

WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION  
Form POS AM  
July 27, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 27, 2009  
Registration No. 333-156280

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO  
FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Nevada**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**88-0365922**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

**2700 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102  
Telephone: (702) 248-4200**  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Robert G. Sarver  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Western Alliance Bancorporation  
2700 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102  
Telephone: (702) 248-4200**  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of agent for service)

***Copies to:*  
Stuart G. Stein, Esq.  
Hogan & Hartson LLP  
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Telephone: (202) 637-8575**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** No longer applicable because shares are being removed from registration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer       Accelerated filer       Non-accelerated filer       Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

**This Post-Effective Amendment shall become effective in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(c), may determine.**

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### DEREGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

On December 18, 2008, Western Alliance Bancorporation, a Nevada corporation (the Company), filed a registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-156280) (the Registration Statement), to register for potential resale from time to time by selling securityholders some or all of the Company's 140,000 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (the Preferred Stock), a warrant (the Warrant) to purchase 1,574,213 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Stock), and any shares of Common Stock issuable from time to time upon the exercise of the Warrant. The Preferred Stock and the Warrant were originally issued by the Company pursuant to the Letter Agreement dated November 21, 2008, and the related Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms (together, the Purchase Agreement), between the Company and the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury), in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, in the event the Company completes one or more Qualified Equity Offerings on or prior to December 31, 2009 that result in the Company receiving aggregate gross proceeds of not less than \$140 million, the number of shares of Common Stock underlying the portion of the Warrant then held by Treasury will be reduced by one-half of the shares of Common Stock originally covered by the Warrant. The Purchase Agreement defines a Qualified Equity Offering to mean the sale and issuance for cash by the Company to persons other than the Company or any Company subsidiary after the closing date of shares of perpetual preferred stock, Common Stock or any combination of such stock, that, in each case, qualify as and may be included in Tier 1 capital of the Company at the time of issuance under the applicable risk-based capital guidelines of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (other than any such sales and issuances made pursuant to agreements or arrangements entered into, or pursuant to financing plans which were publicly announced, on or prior to October 13, 2008).

On May 20, 2009, the Company raised approximately \$200 million through a public offering (the Offering) of 33,440,700 shares of the Company's Common Stock. This Offering constituted a Qualified Equity Offering under the Purchase Agreement and, therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Warrant, the number of shares of Common Stock underlying the Warrant was reduced to 787,106.5 shares. Accordingly, the Company files this Post-Effective Amendment to deregister a total of 787,106 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant. The Registration Statement, as amended hereby, covers 140,000 shares of Preferred Stock, a warrant to purchase 787,107 shares of Common Stock and any shares of Common Stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of the Warrant.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Las Vegas, State of Nevada, on this 27th day of July, 2009.

WESTERN ALLIANCE  
BANCORPORATION

By: /s/ Robert G. Sarver  
Robert G. Sarver  
Chairman, President and Chief  
Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed as of July 27, 2009 by the following persons in the capacities indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
/s/ Robert G. Sarver	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
Robert G. Sarver	
/s/ Dale Gibbons	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
Dale Gibbons	
*	Senior Vice President and Tax Manager (Principal Accounting Officer)
Thomas W. Edington	
*	Director
Bruce Beach	
*	Director
William S. Boyd	
*	Director
Steven J. Hilton	
*	Director
Marianne Boyd Johnson	
*	Director

Cary Mack

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<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
George J. Maloof, Jr.	Director
*	Director
Arthur Marshall	
*	Director
Todd Marshall	
M. Nafees Nagy, M.D.	Director
*	Director
James E. Nave, D.V.M.	
*	Director
John P. Sande III	
*	Director
Donald Snyder	
*	Director
Kenneth A. Vecchione	

\* By power of attorney