

VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP

Form 424B2

June 16, 2015

Table of Contents

**The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities nor do they seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)  
Registration No. 333-202916

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION. DATED JUNE 16, 2015.**

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**(To Prospectus dated March 20, 2015)**

**\$90,000,000**

**VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP**

**% Subordinated Debentures due , 2025**

We are offering \$90,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our % Subordinated Debentures due 2025, which we refer to as the Notes. We will pay interest on the Notes on each and , commencing on , 2015. The Notes will mature , 2025. The Notes will not be redeemable prior to maturity unless (i) a change or prospective change in law occurs which could prevent us from deducting interest payable on the Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) a subsequent event occurs which precludes the Notes from being recognized as Tier 2 capital, or (iii) we are required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, in each case as described under Description of the Notes Redemption in this prospectus supplement. There is no sinking fund for the Notes.

The Notes will be unsecured and subordinated in right of payment to the payment of our existing and future senior indebtedness, including all of our general creditors, and they will be structurally subordinated to all of our subsidiaries existing and future indebtedness and other obligations, including the bank deposits of our subsidiary bank. In the event of our bankruptcy or insolvency, the holders of the Notes will not be entitled to receive any payment with respect to the Notes until all holders of senior indebtedness are paid in full. The Notes are obligations of Valley National Bancorp only and are not obligations of, and are not guaranteed by, any of our subsidiaries.

We do not intend to list the Notes on any securities exchange or to have the Notes quoted on a quotation system.

	Price to Public <sup>(1)</sup>	Underwriting Discounts	Proceeds to Us (Before Expenses)
Per Note	%	%	%

Total \$ \$ \$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from the original issue date.

**Investing in the Notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**The Notes will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any of our bank or non-bank subsidiaries and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. The Notes are not guaranteed under the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program.**

The underwriters expect to deliver the Notes to purchasers in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, on or about June , 2015.

Concurrently with this offering, and pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, we are offering 4,400,000 shares of our % fixed-to-floating rate non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, series A, no par value per share and liquidation preference of \$25 per share (the Series A Preferred Stock ) at an offering price in the aggregate of \$110,000,000.

The closing of this offering is not conditioned upon the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock, and the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock is not conditioned upon the closing of this offering.

*Joint Book-Running Managers*

SANDLER O NEILL + PARTNERS, L.P.

KEEFE, BRUYETTE & WOODS  
A STIFEL COMPANY

DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES

**Prospectus Supplement dated June , 2015**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Prospectus Supplement**

<b><u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u></b>	S-ii
<b><u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u></b>	S-iii
<b><u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u></b>	S-iv
<b><u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u></b>	S-1
<b><u>RISK FACTORS</u></b>	S-8
<b><u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u></b>	S-11
<b><u>CAPITALIZATION</u></b>	S-12
<b><u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u></b>	S-14
<b><u>DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES</u></b>	S-15
<b><u>CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u></b>	S-24
<b><u>CERTAIN BENEFIT PLAN AND ERISA CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>	S-28
<b><u>UNDERWRITING</u></b>	S-30
<b><u>VALIDITY OF NOTES</u></b>	S-32
<b><u>EXPERTS</u></b>	S-32

**Prospectus**

<b><u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u></b>	1
<b><u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u></b>	1
<b><u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u></b>	3
<b><u>RISK FACTORS</u></b>	5
<b><u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u></b>	5
<b><u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u></b>	7
<b><u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u></b>	7
<b><u>LEGAL MATTERS</u></b>	7
<b><u>EXPERTS</u></b>	7

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If you receive any other information, you should not rely on it.

We are not making an offer of the Notes covered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted.

You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus prepared by us is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates thereof.

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

References in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to Valley, we, us and our are to Valley National Bancorp.

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. The information contained in this prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or of any sale of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement.

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and certain other matters and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which describes more general information about us, some of which may not apply to the offering. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined.

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, the Notes only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus and the offering of the Notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. This prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any Notes offered by this prospectus by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

When acquiring any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference. Neither we nor any underwriters or agents have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of these documents.

To the extent the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference filed prior to the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Our SEC filings are available over the Internet at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and on our website at [www.valleynationalbank.com](http://www.valleynationalbank.com). Except as specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, information on those websites is not part of this prospectus supplement. You may also read and copy any document we file by visiting the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. The SEC's address in Washington, D.C. is 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room. You may also inspect our SEC reports and other information at the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus supplement;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this prospectus supplement and earlier information incorporated by reference.

In the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus supplement and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K (as amended on Form 10-K/A) for the year ended December 31, 2014 (including portions of our Proxy Statement for our 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders filed on March 12, 2015 with the SEC to the extent specifically incorporated by reference in such Form 10-K);

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on the following dates: April 21, 2015 (as amended on April 22, 2015), May 1, 2015, May 27, 2015 and June 1, 2015 (unless stated otherwise in the applicable report, information furnished under Item 2.02 or 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated herein by reference);

The description of our common stock which is contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference each of the following documents that we will file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished, and not filed in accordance with the SEC rules) until this offering is completed:

reports filed under Sections 13(a) and (c) of the Exchange Act;

## Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

any document filed under Section 14 of the Exchange Act; and

any reports filed under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement is accurate as of the date of this prospectus supplement only. Our business, financial condition and results of operation may have changed since that date.

S-iii

**Table of Contents**

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents), call or write our Shareholder Relations Department, as follows:

Valley National Bancorp

1455 Valley Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Attention: Dianne M. Grenz

Telephone: (973) 305-8800

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This document contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements regarding our financial condition, results of operations and business. These statements are not historical facts and include expressions about management's confidence and strategies and management's expectations about new and existing programs and products, acquisitions, relationships, opportunities, taxation, technology, market conditions and economic expectations.

You may identify these statements by looking for:

forward-looking terminology, like should, expect, believe, view, opportunity, allow, continues, reflects, typically, us anticipate;

expressions of confidence like strong or on-going; or

similar statements or variations of those terms.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results the forward-looking statements contemplate because of, among others, the following possibilities:

failure to obtain shareholder or regulatory approval for our merger with CNLBancshares, Inc. ( CNL ) or to satisfy other conditions to the merger (the Merger ) on the proposed terms and within the proposed timeframe including, without limitation, delays in closing the Merger;

adverse reaction to the Merger by CNL's customers or employees;

the diversion of management's time on issues relating to the Merger;

the inability to realize expected cost savings and synergies from the Merger in the amounts or in the timeframe anticipated;

changes in the estimate of non-recurring charges;

costs or difficulties relating to integration matters might be greater than expected;

material adverse changes in our operations or earnings;

a severe decline in the general economic conditions of New Jersey, the New York Metropolitan area or Florida;

unexpected changes in market interest rates for interest earning assets and/or interest bearing liabilities;

less than expected cost savings from long-term borrowings that mature from 2015 to 2018;

government intervention in the U.S. financial system and the effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including the interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve;

claims and litigation pertaining to fiduciary responsibility, contractual issues, environmental laws and other matters;

S-iv



**Table of Contents**

higher than expected loan losses within one or more segments of our loan portfolio;

declines in value in our investment portfolio, including additional other-than-temporary impairment charges on our investment securities;

unexpected significant declines in the loan portfolio due to the lack of economic expansion, increased competition, large prepayments or other factors;

unanticipated credit deterioration in our loan portfolio;

unanticipated loan delinquencies, loss of collateral, decreased service revenues, and other potential negative effects on our business caused by severe weather or other external events;

higher than expected tax rates, including increases resulting from changes in tax laws, regulations and case law;

an unexpected decline in real estate values within our market areas;

higher than expected FDIC insurance assessments;

the failure of other financial institutions with whom we have trading, clearing, counterparty and other financial relationships;

lack of liquidity to fund our various cash obligations;

unanticipated reduction in our deposit base;

potential acquisitions that may disrupt our business;

legislative and regulatory actions (including the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and related regulations) subject us to additional regulatory oversight which may result in higher compliance costs and/or require us to change our business model;

changes in accounting policies or accounting standards;

our inability to promptly adapt to technological changes;

our internal controls and procedures may not be adequate to prevent losses;

## Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

the inability to realize expected revenue synergies from the 1st United Bancorp, Inc. ( 1st United ) merger in the amounts or in the timeframe anticipated;

inability to retain customers and employees, including those of 1st United;

lower than expected cash flows from purchased credit-impaired loans;

cyber attacks, computer viruses or other malware that may breach the security of our websites or other systems to obtain unauthorized access to confidential information, destroy data, disable or degrade service, or sabotage our systems;

future goodwill impairment due to changes in our business, changes in market conditions, or other factors; and

other unexpected material adverse changes in our operations or earnings.

We assume no obligation for updating our forward-looking statements at any time. When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind these risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus and the prospectus supplements. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement, which speaks only as of the date made. You should refer to our periodic and current reports filed with the SEC for specific risks that could cause actual results to be significantly different from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) above and [Risk Factors](#) below.

S-v

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY**

*The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Because this is a summary, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the section entitled "Risk Factors" and the documents incorporated by reference herein, including our financial statements and the notes to those financial statements contained in such documents, before making an investment decision.*

**Valley National Bancorp**

Valley National Bancorp, headquartered in Wayne, New Jersey, is a New Jersey corporation organized in 1983 and is registered as a bank holding company with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "Bank Holding Company Act"). In addition to its principal subsidiary, Valley National Bank, Valley owns all of the voting and common shares of GCB Capital Trust III and State Bancorp Capital Trusts I and II through which trust preferred securities were issued.

As of March 31, 2015, we had:

consolidated total assets of \$19.0 billion;

total net loans of \$13.6 billion;

total deposits of \$14.2 billion; and

total shareholders' equity of \$1.9 billion.

Valley National Bank (referred to as the "Bank") is a national banking association chartered in 1927 under the laws of the United States. Currently, the Bank has 224 branches serving northern and central New Jersey, the New York City boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island, and southeast and central Florida. The Bank provides a full range of commercial, retail, insurance and wealth management financial services products. The Bank provides a variety of banking services including automated teller machines, telephone and internet banking, remote deposit capture, overdraft facilities, drive-in and night deposit services, and safe deposit facilities. The Bank also provides certain international banking services to customers including standby letters of credit, documentary letters of credit and related products, and certain ancillary services such as foreign exchange, documentary collections, foreign wire transfers and the maintenance of foreign bank accounts.

The Bank's wholly owned subsidiaries are all included in our consolidated financial statements. These subsidiaries include:

an all-line insurance agency offering property and casualty, life and health insurance;

asset management advisers which are Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment advisers;

title insurance agencies in New Jersey, New York and Florida;

subsidiaries which hold, maintain and manage investment assets for the Bank;

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

a subsidiary which owns and services auto loans;

a subsidiary which specializes in health care equipment and other commercial equipment leases;

a subsidiary which owns and services existing general aviation aircraft loans and existing commercial equipment leases; and

a subsidiary which owns and services New York commercial loans and specializes in asset-based lending.

S-1

## **Table of Contents**

The Bank's subsidiaries also include real estate investment trust subsidiaries (the REIT subsidiaries) which own real estate related investments including some of the real estate utilized by the Bank and related real estate investments. Except for Valley's REIT subsidiaries, all subsidiaries mentioned above are directly or indirectly wholly owned by the Bank. Because each REIT must have 100 or more shareholders to qualify as a REIT, each REIT has issued less than 20% of its outstanding non-voting preferred stock to individuals, most of whom are current and former (non-executive officer) Bank employees. The Bank owns the remaining preferred stock and all the common stock of the REITs.

## **Recent Acquisitions**

We have grown significantly in the past five years primarily through bank acquisitions, including the recent transactions discussed further below, as well as some modest de novo branch expansion mostly in targeted areas in Brooklyn and Queens, New York.

**CNLBanshares, Inc.** On May 26, 2015, Valley entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement) with CNL, providing for the merger of CNL with and into Valley, with Valley as the surviving entity. Immediately following the Merger, CNLBank, a Florida state-chartered commercial bank and wholly owned subsidiary of CNL (CNLBank), will merge with and into the Bank with the Bank surviving the merger. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, common shareholders of CNL will receive 0.75 of a share of Valley common stock for each CNL share they own, subject to adjustment in the event Valley's average stock price falls below \$8.80 or rises above \$10.13 prior to closing. Each outstanding share of Valley common stock will remain outstanding and be unaffected by the Merger.

CNL and CNLBank, headquartered in Orlando, Florida, have approximately \$1.4 billion in assets, \$833 million in loans and \$1.1 billion in deposits and maintain a branch network of 16 offices. The acquisition of CNL supports the continued execution of Valley's Florida growth strategy, expanding the franchise into two new markets and strengthening two of Valley's legacy Florida markets.

Completion of the Merger is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of the requisite approval of the Merger and Merger Agreement by shareholders of CNL, and receipt of regulatory approvals.

**1st United Bancorp, Inc.** On November 1, 2014, Valley acquired 1st United Bancorp, Inc. (1st United) and its wholly owned subsidiary, 1st United Bank, a commercial bank with approximately \$1.7 billion in assets, \$1.2 billion in loans, and \$1.4 billion in deposits, after purchase accounting adjustments. The 1st United acquisition brought to Valley a 20 branch network covering some of the most attractive urban banking markets in Florida, including locations throughout southeast Florida, the Treasure Coast, central Florida and central Gulf Coast regions. The common shareholders of 1st United received 0.89 of a share of Valley common stock for each 1st United share they owned prior to the merger. The total consideration for the acquisition was approximately \$300 million, consisting of 30.7 million shares of Valley common stock and \$8.9 million of cash consideration paid to 1st United stock option holders. In conjunction with the merger, Valley shareholders approved an amendment of Valley's certificate of incorporation to increase its authorized common shares by 100 million shares during the third quarter of 2014. For further details, see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. See further details regarding the acquisition of 1st United in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements.

In connection with the 1st United acquisition, we acquired loans and other real estate owned subject to FDIC loss-share agreements (referred to as covered loans and covered OREO, together covered assets). The FDIC loss-share agreements relate to three previous FDIC-assisted acquisitions completed by 1st United from 2009 to 2011. The Bank will share losses on covered assets in accordance with provisions of each loss-share agreement. The commercial and single-family (residential) loan loss-sharing agreements with the

## **Table of Contents**

FDIC expire between December of 2015 and October of 2021. For further details, see Notes 2 and 5 to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

**State Bancorp, Inc.** On January 1, 2012, Valley acquired State Bancorp, Inc. (State Bancorp), the holding company for State Bank of Long Island, a commercial bank with approximately \$1.7 billion in assets, \$1.1 billion in loans, and \$1.4 billion in deposits and 16 branches in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, and Manhattan at December 31, 2011. Of the acquired branch offices, 14 remain within our 43 branch network in New York and are located in Long Island and Queens. The State Bancorp locations complement Valley's other New York City locations, including five branches in Queens, and provide a foundation for our efforts in these attractive markets. The common shareholders of State Bancorp received a fixed one-for-one exchange ratio of Valley National Bancorp common stock. The total consideration for the all stock acquisition equaled \$208 million.

Additionally, a warrant issued by State Bancorp (in connection with its previously redeemed preferred stock issuance) to the U.S. Treasury in December 2008 was assumed by Valley as of the acquisition date. The ten-year warrant to purchase up to 489 thousand of Valley common shares has an exercise price of \$11.30 per share, and is exercisable on a net exercise basis. The warrant was sold by the U.S. Treasury at private auction in May 2015.

**FDIC-Assisted Transactions.** In March 2010, the Bank acquired \$688.1 million in certain assets, including loans totaling \$412.3 million (primarily commercial and commercial real estate loans), and assumed all of the deposits totaling \$654.2 million, excluding certain brokered deposits and borrowings, of The Park Avenue Bank and LibertyPointe Bank, both New York State chartered banks, from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The deposits from both FDIC-assisted transactions were acquired at a 0.15% premium. In addition, as part of the consideration for The Park Avenue Bank FDIC-assisted transaction, the Bank agreed to issue a cash-settled equity appreciation instrument to the FDIC. The valuation and settlement of the equity appreciation instrument during 2010 did not significantly impact Valley's consolidated financial statements.

In connection with both of the FDIC-assisted transactions, the Bank entered into loss-share agreements with the FDIC. Under the terms of the loss-sharing agreements, the Bank will share in the losses on covered assets. The Bank may sell the acquired loans (with or without recourse) but in such case, the FDIC loss-sharing agreements will cease to be effective for any losses incurred on such loans. Additionally, any related FDIC loss-share receivable would be uncollectable and written-off upon settlement of the sale. The commercial loan loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC expired in March 2015 and the single-family (residential) loan-loss sharing agreement expires in March 2020. The Company expects the vast majority of the covered loans to mature, substantially paydown under contractual loan terms or work through our collection process on or before the expiration of the related loss-sharing agreements. For further details, see Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

## **Concurrent Underwritten Offering**

Concurrently with this offering, and pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, we are offering 4,400,000 shares of our % fixed-to-floating rate non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, series A, no par value per share and liquidation preference of \$25 per share (the Series A Preferred Stock) at an offering price in the aggregate of \$110,000,000.

The closing of this offering is not conditioned upon the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock, and the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock is not conditioned upon the closing of this offering. We cannot assure you that either or both of the offerings will be completed. The foregoing description and other information regarding the underwritten offering of the Series A

**Table of Contents**

Preferred Stock is included herein solely for informational purposes. Nothing in this prospectus supplement should be construed as an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any shares of the Series A Preferred Stock, and no part of the offering of Series A Preferred Stock is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Our principal executive offices and telephone number are:

Valley National Bancorp  
1455 Valley Road  
Wayne, New Jersey 07470  
(973) 305-8800

S-4

**Table of Contents**

**The Offering**

*The following summary of this offering contains basic information about this offering and the terms of the Notes and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the Notes, please refer to the section of this prospectus supplement entitled Description of the Notes.*

**Issuer:** Valley National Bancorp, a New Jersey corporation

**Securities Offered:** % Subordinated Debentures due 2025

**Aggregate Principal Amount:** \$90,000,000

**Maturity:** , 2025

**Issue Price:** % plus accrued interest, if any, from and including June , 2015

**Interest Rate:** % annually

**Interest Payment Dates:** We will pay interest on the Notes on and of each year, commencing on , 2015.

**Record Dates:** Interest on each Note will be payable to the person in whose name such Note is registered on or (whether or not a business day) immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date.

**Ranking:** The Notes will be unsecured, subordinated and:

will rank junior in right of payment and upon our liquidation to any existing and all future senior debt (as defined in the Indenture and described under Description of the Notes in this prospectus supplement);

will rank junior in right of payment and upon our liquidation to any of our existing and all of our future general creditors;

will rank equal in right of payment and upon our liquidation with any existing and all future indebtedness the terms of which provide that such indebtedness ranks equally with the Notes;



will rank senior in right of payment and upon our liquidation to (i) our existing junior subordinated debentures underlying outstanding trust preferred securities, and (ii) any indebtedness the terms of which provide that such indebtedness ranks junior to the Notes; and

will be effectively subordinated to all of the existing and future indebtedness, deposits and other liabilities of the Bank and our other current and future subsidiaries, including without limitation the Bank's depositors, liabilities to general creditors and liabilities arising during the ordinary course or otherwise.

As of March 31, 2015, we (at the holding company level) had no indebtedness ranking senior to the Notes other than liabilities of

**Table of Contents**

approximately \$11.5 million to general creditors, \$125.0 million in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness (consisting of our 5.125% subordinated debentures due September 27, 2023) ranking equally with the Notes, and \$41.3 million of indebtedness (consisting of our junior subordinated debentures) ranking junior to the Notes. As of March 31, 2015, the Bank and our other subsidiaries had outstanding indebtedness, total deposits and other liabilities, including the \$100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.0% subordinated notes due July 15, 2015 issued by the Bank, of \$17.0 billion, excluding intercompany liabilities, all of which ranks structurally senior to the Notes. As adjusted to give effect to this offering, as of March 31, 2015, we (at the holding company level), the Bank and our other subsidiaries had \$2.8 billion of indebtedness. For more information, see Description of the Notes Subordination of the Notes in this prospectus supplement.

The Indenture, as hereinafter defined, governing the Notes does not contain any limitation on the amount of debt or other obligations ranking senior to or equally with the indebtedness evidenced by the Notes that we may incur hereafter.

**Redemption:**

The Notes may not be redeemed, called or repurchased by us prior to maturity except we may, at our option, subject to obtaining the prior approval of the Federal Reserve to the extent such approval is then required under the rules of the Federal Reserve, redeem the Notes prior to maturity, in whole, at any time, or in part, from time to time, after the date on which we sell the Notes to investors, if (i) a change or prospective change in law occurs which could prevent us from deducting interest payable on the Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) a subsequent event occurs which precludes the Notes from being recognized as Tier 2 capital, or (iii) we are required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. For more information, see Description of the Notes Redemption in this prospectus supplement.

**Form:**

Fully registered global notes in book-entry form.

**Denominations:**

\$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

**Further Issuances:**

The Notes will be limited initially to \$90,000,000 in aggregate principal amount. We may, however, reopen the Notes and issue an unlimited principal amount of additional Notes in the future without the consent of the Note holders.

**Use of Proceeds:**

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million, after deducting estimated expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to pay related fees and expenses and for general corporate purposes, potential strategic acquisitions and investments in the Bank as regulatory capital. See Use of Proceeds.

**Table of Contents**

<b>The Subordinated Indenture and the Trustee:</b>	The Notes will be issued pursuant to the subordinated indenture between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., herein referred to from time to time as BNY Mellon, as trustee, as amended and supplemented by a first supplemental indenture to be dated the original issue date of the Notes. We refer to the indenture, as amended and supplemented by the first supplemental indenture, as the Indenture.
<b>Listing and Trading Markets:</b>	We do not intend to list the Notes on any securities exchange or to have the Notes quoted on a quotation system. Currently there is no public market for the Notes and there can be no assurances that any public market for the Notes will develop.
<b>Risk Factors:</b>	Investing in the Notes involves risks. Please refer to Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before investing in the Notes.
<b>Governing Law:</b>	The Notes and the Indenture for the Notes will be governed by New York law.
<b>Concurrent Offering:</b>	<p>Concurrently with this offering, and pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, we are offering 4,400,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock.</p> <p>The closing of this offering is not conditioned upon the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock, and the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock is not conditioned upon the closing of this offering.</p>

**Table of Contents****RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the Notes is subject to certain risks. Before you decide to invest in the Notes, you should consider the risk factors below relating to the offering as well as the risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 as may be supplemented by other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Please refer to *Where You Can Find More Information* in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for discussions of these other filings. If any of the risks and uncertainties actually occurs, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. If this were to happen, our ability to pay principal and interest on the Notes, and the value of the Notes, could decline significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment. The prospectus is qualified in its entirety by those risk factors.*

***Our obligations under the Notes will be unsecured and subordinated to our existing and future senior debt and general creditors.***

Our obligations under the Notes will be unsecured and subordinated in right of payment to all of our existing and future senior debt (as defined in the Indenture and described under *Description of the Notes* in this prospectus supplement). This means that we may not be permitted to make any payments of principal or interest on the Notes if we default on a payment obligation under any senior debt. Our obligations under the Notes will also be subordinate and junior in right of payment to our and our subsidiaries' general creditors. In addition, the Notes will effectively be subordinated to all of the existing and future indebtedness, deposits and other liabilities of our current and future subsidiaries, including our principal subsidiary, the Bank.

As of March 31, 2015, we (at the holding company level) had no indebtedness ranking senior to the Notes other than liabilities of approximately \$11.5 million to general creditors, \$125.0 million of indebtedness (consisting of our 5.125% subordinated debentures due September 27, 2023 (the *2023 Notes*)) ranking equally with the Notes, and \$41.3 million of indebtedness (consisting of our junior subordinated debentures) ranking junior to the Notes. As of March 31, 2015, the Bank and our other subsidiaries had outstanding indebtedness, total deposits and other liabilities, including the \$100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.0% subordinated notes due July 15, 2015 issued by the Bank, of \$17.0 billion, excluding intercompany liabilities, all of which ranks structurally senior to the Notes. As adjusted to give effect to this offering, as of March 31, 2015, we (at the holding company level), the Bank and our other subsidiaries had \$2.8 billion of indebtedness, on a consolidated basis. In the future, we may incur substantial other indebtedness, including senior debt and indebtedness ranking equally with the Notes. The Indenture governing the Notes does not contain any limitation on the amount of debt or other obligations ranking senior to or equally with the indebtedness evidenced by the Notes that we may incur hereafter.

Due to the subordination of the Notes described in *Description of the Notes* *Subordination of the Notes*, in the event of our insolvency, funds that we would otherwise use to pay to the holders of the Notes would be used to pay the holders of any senior debt outstanding at that time to the extent necessary to pay such senior debt in full. In addition, the holders of any senior debt could restrict or prohibit us from making payments on the Notes.

***We are a holding company and depend on our subsidiaries for payments of principal and interest.***

We are a separate and distinct legal entity from the Bank and our other subsidiaries. Our principal source of funds to make payments on the Notes and our other securities is dividends and other distributions from the Bank. Our ability to receive dividends and other distributions from the Bank as a source of funds is contingent on a number of factors including the Bank's ability to meet applicable regulatory capital requirements and the Bank's profitability and earnings and strength of its balance sheet. The National Bank Act limits the amount of dividends that our national banking association subsidiary may pay to us without regulatory approval. Currently, the Bank may not, without prior regulatory approval, declare a dividend if the total amount of all dividends, including the proposed dividend, declared by the Bank in the year exceeds the sum of the Bank's net income for the year to

## **Table of Contents**

date and the two prior years, less certain transfers. Under the foregoing dividend restrictions, as of March 31, 2015, the Bank could pay dividends totaling approximately \$36.6 million to us, without obtaining the approval of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the OCC).

Beginning in 2016, banks and bank holding companies will be required to maintain a capital conservation buffer on top of minimum risk-weighted asset ratios. When fully phased in on January 1, 2019, the capital conservation buffer will be 2.5%. Banking institutions which do not maintain capital in excess of the capital conservation buffer will face constraints on dividends, equity repurchases and executive compensation based on the amount of the shortfall. Accordingly, if the Bank fails to maintain the applicable minimum capital ratios and the capital conservation buffer, distributions to us (at the holding company level) may be prohibited or limited and we may not have funds to make principal and interest payments on the Notes.

In addition, if, in the opinion of the applicable regulatory authority, a bank under its jurisdiction is engaged in or is about to engage in an unsafe or unsound practice, such authority may require, after notice and hearing, that such bank cease and desist from such practice. Depending on the financial condition of the Bank, the applicable regulatory authority might deem us to be engaged in an unsafe or unsound practice if the Bank were to pay dividends. The Federal Reserve and the OCC have issued policy statements generally requiring bank holding companies and national banks to pay dividends only out of current operating earnings.

***The Notes will be the obligations of Valley National Bancorp and not obligations of the Bank or any of our other subsidiaries, and will be structurally subordinated to the debt and other liabilities of the Bank and our other subsidiaries, which will not guarantee the Notes.***

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the Notes, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary during its liquidation or reorganization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors unless we are ourselves a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. Any loans that we make to the Bank would be subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to other indebtedness of the Bank. Claims from creditors (other than us) against the subsidiaries may include long-term and medium-term debt and substantial obligations related to deposit liabilities, federal funds purchased, securities sold under repurchase agreements, and other short-term borrowings, as well as liabilities to general creditors. The Notes are not obligations of, nor guaranteed by, the Bank or our other subsidiaries, and our subsidiaries have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the Notes. The Indenture governing the Notes does not contain any limitation on the amount of debt or other obligations that the Bank or our other subsidiaries may incur hereafter.

***Holders of the Notes will have limited rights if there is an event of default.***

Payment of principal on the Notes may be accelerated only in the case of certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency involving us. There is no automatic acceleration or right of acceleration in the case of default in the payment of interest on the Notes or in the performance of any of our other obligations under the Notes or the Indenture governing the Notes.

***The Notes do not restrict our ability to incur additional debt, to repurchase our securities or to take other actions that could negatively impact holders of the Notes, and the Indenture governing the Notes does not contain any financial covenants.***

We are not restricted by the terms of the Indenture from incurring additional debt at the holding-company level, including secured or unsecured debt, that ranks senior or equal to the Notes, or from repurchasing our securities. In addition, the Indenture does not contain any financial covenants that would require us to achieve or maintain any minimum financial results relating to our financial position or results of operations. Our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the Notes could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments on the Notes when due.

**Table of Contents**

*Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in the Notes.*

Our credit ratings are an assessment of our ability to pay our obligations as they become due. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the trading value of the Notes. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential risks related to the market or other factors on the value of the Notes. Furthermore, because your return on the Notes depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to the Notes. A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be revised or withdrawn by the rating agency at any time.

*The Notes are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.*

The Notes will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of the Bank and will not be insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

*We cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop for the Notes.*

There is currently no trading market for the Notes, and we do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or to have the Notes quoted on a quotation system. Although we have been informed by the underwriters that they intend to make a market in the Notes after the offering is completed, the underwriters may cease market-making at any time without notice. In addition, the liquidity of the trading market in the Notes and the market price quoted for the Notes may be adversely affected by changes in the overall market for this type of security and by changes in our financial performance or prospects or in the prospects for companies in our industry generally. As a result, we cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop for the Notes. If an active trading market does not develop or is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected. In that case you may not be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or you may not be able to sell your Notes at a favorable price.

**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated. The information presented below is not adjusted for the Notes offered hereby or the Series A Preferred Stock offered in the concurrent offering.

	Three Months Ended			Years ended December 31,			
	March 31, 2015	2014	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b><i>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</i></b>							
Excluding interest on deposits	2.57	2.15	2.21	2.41	2.60	2.42	2.27
Including interest on deposits	2.04	1.85	1.87	2.02	2.11	1.95	1.84

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated in accordance with SEC requirements and computed by adding income before taxes plus fixed charges and dividing that sum by fixed charges. You should read these ratios in conjunction with Exhibit 12.1 and other information in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which report is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

S-11

**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth, on a consolidated basis, our capitalization as of March 31, 2015 on (i) an actual basis, (ii) as adjusted to give effect to this offering, and (iii) as adjusted to give effect to this offering and the concurrent offering of 4.4 million shares of Series A Preferred Stock. You should read the following table together with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

(\$ in thousands)	As of March 31, 2015		
	Actual	As Adjusted for Debt Issuance (Unaudited)	As Adjusted for Debt and Preferred Stock Issuance
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Total deposits	\$ 14,216,743	\$ 14,216,743	\$ 14,216,743
Short-term borrowings	133,866	133,866	133,866
Long-term borrowings	2,529,073	2,619,073	2,619,073
Junior subordinated debentures issued to capital trusts	41,292	41,292	41,292
Bank acceptances outstanding	2,881	2,881	2,881
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	189,002	189,002	189,002
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 17,112,857</b>	<b>\$ 17,202,857</b>	<b>\$ 17,202,857</b>
<b>Shareholders Equity</b>			
Preferred stock, no par value, 30,000,000 shares authorized; none issued at March 31, 2015	\$	\$	\$ 110,000
Common stock, no par value, 332,023,233 shares authorized; 232,616,426 shares issued at March 31, 2015	81,170	81,170	81,170
Surplus	1,696,834	1,696,834	1,694,206
Retained earnings	135,571	135,571	135,571
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(44,662)	(44,662)	(44,662)
Treasury Stock, at cost (188,318 common shares at March 31, 2015)	(1,760)	(1,760)	(1,760)
<b>Total Shareholders Equity</b>	<b>1,867,153</b>	<b>1,867,153</b>	<b>1,974,525</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders Equity</b>	<b>\$ 18,980,010</b>	<b>\$ 19,070,010</b>	<b>\$ 19,177,382</b>
<b>Capital Adequacy</b>			
Tangible common equity to total tangible assets(1)	6.83%	6.80%	6.74%
Tier 1 leverage ratio	7.17	7.13	7.67
Tier 1 common capital ratio	9.45	9.45	9.49
Tier 1 risk-based capital	9.45	9.45	10.22
Total risk-based capital	11.35	12.00	12.77

- (1) Tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio is a non-GAAP financial measure. Management believes this non-GAAP financial measure provides information useful to investors in understanding Valley's financial results. Specifically, Valley provides the measure based on what it believes are its operating earnings on a consistent basis and excludes material non-core operating items which affect the GAAP reporting of results of operations. Management utilizes this measure for internal planning and forecasting purposes. Management believes that Valley's presentation and discussion, together with the accompanying reconciliation, provides a





**Table of Contents**

complete understanding of factors and trends affecting Valley's business and allows investors to view performance in a manner similar to management. Non-GAAP measures should not be considered a substitute for a GAAP basis measures and results and Valley strongly encourages investors to review its consolidated financial statements in their entirety and not to rely on any single financial measure. Because non-GAAP financial measures are not standardized, it may not be possible to compare these financial measures with other companies' non-GAAP financial measures having the same or similar name.

(\$ in thousands)	Actual	March 31, 2015	
		As Adjusted for Debt Issuance (Unaudited)	As Adjusted for Debt and Preferred Stock Issuance
<b><u>Tangible common equity to tangible assets:</u></b>			
Total equity	\$ 1,867,153	\$ 1,867,153	\$ 1,974,525
Less: Goodwill and other intangible assets	612,558	612,558	612,558
Less: Series A Preferred Stock			110,000
Tangible shareholders' equity	\$ 1,254,595	\$ 1,254,595	\$ 1,251,967
Total assets	18,980,010	19,070,010	19,177,382
Less: Goodwill and other intangible assets	612,558	612,558	612,558
Tangible assets	\$ 18,367,452	\$ 18,457,452	\$ 18,564,824
Tangible common equity to tangible assets	6.83%	6.80%	6.74%

S-13

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$       million, after deducting estimated expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to pay related fees and expenses and for general corporate purposes, potential strategic acquisitions and investments in the Bank as regulatory capital.

Our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds from this offering, and investors will be relying on the judgment of our management with regard to the use of these net proceeds. Pending the use of the net proceeds from this offering as described above, we may invest the net proceeds in short-term, investment-grade, interest-bearing instruments.

Concurrently with this offering, and pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, we are offering 4,400,000 shares of our    % fixed-to-floating rate non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, series A, no par value per share and liquidation preference of \$25 per share (the Series A Preferred Stock ).

The closing of this offering is not conditioned upon the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock, and the closing of the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock is not conditioned upon the closing of this offering. We cannot assure you that either or both of the offerings will be completed. The foregoing description and other information regarding the underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock is included herein solely for informational purposes. Nothing in this prospectus supplement should be construed as an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any shares of the Series A Preferred Stock, and no part of the offering of Series A Preferred Stock is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

**Table of Contents****DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES**

We will issue the Notes under an indenture, to be dated as of June , 2015, between Valley National Bancorp, as the issuer, and BNY Mellon, as the trustee, as amended and supplemented by a first supplemental indenture to be dated as of June , 2015. We refer to the indenture, as amended and supplemented by the first supplemental indenture, as the Indenture, and we refer to BNY Mellon, in its capacity as the trustee, as the Trustee. You may request a copy of the Indenture from us as described under Where You Can Find More Information. The following summaries of certain provisions of the Notes and the Indenture do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to all of the provisions of the Notes and the Indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the Indenture. We urge you to read these documents because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the Notes.

**General**

The Notes will be unsecured, subordinated obligations of Valley, and will mature on , 2025, referred to herein as the Maturity Date. The Notes may not be redeemed, called or repurchased by us prior to maturity except we may, at our option, subject to obtaining the prior approval of the Federal Reserve to the extent such approval is then required under the rules of the Federal Reserve, redeem the Notes prior to maturity, in whole, at any time, or in part, from time to time, after the date on which we sell the Notes to investors, if (i) a change or prospective change in law occurs which could prevent us from deducting interest payable on the Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) a subsequent event occurs which precludes the Notes from being recognized as Tier 2 capital, or (iii) we are required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, in each case as described below under Redemption. There is no sinking fund for the Notes. Except as described below under Clearance and Settlement, the Notes will be issued only in book-entry form and will be represented by one or more global notes, referred to herein as the Global Notes, registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company (which, along with its successors, we refer to as DTC) or its nominee. The Notes will be issued and may be transferred only in denominations of \$2,000 or any amount in excess thereof that is an integral multiple of \$1,000. See Clearance and Settlement.

**Interest Rate and Interest Payment Dates**

The Notes will bear interest at the rate of % per annum from June , 2015 until the principal of the Notes has been paid in full or a sum sufficient to pay the principal of the Notes has been made available for payment. Interest on the Notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, commencing on , 2015, each such date referred to herein as an Interest Payment Date. Payments will include interest accrued to (but excluding) the relevant Interest Payment Date. If the Maturity Date or any other Interest Payment Date falls on a day that is not a business day, the related payment will be made on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made on the day such payment was due, and no interest will accrue on the amount so payable for the period from and after such Maturity Date or other Interest Payment Date, as the case may be. The interest so payable will be paid to each holder in whose name a Note is registered at the close of business on the and immediately preceding the applicable Interest Payment Date. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The term business day means any day that is not a Saturday or Sunday and that is not a day on which banking institutions are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to be closed in The City of New York, New York or a day on which the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee is closed for business.

Payment of principal on the Notes may be accelerated only in the case of certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency. See Events of Default; Limitation on Suits.

No recourse will be available for the payment of principal of or interest on any Note, for any claim based thereon, or otherwise in respect thereof, against any shareholder, employee, agent, officer or director, as such, past, present or future, of ours or of any successor entity. The Indenture contains no covenants or restrictions

---

## **Table of Contents**

restricting the incurrence of debt by us or by our subsidiaries. The Indenture contains no financial covenants and does not restrict us from paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing other securities, and does not contain any provision that would provide protection to the holders of the Notes against a sudden and dramatic decline in credit quality resulting from a merger, takeover, recapitalization, or similar restructuring or any other event involving us or our subsidiaries that may adversely affect our credit quality. The Notes and the Indenture are governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

The Notes are not deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. The Notes are solely obligations of Valley and are neither obligations of, nor guaranteed by, the Bank or any of our other affiliates.

### **Subordination of the Notes**

Our obligation to make any payment on account of the principal and interest on the Notes will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to our obligations to the holders of our senior debt. Senior Debt is defined in the Indenture to mean all of our:

indebtedness for borrowed or purchased money, whether or not evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes, or other written instruments;

obligations under letters of credit;

indebtedness or other obligations with respect to commodity contracts, interest rate and currency swap agreements, cap, floor, and collar agreements, currency spot and forward contracts, and other similar agreements or arrangements designed to protect against fluctuations in currency exchange or interest rates;

guarantees, endorsements (other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business), and other similar contingent obligations in respect of obligations of others of a type described in the preceding bullets, whether or not classified as a liability on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; and

liabilities to our general creditors and trade creditors;

in each case, whether outstanding on the date that we entered into the Indenture or arising after that time, and other than obligations ranking on a parity with the Notes or ranking junior to the Notes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Federal Reserve (or other competent regulatory agency or authority) promulgates any rule or issues any interpretation that defines general creditor(s), the main purpose of which is to establish a criteria for determining whether the subordinated debt of a bank holding company is to be included in its capital, then the term general creditors as used in the definition of Senior Debt in the Indenture will have the meaning as described in that rule or interpretation.

Indebtedness and obligations that rank junior to the Notes under the terms of the Indenture would include (i) our junior subordinated debentures underlying our outstanding trust preferred securities, and (ii) any other indebtedness the terms of which provide that such indebtedness ranks junior to the Notes, with respect to which the Notes will rank senior in right of payment and upon liquidation.

All liabilities of the Bank and our other subsidiaries, including without limitation the Bank's depositors, liabilities to general creditors, and liabilities arising during our subsidiaries' ordinary course of business or otherwise, will be effectively senior to the Notes to the extent of the assets of such subsidiaries, as we are a holding company. Over the term of the Notes we will need to rely primarily on dividends from the Bank, which is a regulated financial institution, to pay interest and principal on its outstanding debt obligations and to make dividends and other payments on its other securities. Regulatory rules may restrict our ability to withdraw capital from the Bank by dividends or other means. See Risk Factors above.

---

## **Table of Contents**

In the event of any insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership, liquidation, reorganization, readjustment of debt, composition, or other similar proceeding relating to us or our property, any proceeding for our liquidation, dissolution, or other winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary and whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, any assignment by us for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of our assets, all of our obligations to holders of our Senior Debt will be entitled to be paid in full before any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, can be made on account of the principal or interest on the Notes. Only after payment in full of all amounts owing with respect to Senior Debt will the holders of the Notes, together with the holders of any of our obligations ranking on a parity with the Notes, be entitled to be paid from our remaining assets the amounts due and owing on account of unpaid principal of and interest on the Notes. In the event and during the continuation of any default in the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any Senior Debt beyond any applicable grace period with respect to such Senior Debt, or in the event that any event of default with respect to any Senior Debt shall have occurred and be continuing permitting the holders of such Senior Debt (or the Trustee on behalf of the holders of such Senior Debt) to declare such Senior Debt due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable, unless and until such event of default shall have been cured or waived or shall have ceased to exist and such acceleration shall have been rescinded or annulled, or in the event any judicial proceeding shall be pending with respect to any such default in payment or event of default, then no payment shall be made by us on account of the principal of or interest on the Notes or on account of the purchase or other acquisition of any Notes.

By reason of the above subordination in favor of the holders of our Senior Debt, in the event of our bankruptcy or insolvency, holders of our Senior Debt may receive more, ratably, and holders of the Notes may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. With respect to the assets of each of our subsidiaries, our creditors (including holders of the Notes) are structurally subordinated to the prior claims of creditors of any such subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor with recognized claims against any such subsidiary.

**The Notes do not contain any limitation on the amount of Senior Debt or other obligations ranking senior to or equally with the indebtedness evidenced by the Notes that may be hereafter incurred by us, the Bank or our other subsidiaries.** As of March 31, 2015, we (at the holding company level) had no indebtedness ranking senior to the Notes other than liabilities of approximately \$11.5 million to general creditors, \$125.0 million of indebtedness (consisting of our 2023 Notes) ranking equally with the Notes, and \$41.3 million of indebtedness (consisting of our junior subordinated debentures) ranking junior to the Notes. The Notes will be effectively subordinated to all of the existing and future indebtedness, deposits and other liabilities of our subsidiaries, including the Bank. As of March 31, 2015, the Bank and our other subsidiaries had outstanding indebtedness, total deposits and other liabilities, including the \$100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.0% subordinated notes due July 15, 2015 issued by the Bank, of \$17.0 billion, excluding intercompany liabilities, all of which ranks structurally senior to the Notes.

## **Redemption**

The Notes may not be redeemed, called or repurchased by us prior to the Maturity Date except we may, at our option, subject to obtaining the prior approval of the Federal Reserve to the extent such approval is then required under the rules of the Federal Reserve, redeem the Notes before the scheduled maturity of the Notes in whole, at any time, or in part from time to time, after the date on which we sell the Notes to investors, upon the occurrence of certain special events as follows: (1) a **Tax Event** defined in the Indenture to mean the receipt by us of an opinion of independent tax counsel to the effect that an amendment to, or change (including any announced prospective change) in, the laws or any regulations of the United States or any political subdivision or taxing authority, or as a result of any official administrative pronouncement or judicial decision interpreting or applying such laws or regulations, which change or amendment becomes effective or which pronouncement or decision is announced on or after the date of the issuance of the Notes, resulting in more than an insubstantial risk that the interest payable on the Notes is not, or within 90 days of receipt of such opinion of tax counsel, will not be, deductible by us, in whole or in part, for U.S. federal income tax purposes; (2) a **Tier 2 Capital Event** defined in the Indenture to mean the receipt by us of an opinion of independent bank regulatory counsel to the

## **Table of Contents**

effect that, as a result of (a) any amendment to, or change (including any announced prospective change) in, the laws or any regulations thereunder of the United States or any rules, guidelines or policies of an applicable regulatory authority for Valley or (b) any official administrative pronouncement or judicial decision interpreting or applying such laws or regulations, which amendment or change is effective or which pronouncement or decision is announced on or after the date of original issuance of the Notes, the Notes do not constitute, or within 90 days of the date of such opinion will not constitute, Tier 2 capital (or its then equivalent if we were subject to such capital requirement) for purposes of capital adequacy guidelines of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve (or any successor regulatory authority with jurisdiction over bank holding companies), as then in effect and applicable to us that would preclude the Notes from being included as Tier 2 capital; or (3) Valley becoming required to register as an investment company pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940. Any such redemption will be at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date of redemption. Any redemption, call or repurchase of the Notes following one of these events would require prior approval of the Federal Reserve if then required.

In the event of any redemption at the election of Valley upon the occurrence of any of the enumerated events above, Valley shall notify the Trustee of the redemption date at least 60 days prior to such redemption date. In case of any such election, a notice of redemption shall be provided to each holder of Notes not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the redemption date.

### **The Notes Are Intended to Qualify as Tier 2 Capital**

The Notes are intended to qualify as Tier 2 capital under the Federal Reserve's Regulatory Capital Rules, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time. These regulations set forth specific criteria for instruments to qualify as Tier 2 capital.

Among other things, the Notes must:

be unsecured;

have a minimum original maturity of at least five years;

be subordinated to depositors and general creditors;

not contain provisions permitting the holders of the Notes to accelerate payment of principal or interest prior to maturity except in the event of receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceedings of the institution; and

only be callable after a minimum of five years following issuance, except upon the occurrence of certain special events, as described above, and, in any case, subject to obtaining the prior approval of the Federal Reserve to the extent such approval is then required under the rules of the Federal Reserve.

### **Events of Default; Limitation on Suits**

Under the Indenture, an Event of Default will occur with respect to the Notes only (1) upon the entry of a decree or order for relief in respect of Valley by a court having jurisdiction in the premises in an involuntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization law, now or hereafter in effect, of the United States of America or any political subdivision thereof, and such decree or order shall have continued unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days, or (2) if we commence a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or consent to the entry of an order in an involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the principal amount and interest on the Notes shall become immediately due and payable, subject to the broad equity powers of a federal bankruptcy court and the determination by that court of the nature and status of the payment claims of the holders of the Notes. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Notes has been made, but before a judgment or decree





## **Table of Contents**

for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding Notes and other affected series of securities issued under the Indenture (we refer to the Notes and such other securities as the Securities ), may rescind and annul the acceleration but only if certain conditions have been satisfied.

**There is no right of acceleration in the case of a default in the payment of interest on the Notes or in our non-performance of any other obligation under the Notes or the Indenture.** If we default in our obligation to pay any interest on the Notes when due and payable and such default continues for a period of thirty days, or if we default in our obligation to pay the principal amount due upon maturity, or if we breach any covenant or agreement contained in the Indenture, then the Trustee may, subject to certain limitations and conditions, seek to enforce its rights and the rights of the holders of Notes of the performance of any covenant or agreement in the Indenture.

The Indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the Trustee upon the occurrence of an Event of Default to act with the required standard of care, the Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of Notes unless such holders shall have offered to the Trustee indemnity or security reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred by it in complying with such request or direction. Subject to certain provisions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes will have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to the Notes.

No holder of Notes shall have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the Indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the Indenture, unless:

such holder has previously given written notice to the Trustee of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Notes;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Notes shall have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as Trustee under the Indenture;

such holder or holders have offered to the Trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses, and liabilities to be incurred in complying with such request;

the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request, and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and

no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the Trustee during such 60 day-period by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes.

In any event, the Indenture provides that no one or more of such holders shall have any right under the Indenture to affect, disturb or prejudice the rights of any other holder, or to obtain priority or preference over any of the other holders or to enforce any right under the Indenture, except in the manner provided in the Indenture and for the equal and ratable benefit of all holders of Notes.

## **Modification and Waiver**

The Indenture provides that Valley and the Trustee may modify or amend the Indenture with or, in certain cases, without the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding Notes and other affected Securities; provided, however, that any modification or amendment may not, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any Security;

reduce the principal amount or rate of interest of any Security;



## **Table of Contents**

change the place of payment where any Security or any interest is payable;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after its stated maturity;

modify the provisions of the Indenture with respect to the subordination of the Securities in a manner adverse to the holders of the Securities; or

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding Securities the consent of whose holders is required for any supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose holders is required for any waiver of compliance with the provisions of or defaults under the Indenture and the consequences thereof under the Indenture.

In addition, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes may, on behalf of all holders of Notes, waive compliance by us with certain terms, conditions and provisions of the Indenture, as well as any past default and/or the consequences of default, other than any default in the payment of principal or interest or any breach in respect of a covenant or provision that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Security of the affected series.

### **Additional Issues**

We may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of the Notes, create and issue further notes ranking equally with the Notes and with identical terms in all respects (or in all respects except for the offering price, the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further notes or except for the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further notes) in order that such further notes may be consolidated and form a single series with the Notes and have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the Notes.

### **Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**

The Indenture provides that we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, and we may not permit any other person to consolidate with or merge into us or to convey, transfer or lease its assets substantially as an entirety to us, unless

if we consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease our assets substantially as an entirety to any other person, the person formed by such consolidation or into which we merge, or the person that acquires our assets, is a corporation organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America, any of its states or the District of Columbia, which person must expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture, the due and punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and the performance or observance of our covenants under the Indenture;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction and treating any indebtedness that becomes an obligation of us or our subsidiaries as a result of such transaction as having been incurred by us or such subsidiary at the time of such transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing; and

we have complied with our obligations to deliver certain documentation to the Trustee.

### **Clearance and Settlement**

DTC, in this capacity, will act as securities depository for the Notes. The Notes will be issued only as fully registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One or more fully registered global security certificates, representing the total aggregate principal amount of Notes, will be issued and will be deposited with DTC and will bear a legend regarding the restrictions on exchanges and registration of transfer referred to below.

## Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in the Notes, so long as the corresponding securities are represented by global security certificates.

S-20

---

**Table of Contents**

DTC has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. DTC holds securities that its direct participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, which, in turn, is owned by a number of direct participants of DTC and members of the National Securities Clearing Corporation, Fixed Income Clearing Corporation and Emerging Markets Clearing Corporation, as well as by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Access to the DTC system is also available to others, referred to as indirect participants, such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a direct or indirect custodial relationship with a direct participant. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each beneficial owner of securities will be recorded on the direct or indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participant through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Under a book-entry format, holders may experience some delay in their receipt of payments, as such payments will be forwarded by the depository to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. DTC will forward the payments to its participants, who will then forward them to indirect participants or holders. Beneficial owners of securities other than DTC or its nominees will not be recognized by the relevant registrar, transfer agent, paying agent or trustee as registered holders of the securities entitled to the benefits of the indenture. Beneficial owners that are not participants will be permitted to exercise their rights only indirectly through and according to the procedures of participants and, if applicable, indirect participants.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all securities deposited by direct participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the securities; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The direct and indirect participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of redemption notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. If less than all of the securities of any class are being redeemed, DTC will determine the amount of the interest of each direct participant to be redeemed in accordance with its then current procedures.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the issuer or its agent. Under these circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, certificates for the Notes are required to be printed and delivered. We may decide to discontinue the use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, certificates for the Notes will be printed and delivered to DTC.

---

**Table of Contents**

As long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of the global security certificates, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner and holder of the global security certificates and all securities represented by these certificates for all purposes under the instruments governing the rights and obligations of holders of such securities. Except in the limited circumstances referred to above, owners of beneficial interests in global security certificates:

will not be entitled to have such global security certificates or the securities represented by these certificates registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of securities certificates in exchange for beneficial interests in global security certificates; and

will not be considered to be owners or holders of the global security certificates or any securities represented by these certificates for any purpose under the instruments governing the rights and obligations of holders of such securities.

All redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments on the securities represented by the global security certificates and all transfers and deliveries of such securities will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the securities. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the issuer or its agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of that participant and not of DTC, the depository, the issuer, the Trustee or any of their agents, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the issuer or its agent, disbursement of such payments to direct participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners will be the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security certificates will be limited to participants or persons that may hold beneficial interests through institutions that have accounts with DTC or its nominee. Ownership of beneficial interests in global security certificates will be shown only on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to participants' interests, or any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by the participant on their behalf. Payments, transfers, deliveries, exchanges, redemptions and other matters relating to beneficial interests in global security certificates may be subject to various policies and procedures adopted by DTC from time to time. None of Valley, the Trustee or any agent for any of them will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of DTC's or any direct or indirect participant's records relating to, or for payments made on account of, beneficial interests in global security certificates, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records or any direct or indirect participant's records relating to these beneficial ownership interests.

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfer of interests in the global security certificates among participants, DTC is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform these procedures, and these procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither Valley nor the Trustee will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its direct participants or indirect participants under the rules and procedures governing DTC.

Because DTC can act only on behalf of direct participants, who in turn act only on behalf of direct or indirect participants, and certain banks, trust companies and other persons approved by it, the ability of a beneficial owner of securities to pledge them to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system may be limited due to the unavailability of physical certificates for the securities.

## **Table of Contents**

DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a registered holder of any securities under the Indenture, only at the direction of one or more participants to whose accounts with DTC the relevant securities are credited.

The information in this section concerning DTC and its book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be accurate, but we assume no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

### **Same-Day Settlement and Payment**

Settlement for the Notes will be made in immediately available funds. The Notes will trade in DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System until maturity and, therefore, DTC will require secondary trading activity in the Notes to be settled in immediately available funds. Secondary trading in long-term notes and debentures of corporate issuers is generally settled in clearing house or next-day funds. No assurance can be given as to the effect, if any, of settlement in immediately available funds on trading activity of the Notes.

### **Regarding the Indenture Trustee**

BNY Mellon will act as Trustee for the Notes. From time to time, we and some of our subsidiaries may maintain deposit accounts and conduct other banking transactions, including lending transactions, with the Trustee in the ordinary course of business. Additionally, we maintain banking relationships with BNY Mellon and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business. These banking relationships include BNY Mellon serving as trustee under indentures involving the Bank's existing debt securities and serving as trustee of our 2023 Notes.

Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default or an event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default under the Notes, or upon the occurrence of a default under another indenture under which BNY Mellon serves as trustee, the Trustee may be deemed to have a conflicting interest with respect to the other debt securities as to which we are not in default for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act and, accordingly, may be required to resign as Trustee under the Indenture. In that event, we would be required to appoint a successor trustee.

---

**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following is a summary of certain United States federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the Notes by U.S. Holders (as defined below) and Non-U.S. Holders (as defined below). This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax considerations. This summary is based upon the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, referred to herein as the Code, the Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code, referred to herein as the Regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations of the Code and the Regulations, all as of the date hereof and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. This summary is limited to the U.S. federal income tax consequences with respect to Notes that are purchased by an initial holder at their original issue price for cash and that are held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not address the tax consequences to subsequent purchasers of the Notes.

We intend, and by acquiring any Notes each beneficial holder of a Note will agree, to treat the Notes as indebtedness for United States federal income tax purposes, and this summary assumes such treatment.

This summary does not purport to deal with all aspects of United States federal income taxation that might be relevant to particular holders in light of their circumstances or status, nor does it address specific tax consequences that may be relevant to particular holders (including, for example, financial institutions, broker-dealers, traders in securities that elect mark-to-market treatment, insurance companies, partnerships or other pass-through entities, United States expatriates, tax-exempt organizations, U.S. Holders that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar, or persons who hold Notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion or other integrated financial transaction).

In addition, this summary does not address United States federal alternative minimum, estate and gift tax consequences or consequences under the tax laws of any state, local or non-U.S. jurisdiction. We have not sought, and will not seek, any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in this summary, and we cannot assure you that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions.

If a partnership holds Notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding Notes, you should consult your own tax advisor.

**THIS SUMMARY IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY. PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF THE NOTES ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF ACQUIRING, OWNING AND DISPOSING OF THE NOTES, AS WELL AS THE APPLICATION OF STATE, LOCAL AND NON-U.S. INCOME AND OTHER TAX LAWS.**

For purposes of this summary, a U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner of Notes that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation or other entity taxable as a corporation created or organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia; (iii) an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or (iv) a trust, if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or if a valid election to be treated as a United States person is in effect with respect to such trust. A Non-U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner of Notes that is neither a U.S. Holder nor an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes.



---

**Table of Contents**

**United States Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders**

**Payments of stated interest.** It is expected and this discussion assumes that either the issue price of the Notes will equal the stated redemption price of the Notes or the Notes will be issued with no more than a de minimis amount of original issue discount. Stated interest on a Note will generally be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary income at the time such interest is received or accrued, depending on the holder's regular method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

**Disposition of the Notes.** Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a Note, a U.S. Holder will generally recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between (i) the sum of all cash plus the fair market value of all other property received on such disposition (except an amount equal to accrued but unpaid interest not previously included in income, which is treated as interest as described above) and (ii) such holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will equal the cost of the Note to such holder. Any gain or loss recognized on the disposition of a Note generally will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of such disposition, the U.S. Holder's holding period for the Note is more than one year. Long-term capital gain of non-corporate U.S. Holders is generally taxed at preferential rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

**Backup withholding and information reporting.** For each calendar year in which the Notes are outstanding, we generally are required to provide the IRS with certain information, including the beneficial owner's name, address and taxpayer identification number, the aggregate amount of interest paid to that beneficial owner during the calendar year and the amount of tax withheld, if any. This obligation, however, does not apply with respect to payments to certain types of U.S. Holders, including corporations, provided that they establish entitlement to an exemption.

In the event that a U.S. Holder subject to the reporting requirements described above fails to provide its correct taxpayer identification number in the manner required by applicable law, or underreports its tax liability, we, our agent or paying agents, or a broker may be required to backup withhold at the applicable statutory rate on each payment on the Notes and on the proceeds from a sale of the Notes. The backup withholding obligation, however, does not apply with respect to payments to certain types of U.S. Holders, including tax-exempt organizations, provided that they establish entitlement to an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax and may generally be refunded or credited against the U.S. Holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding their qualifications for an exemption from backup withholding, and the procedure for establishing such exemption, if applicable.

**Unearned Income Medicare Contribution Tax.** In addition, any payments of interest on or gains earned from the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of the Notes may be subject to the 3.8% tax on net investment income for taxpayers whose income exceeds certain thresholds. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine the applicability of this tax.

**United States Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders**

**Payments of interest.** Subject to the discussion of backup withholding and FATCA below, under the portfolio interest exemption, payments of interest on the Notes to a Non-U.S. Holder will generally not be subject to United States federal withholding tax, provided that:

such payments are not effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business, or in the case of an income tax treaty resident, a United States permanent establishment (or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base) maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States;

---

**Table of Contents**

the Non-U.S. Holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

the Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation (as defined in the Code) that, for United States federal income tax purposes, is related (within the meaning of Section 864(d)(4) of the Code) to us; the Non-U.S. Holder is not a bank described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code; and

either (a) the beneficial owner of the Notes certifies on IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or a suitable substitute form or successor form), under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person (as defined in the Code) and provides its name and address, or (b) a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business and holds the Notes on behalf of the beneficial owner certifies to us or our agent, under penalties of perjury, that a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or a suitable substitute form or successor form) has been received from the beneficial owner by it or by any such financial institution between it and the beneficial owner and furnishes us with a copy thereof.

If a Non-U.S. Holder cannot satisfy the requirements of the portfolio interest exemption, payments of interest made to such Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to a 30% United States federal withholding tax unless the beneficial owner of the Note provides a properly executed:

IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or a suitable substitute form or successor form) claiming, under penalties of perjury, an exemption from, or reduction in, withholding tax under an applicable income tax treaty, or

IRS Form W-8ECI (or successor form) stating that interest paid on the Note is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with a United States trade or business or, if certain treaties apply, it is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base maintained in the United States of the beneficial owner (in which case such interest will be subject to regular graduated United States tax rates as described below).

Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors about the specific methods for satisfying these requirements. A claim for exemption will not be valid if the person receiving the applicable form has actual knowledge or reason to know that the statements on the form are false.

If interest on the Note is effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the beneficial owner (and if required by an applicable income tax treaty, attributable to a United States permanent establishment or fixed base), the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from the withholding tax described above, will be subject to United States federal income tax on such interest on a net income basis in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. In addition, if such Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (unless reduced by an applicable income tax treaty) in respect of such interest.

***Disposition of the Notes.*** No withholding of United States federal income tax will generally be required with respect to any gain or income realized by a Non-U.S. Holder upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of a Note (except to the extent such income is attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, which will be treated as interest as described above under "Payments of interest").

Except with respect to accrued and unpaid interest, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of a Note unless the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met, or such gain or income is effectively connected with a United States trade or business (and, if required by an applicable treaty, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment or fixed base). Accrued and unpaid interest realized on a sale, exchange or other disposition of a Note will be treated as discussed under "Payments of interest."

**Table of Contents**

**Backup withholding and information reporting.** United States backup withholding will not apply to payments of interest on a Note or proceeds from the sale or other disposition of a Note payable to a Non-U.S. Holder if the certification described in Payments of interest is duly provided by such Non-U.S. Holder or the Non-U.S. Holder otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the payor does not have actual knowledge that the holder is a U.S. person or that the conditions of any claimed exemption are not satisfied. Certain information reporting still may apply to interest payments even if an exemption from backup withholding is established. Copies of any information returns reporting interest payments and any withholding also may be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which a Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding tax rules from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be allowed as a refund or a credit against such Non-U.S. Holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided that the requisite procedures are followed.

Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding their particular circumstances and the availability of and procedure for establishing an exemption from backup withholding.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).** A 30% U.S. federal withholding tax may apply to interest income paid on Notes, and the gross proceeds from a disposition of Notes occurring after December 31, 2016, in each case paid to (i) a foreign financial institution (as specifically defined in the Code), whether such foreign financial institution is the beneficial owner or an intermediary, unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, report and disclose its United States account holders (as specifically defined in the Code) and meets certain other specified requirements or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity, whether such non-financial foreign entity is the beneficial owner or an intermediary, unless such entity provides a certification that the beneficial owner of the payment does not have any substantial U.S. owners or provides the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner and certain other specified requirements are met. In certain cases, the relevant foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity may qualify for an exemption from, or be deemed to be in compliance with, these rules. If an interest payment is subject both to withholding under FATCA and to the withholding tax discussed above under United States Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders Payments of Interest, the withholding under FATCA may be credited against, and therefore reduce, such other withholding tax. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding these rules and whether they may be relevant to their ownership and disposition of Notes.

**Table of Contents****CERTAIN BENEFIT PLAN AND ERISA CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the acquisition and holding of the Notes by an employee benefit plan (as defined in Section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, or ERISA) that is subject to Title I of ERISA, a plan described in Section 4975 of the Code, including an individual retirement account (we refer to an account of this type as an IRA) or a Keogh plan, a plan subject to provisions under applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, referred to herein as Similar Laws, and any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any such employee benefit or retirement plan's investment in such entity, each of which we refer to as a Plan.

**General Fiduciary Matters.** ERISA and the Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, referred to herein as an ERISA Plan, and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan with its fiduciaries or other interested parties. In general, under ERISA and the Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the administration of such an ERISA Plan or the management or disposition of the assets of such an ERISA Plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to such an ERISA Plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of the ERISA Plan. Plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA or Section 4975(g)(3) of the Code) and non-U.S. plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) are not subject to the requirements of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (but may be subject to similar prohibitions under Similar Laws).

In considering the acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition of Notes with a portion of the assets of a Plan, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the Plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Law relating to a fiduciary's duties to the Plan including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

**Prohibited Transaction Issues.** Section 406 of ERISA prohibits ERISA Plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of Section 3(14) of ERISA, and Section 4975 of the Code imposes an excise tax on certain disqualified persons, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code, who engage in similar transactions, in each case unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, a fiduciary of an ERISA Plan that engages in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In the case of an IRA, the occurrence of a prohibited transaction could cause the IRA to lose its tax-exempt status.

We or the underwriters may be parties in interest or disqualified persons with respect to ERISA Plans and the purchase and/or holding of Notes may be characterized as an extension of credit by the purchaser or holder of Notes to Valley. The acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition of Notes by an ERISA Plan with respect to which the issuer or the underwriters (or certain of our or their affiliates) is considered a party in interest or a disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code, unless the investment is acquired, held and disposed of in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may apply to the acquisition and holding of the Notes. These class exemptions include, without limitation, PTCE 84-14 respecting transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 respecting insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 respecting bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 respecting life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 respecting transactions determined by in-house asset managers. In addition, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code each provides a limited exemption, commonly referred to as the service provider exemption, from the prohibited

**Table of Contents**

transaction provisions of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code for certain transactions provided that neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates (directly or indirectly) have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any ERISA Plan involved in the transaction and provided further that the ERISA Plan pays no more than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction. There can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied at the time that the Notes are acquired by a purchaser, or thereafter, if the facts relied upon for utilizing a prohibited transaction exemption change.

Because of the foregoing, the Notes should not be acquired, held or disposed of by any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such acquisition, holding and disposition will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or similar violation of any applicable Similar Laws.

**Representation.** Each purchaser and holder of Notes will be deemed to have represented and warranted that either, under ERISA or Similar Laws, (i) it is not a Plan, such as an IRA, and no portion of the assets used to acquire or hold the Notes constitutes assets of any Plan or (ii) the acquisition, holding and disposition of a Note will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or similar violation under any applicable Similar Laws for which there is no applicable statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing Notes on behalf of, or with the assets of, any Plan, consult with their counsel regarding the potential applicability of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code and any Similar Laws to such investment and whether an exemption would be applicable to the purchase and holding of the Notes. The acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition of Notes by or to any Plan is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by such Plans generally or any particular Plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for Plans generally or any particular Plan.

**Table of Contents****UNDERWRITING**

We have entered into a purchase agreement with Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P., Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. as the representatives of each of the underwriters named below, with respect to the Notes being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement. Subject to certain conditions, each underwriter has agreed, severally but not jointly, to purchase the aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering set forth next to its name in the following table.

Underwriters	Amount of Securities
Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P.	\$
Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.	\$
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	\$
 Total	 \$ 90,000,000

The purchase agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to purchase the Notes offered hereby are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement if any of the Notes are purchased.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against some specified types of liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any of these liabilities.

**Discounts**

The following table shows the per Note and total underwriting discounts we will pay the underwriters.

Per Note	
Total	\$

Notes sold by the underwriters to the public will be offered at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. If all the Notes are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The offering of the Notes by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$293,000 and are payable by us.

The representatives of the underwriters have advised us that the underwriters do not intend to confirm sales to any account over which they exercise discretionary authority.

**New Issuance of Notes**

There is currently no public trading market for the Notes. In addition, we have not applied and do not intend to apply to list the Notes on any securities exchange or to have the Notes quoted on a quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Notes. However, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making in the Notes at any time in their sole discretion. Therefore, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market for the Notes will develop, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time, or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected. If the Notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our operating performance and financial condition, general economic conditions and other factors.

## **Table of Contents**

### **No Sales of Similar Securities**

We have agreed, for a period beginning on the date of the purchase agreement and continuing to and including the closing date of the offering contemplated hereby, that we will not, without the prior written consent of the representatives of the underwriters, directly or indirectly, issue, sell, offer or contract to sell, grant any option for the sale of, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, any debt securities or nonconvertible preferred stock, including any guarantee of such securities, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for or representing the right to receive such securities, other than the Notes and the shares of Series A Preferred Stock issued in the concurrent underwritten offering.

### **Price Stabilization, Short Positions**

In connection with this offering of the Notes, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position for the underwriters. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the Notes in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing, or maintaining the price of the Notes. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the Notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the other underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representative has repurchased Notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or syndicate covering transactions. Stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions, and together with the imposition of a penalty bid, may cause the price of the Notes to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of those transactions. If the underwriters engage in stabilizing or syndicate covering transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the Notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

### **Other Relationships**

Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us or our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions. Some of the underwriters in this offering are also acting as underwriters in the concurrent underwritten offering of Series A Preferred Stock. Neither of the offerings is conditioned upon the consummation of the other offering.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments including serving as counterparties to certain derivative and hedging arrangements and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. If any of the underwriters or their affiliates has a lending relationship with us, they may hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. These underwriters and their affiliates could hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the Notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the Notes offered hereby. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

**Table of Contents**

**VALIDITY OF NOTES**

The validity of the Notes we are offering will be passed upon for us by Day Pitney LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, D.C.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Valley National Bancorp as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, which are incorporated by reference herein upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-32



**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP**

**COMMON STOCK**

**PREFERRED STOCK**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

**DEPOSITARY SHARES**

**WARRANTS**

**UNITS**

The securities listed above may be offered and sold by us and/or may be offered and sold, from time to time, by one or more selling security holders to be identified in the future. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the symbol  **VLY** .

**Neither the Securities Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

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

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

**These securities will be our equity securities or our unsecured obligations and will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any banking or non-banking subsidiary of ours and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Bank Insurance Fund or any other governmental agency.**

**Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of this prospectus, in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated herein by reference, in any of our subsequently filed quarterly and current reports that are incorporated by reference and in any applicable prospectus supplement.**

**The date of this prospectus is March 20, 2015.**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE
<b><u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>RISK FACTORS</u></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><u>LEGAL MATTERS</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><u>EXPERTS</u></b>	<b>7</b>

## **Table of Contents**

### **ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

References in this prospectus to Valley, we, us and our are to Valley National Bancorp. In this prospectus, we sometimes refer to the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares, warrants and units collectively as offered securities.

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of the offered securities.

This document is called a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. Under this registration statement, we may from time to time offer any combination of the following securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings: common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares, warrants, and/or units.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of each of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

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 can be read at the SEC web site or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

When acquiring any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference. Neither we nor any underwriters or agents have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the securities in any state where the offer is prohibited. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of these documents.

We may sell securities to underwriters who will sell the securities to the public on terms fixed at the time of sale. In addition, the securities may be sold by us directly or through dealers or agents designated from time to time, which agents may be our affiliates. If we, directly or through agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we reserve the sole right to accept and, together with our agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers.

The prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of offering, the compensation of those underwriters and the net proceeds to us. Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ( **Securities Act** ).

### **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and on our website at [www.valleynationalbank.com](http://www.valleynationalbank.com). Except as specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus, information on those websites is not part of this prospectus.

## Table of Contents

You may also read and copy any document we file by visiting the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. The SEC's address in Washington, D.C. is 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room. You may also inspect our SEC reports and other information at the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this prospectus and earlier information incorporated by reference.

In the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014; and

The description of the common stock which is contained in Valley's Registration Statement on Form 8-A including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference each of the following documents that we will file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished, and not filed in accordance with the SEC rules) until this offering is completed:

reports filed under Sections 13(a) and (c) of the Exchange Act;

any document filed under Section 14 of the Exchange Act; and

any reports filed under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of this prospectus only. Our business, financial condition and results of operation may have changed since that date.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents), call or write our Shareholder Relations Department, as follows:

Valley National Bancorp

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

1455 Valley Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Attention: Dianne M. Grenz

Telephone: 973-305-8800

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information about Valley and a general description of the securities we may offer. 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 Valley and the terms of the securities we will offer, you should read carefully this entire prospectus, including 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**

The descriptions of the securities contained in this prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements, summarize certain material terms and provisions of the various types of securities that we or selling security holders may offer. The particular material terms of the securities offered by a prospectus supplement will be described in that prospectus supplement. If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the offered securities may differ from the terms summarized below. The prospectus supplement will also contain information, where applicable, about material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the offered securities, and the securities exchange, if any, on which the offered securities will be listed. The descriptions in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information that you may find useful or that may be important to you. You should refer to the provisions of the actual documents whose terms are summarized herein and in the applicable prospectus supplement, because those documents, and not the summaries, define your rights as holders of the relevant securities. For more information, please review the forms of these documents, which will be filed with the SEC and will be available as described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** above.

**Common Stock**

We may sell our no par value common stock. In a prospectus supplement, we will describe the aggregate number of shares offered and the offering price or prices of the shares.

**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 level of seniority or subordination (as applicable), 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.

**Preferred Stock; Depositary Shares**

We may sell shares of our no par value 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.

**Table of Contents**

**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.

**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.



**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in Valley securities involves 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 following the most recent Form 10-K, and in all other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect Valley will be described in those documents. In addition to those risk factors, there may be additional risks and uncertainties of which management is not aware or focused on or that management deems immaterial. Our business, financial condition or results of 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. This prospectus is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This document contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements regarding the financial condition, results of operations and business of Valley. These statements are not historical facts and include expressions about management's confidence and strategies and management's expectations about new and existing programs and products, acquisitions, relationships, opportunities, taxation, technology, market conditions and economic expectations.

You may identify these statements by looking for:

forward-looking terminology, like should, expect, believe, view, opportunity, allow, continues, reflects, typically, us anticipate;

expressions of confidence like strong or on-going; or

similar statements or variations of those terms.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results the forward-looking statements contemplate because of, among others, the following possibilities:

a severe decline in the general economic conditions of New Jersey, the New York Metropolitan area and Florida;

unexpected changes in market interest rates for interest earning assets and/or interest bearing liabilities;

less than expected cost savings from long-term borrowings that mature from 2015 to 2018;

government intervention in the U.S. financial system and the effects of and changes in trade and monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including the interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve;

claims and litigation pertaining to fiduciary responsibility, contractual issues, environmental laws and other matters;

our inability to pay dividends at current levels, or at all, because of inadequate future earnings, regulatory restrictions or limitations, and changes in the composition of qualifying regulatory capital and minimum capital requirements (including those resulting from the

U.S. implementation of Basel III requirements);

higher than expected loan losses within one or more segments of our loan portfolio;

declines in value in our investment portfolio, including additional other-than-temporary impairment charges on our investment securities;

**Table of Contents**

unexpected significant declines in the loan portfolio due to the lack of economic expansion, increased competition, large prepayments or other factors;

unanticipated credit deterioration in our loan portfolio;

unanticipated loan delinquencies, loss of collateral, decreased service revenues, and other potential negative effects on our business caused by severe weather or other external events;

higher than expected tax rates, including increases resulting from changes in tax laws, regulations and case law;

an unexpected decline in real estate values within our market areas;

higher than expected FDIC insurance assessments;

the failure of other financial institutions with whom we have trading, clearing, counterparty and other financial relationships;

lack of liquidity to fund our various cash obligations;

unanticipated reduction in our deposit base;

potential acquisitions that may disrupt our business;

legislative and regulatory actions (including the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and related regulations) subject us to additional regulatory oversight which may result in higher compliance costs and/or require us to change our business model;

changes in accounting policies or accounting standards;

our inability to promptly adapt to technological changes;

our internal controls and procedures may not be adequate to prevent losses;

the inability to realize expected revenue synergies from the 1st United Bancorp, Inc. merger in the amounts or in the timeframe anticipated;

costs or difficulties relating to the 1st United Bancorp, Inc. integration matters might be greater than expected;

## Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B2

inability to retain customers and employees, including those of 1st United Bancorp, Inc.;

lower than expected cash flows from purchased credit-impaired loans;

cyber attacks, computer viruses or other malware that may breach the security of our websites or other systems to obtain unauthorized access to confidential information, destroy data, disable or degrade service, or sabotage our systems; and

other unexpected material adverse changes in our operations or earnings.

Valley assumes no obligation for updating its forward-looking statements at any time. When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind these risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus and the prospectus supplements. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement, which speaks only as of the date made. You should refer to our periodic and current reports filed with the SEC for specific risks that could cause actual results to be significantly different from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Risk Factors](#) above.

**Table of Contents****RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods shown on a consolidated basis.

	Years ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b><i>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</i></b>					
Excluding interest on deposits	2.21	2.41	2.60	2.42	2.27
Including interest on deposits	1.87	2.02	2.11	1.95	1.84

Note: The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated by adding income before income taxes plus fixed charges and dividing that sum by fixed charges.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of offered securities for general corporate purposes, including:

increasing our regulatory capital levels;

refinancing, reduction or repayment of debt;

investments in the Bank and our other subsidiaries as regulatory capital;

financing of possible acquisitions; and

expansion of the business.

The prospectus supplement with respect to an offering of offered securities may identify different or additional uses for the proceeds of that offering.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities of Valley offered hereby will be passed upon for Valley by Day Pitney LLP, New York, New York.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Valley as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

**\$90,000,000**

**Valley National Bancorp**

**% Subordinated Debentures due , 2025**

*Joint Book-Running Managers*

SANDLER O NEILL + PARTNERS, L.P.

KEEFE, BRUYETTE & WOODS  
A STIFEL COMPANY

DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES