

ZIONS BANCORPORATION /UT/
Form 424B5
May 21, 2010
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Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Warrants (expiring May 22, 2020)	\$185,000,000.59	\$13,190.50 ⁽¹⁾

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(g) of the Securities Act of 1933.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration Statement No. 333-158319

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated March 31, 2009.

Zions Bancorporation

21,077,227 Warrants

to Purchase Common Stock

Zions Bancorporation is offering to sell 21,077,227 warrants, each of which initially represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock, no par value, at an exercise price equal to \$36.63, which is 150% of the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market (the "Nasdaq") on May 19, 2010, rounded down to the nearest cent. Both the exercise price and the number of shares that a warrant confers the right to purchase are subject to adjustment from time to time in the manner described in this prospectus supplement. The warrants expire on May 22, 2020.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. The warrants have been approved for listing on the Nasdaq, subject to official notice of issuance, under the symbol ZIONW. Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol ZION. On May 19, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq was \$24.42 per share.

This offering is part of several capital actions that we announced on May 19, 2010. In addition to this offering, on May 19, 2010, we announced an increase of \$175 million in the size of our existing equity distribution arrangements pursuant to which we may sell through sales agents, from time to time, shares of our common stock (our "equity distribution program"). The common stock sold in the equity distribution program is being offered by means of a separate prospectus supplement and not by means of this prospectus supplement. The equity distribution program is not contingent upon the completion of this offering. See

Summary Recent Developments Capital Actions; Concurrent Transactions in this prospectus supplement for further information regarding our capital actions.

You must meet minimum suitability standards in order to purchase the warrants. You must be able to understand and bear the risk of an investment in the warrants and should be experienced with respect to options and option transactions. You should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisers, of the suitability of the warrants in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information in this prospectus supplement. **The warrants**

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involve a high degree of risk, are not appropriate for every investor and may expire worthless. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement to read about certain factors you should consider before buying the warrants.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this document is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

These securities will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of ours and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any other governmental agency.

	Per Warrant	Total
Public offering price	\$ 8.3028	\$ 175,000,000.34
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.2490	\$ 5,248,229.52
Proceeds, before expenses, to Zions Bancorporation	\$ 8.0538	\$ 169,751,770.82

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 21,077,227 warrants, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 1,204,413 warrants at the initial public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions.

The underwriters expect to deliver the warrants in book-entry form only, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company (DTC), against payment on or about May 25, 2010.

Joint Bookrunning Managers

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Deutsche Bank Securities

Co-Manager

Barclays Capital

Prospectus Supplement dated May 19, 2010.

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No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are an offer to sell only the warrants offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in

jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the date of this prospectus supplement.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement also adds to, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. The accompanying prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), using a shelf registration statement. Under the shelf registration process, from time to time, we may offer and sell debt securities, warrants or other rights, stock purchase contracts, units, common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, or any combination thereof, in one or more offerings.

It is important that you read and consider all of the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in "Incorporation by Reference" on page v of this prospectus supplement and "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 2 of the accompanying prospectus.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the warrants in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. References herein to "\$" and "dollars" are to the currency of the United States. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, except as otherwise indicated, the terms "Company," "Zions," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Zions Bancorporation and its subsidiaries, and "common stock" refers to the common stock, no par value, of Zions Bancorporation.

Zions® and Zions Bank® are registered service marks of Zions Bancorporation. All other service marks, trademarks and trade names referred to in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

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DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this prospectus supplement that are based on other than historical data are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements provide current expectations or forecasts of future events and include, among others:

statements with respect to the beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, guidelines, expectations, anticipations and future financial condition, results of operations and performance of Zions Bancorporation and its subsidiaries; and

statements preceded by, followed by or that include the words may, could, should, would, believe, anticipate, estimate, expect, intend, plan, projects, or similar expressions.

These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, nor should they be relied upon as representing management's views as of any subsequent date. Forward-looking statements involve significant risks and uncertainties and actual results may differ materially from those presented, either expressed or implied, in this prospectus supplement. Factors that might cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

the Company's ability to successfully execute its business plans, manage its risks and achieve its objectives;

changes in political and economic conditions, including without limitation the political and economic effects of the current economic crisis, delay of recovery from the current economic crisis and major wars, military actions and terrorist attacks;

changes in financial market conditions, either internationally, nationally or locally in areas in which we conduct operations, including without limitation reduced rates of business formation and growth, commercial and residential real estate development and real estate prices;

fluctuations in markets for equity, fixed-income, commercial paper and other securities, including availability, market liquidity levels and pricing;

changes in interest rates, the quality and composition of the loan and securities portfolios, demand for loan products, deposit flows and competition;

acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses;

increases in the levels of losses, customer bankruptcies, bank failures, claims and assessments;

changes in fiscal, monetary, regulatory, trade and tax policies and laws and regulatory assessments and fees, including policies of the U.S. Department of Treasury (the "U.S. Treasury"), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board System (the "Federal Reserve") and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC");

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our participation or lack of participation in governmental programs implemented under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, as amended (EESA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including without limitation the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) and the Capital Purchase Program (CPP) and the impact of such programs and related regulations on us and on international, national and local economic and financial markets and conditions;

the impact of the EESA and the ARRA and related rules and regulations and changes in those rules and regulations, on the business operations and our competitiveness and that of other participating American financial institutions, including the impact of the executive compensation limits of these acts, which may impact our ability and the ability of other

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participating American financial institutions to retain and recruit executives and other personnel necessary for their businesses and competitiveness;

continuing consolidation in the financial services industry;

new litigation or changes in existing litigation;

success in gaining regulatory approvals, when required;

changes in consumer spending and savings habits;

increased competitive challenges and expanding product and pricing pressures among financial institutions;

demand for financial services in our market areas;

inflation and deflation;

technological changes and our implementation of new technologies;

our ability to develop and maintain secure and reliable information technology systems;

legislation or regulatory changes which adversely affect our operations or business;

our ability to comply with applicable laws and regulations;

changes in accounting policies or procedures as may be required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or regulatory agencies; and

increased costs of deposit insurance and changes with respect to FDIC insurance coverage levels.

We have identified some additional important factors that could cause future events to differ from our current expectations and they are described in this prospectus supplement under the caption "Risk Factors," as well as in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, including without limitation under the captions "Risk Factors," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and in other documents that we may file with the SEC, all of which you should review carefully.

Except to the extent required by law, we specifically disclaim any obligation to update any factors or to publicly announce the result of revisions to any of the forward-looking statements included herein to reflect future events or developments.

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INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that Zions Bancorporation has filed separately with the SEC that contains that information. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Information that Zions Bancorporation files with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically modify and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the extent that the subsequently filed information modifies or supersedes the existing information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 5, 2010, January 25, 2010, February 19, 2010, March 1, 2010, March 30, 2010, April 19, 2010 and May 19, 2010 (except in each case, any information that has been deemed to be furnished and not filed, and any exhibits related thereto).

In addition, all reports and other documents we subsequently file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) after the date of this prospectus supplement until this offering has been completed (other than any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K unless we specifically state in such Current Report that such information is to be considered filed under the Exchange Act or we incorporate it by reference into a filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or the Exchange Act) will be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and to be part of this prospectus supplement from the date of the filing of such reports and documents. Any statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently filed document which is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

You may request a copy of any of these filings at no cost by writing to or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Investor Relations

Zions Bancorporation

One South Main Street, 15th Floor

Salt Lake City, Utah

84133 (801) 524-4787

In addition, these filings are available on our web site at <http://www.zionsbancorporation.com>. Our web site does not form a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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SUMMARY

The following summary should be read together with the information contained in other parts of this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. It may not contain all the information that is important to you. You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in their entirety to understand fully the terms of the warrants, as well as the other considerations that are important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in the warrants.

Zions Bancorporation

Zions Bancorporation is a financial holding company organized under the laws of the State of Utah in 1955, and registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Zions Bancorporation and its subsidiaries own and operate eight commercial banks in ten Western and Southwestern states with a total of 494 domestic branches as of March 31, 2010. We provide a full range of banking and related services through our banking and other subsidiaries, primarily in Utah, California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Full-time equivalent employees totaled 10,505 as of March 31, 2010.

We focus on providing community-minded banking services by continuously strengthening our core business lines of (1) small, medium-sized business and corporate banking; (2) commercial and residential development, construction and term lending; (3) retail banking; (4) treasury cash management and related products and services; (5) residential mortgage; (6) trust and wealth management; and (7) investment activities. Each of our banks operates under a different name and each has its own board of directors, chief executive officer and management team. The banks provide a wide variety of commercial and retail banking and mortgage lending products and services. They also provide a wide range of personal banking services to individuals, including home mortgages, bankcard, installment loans, home equity lines of credit, checking accounts, savings accounts, time certificates of various types and maturities, trust services, safe deposit facilities, direct deposit and 24-hour ATM access. In addition, certain banking subsidiaries provide services to key market segments through their Women's Financial, Private Client Services and Executive Banking Groups. We also offer wealth management services through a subsidiary, Contango Capital Advisors, Inc., and online brokerage services through Zions Direct, Inc.

In addition to these core businesses, we have built specialized lines of business in capital markets, public finance and certain financial technologies, and we are also a leader in Small Business Administration (SBA) lending. Through our eight banking subsidiaries, we provide SBA 7(a) loans to small businesses throughout the United States and are also one of the largest providers of SBA 504 financing in the nation. We own an equity interest in the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) and are one of the nation's top originators of secondary market agricultural real estate mortgage loans through Farmer Mac. We are a leader in municipal finance advisory and underwriting services. We also control four venture capital funds that provide early-stage capital primarily for start-up companies located in the Western United States. Our NetDeposit, LLC subsidiary is a leader in check imaging and clearing technology.

Recent Developments

Capital Actions; Concurrent Transactions

During 2009, we took a variety of actions that had the effect of augmenting our capital in the face of continuing operating losses and stress in our loan and securities portfolios. Our tangible common equity ratio was 6.30% at March 31, 2010 compared to 6.12% at December 31, 2009 and 5.26% at March 31, 2009, and our Tier 1 common to risk-weighted assets ratio was 7.14% at

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March 31, 2010 compared to 6.73% at December 31, 2009 and 5.73% at March 31, 2009. In the second quarter, based in part on a continuing review of our capital position, regulatory expectations and longer-term preparation for the eventual repayment of the \$1.4 billion in par amount of Series D Fixed-Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock (the Series D Preferred Stock) issued in November 2008 to the U.S. Treasury, we anticipate undertaking several additional capital actions. Those capital actions include (1) the offering of warrants as described in this prospectus supplement and (2) the increase in the aggregate offering amount under our equity distribution agreements with Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co., described in a separate filing with the SEC today (these two offerings, the offerings). We also anticipate that those capital actions will include one or more additional transactions this quarter that, together with the offerings, are intended to result in a total increase of approximately \$600 million in our Tier 1 capital. The nature of any such additional capital actions will depend in large part on factors beyond our control, which may include, among others things, market conditions, and there can be no assurances as to the final type or amount of additional Tier 1 capital.

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THE OFFERING

Issuer	Zions Bancorporation.
Warrants Offered	21,077,227 warrants, each of which initially represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock, at an initial exercise price equal to \$36.63, which is 150% of the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq on May 19, 2010, rounded down to the nearest cent.

The warrants can be exercised at any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on May 22, 2020 (the expiration date). Any warrants not exercised prior to the expiration date will be automatically exercised on the expiration date under certain circumstances as described under Description of Warrants Exercise and Settlement of the Warrants.

As used in this prospectus supplement, the number of underlying shares means the number of shares of our common stock that a warrant confers the right to purchase, which is initially one share, subject to adjustment. The number of shares to which a warrant holder is entitled upon exercise of a warrant differs from the number of underlying shares by virtue of the net share settlement calculation. Upon exercise, a warrant holder will receive, on the settlement date for the warrants being exercised, a number of shares of our common stock equal to the sum of the daily settlement amounts (as defined herein) for each of the 10 consecutive trading days during the related calculation period (as defined herein), together with cash in lieu of any fractional shares. See Description of Warrants Exercise and Settlement of the Warrants. In addition, upon exercise in connection with a designated event or an accounting event, we may be required to increase the number of shares to which a warrant holder is entitled with respect to such exercised warrants as described in this prospectus supplement. See Description of the Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon a Designated Event and Description of the Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon a Accounting Event. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event will the number of shares of common stock deliverable to the warrant holder as a result of the net share settlement calculation or as a result of a designated event or accounting event, individually or in aggregate, exceed the number of underlying shares.

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We have the right to issue additional warrants of this series in the future. Any such additional warrants will have the same terms as the warrants being offered by this prospectus supplement but may be offered at a different public offering price than the warrants being offered hereby. If issued, any such additional warrants will become part of the same series as the warrants being offered hereby.

Common Stock Outstanding After this Offering

160,261,186 shares of common stock.

The number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering is based on the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of April 30, 2010. Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of common stock outstanding after this offering excludes (1) up to 21,077,227 shares initially issuable upon exercise of the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement, (2) up to 1,204,413 shares initially issuable upon exercise of the warrants underlying the underwriters' option to purchase up to 1,204,413 additional warrants, (3) an aggregate of up to \$300,000,039.24 in common stock that may be sold from time to time at market prices under our equity distribution program, (4) 5,789,909 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants issued to the U.S. Treasury under TARP and (5) 7,189,854 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of April 30, 2010.

Use of Proceeds

We will use the proceeds of the offering for general corporate purposes. Pending the use of the net proceeds of this offering, we intend to invest the net proceeds in interest-bearing, investment grade securities.

Risk Factors

See Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus for a discussion of factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the warrants.

Nasdaq Symbol

ZIONW

Warrant Agent

Zions First National Bank

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in the warrants involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described below and in the accompanying prospectus, as well as the risk factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. The warrants are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant features of the warrants, our common stock or financial matters in general. You should not purchase the warrants unless you understand and know that you can bear all of the risks associated with the warrants and with owning our common stock. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of the warrants and/or our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. This prospectus supplement also contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks faced by us described below and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein.

Risks Relating to the Warrants

The warrants are a risky investment. You may not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants- the warrants may expire worthless.

The exercise price of the warrants is 150% of the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq on May 19, 2010, rounded down to the nearest cent, which is higher than our stock price on such day. In order for you to recover the value of your investment in the warrants, either a trading market must develop for the warrants and the market price of the warrants must exceed the public offering price, or our common stock price must increase to more than the sum of the exercise price of the warrants and the public offering price of the warrants.

The warrants are exercisable until May 22, 2020. Generally, a component of the value of option securities such as the warrants is time until expiration and, as the period of time until expiration of the warrants decreases, the market price of the warrants will, holding other variables constant, likely decline. In the event our common stock price does not increase to the level discussed above during the period when the warrants are exercisable, you will likely not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants. In addition, if our common stock price falls and remains below the exercise price of the warrants, the warrants may not have any value and may expire without being exercised, in which case you will lose your entire investment. There can be no assurance that the market price of our common stock will exceed the exercise price or the price required for you to achieve a positive return on your investment at any point during the warrant exercise period. The number of shares and the value of the common stock you receive upon exercise of the warrants will depend on the daily settlement amounts for each of the 10 consecutive trading days during the related calculation period, which is based on the day on which you choose to exercise those warrants. **You should be prepared to sustain a total loss of the purchase price of your warrants.**

There is no existing market for the warrants, and you cannot be certain that an active market will be established.

Prior to this offering, there has been no existing trading market for the warrants. The market price for the warrants may decline below the public offering price and may be volatile. The liquidity of any market for the warrants will depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to:

the number of warrants we sell in this offering;

the number of holders of the warrants;

our performance;

the market for similar securities;

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the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the warrants; and

the market price of our common stock.

In addition, many of the risks that are described elsewhere in this section and under the heading **Risk Factors** in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K could materially and adversely affect the price of the warrants.

The warrants are not suitable for all investors.

The warrants are complex financial instruments for which there is no established trading market. Accordingly, the underwriters will be required to establish and enforce client suitability standards, including eligibility, account status and size, to evaluate whether an investment in the warrants is appropriate for any particular investor. Each underwriter will individually apply its own standards in making that determination, but in each case those standards will be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (**FINRA**). If you do not meet the relevant suitability requirements of an underwriter, you will not be able to participate in this offering.

Recent governmental actions regarding short sales may adversely affect the market value of the warrants.

Governmental actions that interfere with the ability of warrant investors to effect short sales of the underlying common stock could significantly affect the market value of the warrants. Such government actions could make the arbitrage strategy that certain warrant investors employ more difficult to execute for the warrants offered hereby. At an open meeting on February 24, 2010, the SEC adopted a new short sale price test, which will take effect through amendment to Rule 201 of Regulation SHO. New Rule 201 will restrict short selling only when a stock price has triggered a circuit breaker by falling at least 10% in one day, at which point short sale orders can be displayed or executed only if the order price is above the current national best bid, subject to certain limited exceptions. If such new price test precludes warrant investors from executing the arbitrage strategy that they employ or other limitations are instituted by the SEC or any other regulatory agencies, the market value of the warrants could be adversely affected. The warrant agreement does not contain any provisions to afford holders protection in the event of a decline in the market value of the warrants due to such new price test or other limitations, and holders will not be entitled to any exercise price reduction or increase to the number of underlying shares except under the limited circumstances described in **Description of Warrants**.

Purchasers of warrants who exercise their warrants for shares of our common stock could incur immediate and future dilution.

Upon exercise of your warrants for shares of our common stock, you could experience immediate and substantial dilution if the exercise price of your warrants at the time is higher than the net tangible book value per share of the outstanding common stock. In addition, you will experience dilution, except in limited circumstances pursuant to the anti-dilution protections contained in the warrant agreement and described in this prospectus supplement, when we issue additional shares of our common stock that we are permitted or required to issue in any future offerings, or under our outstanding convertible securities or warrants, or under our stock option plans or other employee or director compensation plans.

The market price of the warrants will be directly affected by the market price of our common stock, which may be volatile.

To the extent a secondary market develops for the warrants, the market price of our common stock will significantly affect the market price of the warrants. This may result in greater volatility in the market price of the warrants than would be expected for warrants to purchase securities other

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than our common stock. The market price of our common stock could be subject to significant fluctuations due to factors described below under Risks Related to Our Common

Stock Volatility in the market price and trading volume of our common stock could adversely impact the trading price of the warrants and Future sales of shares of our common stock may depress its market price, and we cannot predict how shares of our common stock will trade in the future. Increased volatility could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock, and, in turn, in the market price of the warrants. The price of our common stock also could be affected by possible sales of common stock by investors who view the warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage activity involving our common stock. The hedging or arbitrage of our common stock could, in turn, affect the market price of the warrants.

Holders of the warrants will have no rights as common stockholders until and unless they acquire our common stock.

Until you become a holder of record of the shares of our common stock issued upon settlement of your warrants, you will have no rights with respect to our common stock, including rights to dividend payments, if any, rights to vote or rights to respond to tender offers. Upon exercise of your warrants, you will be entitled to exercise the rights of a common stockholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the date on which you become holder of record of such shares as described under Description of Warrants No Rights as Stockholders.

The exercise price and the number of underlying shares may not be adjusted for all dilutive events.

The exercise price and the number of underlying shares are subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of stock dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness or assets, certain cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers as described below under Description of Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants. The exercise price and the number of underlying shares will not be adjusted, however, for other events, such as a third-party tender or exchange offer, a merger or reorganization in which our common stock is acquired for cash or an issuance of common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the market price of the warrants or our common stock except under limited circumstances as described under Description of Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon a Designated Event. Other events that adversely affect the value of the warrants may occur that do not result in an adjustment to the exercise price or the number of underlying shares.

Additionally, the exercise price of, and the number of shares underlying, the warrants will not be adjusted for any regular quarterly cash dividends that are in the aggregate less than or equal to \$0.01 per share of common stock. The current quarterly cash dividend paid on our common stock is \$0.01 per share. Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare, and our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may decide to increase the quarterly cash dividend on our common stock at any time.

The warrant agreement is not an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act, and the obligations of the warrant agent are limited.

The warrant agreement is not an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the TIA), and the warrant agent is not a trustee qualified under the TIA. Accordingly, warrant holders will not have the benefits of the protections of the TIA. Under the terms of the warrant agreement, the warrant agent will have only limited obligations to the warrant holders. Accordingly, it may in some circumstances be difficult for warrant holders, acting individually or collectively, to take actions to enforce their rights under the warrants or the warrant agreement.

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Hedging arrangements relating to the warrants may affect the value of our common stock.

In order to hedge their positions, holders of our warrants may enter into derivative transactions with respect to our common stock, may unwind or adjust derivative transactions and may purchase or sell our common stock in secondary market transactions. The effect, if any, of any of these activities on the market price of our common stock will depend in part on market conditions and cannot be ascertained in advance, but any of these activities could adversely affect the value of our common stock.

The adjustment to the number of shares received for warrants exercised in connection with a designated event or accounting event (each as defined below under Description of Warrants) occurring prior to the expiration date may not adequately compensate you for the lost option time value as a result of such designated event or accounting event.

If you elect to exercise your warrant in connection with a designated event, or we cause all your warrants to be exercised in connection with an accounting event, in each case occurring prior to the expiration date, we may be required to increase the number of shares to which you are entitled with respect to such exercised warrants as described under Description of Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon a Designated Event and Description of Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon an Accounting Event. While the increase to the number of shares to which you are entitled with respect to such exercised warrants is designed to compensate you for the lost option time value of your warrants as a result of a designated event or accounting event, it is only an approximation of such lost value and may not adequately compensate you for such loss. In addition, if the applicable price (as such term is defined under Description of Warrants Exercise of Warrants upon a Designated Event) of our common stock with respect to a designated event is greater than \$200.00 per share or less than \$5.00 per share (in each case, subject to anti-dilution adjustments), there will be no additional shares delivered upon exercise of any warrant in connection with such designated event or accounting event. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event will the number of shares of common stock deliverable to the warrant holder as a result of the net share settlement calculation or as a result of a designated event, individually or in aggregate, exceed the number of underlying shares.

The significant number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants and our existing convertible securities could adversely affect the trading prices of our common stock and, as a result, the value of the warrants.

As of March 31, 2010, we had outstanding \$1.4 billion in par amount of Series D Preferred Stock, which was issued in November 2008 to the U.S. Treasury. In connection with the Series D Preferred Stock, we issued to the U.S. Treasury a warrant to purchase up to 5,789,909 shares of our common stock. The warrants being offered hereby could be exercised and result in the issuance of a significant number of shares. In addition, in certain circumstances upon a designated event or accounting event we may be required to deliver significantly more shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants. Conversion of our outstanding convertible securities, exercise of the warrants, and the sale in the market of our common stock issued upon such conversion or exercise or the perception that our outstanding convertible securities and the warrants will be converted or exercised could depress the market price of our common stock and, as a result, the value of the warrants. In addition, the price of our common stock could be adversely affected by possible sales, including short sales, of our common stock by investors in our warrants and other securities who engage in hedging and arbitrage activities.

You may be subject to tax upon an adjustment to the exercise price or the number of underlying shares even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The exercise price and the number of underlying shares are subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. To the extent any such adjustment or failure to adjust results in an increase in your

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proportionate interest in our assets or our earnings and profits, you may be deemed to have received for U.S. federal income tax purposes a taxable dividend to the extent deemed paid out of our earnings and profits without the receipt of any cash. If you are a non-U.S. holder, such deemed dividend generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (currently at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty), which may be set off against shares of our common stock to be delivered upon exercise of warrants. See "Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this prospectus supplement.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

The price of our common stock is volatile and may decline.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations have adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our securities or those of other financial institutions;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community;

turnover among senior staff;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

actions by institutional shareholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry, including the likelihood of a prolonged recession;

future sales of our equity or equity-related securities;

changes in the frequency or amount of dividends or share repurchases;

proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

anticipated or pending investigations, audits and similar inquiries, proceedings or litigation that involve or affect us; or

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual shareholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

Resales of our common stock in the public market following the offering may cause its market price to fall.

In the future, we may sell additional shares of our common stock to raise capital, including pursuant to our existing equity distribution program or future such programs or for other purposes, and we may issue substantial amounts of additional shares of our common stock, including shares issuable

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upon exercise of outstanding options and warrants. Such sales, or the perception that such sales could occur, may have a harmful effect on prevailing market prices for our common stock and our ability to raise additional capital in the financial markets at a time and price favorable to us.

Volatility in the market price and trading volume of our common stock could adversely impact the trading price of the warrants.

The stock market in recent years has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated to the operating performance of companies. The market price of our common stock could fluctuate significantly for many reasons, including in response to the risks described in this section, elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or for reasons unrelated to our operations, such as reports by industry analysts, investor perceptions or negative announcements by our customers, competitors, trading counterparties or suppliers regarding their own performance, as well as regulatory changes or developments, government actions or announcements, industry conditions and general financial, economic and political instability. A decrease in the market price of our common stock would likely adversely impact the trading price of the warrants. The price of our common stock could also be affected by possible sales of our common stock by investors who view the warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage trading activity that we expect to develop involving our common stock. This trading activity could, in turn, affect the trading prices of the warrants.

Our common stock is equity and therefore is subordinate to our indebtedness and preferred stock, and our ability to declare dividends on our common stock may be limited.

Shares of our common stock are equity interests in Zions Bancorporation, and not any of our subsidiaries, and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of our common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on Zions Bancorporation with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on Zions Bancorporation, including in a liquidation of Zions Bancorporation. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of our preferred stock then outstanding. Under the terms of the Series A Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, the Series C 9.5% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock and the Series D Preferred Stock (collectively, our preferred stock), our ability to declare or pay dividends on or repurchase our common stock or other equity or capital securities will be subject to restrictions in the event that we fail to declare and pay (or set aside for payment) full dividends on our preferred stock. In addition, prior to November 14, 2011, unless we have redeemed all of the Series D Preferred Stock or the U.S. Treasury has transferred all of the Series D Preferred Stock to third-parties, the consent of the U.S. Treasury will be required for us to, among other things, increase our quarterly common stock dividend above \$0.32 except in limited circumstances. Our board of directors is authorized to cause us to issue additional classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of the stockholders. If we issue preferred stock in the future that has a preference over our common stock with respect to the payment of dividends or upon liquidation, or if we issue preferred stock with voting rights that dilute the voting power of our common stock, the rights of holders of our common stock or the market price of our common stock could be adversely affected. We are not restricted from issuing additional indebtedness or preferred stock, subject to any required approvals from the Federal Reserve.

Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. In the third quarter of 2009, we reduced our quarterly dividend to \$0.01 per share and do not expect to increase our quarterly dividend above \$0.01 for the foreseeable future and could determine to reduce further or eliminate altogether our common stock dividend. Furthermore, as long as the preferred stock issued to the U.S. Treasury is

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outstanding, dividend payments and repurchases or redemptions relating to certain equity securities, including our common stock, are prohibited until all accrued and unpaid dividends are paid on such preferred stock, subject to certain limited exceptions. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Also, as discussed below, we are a bank holding company and our ability to declare and pay dividends is dependent on certain federal regulatory considerations, including the guidelines of the Federal Reserve regarding capital adequacy and dividends.

If we are deferring payments on our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities or are in default under the indentures governing those securities, or if we are in arrears on the payment of dividends on our outstanding preferred stock, we will be prohibited from making distributions on our common stock.

In addition to the fact that our common stock is subordinate to our indebtedness and preferred stock, the terms of our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities contain prohibitions on our declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our common stock, or redeeming, purchasing, acquiring or making a liquidation payment with respect to such shares, if we are aware of any event that would be an event of default under the indenture with respect to those junior subordinated debt securities or at any time when we have deferred interest thereunder.

There may be future dilution of our common stock.

Our board of directors may authorize us to issue additional shares of common or preferred stock or securities convertible or exchangeable into equity securities without shareholder approval. We may issue such additional equity or convertible or exchangeable securities to raise additional capital. The issuance of any additional shares of common or preferred stock or convertible or exchangeable securities could be substantially dilutive to shareholders of our common stock. Moreover, to the extent that we issue restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, options or warrants or similar rights to receive or purchase shares of our common stock in the future and those stock appreciation rights, options or warrants or similar rights vest or are exercised, our shareholders may experience further dilution. Holders of our shares of common stock have no preemptive rights that entitle holders to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series and, therefore, such sales or offerings could result in increased dilution to our shareholders.

In addition, we are highly regulated, and our regulators could require us to raise additional common equity in the future. Any such capital raise could include, among other things, the potential issuance of common stock.

The issuance of any additional shares of common or preferred stock or convertible or exchangeable securities or the conversion or exercise of convertible or exchangeable securities could be substantially dilutive to stockholders of our common stock. For instance, exercise of the warrant issued to the U.S. Treasury in connection with our participation in the CPP would dilute the value of our common stock. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of shares of our common stock made after this offering or the perception that such sales might occur.

We may issue debt and equity securities or securities convertible into equity securities, any of which may be senior to our common stock as to distributions and in liquidation, which could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by entering into debt or debt-like financing that is unsecured or secured by some or all of our assets, or by issuing additional debt or equity securities, which could include issuances of secured or unsecured commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior notes, subordinated notes, preferred stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for equity securities. In the event of our liquidation, our lenders and holders of our debt

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and preferred securities would receive a distribution of our available assets before distributions to the holders of our common stock. Because our decision to incur debt and issue securities in our future offerings will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings and debt financings. Further, market conditions could require us to accept less favorable terms for the issuance of our securities in the future.

Risks Related to the Company

Our results of operations depend upon the results of operations of our subsidiaries.

We are a holding company that conducts substantially all of our operations through our banking and other subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make dividend payments on our common stock will depend primarily upon the receipt of dividends and other distributions from our subsidiaries. The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us is impacted by their profitability and the regulatory capital ratios they are required to maintain.

The ability of our banking subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other payments to us is also limited by their obligations to maintain sufficient capital and by other general regulatory restrictions on their dividends. If they do not satisfy these regulatory requirements, we will be unable to pay dividends on our common stock. The Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the OCC), the primary regulator for certain of our subsidiary banks, have issued policy statements generally requiring insured banks and bank holding companies only to pay dividends out of current operating earnings. 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, which could include the payment of dividends under certain circumstances, such authority may take actions requiring that such bank refrain from the practice. Payment of dividends could also be subject to regulatory limitations if a subsidiary bank were to become under-capitalized for purposes of the applicable federal regulatory prompt corrective action regulations. Under-capitalized is currently defined as having a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 8.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 4.0%, or a core capital, or leverage, ratio of less than 4.0%.

We and/or the holders of our securities could be adversely affected by unfavorable rating actions from rating agencies.

Our ability to access the capital markets is important to our overall funding profile. This access is affected by the ratings assigned by rating agencies to us, certain of our affiliates and particular classes of securities that we and our affiliates issue. The interest rates that we pay on our securities are also influenced by, among other things, the credit ratings that we, our affiliates and/or our securities receive from recognized rating agencies. On April 20, 2009, Moody's Investor Services (Moody's) severely downgraded the senior unsecured debt rating of Zions Bancorporation to B2 and lowered its outlook to Outlook Negative. On April 30, 2010, Standard & Poor's Rating Services reaffirmed the long-term issuer rating of Zions Bancorporation to BBB- with an Outlook Negative. On June 30, 2009, Fitch Ratings (Fitch) downgraded the long-term issuer rating of Zions Bancorporation to BBB. Fitch maintains a negative outlook on Zions Bancorporation. On July 22, 2009, Dominion Bond Rating Service down