



April 27, 2026

Dear Shareholder;

You are cordially invited to join our annual shareholders' meeting on May 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Our annual meeting will be held via tele-conference.

We have elected to share all of the necessary proxy materials on our website, www.firstfreedombank.com. On the home page of our website, please follow the link labeled "About" for your Shareholder Proxy Information. This electronic method of distributing shareholder information is much more cost effective and environmentally friendly. If you do not have computer access or would prefer a paper version, please contact us and we will deliver a copy of all proxy materials to you.

After reviewing the proxy materials, please vote, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return to us in the envelope provided. Please indicate on your proxy card if you plan to join via tele-conference. **Those planning to join are requested to provide your email address so that we may provide call-in credentials prior to the meeting date.**

Please also note the company's board of directors voted to issue a 2.50% stock dividend that will be paid on July 20, 2026 to shareholders of record as of July 17, 2026. Shortly thereafter you will receive a statement of ownership reflecting your new position.

We are hopeful you will join our shareholders' meeting and appreciate your investment and support.

Sincerely,

John R. Lancaster
Chairman & CEO

John H. Bradshaw
President, COO & Board Secretary

FIRST FREEDOM BANCSHARES, INC.
Lebanon, Tennessee

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders
To be Held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026

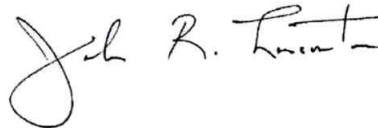
You are cordially invited to join via teleconference the annual meeting (the “Meeting”) of the shareholders of First Freedom Bancshares, Inc., Lebanon, Tennessee (the “Company”), which will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. local time, for the following purposes:

1. *Election of Directors.* The election of two individuals to the Board of Directors of the Company.

All Company shareholders are encouraged to join the conference call and be a part of the meeting.

Shareholders should review the Proxy Statement, which is posted online at www.firstfreedombank.com, and then complete, date, and sign the proxy card and promptly return it to the Company in the envelope provided. Record holders of Company stock may request that a copy of the Proxy Statement be delivered to them by mail or e-mail. Please return your proxy card by no later than May 19, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
FIRST FREEDOM BANCSHARES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Lancaster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

John R. Lancaster, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

PROXY CARD
REVOCABLE PROXY

FIRST FREEDOM BANCSHARES, INC.
Lebanon, Tennessee

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

By signing below, you, as a holder of common stock of First Freedom Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company"), appoint John H. Bradshaw and John R. Lancaster as your proxies. This appointment applies to each of them separately and allows them to appoint substitutes as needed. You are empowering them to vote all of your shares of Company common stock at the annual meeting of the Company's shareholders (the "Meeting") to be held via tele-conference on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. local time, and at any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting.

Your proxies will vote on Proposal 1 as you specify on this card. If you do not specify how, you want your proxies to vote, your proxies will vote **FOR** the approval of each of the nominees. If any other matters properly come before the Meeting, your proxies will vote on those matters in accordance with the recommendations of the management of the Bank.

Proposal 1: Election of Directors:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE DIRECTOR NOMINEES LISTED BELOW.

Name of Nominee	FOR	Against
John H. Bradshaw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John R. Lancaster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardie V. Sorrels, III, M.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, AND DATE THIS PROXY CARD AND PROMPTLY RETURN IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. Please Sign below exactly as your name appears on your stock certificate(s). When shares are held by joint tenants, both joint tenants should sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian, please give your full title.

Dated: _____, 2026

**Please mark an "X" if you plan to
join the conference call:**

Email Address: _____

Phone Number (if no email): _____

Signature

Print or type name

Signature (if held jointly)

Print or type name of joint holder

**PROXY STATEMENT
FOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
OF
FIRST FREEDOM BANCSHARES, INC.
LEBANON, TENNESSEE**

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

INTRODUCTION

General

This Proxy Statement is being furnished to the shareholders of First Freedom Bancshares, Inc., Lebanon, Tennessee. In this Proxy Statement, the terms “we,” “our,” “ours,” “us,” and the “Company” refer to First Freedom Bancshares, Inc. The terms “Board” and “Board of Directors” refer to our board of directors.

This Proxy Statement is being furnished to you in connection with the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Company to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 beginning at 4:00 p.m. local time, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the “Meeting”). The Meeting will be held via tele-conference and shareholders may call into the meeting to join. The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. Proposal 1: To elect two individuals to the Board of Directors;
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

We do not know of any business that will be presented for consideration at the Meeting other than the election of two individuals to the Board of Directors. This Proxy Statement is dated May 19, 2026 and is being made available to the shareholders of the Company on the Internet or, upon your request, will be delivered to you by mail or e-mail, along with the form of proxy.

Record Date, Voting, and Revocability of Proxies

The Board has fixed the close of business on April 22, 2026, as the record date (the “Record Date”) for the determination of Company shareholders entitled to vote at the Meeting. The Company currently has one class of stock outstanding, which has unlimited voting rights. As of the Record Date, we had XXX shares of common stock outstanding held by shareholders;

Holders of the Company’s common stock as of the Record Date (the “Record Holders”) are entitled to vote on all proposals at the Meeting. Each shareholder is entitled to one vote for each share of stock held on the Record Date.

Required Vote

A majority of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at the meeting, present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for purposes of the Meeting.

Assuming the presence of a quorum of the Record Holders for the vote on Proposal 1, the following vote is required:

1. *Proposal 1: Election of Directors.* The affirmative vote of a plurality of all votes cast, in person or by proxy, by shareholders entitled to vote for the election of directors.
2. *Other Business.* The votes cast in favor of any matter that properly comes before the Meeting must exceed the votes cast opposing any such matter.

The Company will treat shares represented by proxies that reflect abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to be cast for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Abstentions do not constitute a vote “for” or “against” any of the matters before the Meeting and will be disregarded in the calculation of a plurality, a majority and “votes cast.” Therefore, abstentions will not have any effect on either of the proposals presented for shareholder approval at the Meeting.

All Company shareholders are encouraged to join the Meeting.

If a proxy card is submitted without instructions, the represented shares will be voted as follows:

1. **“FOR” the election of all nominated individuals to the Board;**
2. **If any other matters that properly come before the Meeting, they will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the management of the Bank**

Once a shareholder provides us his or her proxy, the shareholder may revoke the proxy at any time before it is exercised at the Meeting by: (i) giving written notice of revocation to the Chairman/CEO of the Company; (ii) properly submitting to the Chairman/CEO of the Company a properly executed proxy with a later date. All written communications regarding proxies should be addressed as follows:

FIRST FREEDOM BANCSHARES, INC.
Attention: John R. Lancaster
Chairman and CEO
1620 West Main Street
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087

THE COMPANY AND THE BANK

General

The Company is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Tennessee in 2008 and is a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company is supervised and regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions (the “TDFI”). The Company owns 100% of the outstanding voting securities of First Freedom Bank, a Tennessee-chartered commercial bank domiciled in Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee (the “Bank”). The Bank was organized in 2006 and is supervised and regulated by the TDFI and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Bank’s main office is located at 1620 West Main Street, Lebanon, Tennessee 37087, and the Bank operates a branch office in each of Cookeville, Tennessee, Algood, Tennessee, and Gainesboro, Tennessee, and two branch offices in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company provides for a range in the number of Company directors of five to 25 persons and authorizes the Board to fix a number of directors within this range. The Board has fixed the current number of Company directors at 8. The Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws further provide for the division of the directors of the Company into three classes, with the directors in each class to serve three-year, staggered terms and with each class of directors to consist as closely as possible of one-third of the total number of Company directors. At the Meeting, Record Holders will be asked to vote to re-elect to the Board for three-year terms the three current Company directors whose current terms of service expire in 2026.

In the event that any director nominee is unable to serve (which is not anticipated), the persons designated as proxies will cast votes for the remaining nominees and for such other person(s) as they may select. The following table sets forth certain information for all current Company directors, including those directors whose terms of service expire in 2026 and are up for re-election at the Meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Community of Residence</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
John H. Bradshaw	Lebanon, TN	2026
John R. Lancaster ⁽¹⁾	Lebanon, TN	2026
Hardie V. Sorrels III, M.D.	Lebanon, TN	2026
Joshua B. (J.B.) Owens	Lebanon, TN	2027
Matthew J. (Judd) Sellars	Lebanon, TN	2027
Robert C. Woods, M.D.	Lebanon, TN	2027
Jackie W. Gaither	Lebanon, TN	2028
Randy G. Laine	Lebanon, TN	2028

⁽¹⁾ Chairman

Biographies for each of the director nominees up for election and re-election at the Meeting are as follows:

John H. Bradshaw has over thirty-five years of experience in all aspects of banking. He currently serves as President/COO and CLO of First Freedom Bank. He was an Organizer of First Freedom Bank and has served on its Board of Directors since its inception in 2006.

A lifelong resident of Lebanon, he graduated from Castle Heights Military Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science in finance from the University of Tennessee. Additionally, he earned his Master of Business Administration from Cumberland University. He is a graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Banking and the Tennessee Commercial School of Banking at Vanderbilt University. Mr. Bradshaw is the past Chairman of the Board for the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as Chairman of the Health and Education Board of Wilson County. He is a member and a Paul Harris Fellow of the Lebanon Rotary Club. He has volunteered with Middle Tennessee Junior Achievement as an adult leader/teacher to students at Lebanon High School. He is a former board member of the American Heart Association, the Empower Me Center, and the Leadership Wilson Alumni Board, and he graduated from the inaugural class of Leadership Wilson in 1994. He is a recipient of the Wilson County Impact Award. Mr. Bradshaw and his wife, Karen, have been married for thirty-four years and have three children. They are active members of the First United Methodist Church in Lebanon.

John R. Lancaster is a native of Lebanon, Tennessee, and is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of First Freedom Bank and First Freedom Bancshares, a community bank and bank holding company headquartered in Wilson County.

In 2005, Mr. Lancaster was instrumental in organizing a group of investors to form First Freedom and served as the company's first President and CEO. In 2016, Mr. Lancaster was elected Chairman of the Board of both First Freedom Bank and First Freedom Bancshares. Prior to the organization of First Freedom, he served as Wilson County Chairman with SunTrust Bank / National Bank of Commerce.

Mr. Lancaster graduated from Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon. He continued his education at The University of Tennessee - Knoxville where he received his B.S. in Business Administration, with honors. He obtained his MBA from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. Additionally, he is an alumnus of The Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University, the Tennessee Commercial Lending School and the Southeastern School of Advanced Commercial Lending, both at Vanderbilt University.

Mr. Lancaster has served as Board Chairman and Campaign Chairman for United Way of Wilson County and a board member of the United Ways of Middle Tennessee. He has served as chairman of the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Greater Lebanon Regional Planning Commission, president of Main Street Lebanon, Inc. and president of the Wilson County Adult Reading Council. Additionally, he has served as a board member of the Joint Economic and Community Development Board of Wilson County, the Wilson County Heart Association, the Executive Board of the Middle TN Council of Boy Scouts of America and served as an instructor for Junior Achievement through Lebanon High School. He is also a graduate of Leadership Wilson and Leadership Middle TN.

Mr. Lancaster currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Bankers Association (TBA) and the Wilson County Audit Committee. He previously served on the Board of the Independent Bankers Division of the TBA and on the Board of Financial Products & Services, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the TBA.

Mr. Lancaster has been named a Power Leader in Banking by the Nashville Business Journal. He is also a recipient of the Wilson County Impact Award, which honors citizens who are leading the charge for improvements and economic development in Wilson County.

He and his wife, Penny, have been married for 36 years and have two adult sons and one grandson. They are members of the First United Methodist Church in Lebanon.

Hardie Vaughan Sorrels, III, M.D. has practiced internal medicine in his hometown of Lebanon, Tennessee since 1989. Dr. Sorrels is a 1978 graduate of Lebanon High School. He is an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University from, graduating from there in 1982, and is a 1986 graduate of the University of Tennessee School of Medicine in Memphis. Dr. Sorrels completed an internal medicine residency at St. Thomas Midtown Hospital in 1989, then moved back to Lebanon to begin his practice. Dr. Sorrels and his wife Amy are members of First United Methodist Church and have four sons. Dr. Sorrels is a former Scoutmaster of Troop 643 in Lebanon. He has served as Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Chief of Staff, and Chairman of the Governing Board

for Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital (University Medical Center and Tennova Lebanon). Dr. Sorrels and Amy live in the Tuckers Crossroads community. Dr. Sorrels is an original organizer and current director of the bank.

Board Recommendation

*Our Board recommends a vote "**FOR**" the election of each of the director nominees listed in this Proposal 1.*

OTHER MATTERS

We do not know of any matters to be brought before the Meeting other than those described in this Proxy Statement. If any other matters properly come before the Meeting, the persons named by Record Holders as proxies in the enclosed form of proxy will vote on such matters in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors.