

First Financial Northwest, Inc.  
Form S-3  
May 11, 2018

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 11, 2018

Registration No. 333-

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S 3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

FIRST FINANCIAL NORTHWEST, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

26-0610707  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

201 Wells  
Avenue South  
Renton,  
Washington  
98057  
(425) 255-4400  
(Address,  
including zip  
code, and  
telephone  
number,  
including area  
code, of  
registrant's  
principal  
executive  
offices)

Joseph W. Kiley  
III  
President and  
Chief Executive  
Officer  
First Financial  
Northwest, Inc.

201 Wells  
Avenue South  
Renton,  
Washington  
98057  
(425) 255-4400  
(Name, address,  
including zip  
code, and  
telephone  
number,  
including area  
code, of agent  
for service)  
Copy of  
communications  
to:

John F. Breyer,  
Jr.  
Breyer &  
Associates PC  
8180 Greensboro  
Drive, Suite 785  
McLean,  
Virginia 22102  
(703) 883-1100  
(703) 883-2511  
(fax)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

TITLE OF EACH CLASS OF SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED	AMOUNT TO BE REGISTERED <sup>(1)</sup>	PROPOSED MAXIMUM OFFERING PRICE PER UNIT <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	PROPOSED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE OFFERING PRICE <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup>	AMOUNT OF REGISTRATION FEE
Debt Securities <sup>(4)</sup>				
Common Stock <sup>(5)</sup>				
Preferred Stock <sup>(6)</sup>				
Depository Shares <sup>(7)</sup>				
Purchase Contracts <sup>(8)</sup>				
Warrants <sup>(9)</sup>				
Rights <sup>(10)</sup>				
Units <sup>(11)</sup>				
Total			\$75,000,000	\$9,338.00

(1) In no event will the aggregate initial offering price of all securities issued exceed \$75,000,000. The registered securities may be offered for U.S. dollars or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies. The registered securities may be sold separately, together or as units with other registered securities.

(2) Certain information as to each class of securities to be registered is not specified, in accordance with General Instruction II.D. to Form S-3 under the Securities Act.

(3) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely to calculate the registration fee under Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price, with respect to debt securities, is calculated excluding accrued interest and accrued amortization of discount, if any, to the date of delivery.

(4) Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities (which may be senior or subordinated). If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price may be increased to the extent not to exceed the proposed maximum aggregate offering price less the dollar amount of any securities previously issued. Also, in addition to any debt securities that may be issued directly under this registration statement, we are registering an indeterminate amount of debt securities as may be issued upon the conversion or exchange of other debt securities, preferred stock or depository shares, for which no consideration will be received by us, or upon exercise of warrants or rights registered hereby.

(5)

Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate number of shares of common stock. We are also registering an indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may be issuable upon conversion of debt securities, preferred stock or depository shares or upon exercise of warrants or rights registered hereby.

Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock as may be sold from time to time by us. We are also registering an indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock as may be (6) issuable upon exercise of warrants or rights registered hereby. In addition, we are also registering such indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock, for which no consideration will be received by us, as may be issued upon conversion or exchange of debt securities of the Company.

(7) Such indeterminate number of depository shares to be evidenced by depository receipts, representing a fractional interest of a share of preferred stock.

(8) Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate number of purchase contracts, which may require the holder thereof to purchase or sell our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or depository shares.

- (9) Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate number of warrants representing rights to purchase debt securities, shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares registered hereby.
- (10) Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminate number of rights representing rights to purchase shares of common stock or other securities registered hereby.
- (11) Subject to note (1) above, we are registering an indeterminable number of units, which will be comprised of two or more of the securities registered hereby in any combination.

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

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell any of these securities or accept any offer to buy any of them until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is declared effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or other jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 11, 2018

## PROSPECTUS

\$75,000,000

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

We may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more series, our debt securities, which may consist of notes, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness, shares of our common stock or preferred stock, depositary shares, purchase contracts, warrants, rights and units comprised of two or more of these securities in any combination. The debt securities, preferred stock and depositary shares we may offer may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of ours. The aggregate offering price of the securities offered by us under this prospectus will not exceed \$75,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. Each time any securities are offered pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement, and, if necessary, a pricing supplement, that will describe the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities being offered. These supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To understand the terms of the securities offered, you should carefully read this prospectus with the applicable supplements, which together provide the specific terms of the securities being offered.

We may offer and sell the securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "FFNW."

Investing in our securities involves risks. See the section entitled "Risk Factors" contained on page 10 of this prospectus, and the risk factors that may be included in the applicable prospectus supplement and in our periodic reports and other documents we file with or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

These securities are not deposits or obligations of a bank or savings association and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

This prospectus may be used to offer and sell securities only if accompanied by the prospectus supplement for those securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

We may provide information to you about the securities being offered in three separate documents that progressively provide more detail:

- this prospectus, which provides general information, some of which may not apply to your securities;
- the accompanying prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of the securities, some of which may not apply to your securities; and
- if necessary, a pricing supplement, which describes the specific terms of your securities.

If the terms of your securities vary among the pricing supplement, the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in the following order of priority:

- the pricing supplement, if any;
- the prospectus supplement; and
- the prospectus.

We include cross-references in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement to captions in these materials where you can find further related discussions. The following table of contents and the table of contents included in the accompanying prospectus supplement provide the pages on which these captions are located.

Unless indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we have not taken any action that would permit sales of these securities in any jurisdiction outside the United States. If you are an investor outside the United States, you should inform yourself about and comply with any restrictions as to the offering of the securities and the distribution of this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.



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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the "SEC," utilizing a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time offer and sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, up to a total initial aggregate offering price for all offerings of \$75,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time these securities are offered, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering and include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to the securities and the offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any pricing supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus (including the information incorporated by reference therein) and any prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement or pricing supplement. The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement may be read at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

All references in this prospectus to the "Company," "we," "us," "our" or similar references mean First Financial Northwest, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and all references in this prospectus to "First Financial Northwest" or "First Financial Northwest, Inc." mean First Financial Northwest, Inc. excluding its subsidiaries, in each case unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires. When we refer to "First Financial Northwest Bank", or the "Bank" in this prospectus, we mean our wholly owned subsidiary, First Financial Northwest Bank, which is a Washington state chartered commercial bank.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, or the "Securities Act," that registers the offer and sale of the securities that may be offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules included or incorporated by reference in the registration statement, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this prospectus. In addition, we file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the "Exchange Act."

You may read and copy this information at the Public Reference Room of the SEC, located at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the Public Reference Room at prescribed rates. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

The SEC also maintains an Internet world wide web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers like us who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is:

<http://www.sec.gov>

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we file separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this document or in a more recent incorporated document.

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This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (excluding any portion of these documents that has been furnished to and deemed not to be filed with the SEC).

Report(s)	Period(s) of Report(s) or Date(s) Filed
•Annual Report on Form 10-K	For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017
•Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q	For the quarter ended March 31, 2018

This prospectus also incorporates by reference the description of our common stock set forth in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on August 8, 2007, and any amendment or report filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference all future documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of our initial registration statement relating to the securities until the completion of the offering of the securities covered by this prospectus or until we terminate this offering, excluding any document or portion thereof that has been furnished to and deemed not to be filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference contains information about us and our business, financial condition and results of operations and is an important part of this prospectus.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this document through us, or from the SEC through the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in those documents. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at the following address:

First Financial Northwest, Inc.  
Attn: Richard P. Jacobson, Chief Financial and  
Chief Operating Officer  
201 Wells Avenue South  
Renton, Washington 98057  
(425) 255-4400

We make available, through our website at [www.ffnwb.com](http://www.ffnwb.com) (by clicking "Investor Relations" and then "SEC Filings"), our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed with or furnished to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. This reference to our website is for the convenience of investors as required by the SEC and shall not be deemed to incorporate any information on the website into this registration statement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about us that is different from, or in addition to, those contained in this prospectus or in any of the materials that we have incorporated into this prospectus. If anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this document are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this document speaks only as of the date of this document unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplements and the other documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to our financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance or business. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact, are based on certain assumptions and are generally identified by use of the words "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates," "forecasts," "intends," "plans," "targets," "potentially," "probably," "projects," "outlook" or similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as "may," "will," "should," "would" and "could." Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, assumptions and statements about, among other things, expectations of the business environment in which we operate, projections of future performance or financial items, perceived opportunities in the market, potential future credit experience, and statements regarding our mission and vision. These forward-looking statements are based upon current management expectations and may, therefore, involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results, performance, or achievements may differ materially from those suggested, expressed, or implied by forward-looking statements as a result of a wide variety or range of factors including, but not limited to:

- the credit risks of lending activities, including changes in the level and trend of loan delinquencies and write-offs, that may be affected by deterioration in the housing and commercial real estate markets, and may lead to increased losses and nonperforming assets in our loan portfolio, and may result in our allowance for loan losses not being adequate to cover actual losses, and require us to materially increase our reserves;
- changes in general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market areas;
- changes in the levels of general interest rates, and the relative differences between short and long term interest rates, deposit interest rates, our net interest margin and funding sources;
- fluctuations in the demand for loans, the number of unsold homes and other properties and fluctuations in real estate values in our market areas;
- results of examinations of us by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco ("FRB") and our bank subsidiary by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Banks ("DFI") or other regulatory authorities, including the possibility that any such regulatory authority may initiate an enforcement action against the Company or the Bank which could require us to increase our reserve for loan losses, write-down assets, change our regulatory capital position, affect our ability to borrow funds or maintain or increase deposits, or impose additional requirements or restrictions on us, any of which could adversely affect our liquidity and earnings;
- our ability to pay dividends on our common stock; our ability to attract and retain deposits; increases in premiums for deposit insurance; our ability to control operating costs and expenses; the use of estimates in determining the fair value of certain of our assets, which estimates may prove to be incorrect and result in significant declines in valuation; difficulties in reducing risk associated with the loans on our balance sheet;
- staffing fluctuations in response to product demand or the implementation of corporate strategies that affect our work force and potential associated charges; disruptions, security breaches, or other adverse events, failures or interruptions in, or attacks on, our information technology systems or on the third-party vendors who perform several of our critical processing functions;
- our ability to retain key members of our senior management team; costs and effects of litigation, including settlements and judgments; our ability to implement a branch expansion strategy;

our ability to successfully integrate any assets, liabilities, customers, systems, and management personnel we have acquired or may in the future acquire into our operations and our ability to realize related revenue synergies and cost savings within expected time frames and any goodwill charges related thereto; our ability to manage loan delinquency rates; costs and effects of litigation, including settlements and judgments; increased competitive pressures among financial services companies; changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits; legislative or regulatory changes that adversely affect our business including changes in regulatory policies and principles, including the interpretation of regulatory capital or other rules, including as a result of Basel III; the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act") and the implementing regulations; the availability of resources to address changes in laws, rules, or regulations or to respond to regulatory actions; adverse changes in the securities markets; inability of key third-party providers to perform their obligations to us; changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the financial institution regulatory agencies or the Financial Accounting Standards Board, including additional guidance and interpretation on accounting issues and details of the implementation of new accounting methods; the economic impact of war or any terrorist activities; other economic, competitive, governmental, regulatory, and technological factors affecting our operations; pricing, products and services; and other risks detailed in our filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

Any forward-looking statements are based upon management's beliefs and assumptions at the time they are made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those contained in such statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking statements discussed in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the incorporated documents might not occur, and you should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary provides a general description of the securities that may be offered by this prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of us and the terms of the securities to be offered, you should read carefully this entire prospectus, including the "Risk Factors" section, the applicable prospectus supplement for the securities and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference. In particular, we incorporate important business and financial information into this prospectus by reference.

### The Securities We May Offer

We may use this prospectus to offer securities in an aggregate amount of up to \$75,000,000 in one or more offerings. A prospectus supplement, which we will provide each time we offer securities, will describe the amounts, prices and detailed terms of the securities and may describe risks associated with an investment in the securities in addition to those described in the "Risk Factors" section of this prospectus. We will also include in the prospectus supplement, where applicable, information about material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities. Terms used in this prospectus will have the meanings described in this prospectus unless otherwise specified.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers. We, as well as any agents acting on our behalf, reserve the sole right to accept or to reject in whole or in part any proposed purchase of our securities. Each prospectus supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of our securities described in that prospectus supplement and any applicable fee, commission or discount arrangements with them.

### Debt Securities

Our debt securities may be senior or subordinated in priority of payment. We will provide a prospectus supplement that describes the ranking, whether senior or subordinated, the specific designation, the aggregate principal amount, the purchase price, the maturity, the redemption terms, the interest rate or manner of calculating the interest rate, the time of payment of interest, if any, the terms for any conversion or exchange, including the terms relating to the adjustment of any conversion or exchange mechanism, the listing, if any, on a securities exchange and any other specific terms of the debt securities.

### Common Stock

We may sell our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. In a prospectus supplement, we will describe the aggregate number of shares offered and the offering price or prices of the shares.

### Preferred Stock; Depositary Shares

We may sell shares of our preferred stock in one or more series. In a prospectus supplement, we will describe the specific designation, the aggregate number of shares offered, the dividend rate or manner of calculating the dividend rate, the dividend periods or manner of calculating the dividend periods, the ranking of the shares of the series with respect to dividends, liquidation and dissolution, the stated value of the shares of the series, the voting rights of the shares of the series, if any, whether and on what terms the shares of the series will be convertible or exchangeable, whether and on what terms we can redeem the shares of the series, whether we will offer depositary shares representing shares of the series and if so, the fraction or multiple of a share of preferred stock represented by each depositary share, whether we will list the preferred stock or depositary shares on a securities exchange and any other specific terms of the series of preferred stock.

### Purchase Contracts

We may issue purchase contracts, including purchase contracts issued as part of a unit with one or more other securities, for the purchase or sale of our debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock.

The price of our debt securities or price per share of our common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, as applicable, may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula contained in the purchase contracts. We may issue purchase contracts in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we wish.

#### Warrants

We may sell warrants to purchase our debt securities, shares of preferred stock or shares of our common stock. In a prospectus supplement, we will inform you of the exercise price and other specific terms of the warrants, including whether our or your obligations, if any, under any warrants may be satisfied by delivering or purchasing the underlying securities or their cash value.

#### Rights

We may distribute rights to the holders of our common stock or other securities to purchase a specified number of shares of our common stock or other securities that the holder owns as of the record date set by our board of directors. In a prospectus supplement, we will inform you of the exercise price and other specific terms of the rights.

#### Units

We may sell any combination of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus, together as units. In a prospectus supplement, we will describe the particular combination of securities constituting any units and any other specific terms of the units.

## RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves various risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks described under "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and in our updates to those Risk Factors in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, together with all of the other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, in light of your particular investment objectives and financial circumstances. In addition to those risk factors, there may be additional risks and uncertainties of which management is not aware or that management deems immaterial. Our business, financial condition or results or operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

### FIRST FINANCIAL NORTHWEST, INC.

First Financial Northwest, Inc., a Washington corporation, was formed on June 1, 2007, for the purpose of becoming the holding company for First Financial Northwest Bank (the "Bank") in connection with the Bank's conversion from a mutual holding company structure to a stock holding company structure which was completed on October 9, 2007. At March 31, 2018, the Company had total assets of \$1.2 billion, net loans of \$991.1 million, deposits of \$863.2 million and stockholders' equity of \$148.8 million. First Financial Northwest's business activities generally are limited to passive investment activities and oversight of its investment in First Financial Northwest Bank. The Bank was organized in 1923 as a Washington state-chartered savings and loan association, converted to a federal mutual savings and loan association in 1935 and to a Washington state-chartered mutual savings bank in 1992. In 2002, First Savings Bank reorganized into a two-tier mutual holding company structure, became a stock savings bank, and the wholly-owned subsidiary of First Financial of Renton, Inc. In connection with the 2002 conversion, First Savings Bank changed its name to First Savings Bank Northwest. Subsequently, in August 2015, the Bank changed its name to First Financial Northwest Bank to better reflect the commercial banking services it provides beyond those typically provided by a traditional savings bank. In February 2016, the Bank officially changed its charter from a Washington chartered stock savings bank to a Washington chartered commercial bank.

First Financial Northwest became a bank holding company, after converting from a savings and loan holding company on March 31, 2015, and is subject to regulation by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve Board") through the FRB. The change was consistent with First Financial Northwest Bank's shift in focus from a traditional savings and loan association towards a full service, commercial bank. Additionally, First Financial Northwest Bank is examined and regulated by the DFI and by the FDIC. First Financial Northwest Bank is required to maintain reserves at a level set by the Federal Reserve Board. The Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, which is one of the 11 regional banks in the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

In February 2016, First Financial Northwest Bank converted its charter from a community-based savings bank to a commercial bank as a way of better serving its customer needs. The Bank's largest concentration of customers is in King County, with additional concentrations in Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties, Washington. The Bank is headquartered in Renton, in King County, where it has a full-service branch as well as a smaller branch located in a commercial development known as the "Landing". Also in King County, the Bank has branches in Bellevue, Bothell and Woodinville. In Snohomish County, Washington, the Bank has five additional branches located in Mill Creek, Edmonds, Clearview, Smokey Point, and Lake Stevens. These smaller branches are focused on efficiency through the extensive use of the latest banking technology. First Financial Northwest Bank's business consists of attracting deposits from the public and utilizing these funds to originate one-to-four family residential, multifamily, commercial real estate, construction/land, business and consumer loans.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "FFNW." The principal executive office of First Financial Northwest Bank is located at 201 Wells Avenue South, Renton, Washington, 98057; our telephone number is (425) 255-4400.





Additional information about us and our subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 4 of this prospectus.

#### USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a specific issue of securities. Our general corporate purposes may include, without limitation, financing acquisitions, repurchasing our securities, extending credit to, or funding investments in, First Financial Northwest Bank and repaying, reducing or refinancing indebtedness.

The precise amounts and the timing of our use of the net proceeds will depend upon market conditions, our subsidiaries' funding requirements, the availability of other funds and other factors. Until we use the net proceeds from the sale of any of our securities for general corporate purposes, we expect to use the net proceeds to reduce our indebtedness or for temporary investments. We expect that we will, on a recurrent basis, engage in additional financings as the need arises to finance our corporate strategies, to fund our subsidiaries, to finance acquisitions or for other general corporate purposes.

## RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges requirement for the periods indicated are set forth in the table below. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For purposes of computing this ratio, earnings consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense on deposits and borrowings. We paid no preferred stock dividends during any period presented, and accordingly, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,				
	March 31, 2018	2017	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	(Dollars in thousands)						
<b>Earnings</b>							
Income before Provision for Income Taxes	\$8,603	\$3,129	\$13,421	\$12,604	\$14,047	\$16,543	\$10,922
Add: Fixed Charges	3,129	2,136	10,022	7,507	6,751	6,241	7,526
<b>Total Earnings</b>	<b>\$11,732</b>	<b>\$5,265</b>	<b>\$23,443</b>	<b>\$20,111</b>	<b>\$20,798</b>	<b>\$22,784</b>	<b>\$18,448</b>
<b>Fixed Charges</b>							
Interest Expense on Deposits	\$2,276	\$1,691	\$7,517	\$6,101	\$5,478	\$5,063	\$6,794
Interest Expense on Borrowings	853	445	2,505	1,406	1,273	1,178	732
<b>Total Fixed Charges</b>	<b>\$3,129</b>	<b>\$2,136</b>	<b>\$10,022</b>	<b>\$7,507</b>	<b>\$6,751</b>	<b>\$6,241</b>	<b>\$7,526</b>
<b>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</b>							
(Including Deposit Interest)	3.75 x	2.46 x	2.34 x	2.68 x	3.08 x	3.65 x	2.45 x
<b>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</b>							
(Excluding Deposit Interest)	13.75 x	11.83 x	9.36 x	14.30 x	16.34 x	19.34 x	25.20 x

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture, referred to as the "senior indenture," between us and a senior indenture trustee to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subordinated debt securities will be issued under a separate indenture, referred to as the "subordinated indenture," between us and a subordinated indenture trustee to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are sometimes collectively referred to in this prospectus as the "indentures." The indentures will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. A copy of the form of each of these indentures is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The following briefly describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities which may be offered and the indentures governing them. The particular terms of the debt securities offered, and the extent, if any, to which these general provisions may apply to the debt securities so offered, will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to those securities. The following descriptions of the indentures are not complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the respective indentures.

### General

The indentures permit us to issue the debt securities from time to time, without limitation as to aggregate principal amount, and in one or more series. The indentures also do not limit or otherwise restrict the amount of other indebtedness which we may incur or other securities which we or our subsidiaries may issue, including indebtedness which may rank senior to the debt securities. Nothing in the subordinated indenture prohibits the issuance of securities representing subordinated indebtedness that is senior or junior to the subordinated debt securities.

Unless we give you different information in the prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

Payments on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt, as described under "—Subordination" and in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities if the conditions contained in the applicable indenture are satisfied. These conditions include the establishment of the terms of the debt securities being issued in or pursuant to a supplemental indenture or resolutions adopted by our board of directors. Such terms may include:

- the title and series designation;
- the aggregate principal amount and the limit, if any, on the aggregate principal amount or initial issue price of the debt securities which may be issued under the applicable indenture;
- the principal amount payable, whether at maturity or upon earlier acceleration;  
whether the principal amount payable will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method which
- may be based on one or more currencies, currency units, composite currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices;
- whether the debt securities will be issued as original issue discount securities (as defined below);
- the date or dates on which the principal of the debt securities is payable;
- any fixed or variable interest rate or rates per annum or the method or formula for determining an interest rate;
- the date from which any interest will accrue;

- any interest payment dates;
- whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated, and if subordinated, the terms of the subordination; the price or prices at which the debt securities will be issued, which may be expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount of those debt securities;
- the stated maturity date;
- whether the debt securities are to be issued in global form;
- any sinking fund requirements;
- any provisions for redemption, the redemption price and any remarketing arrangements;
- the denominations of the securities or series of securities; whether the debt securities are denominated or payable in United States dollars or a foreign currency or units of two or more foreign currencies;
- any restrictions on the offer, sale and delivery of the debt securities; the place or places where payments or deliveries on the debt securities will be made and may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange; whether any of the debt securities will be subject to defeasance in advance of the date for redemption or the stated maturity date; the terms, if any, upon which the debt securities are convertible into other securities of ours and the terms and conditions upon which any conversion will be effected, including the initial conversion price or rate, the conversion period and any other provisions in addition to or instead of those described in this prospectus;
- a description of any documents or certificates that must be received prior to the issuance of any definitive securities; whether and under what circumstances additional amounts will be paid to non-U.S. citizens in connection with any tax, assessment or governmental charge and whether securities may be redeemed in lieu of paying such additional fees;
- the identity of each security registrar or paying agent (if other than trustee);
- any provisions granting special rights to securities holders upon the occurrence of specified events; any deletions from, modifications of, or additions to any default events or covenants set forth in the form of indenture;
- the portion of the principal amount payable upon the declaration of acceleration of the maturity of any securities; the date any bearer securities of or within the series and any temporary global security representing outstanding securities shall be dated, if other than the date of original issuance; and

·any other terms of the debt securities which are not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable indenture. The debt securities may be issued as "original issue discount securities" which bear no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates and which will be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. If the maturity of any original issue discount security is accelerated, the amount payable to the holder of the security will be determined by the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the security and the relevant indenture, but may be an amount less than the amount payable at the maturity of the principal of that original issue discount security. Special federal income tax and other considerations relating to original issue discount securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under the indentures, the terms of the debt securities of any series may differ and we may, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of any series, reopen a previous series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series.

Please see the prospectus supplement and any related pricing supplement you have received or will receive for the terms of the specific debt securities we are offering.

You should be aware that special United States federal income tax, accounting and other considerations may apply to the debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to an issue of debt securities will describe these considerations.

**Ranking of Debt Securities; Holding Company Structure**

**Senior Debt Securities.** Payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest on senior debt securities will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

**Subordinated Debt Securities.** Payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on subordinated debt securities will be junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt, including senior debt securities. We will state in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any subordinated debt securities the subordination terms of the securities as well as the aggregate amount of outstanding debt, as of the most recent practicable date, that by its terms would be senior to those subordinated debt securities. We will also state in that prospectus supplement limitations, if any, on the issuance of additional senior debt.

**Holding Company Structure.** The debt securities will be our exclusive obligations. We are a holding company and substantially all of our consolidated assets are held by our subsidiary, First Financial Northwest Bank. Accordingly, our cash flows and our ability to service our debt, including the debt securities, are dependent upon the results of operations of the Bank and the distribution of funds by the Bank to us. Various statutory and regulatory restrictions, however, limit directly or indirectly the amount of dividends the Bank can pay us, and also restricts the Bank from making investments in or loans to us.

Because we are a holding company, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities, including indebtedness, customer deposits, trade payables, guarantees and lease obligations, of our subsidiaries. Therefore, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the debt securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon that subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors and, if applicable, its depositors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary, in which case our claims would still be effectively subordinate to any security interest in, or mortgages or other liens on, the assets of the subsidiary and would be subordinate to any indebtedness of the subsidiary senior to that held by us. If a receiver or conservator were appointed for First Financial Northwest Bank, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act recognizes a priority in favor of the holders of withdrawable deposits (including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as subrogee or transferee) over general creditors. Claims for customer deposits would have a priority over any claims that we may ourselves have as a creditor of First Financial Northwest Bank. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures will not limit the amount of indebtedness or other liabilities that we and our subsidiaries may incur.

#### Registration and Transfer

Holders may present debt securities in registered form for transfer or exchange for other debt securities of the same series at the offices of the applicable indenture trustee according to the terms of the applicable indenture and the debt securities.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued in fully registered form, and in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof.

No service charge will be required for any transfer or exchange of the debt securities but we generally may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any transfer or exchange.

#### Payment and Place of Payment

We will pay or deliver principal and any premium and interest in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the applicable indenture, the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement.

However, at our option, we may pay any interest by check mailed to the holders of registered debt securities at their registered addresses.

#### Global Securities

Each indenture provides that we may issue debt securities in global form. If any series of debt securities is issued in global form, the prospectus supplement will describe any circumstances under which beneficial owners of interests in any of those global debt securities may exchange their interests for debt securities of that series and of like tenor and principal amount in any authorized form and denomination. See "Description of Global Securities."

#### Redemption and Repurchase

The debt securities of any series may be redeemable at our option, may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, or may be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and pricing supplement, if any.

#### Conversion or Exchange Rights

If debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our equity securities or other securities of ours, the terms and conditions of conversion or exchange will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include, among others, the following:

- the conversion or exchange price;
- the conversion or exchange period;
- provisions regarding the convertibility or exchangeability of the debt securities, including who may convert or exchange;
- events requiring adjustment to the conversion or exchange price;
- provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of our redemption of the debt securities; and
- any anti dilution provisions, if applicable.

Absence of Limitation on Indebtedness and Liens; Absence of Event Risk Protection

Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities, the indentures will not limit the amount of indebtedness, guarantees or other liabilities that we and our subsidiaries may incur and will not prohibit us or our subsidiaries from creating or assuming liens on our properties, including the capital stock of First Financial Northwest Bank or any of our other subsidiaries. Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the indentures will not require us to maintain any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow or liquidity, and will not contain provisions which would give holders of the debt securities the right to require us to repurchase their debt securities in the event we undergo a takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring or change in control.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following are events of default under the senior indenture with respect to the senior debt securities and under the subordinated indenture with respect to the subordinated debt securities:

- default in the payment of any principal or premium or make-whole amount, if any, on the debt securities when due;
- default in the payment of any interest or additional amounts on the debt securities, or of any coupon pertaining thereto, when due, which continues for 30 days;
- default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment on the debt securities when due;
- default in the performance or breach of any other obligation contained in the applicable indenture for the benefit of that series of debt securities (other than defaults or breaches otherwise specifically addressed), which continues for 90 days after written notice of the default or breach;
- specified events in bankruptcy or insolvency; and
- any other event of default provided with respect to the debt securities of any series.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if an event of default occurs and is continuing for any series of senior debt securities, unless the principal amount of all senior debt securities of that particular series has already become due and payable, the indenture trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may declare all amounts, or any lesser amount provided for in the senior debt securities of that series, to be immediately due and payable.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, no event of default described in the first, second, third, fourth or sixth bullet points above will permit acceleration of the payment of the principal of the subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if an event of default described under the fifth bullet point above shall have occurred and be continuing, unless the principal amount of all the subordinated debt securities of a particular series has already become due and payable, the indenture trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the subordinated debt securities of that series may declare all amounts or any lesser amount provided for in the subordinated debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable.

At any time after the applicable indenture trustee or the holders have accelerated a series of debt securities, but before the applicable indenture trustee has obtained a judgment or decree for payment of money due, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series may rescind and annul that acceleration and its consequences, provided that all payments and/or deliveries due, other than those due as a result of acceleration, have been made and all events of default have been remedied or waived.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive any default with respect to that series, except a default:



· in the payment of any amounts due and payable or deliverable under the debt securities of that series; or  
· in an obligation contained in, or a provision of, an indenture which cannot be modified under the terms of that indenture without the consent of each holder of each series of debt securities affected.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the applicable indenture trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the indenture trustee with respect to debt securities of that series, provided that any direction is not in conflict with any rule of law or the applicable indenture and the trustee may take other actions, other than those that might lead to personal liability, not inconsistent with the direction. Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the indenture trustee, before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the indenture at the direction of the holders, the indenture trustee is entitled to receive from those holders security or indemnity satisfactory to the indenture trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which it might incur in complying with any direction.

A holder of any debt security of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding with respect to the applicable indenture or for any remedy under the indenture, if:

- that holder previously gives to the indenture trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series;
- the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series have made written request and offered the indenture trustee indemnity satisfactory to the indenture trustee to institute that proceeding as indenture trustee;
- the indenture trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with the request; and
- the indenture trustee fails to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

However, the holder of any debt security or coupon has the right to receive payment of the principal of (and premium or make-whole amount, if any) and interest on, and any additional amounts in respect of, such debt security or payment of such coupon on the respective due dates (or, in the case of redemption, on the redemption date) and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment.

We are required to furnish to the indenture trustees annually a statement as to the performance of our obligations under the indentures and as to any default in that performance of which we are aware.

#### Modification and Waiver

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, First Financial Northwest, Inc. and the applicable indenture trustee may amend and modify each indenture or debt securities under that indenture with the consent of holders of at least a majority in principal amount of each series of all outstanding debt securities then outstanding under the indenture affected. However, without the consent of each holder of any debt security issued under the applicable indenture, we may not amend or modify that indenture to:

- change the stated maturity date of the principal of (or premium or make-whole amount, if any, on), or any installment of principal or interest on, any debt security issued under that indenture;
- reduce the principal amount of or any make-whole amount, the rate of interest on or any additional amounts payable in respect thereof, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt security issued under that indenture;
- reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount security or make-whole amount, if any, issued under that indenture payable upon acceleration of its maturity or provable in bankruptcy;

change the place or currency of payment of principal or any premium or any make-whole amount or interest on any debt security issued under that indenture;  
impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment or delivery on or with respect to any debt security issued under that indenture;  
reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series issued under that indenture, the consent of whose holders is required to modify or amend the indenture or to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture; or  
make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any security or decrease the conversion/exchange rate or increase the conversion/exchange price.

The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under that indenture may, with respect to that series, waive past defaults under the indenture, except as described under "—Events of Default."

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we and the applicable indenture trustee may also amend and modify each indenture without the consent of any holder for any of the following purposes:

- to evidence the succession of another person to First Financial Northwest, Inc.;
- to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities;
- to add events of default for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities;
- to add or change any provisions of the indentures to facilitate the issuance of bearer securities;
- to change or eliminate any of the provisions of the applicable indenture in respect of any series of debt securities, so long as any such change or elimination will become effective only in respect of any series of securities when there is no outstanding security of that series which is entitled to the benefit of that provision;
- to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor indenture trustee;
- to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision in the applicable indenture, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under that indenture, so long as the interests of holders of debt securities of any series are not adversely affected in any material respect by the actions taken to cure, correct or supplement a provision in an indenture;
- to secure securities;
- to provide for conversion rights of the holders of the debt securities of any series to enable those holders to convert those securities into other securities;
- to close the indenture with respect to the authentication and delivery of additional series of securities or to qualify or maintain qualifications of the applicable indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or
- to supplement any of the provisions of an indenture as is necessary to permit or facilitate the defeasance or discharge of any series of securities under specified provisions of the indenture, provided that any such action shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of securities of such series or any other series of securities under the indenture in any material respect.

## Voting

The indentures contain provisions for convening meetings of the holders of debt securities of a series. A meeting will be permitted to be called at any time by the applicable trustee, and also, upon request, by us or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series, in any such case upon notice given as provided in such indenture. Except for any consent that must be given by the holder of each debt security affected by the modifications and amendments of an indenture described above, any resolution presented at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum is present may be adopted by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series represented at such meeting.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, except as referred to above, any resolution relating to a request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action that may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage, which is less than a majority, of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may be adopted at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum is present by the affirmative vote of such specified percentage.

Any resolution passed or decision taken at any properly held meeting of holders of debt securities of any series will be binding on all holders of such series. The quorum at any meeting called to adopt a resolution, and at any reconvened meeting, will be persons holding or representing a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series. However, if any action is to be taken relating to a consent or waiver which may be given by the holders of at least a specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series, the persons holding such percentage will constitute a quorum.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the indentures provide that if any action is to be taken at a meeting with respect to any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action that such indenture expressly provides may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities affected by such action, or of the holders of such series and one or more additional series:

- there shall be no minimum quorum requirement for such meeting; and
- the principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series that vote in favor of such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action shall be taken into account in determining whether such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action has been made, given or taken under such indenture.

## Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may consolidate or merge with or into any other person, and we may sell, lease or convey all or substantially all of our assets to any person, provided that the resulting entity, if other than First Financial Northwest, Inc., is an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or any U.S. state or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes our obligations to:

- (1) pay or deliver the principal and any premium or make-whole amount, if any, and any interest on, the debt securities;
- (2) perform and observe all of our other obligations under the indentures and supplemental indentures; and
- (3) we are not, or any successor entity, as the case may be, is not, immediately after any consolidation or merger, in default under the indenture, and no event that, after notice or the lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default under the indenture, shall have occurred and be continuing.

The indentures do not provide for any right of acceleration in the event of a consolidation, merger, sale of all or substantially all of the assets, recapitalization or change in our stock ownership. In addition, the indentures do

not contain any provision which would protect the holders of debt securities against a sudden and dramatic decline in credit quality resulting from takeovers, recapitalizations or similar restructurings.

#### International Offering

If specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue debt securities outside the United States. Those debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with any offering outside the United States, we will designate paying agents, registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement whether our debt securities issued outside the United States:

- (1) may be subject to certain selling restrictions;
- (2) may be listed on one or more foreign stock exchanges; and
- (3) may have special United States tax and other considerations applicable to an offering outside the United States.

#### Defeasance

We may terminate or "defease" our obligations under the applicable indenture with respect to the debt securities of any series by taking the following steps:

- (1) depositing irrevocably with the indenture trustee an amount, which through the payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, will provide an amount sufficient to pay the entire amount of the debt securities:
  - in the case of debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars, U.S. dollars or U.S. government obligations;
  - in the case of debt securities denominated in a foreign currency, of money in that foreign currency or foreign government obligations of the foreign government or governments issuing that foreign currency; or
  - a combination of money and U.S. government obligations or foreign government obligations, as applicable;

- (2) delivering:

- an opinion of independent counsel that the holders of the debt securities of that series will have no federal income tax consequences as a result of the defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred;
- an opinion of independent counsel that registration is not required under the Investment Company Act of 1940;
- an opinion of counsel that all conditions precedent to the defeasance have been complied with; and
- officers' certificates certifying as to compliance with the indenture and other matters;

- (3) paying all other amounts due under the indenture.

Further, the defeasance cannot cause an event of default under the indenture or any other material agreement or instrument and no event of default under the indenture can exist at the time the defeasance occurs.

#### Subordination

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to all "senior debt," as defined in the subordinated indenture. In certain circumstances relating to our liquidation, dissolution, receivership,

reorganization, insolvency or similar proceedings, the holders of all senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment on the subordinated debt securities.

In addition, we may make no payment on the subordinated debt securities in the event:

there is an event of default with respect to any senior debt which permits the holders of that senior debt to accelerate the maturity of the senior debt; and

the default is the subject of judicial proceedings or we receive notice of the default from an authorized person under the subordinated indenture.

By reason of this subordination in favor of the holders of senior debt, in the event of an insolvency our creditors who are not holders of senior debt or the subordinated debt securities may recover less, proportionately, than holders of senior debt and may recover more, proportionately, than holders of the subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of subordinated debt securities, "senior debt" is defined in the subordinated indenture as the principal, premium, if any, unpaid interest (including interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to First Financial Northwest, Inc. whether or not a claim for post-filing interest is allowed in such proceeding), fees, charges, expenses, reimbursement and indemnification obligations, and all other amounts payable under or in respect of the following indebtedness of First Financial Northwest, Inc. for money borrowed, whether any such indebtedness exists as of the date of the indenture or is created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed after such date:

- any debt (a) for money borrowed by First Financial Northwest, Inc., or (b) evidenced by a bond, note, debenture, or similar instrument (including purchase money obligations) given in connection with the acquisition of any business, property or assets, whether by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise, but shall not include any account
- (i) payable or other obligation created or assumed in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services, or (c) which is a direct or indirect obligation which arises as a result of banker's acceptances or bank letters of credit issued to secure obligations of First Financial Northwest, Inc., or to secure the payment of revenue bonds issued for the benefit of First Financial Northwest, Inc. whether contingent or otherwise;
- (ii) any debt of others described in the preceding clause (i) which First Financial Northwest, Inc. has guaranteed or for which it is otherwise liable;
- (iii) the obligation of First Financial Northwest, Inc. as lessee under any lease of property which is reflected on First Financial Northwest, Inc.'s balance sheet as a capitalized lease; and
- (iv) any deferral, amendment, renewal, extension, supplement or refunding of any liability of the kind described in any of the preceding clauses (i), (ii) and (iii).

"Senior debt" does not include (1) any such indebtedness, obligation or liability referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) above as to which, in the instrument creating or evidencing the same or pursuant to which the same is outstanding, it is provided that such indebtedness, obligation or liability is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities, or ranks pari passu with the subordinated debt securities, (2) any such indebtedness, obligation or liability which is subordinated to indebtedness of First Financial Northwest, Inc. to substantially the same extent as or to a greater extent than the subordinated debt securities are subordinated, (3) any indebtedness to a subsidiary of First Financial Northwest, Inc. and (4) the subordinated debt securities.

The subordinated indenture does not limit or prohibit the incurrence of additional senior debt, which may include indebtedness that is senior to the subordinated debt securities, but subordinate to our other obligations. Any prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities will set forth the aggregate amount of our indebtedness senior to the subordinated debt securities as of a recent practicable date.

The prospectus supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, which may apply to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities of a particular series.

### Restrictive Covenants

The indentures do not contain any significant restrictive covenants. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of senior or subordinated debt securities may describe certain additional restrictive covenants, if any, to which we may be bound under the applicable indenture.

### Governing Law

Unless indicated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

### DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK AND PREFERRED STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of:

90,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share; and

10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

As of March 31, 2018, there were 10,779,424 shares of our common stock outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock outstanding.

In this section we describe certain features and rights of our capital stock. The summary does not purport to be exhaustive and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation and bylaws and to applicable Washington law.

#### Common Stock

We may issue, either separately or together with other securities, shares of common stock. Upon our receipt of the full specified purchase price, the common stock issued will be fully paid and nonassessable. A prospectus supplement relating to an offering of common stock, or other securities convertible or exchangeable for, or exercisable into, common stock, will describe the relevant offering terms, including the number of shares offered, the initial offering price, and market price and dividend information, as well as, if applicable, information on other related securities. Except as described below under "—Anti-takeover Effects – Restrictions on Voting Rights," each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share on all matters to be voted upon by the common shareholders. There are no cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences to which holders of any shares of preferred stock may be entitled, holders of common stock will be entitled to receive ratably any dividends that may be declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of common stock will be entitled to share in our assets remaining after the payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities, and the satisfaction of the liquidation preferences of the holders of the shares of any series of our preferred stock then outstanding. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions that apply to the common stock. All shares of common stock currently outstanding are fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate in the future.

#### Preferred Stock

The following summary contains a description of the general terms of the preferred stock that we may issue. The specific terms of any series of preferred stock offered by us for sale will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The terms of any series of preferred stock may differ from the terms described below. Certain provisions of the preferred stock described below and in any prospectus supplement are not complete. You should refer to the articles supplementary to our articles of incorporation with respect to the

establishment of a series of preferred stock, which will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of such series of preferred stock.

General. Our articles of incorporation permits our board of directors to authorize the issuance of up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01, in one or more series, without shareholder action. The board of directors can fix the designation, powers, preferences and rights of each series. Therefore, without shareholder approval (except as may be required by the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market or any other exchange or market on which our securities may then be listed or quoted), our board of directors can authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting, dividend, liquidation and conversion and other rights that could dilute the voting power or other rights or adversely affect the market value of the common stock and may assist management in impeding any unfriendly takeover or attempted change in control. See "—Anti-Takeover Effects – Authorized Shares."

The preferred stock has the terms described below unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of the preferred stock being offered for specific terms, including:

- the designation of the series of preferred stock and the number of shares offered;
- the amount of liquidation preference per share, if any;
- the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;
- the dividend rate, or method of calculation, the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to cumulate;
- any listing of the preferred stock being offered on any securities exchange or other securities market;
- any voting rights;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions;
- any conversion provisions;
- whether interests in the preferred stock being offered will be represented by depositary shares; and
- any other specific terms of the preferred stock being offered.

Upon our receipt of the full specified purchase price, the preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each series of preferred stock will rank equally as to dividends and liquidation rights in all respects with each other series of preferred stock. The rights of holders of shares of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

Rank. Any series of the preferred stock will, with respect to the priority of the payment of dividends and the priority of payments upon liquidation, winding up and dissolution, rank:

- senior to all classes of common stock and all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that they will rank junior to the preferred stock (referred to as the "junior securities");
- equally with all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that they will rank equally with the preferred stock (referred to as the "parity securities"); and
- junior to all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that they will rank senior to the preferred stock.

Dividends. Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates described, if any, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Different series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different rates or based on different methods of calculation. The dividend rate may be fixed or variable or both. Dividends will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series of the preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors does not declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of noncumulative preferred stock, then the holders of that noncumulative preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend for that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on that series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates.

Dividends on any series of cumulative preferred stock will accrue from the date we initially issue shares of such series or such other date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No full dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of any dividends on any parity securities unless dividends have been paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock. If full dividends are not paid, the preferred stock will share dividends pro rata with the parity securities. No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of dividends on any junior securities unless full cumulative dividends for all dividend periods terminating on or prior to the date of the declaration or payment will have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment set apart for payment on the preferred stock.

Rights Upon Liquidation. If we dissolve, liquidate or wind up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive, before any payment or distribution of assets is made to holders of junior securities, liquidating distributions in the amount described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of the preferred stock, plus an amount equal to accrued and unpaid dividends and, if the series of the preferred stock is cumulative, for all dividend periods prior to that point in time. If the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of any series and any other parity securities are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of that series and of the parity securities will share proportionately in the distribution of our assets in proportion to the full liquidation preferences to which they are entitled. After the holders of preferred stock and the parity securities are paid in full, they will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors and of our shareholders, including the holders of any shares of preferred stock then outstanding, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation or recapitalization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

Redemption. We may provide that a series of the preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option or at the option of the holder of the stock. In addition, a series of preferred stock may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise. The redemption provisions that may apply to a series of preferred stock, including the redemption dates and the redemption prices for that series, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

In the event of partial redemptions of preferred stock, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, our board of directors will determine the method for selecting the shares to be redeemed, which may be by lot or pro rata or by any other method determined by our board of directors to be equitable.

On or after a redemption date, unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, dividends will cease to accrue on shares of preferred stock called for redemption. In addition, all rights of holders of the shares will terminate except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock, if any dividends on any other series of preferred stock ranking equally as to payment of dividends and liquidation rights with such series of preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of preferred stock may be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, unless all shares of preferred stock are redeemed, and we will not purchase any shares of such series of preferred stock. This requirement, however, will not prevent us from acquiring



such shares pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all such shares outstanding.

**Voting Rights.** Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the preferred stock will have no voting rights except as otherwise required by law or in our articles of incorporation.

Under regulations and interpretations adopted by the Federal Reserve Board and its staff, if the holders of any series of preferred stock are or become entitled to vote for the election of directors, that series may then be considered a class of voting securities. A holder of 25% or more of a series, or a lesser percentage if it otherwise exercises a "controlling influence" over us, may then be subject to regulation as a savings and loan holding company under the Home Owners' Loan Act or a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, depending on the nature of the acquiror. In addition, at the time that the series is deemed a class of voting securities, any bank holding company or any savings and loan holding company may be required to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board in order to acquire 5% or more of that series, and any person other than a savings and loan or a bank holding company acting either individually or acting through or in concert with others may be required to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board to acquire 10% or more of that series.

**Exchangeability.** We may provide that the holders of shares of preferred stock of any series may be required at any time or at maturity to exchange those shares for our debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the terms of any such exchange.

#### **Anti-takeover Effects**

The provisions of our articles of incorporation, our bylaws, and Washington law summarized in the following paragraphs may have anti-takeover effects and may delay, defer, or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a shareholder might consider to be in such shareholder's best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by shareholders, and may make removal of management more difficult.

**Authorized Shares.** Our articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of 90,000,000 shares of common stock and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. These shares of common stock and preferred stock provide our board of directors with as much flexibility as possible to effect, among other transactions, financings, acquisitions, stock dividends, stock splits and the exercise of employee stock options. However, these additional authorized shares may also be used by the board of directors consistent with its fiduciary duty to deter future attempts to gain control of us. The board of directors also has sole authority to determine the terms of any one or more series of preferred stock, including voting rights, conversion rates, and liquidation preferences. As a result of the ability to fix voting rights for a series of preferred stock, the board of directors has the power to the extent consistent with its fiduciary duty to issue a series of preferred stock to persons friendly to management in order to attempt to block a tender offer, merger or other transaction by which a third party seeks control of us, and thereby assist members of management to retain their positions.

**Restrictions on Voting Rights.** Our articles of incorporation provide that no record owner of any outstanding common stock which is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by a person who beneficially owns in excess of 10% of the then outstanding shares of common stock will be entitled or permitted to any vote in respect of the shares held in excess of the 10% limit, unless a majority of the board of directors grants such entitlement or permission in advance. Beneficial ownership is determined pursuant to the federal securities laws and includes shares beneficially owned by such person or any of his or her affiliates (as defined in the articles of incorporation), shares which such person or his or her affiliates have the right to acquire upon the exercise of conversion rights or options and shares as to which such person and his or her affiliates have or share investment or voting power, but does not include shares that are subject to a revocable proxy and that are not otherwise beneficially, or deemed by us to be beneficially, owned by such person and his or her affiliates. Under our articles of incorporation, the restriction on voting shares beneficially owned in violation of the foregoing limitations is imposed automatically, and the articles of incorporation provide that our board of directors has the power to construe the foregoing restrictions and to make all determinations necessary or desirable to implement these restrictions. These restrictions would, among other things, restrict voting power of a beneficial owner of more than 10% of our outstanding shares of common stock in a proxy contest or on other matters on which such person is entitled to vote.



Board of Directors. Except with respect to any directors who may be elected by any series of preferred stock, our board of directors is divided into three classes, each of which contains approximately one-third of the members of the board. The members of each class are elected for a term of three years, with the terms of office of all members of one class expiring each year so that approximately one-third of the total number of directors is elected each year. The classification of directors, together with the provisions in our articles of incorporation described below that limit the ability of shareholders to remove directors and that permit only the remaining directors to fill any vacancies on the board of directors, have the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of the board of directors. As a result, at least two annual meetings of shareholders will be required for the shareholders to change a majority of the directors, whether or not a change in the board of directors would be beneficial and whether or not a majority of shareholders believe that such a change would be desirable.

Our articles of incorporation provides that the size of the board shall be not less than five or more than 15 as set in accordance with the bylaws. In accordance with the bylaws, the number of directors is currently set at eight. The articles of incorporation provide that any vacancy occurring in the board of directors, shall be filled, by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office, whether or not there remains a quorum of the Board of Directors, for the unexpired term of such director's predecessor in office. The articles of incorporation further provides that any vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors may be filled by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of shareholders. The classified board is intended to provide for continuity of the board of directors and to make it more difficult and time consuming for a shareholder group to fully use its voting power to gain control of the board of directors without the consent of incumbent members of the board. The articles of incorporation further provide that a director may be removed from the board of directors prior to the expiration of the director's term only for "cause" as defined in the articles of incorporation and only upon the vote of the holders of 80% of the total votes eligible to be cast at a legal meeting called expressly for such purpose.

Cumulative Voting, Special Meetings and Action by Written Consent. Our articles of incorporation do not provide for cumulative voting for any purpose. Moreover, the articles of incorporation provide that special meetings of shareholders may be called only by our chief executive officer or a majority of the board of directors. Shareholders are not permitted to call special meetings. This provision prevents shareholders from forcing consideration of a proposal between annual meetings over the opposition of the chief executive officer and the board by calling a special meeting of the shareholders. In addition, our bylaws require that any action taken by written consent must receive the consent of all of the shareholders entitled to vote on the action taken.

Shareholder Vote Required to Approve Business Combinations with Principal Shareholders. The articles of incorporation require the approval of the holders of at least 80% of our outstanding shares of voting stock and by a majority of the outstanding voting shares held by persons other than shares beneficially owned by a "Related Person" (as defined therein) to approve certain "Business Combinations" (as defined therein) involving the Related Person except in cases where the proposed transaction has been approved in advance by at least two-thirds of the number of the continuing directors (as defined in the articles of incorporation) on First Financial Northwest's board of directors. "Continuing directors" generally includes all members of the board of directors who are not affiliated with any individual, partnership, trust or other person or entity (or the affiliates and associates of such person or entity) which is a beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting shares of First Financial Northwest. The term "Related Person" is defined to include any individual, corporation, partnership or other entity together with its affiliates (other than tax-qualified benefit plans of First Financial Northwest) which owns beneficially or controls, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock of First Financial Northwest or an affiliate of such person or entity. Beneficial ownership and affiliate status is determined pursuant to the federal securities laws.

This provision of the articles of incorporation applies to any "Business Combination," which is defined to include: (i) any merger or consolidation of First Financial Northwest with or into any Related Person; (ii) any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, or other disposition, including, a mortgage, or any other security device, of 25% or more of the assets of First Financial Northwest or of a subsidiary to a Related Person; (iii) any merger or consolidation of a Related Person with or into First Financial Northwest or a subsidiary of First Financial Northwest; (iv) any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, or other disposition of assets of a Related Person to First Financial Northwest or a subsidiary of First Financial Northwest exceeding 25% of the total assets of First Financial Northwest; (v) the issuance of any securities of First Financial Northwest or a subsidiary of First Financial Northwest to a Related Person; (vi) the acquisition by First Financial Northwest or a subsidiary of First Financial Northwest of any securities of a Related

Person; (vii) any reclassification of common stock of First Financial Northwest or any recapitalization involving the common stock of First Financial Northwest; (viii) the adoption of any plan for the liquidation or dissolution of First Financial Northwest; or (ix) any agreement, contract or other arrangement providing for any of the foregoing. This provision could tend to

make the acquisition of First Financial Northwest more difficult to accomplish without the cooperation or favorable recommendation of First Financial Northwest's board of directors.

Washington law imposes restrictions on certain transactions between a corporation and certain significant shareholders. Chapter 23B.19 of the Washington Business Corporation Act prohibits a "target corporation," with certain exceptions, from engaging in certain "significant business transactions" with an "Acquiring Person" who acquires 10% or more of the voting securities of a target corporation for a period of five years after such acquisition, unless the transaction or acquisition of shares is approved by a majority of the members of the target corporation's board of directors prior to the date of the acquisition or, at or subsequent to the date of the acquisition, the transaction is approved by a majority of the members of the target corporation's board of directors and authorized at a shareholders' meeting by the vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting shares of the target corporation, excluding shares owned or controlled by the Acquiring Person. The prohibited transactions include, among others, a merger or consolidation with, disposition of assets to, or issuance or redemption of stock to or from, the Acquiring Person, termination of 5% or more of the employees of the target corporation as a result of the Acquiring Person's acquisition of 10% or more of the shares, or allowing the Acquiring Person to receive any disproportionate benefit as a shareholder. After the five-year period during which significant business transactions are prohibited, certain significant business transactions may occur if certain "fair price" criteria or shareholder approval requirements are met. Target corporations include all publicly-traded corporations incorporated under Washington law, as well as publicly traded foreign corporations that meet certain requirements.

**Evaluation of Offers.** The articles of incorporation provide that First Financial Northwest's board of directors, when evaluating a Business Combination or a tender or exchange offer, shall, in connection with the exercise of its business judgment in determining what is in the best interests of First Financial Northwest and its shareholders, give due consideration to all relevant factors, including, but not limited to the (i) the social and economic effects of the transaction on First Financial Northwest and its subsidiaries, employees, depositors, loan and other customers, creditors and other elements of the communities in which First Financial Northwest and its subsidiaries operate or are located; (ii) the business and financial condition and earnings prospects of the acquiring person or entity, including, but not limited to, debt service and other existing financial obligations, financial obligations to be incurred in connection with the acquisition and other likely financial obligations of the acquiring person or entity and the possible effect of such conditions upon First Financial Northwest and its subsidiaries and the other elements of the communities in which First Financial Northwest and its subsidiaries operate or are located; and (iii) the competence, experience, and integrity of the acquiring person or entity and its or their management.

**Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.** Generally, amendments to our articles of incorporation must be approved by our board of directors by a majority vote of the board and by our shareholders by a majority of the voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the proposed amendment, and a majority of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the proposed amendment; provided, however, that the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of votes entitled to be cast by each separate voting group entitled to vote thereon (after giving effect to the provision limiting voting rights, if applicable) is required to amend or repeal certain provisions of the articles of incorporation, including the provisions concerning the duration of the corporation, the purpose and powers of the corporation, authorized capital stock, denial of preemptive rights, the number, classification, filling vacancies and the removal of directors, shareholder nominations and proposals, approval of certain business combinations, the evaluation of certain business combinations, limitation of directors' liability, indemnification of officers and directors, calling of special meetings of shareholders, the authority to repurchase shares and the manner of amending the bylaws and articles of incorporation. This provision is intended to prevent the holders of a lesser percentage of the outstanding stock of First Financial Northwest from circumventing any of the foregoing provisions by amending the articles of incorporation to delete or modify one of such provisions. Our bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of our board of directors, or by a vote of 80% of the total votes entitled to vote generally in the election of directors at a duly constituted meeting of shareholders.

**Shareholder Nominations and Proposals.** Our articles of incorporation generally require a shareholder who intends to nominate a candidate for election to the board of directors, or to raise new business at a shareholder meeting to give not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' written advance notice to the Secretary of First Financial Northwest. The notice provision requires a shareholder who desires to raise new business to provide certain information to us concerning the nature of the new business, the shareholder and the shareholder's interest in the business matter.

Similarly, a shareholder wishing to nominate any person for election as a director must provide us with certain information concerning the nominee and the proposing shareholder. Advance notice of nominations or proposed

business by shareholders gives our board of directors time to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees, the merits of the proposals and, to the extent deemed necessary or desirable by the board, to inform shareholders and whether to make recommendations about those matters.

The cumulative effect of the restrictions on a potential acquisition of us that are contained in our articles of incorporation and bylaws, and federal and Washington law, may be to discourage potential takeover attempts and perpetuate incumbent management, even though certain shareholders may deem a potential acquisition to be in their best interests, or deem existing management not to be acting in their best interests.

Federal Law. The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, requires any "bank holding company," as defined in the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve Board before acquiring 5% or more of any class of our voting securities. Any entity that is a holder of 25% or more of any class of our voting securities, or a holder of a lesser percentage if such holder otherwise exercises a "controlling influence" over us, is subject to regulation as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, any person (or persons acting in concert), other than a bank holding company, is required to notify the Federal Reserve Board before acquiring 10% or more of any class of our voting securities.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may offer depositary shares, which will be evidenced by depositary receipts representing fractional interests in shares of preferred stock of any series. In connection with the issuance of any depositary shares, we will enter into a deposit agreement with a depositary, which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following briefly summarizes the material provisions of the deposit agreement and of the depositary shares and depositary receipts, other than pricing and related terms disclosed for a particular issuance in an accompanying prospectus supplement. This description is not complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all provisions of the applicable deposit agreement, depositary shares and depositary receipts. You should read the particular terms of any depositary shares and any depositary receipts that are offered and any deposit agreement relating to a particular series of preferred stock described in more detail in a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also state whether any of the generalized provisions summarized below do not apply to the depositary shares or depositary receipts being offered.

### General

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. In such event, we will issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and the depositary we select. Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the underlying preferred stock, including any dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights described in the particular prospectus supplement, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such depositary share.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the applicable prospectus supplement.

### Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred stock depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the deposited preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares relating to the preferred stock in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by the holders.

In the case of a distribution other than in cash, the preferred stock depositary will distribute any property received by it other than cash to the record holders of depositary shares entitled to receive it. If the preferred stock

depository determines that it is not feasible to make such a distribution, it may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders of the depository shares.

The amounts distributed in any such distribution, whether in cash or otherwise, will be reduced by any amount required to be withheld by us or the preferred stock depository on account of taxes.

#### Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

When a holder surrenders depository receipts at the office of the preferred stock depository maintained for that purpose, and pays any necessary taxes, charges or other fees, the holder will be entitled to receive the number of whole shares of the related series of preferred stock, and any money or other property, if any, represented by the holder's depository shares. Once a holder exchanges depository shares for whole shares of preferred stock, that holder generally cannot "re-deposit" these shares of preferred stock with the preferred stock depository, or exchange them for depository shares. If a holder delivers depository receipts that represent a number of depository shares that exceeds the number of whole shares of related preferred stock the holder seeks to withdraw, the depository will issue a new depository receipt to the holder that evidences the excess number of depository shares.

#### Redemption, Conversion and Exchange of Preferred Stock

If a series of preferred stock represented by depository shares is to be redeemed, the depository shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the preferred stock depository resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of preferred stock. The depository shares will be redeemed by the preferred stock depository at a price per depository share equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable in respect of the shares of preferred stock redeemed.

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the preferred stock depository, the preferred stock depository will redeem as of the same date the number of depository shares representing shares of preferred stock redeemed. If fewer than all the depository shares are to be redeemed, the depository shares to be redeemed will be selected by the preferred stock depository by lot or ratably or by any other equitable method, in each case as we may determine.

If a series of preferred stock represented by depository shares is to be converted or exchanged, the holder of depository receipts representing the shares of preferred stock being converted or exchanged will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depository shares evidenced by the depository receipts.

After the redemption, conversion or exchange date, the depository shares called for redemption, conversion or exchange will no longer be outstanding. When the depository shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will end, except the right to receive money, securities or other property payable upon redemption, conversion or exchange.

#### Voting Deposited Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of any series of deposited preferred stock are entitled to vote, the preferred stock depository will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depository receipts evidencing the depository shares relating to that series of preferred stock. Each record holder of the depository receipts on the record date will be entitled to instruct the preferred stock depository to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by the holder's depository shares. The preferred stock depository will try, if practical, to vote the amount of such series of preferred stock represented by such depository shares in accordance with such instructions.

We will agree to take all reasonable actions that the preferred stock depository determines are necessary to enable the preferred stock depository to vote as instructed. The preferred stock depository will abstain from voting shares of any series of preferred stock held by it for which it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depository shares representing those preferred shares.



#### Amendment and Termination of Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the preferred stock depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters any existing right of the holders of depositary receipts will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of depositary receipts representing at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. Every holder of an outstanding depositary receipt at the time any such amendment becomes effective will be deemed, by continuing to hold the depositary receipt, to consent and agree to the amendment and to be bound by the deposit agreement, as amended.

We may direct the preferred stock depositary to terminate the deposit agreement at any time by mailing notice of termination to the record holders of the depositary receipts then outstanding at least 30 days prior to the date fixed for termination. Upon termination, the preferred stock depositary will deliver to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of those receipts, such number of whole shares of the series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares together with cash in lieu of any fractional shares, to the extent we have deposited cash for payment in lieu of fractional shares with the preferred stock depositary. In addition, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

- all of the shares of the preferred stock deposited with the preferred stock depositary have been withdrawn, redeemed, converted or exchanged; or
- there has been a final distribution in respect of the deposited preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

#### Charges of Preferred Stock Depositary; Taxes and Other Governmental Charges

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We also will pay charges of the preferred stock depositary in connection with the initial deposit of preferred stock and any redemption of preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. Prospective purchasers of depositary shares should be aware that special tax, accounting and other issues may be applicable to instruments such as depositary shares.

#### Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The preferred stock depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its intent to do so, and we may at any time remove the preferred stock depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor preferred stock depositary meeting the requirements specified in the deposit agreement and its acceptance of such appointment.

#### Miscellaneous

The preferred stock depositary will forward all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the preferred stock depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the deposited preferred stock.

Neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be liable if we are or the preferred stock depositary is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstances beyond our or its control in performing our or its obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and the obligations of the preferred stock depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of the duties under the deposit agreement and we and the preferred stock depositary will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares, depositary receipts or shares of preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred stock depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided

by holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts, including purchase contracts issued as part of a unit with one or more other securities, for the purchase or sale of our debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock.

The price of our debt securities, or the price per share of our common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, as applicable, may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula contained in the purchase contracts. We may issue purchase contracts in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we wish.

The applicable prospectus supplement may contain, where applicable, the following information about the purchase contracts issued under it:

- whether the purchase contracts obligate the holder to purchase or sell, or both purchase and sell, our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, as applicable, and the nature and amount of each of those securities, or method of determining those amounts;
- whether the purchase contracts are to be prepaid or not;
- whether the purchase contracts are to be settled by delivery, or by reference or linkage to the value, performance or level of our debt securities, common stock or preferred stock;
- any acceleration, cancellation, termination or other provisions relating to the settlement of the purchase contracts; and
- whether the purchase contracts will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any purchase contracts. The preceding description and any description of purchase contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the purchase contract agreement and, if applicable, collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements relating to such purchase contracts.

#### DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, or shares of our common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any of our debt securities, shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from the debt securities, shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares. The warrants may be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a warrant agent, as is named in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of warrants. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following outlines some of the anticipated general terms and conditions of the warrants. Further terms of the warrants and any applicable warrant agreement will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the warrants in a prospectus supplement is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual terms and provisions of the warrants and any applicable warrant agreement.

#### General

If warrants are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

- the offering price;
- the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of any debt warrants and the price at which such debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;
- the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of any common stock warrants and the price at which such shares of common stock may be purchased upon such exercise;
- the designation, number of shares and terms of the preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon exercise of any preferred stock warrants and the price at which such shares of preferred stock may be purchased upon such exercise;
- if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares will be separately transferable;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which such right will expire;
- whether the warrants will be issued in registered or bearer form; and
- any other terms of the warrants.

If in registered form, warrants may be presented for registration of transfer, and may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise.

#### Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase such principal amount of debt securities or such number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or can be calculated according to information contained in, the prospectus supplement relating to the warrant. Warrants may be exercised at such times as are set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants. After the close of business on the expiration date of the warrants, or such later date to which such expiration date may be extended by us, unexercised warrants will become void.

Subject to any restrictions and additional requirements that may be set forth in the prospectus supplement, warrants may be exercised by delivery to the warrant agent of the certificate evidencing such warrants properly completed and duly executed and of payment as provided in the prospectus supplement of the amount required to purchase the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon such exercise. The exercise price will be the price applicable on the date of payment in full, as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants. Upon receipt of such payment and the certificate representing the warrants to be exercised, properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by such certificate are exercised, a new certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of warrants.

#### Additional Provisions

The exercise price payable and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon the exercise of each stock warrant will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including:

- the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common stock or preferred stock, respectively;
- a combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock or preferred stock, respectively; or

·any other event described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In lieu of adjusting the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon exercise of each stock warrant, we may elect to adjust the number of stock warrants. We also may, at our option, reduce the exercise price at any time. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of stock warrants, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in case of any consolidation, merger, or sale or conveyance of the property of First Financial Northwest, Inc. as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, the holder of each outstanding stock warrant will have the right upon the exercise thereof to the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property, including cash, receivable by a holder of the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares into which such stock warrants were exercisable immediately prior thereto.

#### DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

This section describes the general terms of the rights to purchase common stock or other securities that we may offer using this prospectus. Further terms of the rights will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the rights in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms of any agreement relating to the rights.

Rights may be issued independently or together with any other security and may or may not be transferable. As part of the rights offering, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement under which the underwriters or any other person would purchase any securities that are not purchased in such rights offering. The prospectus supplement relating to any rights we offer will describe the specific terms of the offering and the rights, including:

- the record date for determining security holders entitled to the rights distribution;
- the number of rights issued and the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the rights;
- the exercise price of the rights;
- the steps required to exercise the rights;
- the date on which the rights will become effective and the date on which the rights will expire;
- whether the rights will include oversubscription rights, so that the holder may purchase more securities if other holders do not purchase their full allotments;
- whether we intend to sell the shares of common stock or other securities that are not purchased in the offering to an underwriter or other purchaser under a contractual standby commitment or other arrangement;
- our ability to withdraw or terminate the rights offering prior to the expiration date of the rights; and
- any material U.S. federal income tax consequences.

Prior to the exercise of their rights, holders of rights will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon the exercise of the rights, and will not be entitled to, among other things, vote or receive dividend payments or other distributions on the securities purchasable upon exercise.

#### DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

Units will consist of any combination of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus. The applicable prospectus supplement or supplements will also describe:

the designation and the terms of the units and of any combination of the securities constituting the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or traded separately;

- any additional terms of the agreement governing the units;
- any additional provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities constituting the units; and
- whether the units will be issued in fully registered form.

The terms and conditions described under "Description of Debt Securities," "Description of Warrants," and "Description of Common Stock and Preferred Stock" will apply to each unit that includes such securities and to the securities included in each unit, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will issue the units under one or more unit agreements to be entered into between us and a unit agent. We may issue units in one or more series, which will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### DESCRIPTION OF GLOBAL SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue the securities in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depository or its nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depository for the registered global security, the nominees of the depository or any successors of the depository or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depository or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form.

These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit

agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them. Payments of principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, debt securities, and any payments to holders with respect to other securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of First Financial Northwest, Inc., the trustees, the warrant agents, the unit agents or any preferred stock depository, as applicable, will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or the payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depository for any of these securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depository registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depository. In addition, under the terms of the indenture for any debt securities, we may at any time and in our sole discretion decide not to have any of such securities represented by one or more registered global securities. We understand, however, that, under current industry practices, the depository would notify its participants of our request, but will only withdraw beneficial interests from a global security at the request of each participant. We would issue definitive certificates in exchange for any such interests withdrawn. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depository gives to the applicable trustee, warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depository's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depository.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell our securities in any of three ways (or in any combination):

- through underwriters or dealers;
- through agents; or
- directly to purchasers or to a single purchaser.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement that contains the specific terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering of such securities, including:

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

the public offering price of the securities and the proceeds to us and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities if they purchase any of the securities.

We may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of our securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase our securities at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions or discounts we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

Agents and underwriters may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents or underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement so indicates in connection with those derivatives, then the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. In that event, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of securities. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment).

#### LEGAL MATTERS

In connection with particular offerings of our securities in the future, and unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Breyer & Associates PC, McLean, Virginia. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel that we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of First Financial Northwest, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting of First Financial Northwest, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017, incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of Moss Adams LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## PART II

## INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth the expenses, other than underwriting compensation, expected to be incurred in connection with the registration and sale of the securities covered by this Registration Statement.

SEC registration fee	\$5,795
Blue Sky fees and expenses	*
Rating agency fees	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Trustee fees and expenses	*
Printing and engraving fees and expenses	*
Miscellaneous	*
Total	\$*

\* Not presently known.

## Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The registrant, First Financial Northwest, Inc. ("First Financial Northwest" or the "Registrant"), is organized under the Washington Business Corporation Act (the "WBCA") which, in general, empowers Washington corporations to indemnify a person made a party to a threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative and whether formal or informal, other than an action by or in the right of the corporation, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another enterprise, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, amounts paid in settlements, penalties and fines actually and reasonably incurred in connection therewith if the person acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation or its shareholders and, with respect to a criminal action or proceeding, if the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Washington corporations may not indemnify a person in connection with such proceedings if the person was adjudged to have received an improper personal benefit.

The WBCA also empowers Washington corporations to provide similar indemnity to such a person in connection with actions or suits by or in the right of the corporation if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the interests of the corporation or its shareholders, unless the person was adjudged liable to the corporation.

If authorized by the articles of incorporation of a Washington corporation or by its shareholders, a Washington corporation may indemnify and advance expenses to the persons described above without regard to the limitations described above, provided that such indemnity will not cover acts or omissions of the person finally adjudged to be intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, conduct finally adjudged to involve a violation of WBCA Section 310 (related to certain unlawful distributions), and any transaction with respect to which it was finally adjudged that the person received a benefit to which such person was not legally entitled.

The WBCA also permits a Washington corporation to purchase and maintain on behalf of such persons insurance against liabilities incurred in such capacities. First Financial Northwest has obtained a policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance.

The WBCA further permits Washington corporations to limit the personal liability of directors for a breach of their fiduciary duty. However, the WBCA does not eliminate or limit the liability of a director for any of the following: (i) acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct by a director or a knowing violation of law by a



director; (ii) conduct violating WBCA Section 310; or (iii) any transaction from which the director will personally receive a benefit in money, property or services to which the director is not legally entitled.

First Financial's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

First Financial Northwest's articles of incorporation limit the personal liability of directors for a breach of their fiduciary duty except for under the circumstances required to be excepted under Washington law described above. First Financial Northwest's articles of incorporation generally require First Financial Northwest to indemnify directors, officers, employees and agents to the fullest extent legally possible under the WBCA. In addition, the articles of incorporation require First Financial Northwest to similarly indemnify any such person who is or was serving at the request of First Financial Northwest as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another entity. First Financial Northwest's articles of incorporation further provide for the advancement of expenses.

Under a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy, directors and officers of the registrant are insured against certain liabilities.

Item 16. Exhibits

<u>EXHIBIT NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for any offering of securities <sup>(1)</sup>
<u>4.1</u>	<u>Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (333-14359) filed on June 6, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference)</u>
<u>4.2</u>	<u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 15, 2017 and incorporated herein by reference)</u>
<u>4.3</u>	<u>Form of Senior Indenture</u>
<u>4.4</u>	<u>Form of Subordinated Indenture</u>
4.5	Form of Senior Debt Securities <sup>(1)</sup>
4.6	Form of Subordinated Debt Securities <sup>(1)</sup>
4.7	Form of Articles Supplementary for Preferred Stock <sup>(1)</sup>
4.8	Form of Deposit Agreement for Depositary Shares <sup>(1)</sup>
4.9	Form of Purchase Contract <sup>(1)</sup>
4.10	Form of Warrant Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>
4.11	Form of Unit Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>
<u>5.1</u>	<u>Opinion of Breyer &amp; Associates PC as to the Legality of the Securities being Registered</u>
<u>12.1</u>	<u>Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>
<u>23.1</u>	<u>Consent of Breyer &amp; Associates PC (see Exhibit 5.1)</u>
<u>23.2</u>	<u>Consent of Moss Adams LLP</u>
<u>24.1</u>	<u>Power of Attorney (set forth on Signature Page)</u>
25.1	Form T 1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Senior Indenture <sup>(2)</sup>
25.2	Form T 1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture <sup>(2)</sup>

(1) To be filed as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) To be incorporated by reference to a filing made in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

(b) Financial Statement Schedules:

Not Applicable.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar

value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

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

provided, however, that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement;

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof;

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

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining any liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

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(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the Registrant or used or referred to by the Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof;

(c) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to supplement the prospectus, after the expiration of any subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, the transactions by any underwriters during such subscription period, the amount of unsubscribed securities to be purchased by the underwriters, and the terms of any subsequent reoffering thereof. If any public offering by the underwriters is to be made on terms differing from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus, a post-effective amendment will be filed to set forth the terms of such offering

(d) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that:

(i) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(ii) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(e) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

(f) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.



SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Renton, State of Washington, on the 11th day of May, 2018.

FIRST FINANCIAL NORTHWEST, INC.

By: /s/Joseph W. Kiley III  
Joseph W. Kiley III  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Duly Authorized Representative)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below appoints Joseph W. Kiley III and Richard P. Jacobson, as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any Registration Statement (including any amendment thereto) for this offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or would do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in fact and agent may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: <u>/s/Joseph W. Kiley III</u>	By: <u>/s/Roger H. Molvar</u>
Joseph W. Kiley III	Roger H. Molvar
President and	Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer	Director
(Principal Executive Officer)	

Date: May 11, 2018

Date: May 11, 2018

By: <u>/s/Richard P. Jacobson</u>	By: <u>/s/Christine A. Huestis</u>
Richard P. Jacobson	Christine A. Huestis
Executive Vice President,	Vice President and Controller
Chief Financial Officer and Director	(Principal Accounting Officer)
(Principal Financial Officer)	

Date: May 11, 2018

Date: May 11, 2018

By: <u>/s/Gary F. Faull</u>	By: <u>/s/Joann E. Lee</u>
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Gary F. Faull  
Director

Joann E. Lee  
Director

Date: May 11, 2018

Date: May 11, 2018

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By: /s/Kevin D. Padrick  
Kevin D. Padrick  
Director

By: /s/Daniel L. Stevens  
Daniel L. Stevens  
Director

Date: May 11, 2018

Date: May 11, 2018

By: /s/Richard M. Riccobono  
Richard M. Riccobono  
Director

Date: May 11, 2018



EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>EXHIBIT NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for any offering of securities <sup>(1)</sup>
<u>4.1</u>	<u>Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (333-14359) filed on June 6, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference)</u>
<u>4.2</u>	<u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 15, 2017 and incorporated herein by reference)</u>
<u>4.3</u>	<u>Form of Senior Indenture</u>
<u>4.4</u>	<u>Form of Subordinated Indenture</u>
4.5	Form of Senior Debt Securities <sup>(1)</sup>
4.6	Form of Subordinated Debt Securities <sup>(1)</sup>
4.7	Form of Articles Supplementary for Preferred Stock <sup>(1)</sup>
4.8	Form of Deposit Agreement for Depositary Shares <sup>(1)</sup>
4.9	Form of Purchase Contract <sup>(1)</sup>
4.10	Form of Warrant Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>
4.11	Form of Unit Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>
<u>5.1</u>	<u>Opinion of Breyer &amp; Associates PC as to the Legality of the Securities being Registered</u>
<u>12.1</u>	<u>Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividend Requirement</u>
<u>23.1</u>	<u>Consent of Breyer &amp; Associates PC (see Exhibit 5.1)</u>
<u>23.2</u>	<u>Consent of Moss Adams LLP</u>
<u>24.1</u>	<u>Power of Attorney (set forth on Signature Page)</u>
25.1	Form T 1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Senior Indenture <sup>(2)</sup>
25.2	Form T 1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture <sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) To be filed as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) To be incorporated by reference to a filing made in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.