

National Bank Holdings Corp
Form DEF 14A
March 27, 2017
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12

National Bank Holdings Corporation

(Name of the 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.

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 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:
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 - 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.
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4. Date Filed:

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7800 East Orchard Road, Suite 300
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the Shareholders of National Bank Holdings Corporation:

We cordially invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of National Bank Holdings Corporation at 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center, located at 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Elect seven directors to our Board of Directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified (Proposal 1).
2. Ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year 2017 (Proposal 2).
3. Adopt a resolution approving, on an advisory, non-binding basis, the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed, pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, in the proxy statement (Proposal 3).
4. Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Information with respect to these matters is contained in the proxy statement accompanying this notice.

A proxy for use at the meeting in the form accompanying this notice is hereby solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors from holders of Class A common stock. The Board of Directors has fixed March 13, 2017 as the record date for determining which shareholders have the right to receive notice of, and to vote at, the meeting or any postponements or adjournments thereof.

The proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are first being sent to shareholders on or about March 27, 2017.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote and submit your proxy so that as many shares as possible may be represented at the meeting. Your vote is important and we appreciate your cooperation in returning your proxy promptly. Your proxy is revocable and will not affect your right to vote in person at the meeting.

Please call us at 720-529-3346 if you need directions to attend the meeting or have questions about how to vote in person.

By Order of the Board of Directors
/s/ Zsolt K. Besskó

Zsolt K. Besskó, Secretary

Greenwood Village, Colorado

March 20, 2017

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Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to Be Held on May 3, 2017: Our Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders are also available at www.proxyvote.com.

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NATIONAL BANK HOLDINGS CORPORATION

PROXY STATEMENT

2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors (the “Board of Directors” or the “Board”) of National Bank Holdings Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the “Company”, “NBHC”, “we”, “us” or “our”), to be used at our 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) and at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The Meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center, located at 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111, at 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

In this proxy statement, we refer to our employees as “associates.” In this proxy statement, we also refer to the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, this proxy statement, our 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders and the accompanying proxy as our “Proxy Materials.”

Holders of record of shares of Class A common stock at the close of business on March 13, 2017 (the record date) are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting. As of such date, there were 26,715,532 shares of Class A common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. In addition, as of such date, there were 356,407 shares of unvested restricted stock (Class A common stock) entitled to vote. Each share of our Class A common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters (in the case of Proposal 1, with respect to the election of each director).

Please read the Proxy Materials carefully. You should consider the information contained in this proxy statement when deciding how to vote your shares. You have a choice of voting by proxy over the Internet, by using a toll-free telephone number or by completing a proxy card and mailing it in the postage-paid envelope provided. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other holder of record, please refer to your proxy card or the voting information provided by your bank, broker or other holder of record to see which voting options are available to you. Voting on the Internet, by telephone or by mail will not prevent you from attending or voting your shares at the Meeting. However, if you hold shares through a bank, broker or other holder of record, you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the holder of record to be able to vote at the Meeting. Otherwise, your shares will be voted in the manner in which you instructed the record holder of your shares.

When you vote by proxy, your shares will be voted according to your instructions. If you are a shareholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time prior to the close of the polls at the Meeting by submitting a later dated proxy or delivering a written notice of revocation to our Secretary, Zsolt K. Besskó, at National Bank Holdings Corporation, 7800 E. Orchard Road, Suite 300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. If you hold shares through a bank, broker or other holder of record, you must contact the holder of record to revoke any prior voting instructions.

We pay the cost of soliciting proxies. Members of our Board and other associates may solicit proxies by mail, telephone, fax, email or in person. We will not pay directors or other associates any extra amounts for soliciting proxies. We may, upon request, reimburse brokerage firms, banks or similar nominees representing street name

holders for their expenses in forwarding Proxy Materials to their customers who are street name holders and obtaining their voting instructions. We have engaged Alliance Advisors LLC (“Alliance”) as proxy solicitation agent and will pay fees of approximately \$12,500 to Alliance plus certain out-of-pocket expenses to assist us with the solicitation of proxies.

Any shareholder entitled to vote at the Meeting may attend the Meeting. If you hold shares through a bank, broker or other holder of record and would like to attend the Meeting, you will need to bring an account statement or other acceptable evidence of ownership of our Class A common stock as of the record date. Each shareholder who attends may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver’s license or passport. Please note that the use of cell phones, tablets, recording and photographic equipment, computers and/or other similar devices is not permitted in the meeting room at the Meeting.

Our principal executive offices are located at 7800 E. Orchard Road, Suite 300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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VOTE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL

The presence, by proxy or in person, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our Class A common stock entitled to vote at the Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Withheld votes, abstentions and broker “non-votes” (shares held by a broker or nominee that has not received voting instructions from its client and does not have discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter) are counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum. If you are a beneficial shareholder and your broker holds your shares in its name, the rules of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) permit your broker to vote your shares on the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered certified public accounting firm (Proposal 2), even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you. However, under the NYSE rules, your broker cannot vote your shares on the other proposals if you do not timely provide instructions for voting your shares.

For Proposal 1 (election of directors), the seven nominees for director receiving a plurality of the votes cast at the Meeting in person or by proxy will be elected. This means that the director nominee with the most votes for a particular slot is elected for that slot. Only votes “for” affect the outcome. Broker “non-votes” will have no effect on the voting results for this proposal.

Proposal 2 (ratification of the appointment of our independent registered certified public accounting firm) will be passed if a majority of the shares of our Class A common stock present at the Meeting and entitled to vote cast their votes “for” this proposal. Abstentions will be counted as votes present and entitled to vote and will have the same effect as votes “against” this proposal. No broker “non-votes” are expected to exist in connection with this proposal.

The advisory vote on executive compensation (Proposal 3) is non-binding, as provided by law. Our Board and our Compensation Committee, however, will review the results of the vote and, consistent with our commitment to shareholder engagement, will take it into account in making a determination concerning the advisory vote on executive compensation. Proposal 3 (the advisory proposal on the compensation of our named executive officers) will be approved if a majority of the shares of our Class A common stock present at the Meeting and entitled to vote cast their votes “for” this proposal. Abstentions will be counted as votes present and entitled to vote and will have the same effect as votes “against” this proposal. Broker “non-votes” are not considered to be entitled to vote and therefore will have no effect on the voting results for this proposal.

Approval of any other business that may properly come before the Meeting will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting and entitled to vote thereon.

VOTING FOR REGISTERED AND BENEFICIAL SHAREHOLDERS

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Registered and beneficial shareholders can vote their shares in the following ways:

By Internet: You may vote your shares over the internet by going to www.proxyvote.com. You will need to enter your 16-digit control number (found at the top right hand side of the form of proxy or voting instruction form that you received in the mail) to identify yourself as a shareholder on the voting website.

By Telephone: Vote by telephone by calling 1-800-690-6903. You will need to enter your 16-digit control number (found at the top right hand side of the form of proxy or voting instruction form that you received in the mail) to identify yourself as a shareholder.

By Mail: Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY, 11717.

In Person: If you are a “record” shareholder of Class A common stock (that is, you hold Class A common stock in your own name in NBHC’s stock records maintained by our transfer agent), register upon your arrival at the Meeting, request a ballot and submit the ballot with your voting instructions at the Meeting.

Beneficial shareholders who wish to vote at the Meeting will need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds your shares and follow the voting instructions on such form.

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Your voting instructions must be received by the proxy voting deadline which is Tuesday May 2, 2017. The internet and telephone voting facilities will close at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on May 2, 2017.

If you have any questions or require voting assistance, please contact our proxy solicitation agent, Alliance Advisors, toll-free at 855-486-7907 or by e-mail at nbhinfo@allianceadvisorsllc.com.

STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth, as of March 13, 2017, information regarding the beneficial ownership of our Class A common stock by (i) each of our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the two other highest paid executive officers for 2016 (those four executive officers are listed in the table captioned “Summary Compensation Table” elsewhere in this proxy statement and are collectively referred to as the “Named Executive Officers” or “NEOs”); (ii) each director; (iii) all current directors and executive officers as a group and (iv) each person known by us to own beneficially more than five percent of the shares of our Class A common stock (our only class of voting securities outstanding).

We have determined beneficial ownership in accordance with the rules of the Securities Exchange Commission (“SEC”). Except as indicated by the footnotes below, we believe, based on the information furnished to us, that the persons and entities named in the tables below have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock that they beneficially own, subject to applicable community property laws. We have based our calculation of the percentage of beneficial ownership on 27,071,939 shares, which number is comprised of 26,715,532 shares of Class A common stock outstanding and 356,407 shares of unvested restricted stock (which shares of restricted stock are entitled to voting rights), in each case as of March 13, 2017.

In computing the number of shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, we deemed outstanding shares of Class A common stock subject to options held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within sixty days of March 13, 2017. We, however, did not deem

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these shares outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Beneficial ownership representing less than 1% is denoted with an asterisk (*).

Name of beneficial owner	Amount and nature of beneficial ownership	Percent of class
Named Executive Officers and Directors		
G. Timothy Laney(1)	1,084,619	3.9%
Brian F. Lilly(2)	294,981	1.1%
Richard U. Newfield, Jr.(3)	387,102	1.4%
Zsolt K. Besskó(4)	45,011	*
Ralph W. Clermont(5)	83,340	*
Robert E. Dean(6)	63,965	*
Fred J. Joseph(7)	8,228	*
Micho F. Spring(8)	64,878	*
Burney S. Warren, III(9)	67,333	*
Art Zeile(10)	3,038	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (13 persons)	2,145,004	7.6%
5% Shareholders		
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.(11)		
100 East Pratt Street		
Baltimore, MD 21202	3,116,621	11.5%
BlackRock, Inc.(12)		
55 East 52nd Street		
New York, NY 10055	3,089,823	11.4%
The Vanguard Group(13)		
100 Vanguard Blvd.		
Malvern, PA 19355	2,389,507	8.8%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP(14)		
6300 Bee Cave Road		
Austin, Texas, 78746	2,098,956	7.8%

-
- (1) Includes 84,355 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Laney has voting power and 615,917 shares issuable upon the exercise of options. Also includes 8,859 shares owned by the Timothy Laney 2012 Grantor Retained Annuity Trust.
- (2) Includes 75,451 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Lilly has voting power and 151,763 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (3) Includes 30,498 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Newfield has voting power and 276,890 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (4) Includes 21,776 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Besskó has voting power and 13,387 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (5) Includes 2,674 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Clermont has voting power and 46,333 shares issuable upon the exercise of options. Also includes 21,211 shares owned by the Ralph W. Clermont Revocable Trust.
- (6) Includes 2,292 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Dean has voting power and 38,333 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (7) Includes 2,292 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Joseph has voting power.
- (8)

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Includes 2,292 unvested restricted shares for which Ms. Spring has voting power and 38,333 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.

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- (9) Includes 2,292 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Warren has voting power and 38,333 shares issuable upon the exercise of options. Also includes 9,584 shares owned by the Burney S. Warren Family Limited Partnership.
- (10) Includes 2,237 unvested restricted shares for which Mr. Zeile has voting power.
- (11) As reported on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 7, 2017 jointly by T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (“Price Associates”) and T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Value Fund, Inc. (“Price Small-Cap Fund”). Price Associates reported sole voting power with respect to 726,500 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all shares beneficially owned. Price Small-Cap Fund reported sole voting power with respect to 1,879,859 shares. Price Associates reported that it does not serve as custodian of the assets of any of its clients; accordingly, in each instance only the client or the client’s custodian or trustee bank has the right to receive dividends paid with respect to, and proceeds from the sale of, such securities.
- (12) As reported on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 9, 2017 by BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”). BlackRock reported: (i) sole voting power with respect to 2,997,554 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all shares beneficially owned; (ii) various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from or the proceeds from the sale of such shares; and (iii) no one person’s interest in the Company’s Class A common stock is more than five percent (5%) of the Company total outstanding Class A common stock.
- (13) As reported on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 10, 2017 by The Vanguard Group (“Vanguard”). Vanguard reported sole voting power with respect to 49,259 shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 2,335,090 shares, shared voting power with respect to 6,779 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 54,417 shares.