

PARK NATIONAL CORP /OH/

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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Park National Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

PARK NATIONAL CORPORATION

50 North Third Street
Post Office Box 3500
Newark, Ohio 43058-3500
(740) 349-8451

www.parknationalcorp.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held Monday, April 22, 2019

Dear Fellow Shareholders:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Park National Corporation ("Park") will be held at the offices of The Park National Bank, 50 North Third Street, Newark, Ohio 43055, on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect five directors, each to serve for a term of three years to expire at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in 2022.
2. To consider and vote upon a non-binding advisory resolution to approve the compensation of Park's named executive officers.
3. To consider and vote upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Crowe LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Park for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019.
4. To transact any other business which may properly come before the 2019 Annual Meeting.

If you were a holder of record of common shares of Park at the close of business on February 27, 2019, you will be entitled to vote in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting.

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Your vote is important, regardless of the number of common shares you own. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, it is important that your common shares be represented. Please complete, sign, date and return your proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided as promptly as possible. Alternatively, refer to the instructions on the proxy card, or in the e-mail sent to you if you registered for electronic delivery of the proxy materials for the Annual Meeting, for details about transmitting your voting instructions electronically via the Internet or by telephone. Returning the proxy card or transmitting your voting instructions electronically does not deprive you of your right to attend the Annual Meeting and to vote your common shares in person in the manner described in the accompanying proxy statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

March 11, 2019 BRADY T. BURT
Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer

To obtain directions to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, please call Lacie Priest at (740) 349-0428.

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PROXY STATEMENT

Dated March 11, 2019

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held April 22, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are furnishing this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card to you as a shareholder of Park National Corporation (“Park”) in connection with the solicitation of proxies by Park’s Board of Directors for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting” or the “2019 Annual Meeting”) to be held on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time. The Annual Meeting will be held at the offices of The Park National Bank, 50 North Third Street, Newark, Ohio 43055. This proxy statement summarizes information that you will need in order to vote.

Availability of Proxy Materials

On or about March 11, 2019, this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card were first mailed or delivered electronically to the shareholders entitled to vote their common shares at the Annual Meeting. Park’s 2018 Annual Report was also mailed or delivered to shareholders with this proxy statement. Audited consolidated financial statements for Park and our subsidiaries as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 (the “2018 fiscal year”), are included in Park’s 2018 Annual Report.

Additional copies of Park’s 2018 Annual Report and copies of Park’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the 2018 fiscal year may be obtained at www.proxyvote.com or www.parknationalcorp.com. Or you can obtain paper copies, without charge, by sending a written request to: Brady T. Burt, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer, Park National Corporation, 51 North Third Street, Post Office Box 3500, Newark, Ohio 43058-3500.

Delivery of Proxy Materials to Multiple Shareholders Sharing the Same Address

Periodically, Park provides each registered holder of common shares at a shared address, not previously notified, with a separate notice of Park’s intention to household proxy materials. The record holder notifies beneficial shareholders (those who hold common shares through a broker, a financial institution or another nominee) of the householding process. Only one copy of this proxy statement, the notice of the Annual Meeting and Park’s 2018 Annual Report is being delivered to previously notified multiple registered holders of common shares who share an address, unless Park has received contrary instructions from one or more of the registered holders of common shares. A separate proxy card is being included for each account at the shared address.

Registered holders of common shares who share an address and would like to receive a separate copy of Park's 2018 Annual Report, a separate notice of the Annual Meeting and/or a separate proxy statement for the Annual Meeting, or who have questions regarding the householding process, may contact Park's transfer agent and registrar, The Park National Bank, c/o First-Knox National Bank Division, by calling (800) 837-5266, ext. 5208, or forwarding a written request addressed to the First-Knox National Bank Division, Attention: Debbie Daniels, P.O. Box 1270, One South Main Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-1270. Promptly upon request, a separate copy of Park's 2018 Annual Report, a separate notice of the Annual Meeting and/or a separate copy of this proxy statement for the Annual Meeting will be sent. By contacting the First-Knox National Bank Division, registered holders of common shares sharing an address can also: (i) notify Park that the registered shareholders wish to receive separate annual reports to shareholders, proxy statements and/or Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, as applicable, in the future; or (ii) request delivery of a single copy of annual reports to shareholders, proxy statements and/or Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, as applicable, in the future if they are receiving multiple copies.

Beneficial holders of common shares should contact their brokers, financial institutions or other nominees for specific information about the householding process as this process applies to their accounts.

VOTING INFORMATION

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only holders of common shares of record at the close of business on February 27, 2019 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on February 27, 2019, there were 15,611,521 common shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Other than the common shares, there are no voting securities of Park outstanding.

Each holder of common shares is entitled to one vote for each common share held on February 27, 2019. A shareholder wishing to exercise cumulative voting with respect to the election of directors must notify Brady T. Burt, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of Park, in writing before 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, on April 20, 2019. If cumulative voting is requested and if an announcement of such request is made upon the convening of the Annual Meeting by the chairman or the secretary of the meeting or by or on behalf of the shareholder requesting cumulative voting, you will have votes equal to the number of directors to be elected, multiplied by the number of common shares you own, and will be entitled to distribute your votes among the candidates for election as directors as you see fit.

How do I vote?

Your common shares may be voted by one of the following methods:

- by paper proxy card;
- by submitting voting instructions via the web site identified on your proxy card;
- by submitting voting instructions via the web site identified in the e-mail sent to you if you registered for electronic delivery of proxy materials for the Annual Meeting;

by submitting voting instructions by telephone via the telephone number identified on your proxy card; or in person at the Annual Meeting.

Submitting Voting Instructions via the Internet or by Telephone

If you are a shareholder of record (i.e., if your common shares are registered with Park in your own name), you may submit voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone, by following the instructions stated on your proxy card. If you have registered for electronic delivery of proxy materials for the Annual Meeting, you may submit voting instructions via the Internet by following the instructions stated in the e-mail delivering the proxy materials to you. If your common shares are registered in the name of a broker, a financial institution or another nominee (i.e., you hold your common shares in “street name”), your nominee may be participating in a program that allows you to submit voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone. If so, the voting instructions your nominee sent you will provide instructions for submitting your voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone. The last-dated proxy or voting instructions you submit (by any means) will supersede all previously-submitted proxies and/or voting instructions. Also, if you are a shareholder of record and submit voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone, you may later decide to attend the Annual Meeting and may revoke your previously-submitted voting instructions and vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

The deadline for submitting voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone as a shareholder of record is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, on April 21, 2019. For shareholders whose common shares are registered in the name of a broker, a financial institution or another nominee, please consult the instructions provided by your nominee for information about the deadline for submitting voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone.

Voting in Person

If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the Annual Meeting.

If you hold your common shares in “street name” through a broker, a financial institution or another nominee, then that nominee is considered the shareholder of record for voting purposes and will give you instructions for voting your common shares. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your nominee how to vote the common shares held in your account. Your nominee may only vote the common shares of Park that your nominee holds for you in accordance with your instructions. If you have instructed a broker, a financial institution or another nominee to vote your common shares, the options described below for revoking your proxy do not apply and instead you must follow the instructions provided by your nominee to change your vote.

If you hold your common shares in “street name” and wish to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, you must bring an account statement or letter from your broker, financial institution or other nominee authorizing you to vote on behalf of such nominee. The account statement or letter must show that you were the direct or indirect beneficial owner of the common shares on February 27, 2019, the record date for voting at the Annual Meeting.

How will my common shares be voted?

Those common shares represented by a properly executed proxy card that is received prior to the

Annual Meeting or by properly authenticated Internet or telephone voting instructions that are submitted prior to the deadline for doing so, and in each case not subsequently revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions by your proxy. If you submit a valid proxy card prior to the Annual Meeting, or timely submit your voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone, but do not complete the voting instructions, your proxy will vote your common shares as recommended by the Park Board of Directors, except in the case of broker non-votes, where applicable, as follows: “FOR” the election as Park directors of the nominees identified below under the heading “ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Proposal 1)”;

• “FOR” the non-binding advisory resolution to approve the compensation of Park’s named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement; and

• “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Crowe LLP as Park’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019.

No appraisal or dissenters’ rights exist for any action proposed to be taken at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly presented for voting at the Annual Meeting, the individuals appointed as proxies will vote on those matters, to the extent permitted by applicable law, in accordance with their best judgment.

What if my common shares are held through the Park National Corporation Employees’ Stock Ownership Plan?

If you participate in the Park National Corporation Employees’ Stock Ownership Plan (the “Park KSOP”) and common shares have been allocated to your account in the Park KSOP, you will be entitled to instruct the trustee of the Park KSOP, confidentially, how to vote those common shares. If you were automatically enrolled by Park, or elected to enroll, in the electronic delivery service available to certain participants in the Park KSOP, instead of receiving paper copies of our 2018 Annual Report, this proxy statement and the proxy card applicable to the Annual Meeting in the mail, these documents will be made available via your Park e-mail account at the same time as paper copies are sent to the other Park shareholders. If you are enrolled in this electronic delivery service and wish to receive paper copies of our 2018 Annual Report, this proxy statement and the proxy card applicable to the Annual Meeting, please contact Park’s transfer agent and registrar, The Park National Bank, c/o First-Knox National Bank Division, by calling (800) 837-5266, ext. 5208, or forwarding a written request addressed to the First-Knox National Bank Division, Attention: Debbie Daniels, P.O. Box 1270, One South Main Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-1270.

If you are a participant in the Park KSOP and give no voting instructions to the trustee of the Park KSOP with respect to the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting, the trustee of the Park KSOP will vote the common shares allocated to your Park KSOP account pro rata in accordance with the instructions received from other participants in the Park KSOP who have voted.

Can the proxy materials be accessed electronically?

On or about March 11, 2019, we sent the proxy materials for the Annual Meeting by U.S. mail to shareholders who had not registered for electronic delivery of the proxy materials and by e-mail to the shareholders who had registered for electronic delivery of the proxy materials. The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, this proxy statement and our 2018 Annual Report are also available on the Internet as described in the section captioned “NOTICE REGARDING INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS.”

How do I change or revoke my proxy?

Shareholders of record who submit proxies retain the right to revoke them at any time before they are exercised. Unless revoked, the common shares represented by such proxies will be voted at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually exercised at the Annual Meeting by giving notice of revocation to Park in writing, by accessing the designated Internet web site prior to the deadline for transmitting voting instructions electronically, by using the designated toll-free telephone number prior to the deadline for transmitting voting instructions electronically, or by attending the Annual Meeting and giving notice of revocation in person. The last-dated proxy or voting instructions you submit (by any means) will supersede all previously-submitted proxies and/or voting instructions.

If you hold your common shares in “street name” and instructed your broker, financial institution or other nominee to vote your common shares and you would like to revoke or change your vote, then you must follow the instructions provided by your nominee.

If I vote in advance, can I still attend the Annual Meeting?

Yes. You are encouraged to vote promptly, by returning your signed proxy card by mail or by submitting your voting instructions via the Internet or by telephone, so that your common shares will be represented at the Annual Meeting. However, appointing a proxy or submitting voting instructions does not affect your right to attend the Annual Meeting and vote your common shares in person if you are a shareholder of record.

What constitutes a quorum and what is the vote required with respect to the proposals to be considered at the Annual Meeting?

Under Park’s Regulations, a quorum is a majority of the voting shares of Park then outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Other than the common shares, there are no voting shares of Park out