms of the shares (the Shares) of preferred stock that the Company may issue to the United States Treasury through the TARP capital purchase program, the only shares of preferred stock that the Company contemplates issuing in the proximate future. This description is based upon information currently available to the Company concerning the terms of the TARP capital purchase program and does not purport to be complete in all respects. The final terms of the Shares will be approved by the Company's Board of Directors, or an authorized committee thereof, and will be reflected in a subsequent amendment to the Company's Charter that will be adopted without shareholder approval.

General

Under the Company's Charter, as proposed to be amended, the Company will have authority to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, with no par value per share. Pending approval of the amendment to the Charter described in this Proxy Statement and the approval of the United States Treasury, the Company anticipates issuing between 24,000 and 72,300 Shares for an aggregate purchase price of between \$24.1 million and \$72.3 million pursuant to the capital purchase program based on the Company's risk-weighted assets as of September 30, 2008. Subject to limitations on use of proceeds that may be specified by the United States Treasury, the Company intends to use the proceeds of the issuance of the Shares for general corporate purposes. When issued, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of the Shares will be entitled to receive cash dividends when, as and if declared out of assets legally available for payment in respect of the Shares by the Company's Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee of the Board of Directors in their sole discretion. Dividends will be cumulative.

Prior to the issuance of the Shares, the Company will have filed Articles of Amendment to the Company's Charter with respect to the Shares with the Secretary of State of Tennessee. When issued, the Shares will have a fixed liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share. If the Company liquidates, dissolves or winds up its affairs, holders of the Shares will be entitled to receive, out of the Company's assets that are available for distribution to shareholders, an amount per Share equal to the liquidation preference per Share plus any accrued but unpaid dividends to the date of

payment of the liquidation preference. The Shares will not be convertible into the Company's common stock or any other class or series of the Company's securities and will not be subject to any sinking fund or any other obligation of the Company for their repurchase or retirement.

Ranking

With respect to the payment of dividends and the amounts to be paid upon liquidation, the Shares will rank: senior to the Company's common stock and all other equity securities designated as ranking junior to the Shares; and

at least equally with all other equity securities designated as ranking on parity with the Shares as to payment of dividends or the amounts to be paid upon liquidation, as applicable.

For as long as any Shares remain outstanding, unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past Dividend Periods (as defined below) are fully paid:

no dividend whatsoever may be paid or declared on the Company's common stock or other junior stock or other equity securities designated as ranking *pari passu* with the Shares as to payment of dividends, other than, in the case of shares ranking *pari passu* with the Shares, dividends paid on a *pro rata* basis with the Shares and in the case of common stock and shares ranking *pari passu* with the Shares, dividends payable solely in shares of common stock.

no common stock or other junior stock or *pari passu* with the Shares may be purchased, redeemed or otherwise acquired for consideration by the Company.

Subject to the foregoing, such dividends (payable in cash, stock or otherwise) as may be determined by the Company's Board of Directors (or a duly authorized committee of the board) may be declared and paid on the Company's common stock and any other stock ranking *pari passu* with or junior to the Shares from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the Shares shall not be entitled to participate in any such dividend; *provided, however*, that the consent of the United States Treasury will be required for any increase in the dividends paid to the common stock until the earlier of (i) the third anniversary of the date of issue of the Shares and (ii) the date on which the Shares have been redeemed in whole or the United States Treasury has transferred all Shares to third parties.

Dividends

Holders of Shares, in preference to the holders of the Company's common stock and of any other shares of the Company's stock ranking junior to the Shares as to payment of dividends, will be entitled to receive, only when, as and if declared by the Company's Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee of the board, out of assets legally available for payment, cash dividends. These dividends will be payable at a rate of 5.00% *per annum* until the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance, and thereafter at a rate of 9.00% *per annum* (the Dividend Rate), applied to the \$1,000 liquidation preference per share and will be paid quarterly in arrears on the 15th day of February, May, August and November of each year commencing on February 15, 2009 (each, a Dividend Payment Date), with respect to the Dividend Period, or portion thereof, ending on the day preceding the respective Dividend Payment Date. A Dividend Period means each period commencing on (and including) a Dividend Payment Date and continuing to (but not including) the next succeeding Dividend Payment Date, except that the first Dividend Period for the initial issuance of Shares will commence upon the date of original issuance of the Shares. Dividends will be paid to holders of record on the respective date fixed for that purpose by the Company's Board of Directors or a committee thereof in advance of payment of each particular dividend.

The amount of dividends payable per Share on each Dividend Payment Date will be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

The Company is subject to various general regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. The Federal Reserve is authorized to determine, under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank holding company, such as the Company, that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment thereof. In addition, the Company is subject to Tennessee state laws and the bank is subject to the terms and regulations of the TDFC relating to the payment of dividends.

Conversion Rights

The Shares will not be convertible into shares of any other class or series of the Company's stock.

Redemption

The Shares may not be redeemed prior to the first Dividend Payment Date falling on or after the third anniversary of the date of issuance, except with the proceeds of a Qualified Equity Offering (as defined below) that results in proceeds to the Company of not less than 25% of the issue price of the Shares. A Qualified Equity Offering is the sale by the Company for cash, following the date of issuance of the Shares, of common stock or perpetual preferred stock that qualifies as Tier 1 capital under the risk-based capital guidelines of the Federal Reserve. On any date after the first Dividend Payment Date falling on or after the third anniversary of the date of issuance the Shares may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the Company's option, from any source of funds. Any such redemption will be at a cash redemption price of \$1,000 per Share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for all prior Dividend Periods for that Share. Holders of Shares will have no right to require the redemption or repurchase of the Shares.

Any redemption of the Shares is subject to prior approval of the Federal Reserve. Subject to this limitation or of any outstanding debt instruments, the Company or its affiliates may from time to time purchase any outstanding Shares by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

Liquidation Rights

In the event that the Company voluntarily or involuntarily liquidates, dissolves or winds up its affairs, holders of Shares will be entitled to receive an amount per Share (the Total Liquidation Amount) equal to the fixed liquidation preference of \$1,000 per Share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to the date of payment of the Total Liquidation Amount. Holders of the Shares will be entitled to receive the Total Liquidation Amount out of the Company's assets that are available for distribution to shareholders, after payment or provision for payment of the Company's debts and other liabilities but before any distribution of assets is made to holders of the Company's common stock or any other shares ranking, as to that distribution, junior to the Shares.

If the Company's assets are not sufficient to pay the Total Liquidation Amount in full to all holders of Shares and all holders of any shares of the Company's stock ranking as to any such distribution *pari passu* with the Shares, the amounts paid to the holders of Shares and to such other shares will be paid *pro rata* in accordance with the respective Total Liquidation Amount for those holders. If the Total Liquidation Amount per Share has been paid in full to all holders of Shares and the liquidation preference of any other shares ranking on parity with the Shares has been paid in full, the holders of the Company's common stock or any other shares ranking, as to such distribution, junior to the Shares will be entitled to receive all of the Company's remaining assets according to their respective rights and preferences.

For purposes of the liquidation rights, neither the sale, conveyance, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of the Company's property and assets, nor the consolidation or merger by the Company with or into any other corporation or by another corporation with or into the Company will constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company's affairs.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated below or otherwise required by law, holders of the Shares will not have any voting rights.

If, and whenever, the dividends on the Shares have not been declared and paid for an aggregate of at least six Dividend Periods (whether or not consecutive), the number of directors then constituting the Company's Board of Directors will be increased by two. Holders of the Shares will be entitled to elect the two additional members of the Company's Board of Directors (the Preferred Stock Directors) at any annual meeting of shareholders or any special meeting of the holders of the Shares.

Whenever all dividends on the Shares have been paid in full then the right of the holders of the Shares to elect the Preferred Stock Directors will cease (but subject always to the same provisions for the vesting of these voting rights in the case of any similar non-payment of dividends in respect of future Dividend Periods), the terms of office of all Preferred Stock Directors will immediately terminate and the number of directors constituting the Company's Board of Directors will be reduced accordingly.

The Shares shall have the right to vote separately as a class (with approval requiring the affirmative vote of holders owning at least 66 2/3% of the Shares) on (1) any authorization or issuance of shares ranking senior to the Shares; (2) any amendment to the rights of the Shares; or (3) consummation of any merger, share exchange or similar transaction unless the Shares remain outstanding, or if the Company is not the surviving entity in such transaction, are

converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving entity and the Shares remaining outstanding or such preference securities have such rights, preferences, privileges and voting power as are not materially less favorable to the holders than the rights, preferences, privileges and voting power of the Shares. Under Tennessee law, holders of the Shares will be entitled to vote as a separate voting group on certain amendments to the Company's charter and in connection with certain mergers. When voting as a separate class on these matters Tennessee law provides that the vote of holders of a majority of the Shares outstanding is required.

Regulatory Capital Treatment

The Company expects the Shares to qualify as Tier I capital under the Federal Reserve's risk-based capital guidelines applicable to bank holding companies.

Transferability

The Shares will not be subject to any contractual restrictions on transferability, and the Company will be obligated to file a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, as promptly as practicable after issuing the Shares to the United States Treasury. The United States Treasury may transfer the Shares to third parties at any time.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

Persons and groups beneficially owning more than 5% of the Company's common stock are required under federal securities laws to file certain reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) detailing their ownership. The following table sets forth the amount and percentage of the common stock beneficially owned by any person or group of persons known to the Company to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of the common stock as of the record date.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (a) | Percent of Common Stock Outstanding |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Scott M. Niswonger P.O. Box 938 Greeneville, Tennessee 37744 | 942,155(b) | 7.25% |
| Phil M. Bachman Martha Bachman 100 N. Main Street P.O. Box 1120 Greeneville, Tennessee 37743 | 881,670(c) | 6.78% |
| Columbia Wanger Asset Management, LP 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60606 | 700,965(d) | 5.39% |

- (a) For purposes of this table, an individual or entity is considered to beneficially own any share of common stock which he, she or it directly or indirectly, through any

contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise, has or shares: (1) voting power, which includes the power to vote, or to direct the voting of, such security; and/or (2) investment power, which includes the power to dispose, or to direct the disposition of, such security. In addition, an individual or entity is deemed to be the beneficial owner of any share of common stock of which he, she or it has the right to acquire voting or investment power within 60 days of the record date.

- (b) Based upon information set forth in Schedule 13D/A, filed with the SEC on July 16, 2008 by Mr. Niswonger, who has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 942,155 shares.
- (c) Martha Bachman is a director and the wife of retired director Phil

Bachman.
Includes 196,799
shares of
common stock
held directly or
indirectly by
Martha Bachman
as to which Phil
Bachman
disclaims
beneficial
ownership,
666,871 shares
owned by Phil
Bachman
individually and
18,000 shares
owned by Mr.
and
Mrs. Bachman
jointly.

- (d) Based solely
upon information
contained in a
Schedule 13G
filed by
Columbia
Wanger Asset
Management,
LLP with the
Securities and
Exchange
Commission as of
June 30, 2008.

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The following table sets forth, as of the record date, certain information known to the Company as to common stock beneficially owned by each director and named executive officer of the Company and by all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group. The address for each of our directors and executive officers listed below is c/o Green Bankshares, Inc., 100 North Main Street, P.O. Box 1120, Greeneville, Tennessee 37744.

| Name and Position | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (a)(b) | Shares Acquirable in 60 Days (c) | Percent of Common Stock Outstanding |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| R. Stan Puckett, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer | 119,125 | 68,400(d) | 1.44% |
| Martha Bachman, Director | 881,670(e) | | 6.78% |
| Bruce Campbell, Director | 5,985 | | * |
| W.T. Daniels, Director | 10,304 | | * |
| Robert K. Leonard, Director | 70,111(f) | | * |
| Samuel E. Lynch, Director | 604 | | * |
| John Tolsma, Director | 2,006 | | * |
| Charles H. Whitfield, Jr., Director | 7,303 | | * |
| Ronald E. Mayberry, Director, Regional Executive, Sumner County | 62,742 | 17,487 | * |
| Kenneth R. Vaught, Director, President and Chief Operating Officer | 16,190 | 22,910 | * |
| James E. Adams, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary | 5,173 | 1,800 | * |
| William C. Adams, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer | 20,777 | 17,497 | * |
| Steve L. Droke, Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer | 13,322 | 14,815 | * |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons) | 1,405,971 | 168,161 | 10.68% |

* Less than 1% of the outstanding Common Stock.

(a) For the definition of beneficial ownership, see Note (a) to the preceding table.

(b) Includes shares owned directly by directors and

executive officers of the Company as well as shares held by their spouses and children, trusts of which certain directors are trustees and corporations in which certain directors own a controlling interest.

- (c) Represents options to purchase common stock which are exercisable within 60 days of the record date.
- (d) Includes options to acquire 54,000 shares of common stock currently exercisable (or exercisable within 60 days of the record date) by Mr. Puckett at an exercise price equal to 150% of the book value of the common stock at the date of grant (a weighted average price of approximately \$15.16 per share) and options to acquire 14,400

shares of common stock currently exercisable (or exercisable within 60 days of the record date) by Mr. Puckett at an exercise price equal to the fair market value at the date of grant (a weighted average price of approximately \$29.61 per share).

- (e) Martha Bachman is a director and the wife of retired director Phil Bachman. Includes 196,799 shares of common stock held directly or indirectly by Martha Bachman as to which Phil Bachman disclaims beneficial ownership, 666,871 shares owned by Phil Bachman individually and 18,000 shares owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bachman jointly.
- (f) Includes 40,820 shares of

common stock
in a limited
partnership of
which Robert
Leonard is a
limited partner.
Mr. Leonard
disclaims
beneficial
ownership of
33,881 of these
shares.

FUTURE SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

If a shareholder wishes to have a proposal included in the Company's proxy statement for the Company's 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, that proposal must be received by the Company at its executive offices in Greeneville, Tennessee by December 4, 2008. If a shareholder wishes to present a proposal at the Company's 2009 annual meeting of shareholders and the proposal is not intended to be included in the Company's proxy statement relating to that meeting, the shareholder must give advance notice to the Company prior to the deadline for such meeting determined in accordance with the Company's Charter (the "Charter Deadline"). Under the Company's Charter, in order to be deemed properly presented, notice must be delivered to the Company's Secretary at the Company's principal executive offices no less than forty (40) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting at which such matter is to be acted upon; provided, however, that if notice or public disclosure of such meeting is given fewer than fifty (50) days before the meeting, notice by the shareholder must be delivered to the Company not later than the close of business on the tenth (10th) day following the day on which notice of the meeting was mailed to shareholders. If a shareholder gives notice of such a proposal after the Charter Deadline, the shareholder will not be permitted to present the proposal to the shareholders for a vote at the meeting.

The SEC rules also establish a different deadline for submission of shareholder proposals that are not intended to be included in the Company's proxy statement with respect to discretionary voting (the "Discretionary Voting Deadline"). This deadline for the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders is February 17, 2009. If a shareholder gives notice of a proposal after this deadline, the persons named as proxies in the proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting will be allowed to use their discretionary voting authority to vote against the shareholder proposal when, and if, the proposal is raised at the 2009 annual meeting. Because the Charter Deadline is not capable of being determined until the Company gives notice of, or publicly announces, the date for the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders, it is possible that the Charter Deadline may occur after the Discretionary Voting Deadline, in which case a proposal received after the Discretionary Voting Deadline but before the Charter Deadline would be eligible to be presented at the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders and the Company believes that the persons named as proxies in the proxy statement would be allowed to use the discretionary authority granted by the proxy card to vote against the proposal at the meeting without including any disclosures of the proposal in the proxy statement relating to the meeting.

Shareholder proposals should be addressed to Secretary, Green Bankshares, Inc., 100 North Main Street, P.O. Box 1120, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743 and must comply with the provisions of the Company's Charter. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to require the Company to include in its proxy statement and form of proxy relating to the Company's 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders any shareholder proposal that does not satisfy the requirements for inclusion as established by the SEC at the time of receipt.

OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this document, the Company's board of directors is not aware of any matters that will be presented for consideration at the Company's Special Meeting. If any other matters come before either of the meetings or any adjournments or postponements of the meeting and are voted upon, the enclosed proxy will confer discretionary authority on the individuals named as proxies to vote the shares represented by the proxy as to any other matters. The individuals named as proxies intend to vote in accordance with their best judgment as to any other matters.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Adams
Secretary

Greeneville, Tennessee
November ____, 2008

Appendix A
ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT
TO THE CHARTER
OF
GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 48-20-106 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation adopts the following Articles of Amendment (the Articles of Amendment) to its Charter (the Charter):

1. Name of Corporation. The name of the Corporation is Green Bankshares, Inc.

2. Article 6 of the Charter is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

6. The maximum number of shares which the Corporation shall have the authority to issue is:

a) One Hundred Thirty (130) shares of Organizational Common Stock with a par value of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per share, which stock shall be callable by the Corporation at any time at the par value thereof by action of a majority of the Board of Directors.

b) Twenty million (20,000,000) shares of Common Stock, with a par value of Two Dollars (\$2.00) per share. Each share of Common Stock shall be entitled to one vote. No holder of any Common Stock of the Corporation, now or hereafter authorized, shall have any right, as such holder, to purchase, subscribe for or otherwise acquire any shares of stock of the Corporation, or any securities or obligations convertible into, or exchangeable for, or any right, warrant or option to purchase, any shares of any class which the Corporation may at any time hereafter issue or sell, whether now or hereafter authorized, but any and all such stock, securities, obligations, rights, warrants or options may be issued and disposed of by the Board of Directors to such persons, firms or corporations, and for such lawful consideration and on such terms as the Board of Directors in its discretion may, from time to time, determine, without first offering the same to the shareholders of the Corporation.

c) One million (1,000,000) shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. The preferred stock may be issued by the Corporation from time to time in one or more series and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The designations, voting rights, amounts of preference upon distribution of assets, rates of dividends, premiums of redemption, conversion rights and other variations, if any, the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, of the preferred stock, and of each series thereof, shall be such as are fixed by the Board of Directors, authority so to do being hereby expressly granted, and as are stated and expressed in a resolution or resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors providing for the issue of such series of preferred stock.

3. Except as amended by these Articles of Amendment, the Charter of the Corporation shall remain in full force and effect.

4. Adoption. These Articles of Amendment were duly adopted by the Board of Directors on October 28, 2008, and by the shareholders of the Corporation on ____, 2008.

5. Effective Date. These Articles of Amendment will be effective when filed with the Secretary of State.

Date: ____, 2008

GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.

Name: James E. Adams

Title: Executive Vice President, Chief
Financial Officer and Secretary

GREEN BANKSHARES, INC.
100 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1120
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743
REVOCABLE PROXY FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF SHAREHOLDERS
December __, 2008

You can vote in one of three ways: 1) By Mail, 2) By Internet, 3) By Phone.

See the reverse side of this sheet for instructions.

IF YOU ARE NOT VOTING BY INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE, COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF PROXY CARD,

DETACH AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO:

Illinois Stock Transfer Co.

209 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 903, Chicago, Illinois 60606

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints R. Stan Puckett and James E. Adams, and each of them, the proxies of the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to attend the Special Meeting of Shareholders of Green Bankshares, Inc. (the Company) to be held at the General Morgan Inn, 111 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee on _____, December __, 2008 at __ a.m., local time, and at any adjournments thereof, and to vote all the shares of stock of the Company which the undersigned may be entitled to vote, upon the following matters.

Proxy Solicited by and on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Special Meeting of Shareholders to be held on __, December __, 2008. The Company's Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the proposals.

1. Approval of the amendment to the Company's Charter to authorize a class of blank check preferred stock, consisting of one million (1,000,000) authorized shares, which may be issued in one or more series, with such rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions as shall be fixed by the Company's Board of Directors.
FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
2. The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If no choice is specified, shares will be voted FOR approval of the amendment to Company's Charter and FOR the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary.

Form of Proxy

TO VOTE BY MAIL

To vote by mail, complete both sides, sign and date the proxy card below. Detach the card below and return it in the envelope provided.

TO VOTE BY INTERNET

Your Internet vote is quick, confidential and your vote is immediately submitted. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Read the accompanying Proxy Statement.
2. Visit our Internet voting site at <http://www.illinoisstocktransfer.com>, click on the heading Internet Voting and follow the instructions on the screen.
3. When prompted for your Voter Control Number, enter the number printed just above your name on the front of the proxy card.

Please note that all votes cast by Internet must be **completed** and **submitted** prior to _____, December ____, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Your Internet vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares to the same extent as if you marked, signed, dated and returned the proxy card.

This is a secured web page site. Your software and/or Internet provider must be enabled to access this site. Please call your software or Internet provider for further information if needed.

If you vote By Internet, Please Do Not Return Your Proxy Card By Mail

TO VOTE BY TELEPHONE

Your telephone vote is quick, confidential and immediate. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Read the accompanying Proxy Statement.
2. Using a Touch-Tone telephone, call Toll Free 1-800-555-8140 and follow the instructions.
3. When asked for your Voter Control Number, enter the number printed just above your name on the front of the proxy card.

Please note that all votes cast by Internet must be **completed** and **submitted** prior to _____, December ____, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Your telephone vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares to the same extent as if you marked, signed, dated and returned the proxy card.

If you vote By Telephone, Please Do Not Return Your Proxy Card By Mail

The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy heretofore given. **This proxy may be revoked at any time before its exercise.**

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Please mark, date and sign as your name appears herein and return in the enclosed envelope. If acting as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, etc. you should so indicate when signing. If the signor is a corporation, please sign the full name by duly appointed officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person. If shares are held jointly, each shareholder named should sign.