

WEBSTER FINANCIAL CORP

Form 424B3

December 04, 2008

Table of Contents

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Security | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee (1) |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, par value \$0.01 per share | 400,000 | \$1,000(2) | \$400,000,000(2) | \$15,720 |
| Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and underlying shares of Common Stock | 3,282,276(3) | \$18.28(4) | \$60,000,006(4) | \$2,358 |
| Total: | | | \$460,000,006 | \$18,078 |

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act of 1933, unused filing fees of \$47,512 have already been paid with respect to unsold securities that were previously registered pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-114091 filed by Webster Financial Corporation on March 31, 2004, and have been carried forward, of which \$18,078 offset against the registration fee due for this offering and of which \$29,434 remains available for future registration fees. No additional registration fee has been paid with respect to this offering.
- (2) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(a) and includes such additional number of shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred, Series B, of a currently indeterminable amount, as may from time to time become issuable by reason of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (3) In addition to the Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred, Series B, there are being registered hereunder (a) a warrant for the purchase of 3,282,276 shares of common stock with an initial per share exercise price of \$18.28 per share, (b) the 3,282,276 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of such warrant and (c) such additional number of shares of common stock, of a currently indeterminable amount, as may from time to time become issuable by reason of stock splits, stock dividends and certain anti-dilution provisions set forth in such warrant, which shares of common stock are registered hereunder pursuant to Rule 416.
- (4) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(i) with respect to the per share exercise price of the warrant of \$18.28.

**Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration Statement No. 333-155929**

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated December 4, 2008)

WEBSTER FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B**Warrant to Purchase 3,282,276 Shares of Common Stock****3,282,276 Shares of Common Stock**

This prospectus supplement relates to the potential resale from time to time by selling securityholders of some or all of up to 400,000 shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, or the Series B Preferred Stock, a warrant to purchase up to 3,282,276 shares of our common stock, or the Warrant, and any shares of our common stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of the Warrant. In this prospectus supplement we refer to the Series B Preferred Stock, the Warrant and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant, collectively, as the Securities. The Series B Preferred Stock and the Warrant were originally issued by us pursuant to the Letter Agreement dated November 21, 2008, and the related Securities Purchase Agreement – Standard Terms, between us and the United States Department of Treasury, which we refer to as the initial selling securityholder, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the

Edgar Filing: WEBSTER FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Securities Act of 1933, as amended. We are registering the resale of the offered shares as required by the terms of our agreements with the initial selling securityholder.

The initial selling securityholder and its successors, including transferees, which we collectively refer to as the selling securityholders, may offer the Securities from time to time directly or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents and in one or more public or private transactions and at fixed prices, prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. If these Securities are sold through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, the selling securityholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or agents' commissions.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of Securities by the selling securityholders.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades on the exchange under the symbol WBS. On December 3, 2008, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange was \$13.70 per share. The Series B Preferred Stock is not listed on any securities exchange or included in any automated quotation system.

Our principal executive offices are located at 145 Bank Street, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702, and our telephone number at that address is (203) 465-4364.

Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 7 of this prospectus supplement and the risk factors that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, for information that you should consider before purchasing the securities offered by this prospectus supplement.

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

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus or this prospectus supplement. Neither we nor the selling securityholders have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in the prospectus or this prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of such documents. The selling securityholders are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

The date of this prospectus supplement is December 4, 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u> | 3 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference</u> | 3 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 4 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 5 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 5 |
| <u>Description of Series B Preferred Stock</u> | 6 |
| <u>Description of Warrants to Purchase Common Stock</u> | 11 |
| <u>Description of Common Stock</u> | 13 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 16 |
| <u>Selling Securityholders</u> | 18 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 19 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 19 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement describes the specific terms of the offering. You should read this prospectus supplement in conjunction with the prospectus, and together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference" below.

If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement.

All references in this prospectus supplement to "Webster Financial," "we," "us," "our" or similar references mean Webster Financial Corporation and its successors, and include our consolidated subsidiaries where the context so requires.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Webster Financial Corporation ("Webster Financial") is subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's web site is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website at www.websteronline.com. Except as expressly stated herein, information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, except for any information that is superseded by other information that is included in or incorporated by reference into this document.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (File No. 001-31486). These documents contain important information about us:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 filed on February 28, 2008;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008 filed on May 9, 2008, August 5, 2008 and November 7, 2008, respectively;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 4, 2008, February 5, 2008, February 27, 2008, April 25, 2008, June 5, 2008, June 11, 2008, June 24, 2008, June 27, 2008 and November 24, 2008 (except, with respect to each of the foregoing, for portions of such reports which were deemed to be furnished and not filed); and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-4, as amended, filed with the SEC on March 24, 2000.

We incorporate by reference any additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (other than those furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K or other information furnished to the SEC), from the date of the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement is part until the termination of the offering of the securities. These documents may include annual, quarterly and current reports, as well as proxy statements. Any material that we later file with the SEC will automatically update and replace the information previously filed with the SEC. These documents are available to you without

charge. See Where You Can Find More Information.

Table of Contents

You may obtain copies of these documents, other than exhibits, free of charge by contacting Terrence K. Mangan, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations, at our principal office, which is located at 145 Bank Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, 06702, or by telephone at (203) 578-2202.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the prospectus and the information included or incorporated by reference in them includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements often include the words believes, expects, anticipates, estimates, forecasts, intends, plans, targets, potentially, probably, projects, outlook or similar conditional verbs such as may, will, should, would and could. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from the statements, including:

changes in general business, industry or economic conditions or competition;

changes in any applicable law, rule, regulation, policy, guideline or practice governing or affecting financial holding companies and their subsidiaries or with respect to tax or accounting principals or otherwise;

adverse changes or conditions in capital and financial markets;

changes in interest rates;

higher than expected costs or other difficulties related to integration of combined or merged businesses;

the inability to realize expected cost savings or achieve other anticipated benefits in connection with business combinations and other acquisitions;

changes in the quality or composition of Webster Financial's loan and investment portfolios;

increased competition;

deposit attrition;

changes in the cost of funds, demand for loan products or demand for financial services; and

other economic, competitive, governmental or technological factors affecting our operations, markets, products, services and prices. Some of these and other factors are discussed in our annual and quarterly reports previously filed with the SEC. Such developments could have an adverse impact on our financial position and our results of operations.

The forward-looking statements are based upon managements' beliefs and assumptions and are made as of the date of this prospectus supplement. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those contained in such statements, whether as a result

Edgar Filing: WEBSTER FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

of new information, future events or otherwise, except to the extent required by federal securities laws. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this prospectus supplement or in the incorporated documents might not occur, and you should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before purchasing the Securities offered by this prospectus supplement you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Webster Financial incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference](#). Additional risks not presently known or that are currently deemed immaterial could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects. This prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein by reference also contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. 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 in the documents incorporated herein by reference.

USE OF PROCEEDS

This prospectus supplement relates to the Securities that may be offered and sold from time to time by the selling securityholders who will receive all of the proceeds from the sale of the shares. Webster Financial will not receive any of the proceeds from the sales of Securities by the selling securityholder. Most of the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of the offered Securities will be paid by Webster Financial. The selling securityholders will pay any brokerage fees and commissions, fees and disbursements of legal counsel for the selling securityholders, and share transfer and other taxes attributable to the sale of the offered Securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES B PREFERRED STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock that may be resold by the selling securityholders. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, including the Articles of Amendment and related Certificate of Designation with respect to the Series B Preferred Stock, copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us.

General

We have the authority to issue up to 3,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Of such number of shares of preferred stock, 225,000 shares have been designated as 8.50% Series A Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, and 400,000 shares have been designated as Series B Preferred Stock, all of which shares of Series B Preferred Stock were issued to the initial selling securityholder in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The issued and outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Dividends Payable On Shares of Series B Preferred Stock

Holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive if, as and when declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board, out of assets legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 5% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series B Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period from November 21, 2008 to, but excluding, November 15, 2013. From and after November 15, 2013, holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 9% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series B Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period thereafter.

Dividends are payable quarterly in arrears on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, each a dividend payment date, starting with February 15, 2009. If any dividend payment date is not a business day, then the next business day will be the applicable dividend payment date, and no additional dividends will accrue as a result of the applicable postponement of the dividend payment date. Dividends payable during any dividend period are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. Dividends payable with respect to the Series B Preferred Stock are payable to holders of record of shares of Series B Preferred Stock on the date that is 15 calendar days immediately preceding the applicable dividend payment date or such other record date as the board of directors or any duly authorized committee of the board determines, so long as such record date is not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to the applicable dividend payment date.

If we determine not to pay any dividend or a full dividend with respect to the Series B Preferred Stock, we are required to provide written notice to the holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock prior to the applicable dividend payment date.

We are subject to various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board, is authorized to determine, under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank holding company, such as us, that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment thereof. In addition, we are subject to Delaware state laws relating to the payment of dividends.

Priority of Dividends

With respect to the payment of dividends and the amounts to be paid upon liquidation, the Series B Preferred Stock will rank:

senior to our common stock and all other equity securities designated as ranking junior to the Series B Preferred Stock; and

Table of Contents

at least equally with all other equity securities designated as ranking on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock, or parity stock, including shares of our 8.50% Series A Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock (of which, as of the date of this prospectus, 225,000 shares are issued and outstanding), with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of Webster Financial.

So long as any shares of Series B Preferred Stock remain outstanding, unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all prior dividend periods have been paid or are contemporaneously declared and paid in full, no dividend whatsoever shall be paid or declared on Webster Financial's common stock or other junior stock, other than a dividend payable solely in common stock. We and our subsidiaries also may not purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of our common stock or other junior stock unless we have paid in full all accrued dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock for all prior dividend periods, other than:

purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of our common stock or other junior stock in connection with the administration of our employee benefit plans in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice, including purchases pursuant to a publicly announced repurchase plan up to the increase in diluted shares outstanding resulting from the grant, vesting or exercise of equity-based compensation;

purchases or other acquisitions by a broker-dealer subsidiary of Webster Financial solely for the purpose of market-making, stabilization or customer facilitation transactions in junior stock or parity stock in the ordinary course of its business;

purchases by a broker-dealer subsidiary of Webster Financial of our capital stock for resale pursuant to an offering by Webster Financial of such stock that is underwritten by such broker-dealer subsidiary;

any dividends or distributions of rights or junior stock in connection with any shareholders' rights plan or any redemption or repurchases of rights pursuant to any shareholders' rights plan;

acquisition by Webster Financial or any of its subsidiaries of record ownership of junior stock or parity stock for the beneficial ownership of any other person who is not Webster Financial or a subsidiary of Webster Financial, including as trustee or custodian; and

the exchange or conversion of junior stock for or into other junior stock or of parity stock for or into other parity stock or junior stock but only to the extent that such acquisition is required pursuant to binding contractual agreements entered into before November 21, 2008 or any subsequent agreement for the accelerated exercise, settlement or exchange thereof for common stock.

Until such time as the initial selling securityholder ceases to own any shares of Series B Preferred Stock, if we repurchase shares of Series B Preferred Stock from a holder who is not the initial selling securityholder, other than permitted repurchases, we must offer to repurchase a ratable portion of the Series B Preferred Stock then held by the initial selling securityholder.

On any dividend payment date for which full dividends are not paid, or declared and funds set aside therefor, on the Series B Preferred Stock and any other parity stock, all dividends paid or declared for payment on that dividend payment date (or, with respect to parity stock with a different dividend payment date, on the applicable dividend date therefor falling within the dividend period and related to the dividend payment date for the Series B Preferred Stock), with respect to the Series B Preferred Stock and any other parity stock shall be declared ratably among the holders of any such shares who have the right to receive dividends, in proportion to the respective amounts of the undeclared and unpaid dividends relating to the dividend period.

Subject to the immediately preceding paragraph, such dividends (payable in cash, securities or otherwise) as may be determined by our board of directors (or a duly authorized committee of the board) may be declared and paid on our common stock and any other stock ranking junior to the Series B Preferred Stock from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the Series B Preferred Stock shall not be entitled to participate in any such dividend.

Table of Contents

Redemption

The Series B Preferred Stock may not be redeemed prior to February 15, 2012 unless we have received aggregate gross proceeds from one or more qualified equity offerings (as described below) equal to \$100,000,000, which equals 25% of the aggregate liquidation amount of the series B preferred stock on the date of issuance. In such a case, we may redeem the Series B Preferred Stock, subject to the approval of Federal Reserve Board, in whole or in part, upon notice as described below, up to a maximum amount equal to the aggregate net cash proceeds received by us from such qualified equity offerings. A qualified equity offering is a sale and issuance for cash by us, to persons other than Webster Financial or its subsidiaries after November 21, 2008, of shares of perpetual preferred stock, common stock or a combination thereof, that in each case qualify as Tier 1 capital of Webster Financial at the time of issuance under the applicable risk-based capital guidelines of the Federal Reserve Board (other than any such sales or issuances made pursuant to agreements or arrangements entered into, or pursuant to financing plans that were publicly announced, on or prior to October 13, 2008).

After February 15, 2012, the Series B Preferred Stock may be redeemed at any time, subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve Board, in whole or in part, subject to notice as described below.

In any redemption, the redemption price is an amount equal to the per share liquidation amount plus accrued and unpaid dividends to but excluding the date of redemption.

The Series B Preferred Stock will not be subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund or similar provisions. Holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock have no right to require the redemption or repurchase of the Series B Preferred Stock.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, the shares to be redeemed will be selected either pro rata from the holders of record of shares of Series B Preferred Stock in proportion to the number of shares held by those holders or in such other manner as our board of directors or a committee thereof may determine to be fair and equitable.

We will mail notice of any redemption of Series B Preferred Stock by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the holders of record of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to be redeemed at their respective last addresses appearing on our books. This mailing will be at least 30 days and not more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. Any notice mailed or otherwise given as described in this paragraph will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given, whether or not the holder receives the notice, and failure duly to give the notice by mail or otherwise, or any defect in the notice or in the mailing or provision of the notice, to any holder of Series B Preferred Stock designated for redemption will not affect the validity of the redemption of any other Series B Preferred Stock. Each notice of redemption will set forth the applicable redemption date, the redemption price, the place where shares of Series B Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, and the number of shares of Series B Preferred Stock to be redeemed (and, if less than all shares of Series B Preferred Stock held by the applicable holder, the number of shares to be redeemed from the holder).

Shares of Series B Preferred Stock that are redeemed, repurchased or otherwise acquired by us will revert to authorized but unissued shares of our preferred stock.

Liquidation Rights

In the event that we voluntarily or involuntarily liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, holders of Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive an amount per share, referred to as the total liquidation amount, equal to the fixed liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, to the date of payment. Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive the total liquidation amount out of our assets that are available for distribution to shareholders, after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities but before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to that distribution, junior to the Series B Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

If our assets are not sufficient to pay the total liquidation amount in full to all holders of Series B Preferred Stock and all holders of any shares of outstanding parity stock, the amounts paid to the holders of Series B Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock will be paid pro rata in accordance with the respective total liquidation amount for those holders. If the total liquidation amount per share of Series B Preferred Stock has been paid in full to all holders of Series B Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock, the holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to such distribution, junior to the Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive all of our remaining assets according to their respective rights and preferences.

For purposes of the liquidation rights, neither the sale, lease or exchange (for cash, securities or other property) of all or substantially all of our assets, nor the consolidation or merger by us with or into any other corporation or any other entity or by another corporation or any other entity with or into us, will constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our affairs.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated below or otherwise required by law, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights.

Election of Two Directors upon Non-Payment of Dividends. If the dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock have not been paid for an aggregate of six quarterly dividend periods or more (whether or not consecutive), the authorized number of directors then constituting our board of directors will be increased by two. Holders of Series B Preferred Stock, together with the holders of any outstanding parity stock with like voting rights, referred to as voting parity stock, voting as a single class, will be entitled to elect the two additional members of our board of directors, referred to as the preferred stock directors, at the next annual meeting (or at a special meeting called for the purpose of electing the preferred stock directors prior to the next annual meeting) and at each subsequent annual meeting until all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods have been paid in full. The election of any preferred stock director is subject to the qualification that the election would not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirement of the New York Stock Exchange (or any other exchange on which our securities may be listed) that listed companies must have a majority of independent directors.

Upon the termination of the right of the holders of Series B Preferred Stock and voting parity stock to vote for preferred stock directors, as described above, the preferred stock directors will immediately cease to be qualified as directors, their term of office shall terminate immediately and the number of authorized directors of Webster Financial will be reduced by the number of preferred stock directors that the holders of Series B Preferred Stock and voting parity stock had been entitled to elect. The holders of a majority of shares of Series B Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may remove any preferred stock director, with or without cause, and the holders of a majority of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may fill any vacancy created by the removal of a preferred stock director. If the office of a preferred stock director becomes vacant for any other reason, the remaining preferred stock director may choose a successor to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Other Voting Rights. So long as any shares of Series B Preferred Stock are outstanding, in addition to any other vote or consent of shareholders required by law or by our Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, or Certificate of Incorporation, the vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock at the time outstanding, voting separately as a single class, given in person or by proxy, either in writing without a meeting or by vote at any meeting called for the purpose, shall be necessary for effecting or validating:

any amendment or alteration of the Certificate of Designations for the Series B Preferred Stock or our Certificate of Incorporation to authorize or create or increase the authorized amount of, or any issuance of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of, any class or series of our capital stock ranking senior to the Series B Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends and/or distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Webster Financial;

any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the Certificate of Designations for the Series B Preferred Stock or our Certificate of Incorporation so as to adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series B Preferred Stock; or

Table of Contents

any consummation of a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series B Preferred Stock or of a merger or consolidation of Webster Financial with another entity, unless (i) the shares of Series B Preferred Stock remain outstanding following any such transaction or, if Webster Financial is not the surviving entity, are converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving entity or its ultimate parent, and (ii) such remaining outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock or preference securities have rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions thereof, that are not materially less favorable than the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series B Preferred Stock, taken as a whole.

Whether the vote or consent of the holders of a plurality, majority or other portion of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock has been cast or given on any matter on which the holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to vote will be determined by us by reference to the specified liquidation amount of the shares voted or covered by the consent as if Webster Financial were liquidated on the record date for such vote or consent, if any, or, in the absence of a record date, on the date for such vote or consent. For purposes of determining the voting rights of the holders of Series B Preferred Stock, each holder will be entitled to one vote for each \$1,000 of liquidation preference to which such holder's shares are entitled.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the vote or consent would otherwise be required, all outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds have been set aside by us for the benefit of the holders of Series B Preferred Stock to effect the redemption.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANT TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of the Warrant that may be resold by the selling securityholders. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Warrant, a copy of which has been filed with the SEC and is also available upon request from us.

Shares of Common Stock Subject to the Warrant

The Warrant is initially exercisable for 3,282,276 shares of our common stock. If we complete one or more qualified equity offerings on or prior to December 31, 2009 that result in our receipt of aggregate gross proceeds of not less than \$400,000,000, which is equal to 100% of the aggregate liquidation preference of the Series B Preferred Stock, the number of shares of common stock underlying the Warrant then held by the selling securityholders will be reduced by 50% to 1,641,138 shares. The number of shares subject to the Warrant are subject to the further adjustments described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrant**.

Exercise of the Warrant

The initial exercise price applicable to the warrant is \$18.28 per share of common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised. The Warrant may be exercised at any time on or before November 21, 2018 by surrender of the Warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the Warrant and the payment of the exercise price for the shares of common stock for which the Warrant is being exercised. The exercise price may be paid either by the withholding by Webster Financial of such number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the Warrant determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the Warrant is exercised or, if agreed to by us and the warrant holder, by the payment of cash equal to the aggregate exercise price. The exercise price applicable to the Warrant is subject to the further adjustments described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrant**.

Upon exercise of the Warrant, certificates for the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise will be issued to the warrant holder. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the Warrant. Instead, the warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the market price of our common stock on the last trading day preceding the date of exercise of the Warrant (less the pro-rated exercise price of the Warrant) for any fractional shares that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the Warrant. We will at all times reserve the aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised. We have listed the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant with the New York Stock Exchange.

Rights as a Shareholder

The warrant holder shall have no rights or privileges of the holders of our common stock, including any voting rights, until (and then only to the extent) the Warrant has been exercised.

Transferability

The initial selling securityholder may not transfer a portion of the Warrant with respect to more than 1,641,138 shares of common stock until the earlier of the date on which Webster Financial has received aggregate gross proceeds from a qualified equity offering of at least \$400,000,000 and December 31, 2009. The Warrant, and all rights under the Warrant, are otherwise transferable.

Adjustments to the Warrant

Adjustments in Connection with Stock Splits, Subdivisions, Reclassifications and Combinations. The number of shares for which the Warrant may be exercised and the exercise price applicable to the Warrant will be proportionately adjusted in the event we pay dividends or make distributions of our common stock, subdivide, combine or reclassify outstanding shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Anti-dilution Adjustment. Until the earlier of November 21, 2011 and the date on which the initial selling securityholder no longer holds the Warrant or any portion of the Warrant (and other than in certain permitted transactions described below), if we issue any shares of common stock (or securities convertible or exercisable into common stock) without consideration or for less than 90% of the market price of the common stock on the last trading day prior to the date of the agreement on pricing such shares, then the number of shares of common stock into which the Warrant is exercisable and the exercise price will be adjusted. Permitted transactions include issuances:

as consideration for or to fund the acquisition of businesses and/or related assets;

in connection with employee benefit plans and compensation related arrangements in the ordinary course and consistent with past practice approved by our board of directors;

in connection with public or broadly marketed offerings and sales of common stock or convertible securities for cash conducted by us or our affiliates pursuant to registration under the Securities Act, or Rule 144A thereunder on a basis consistent with capital-raising transactions by comparable financial institutions; and

in connection with the exercise of preemptive rights on terms existing as of November 21, 2008.

Other Distributions. If we declare any dividends or distributions other than our historical, ordinary cash dividends, the exercise price of the Warrant will be adjusted to reflect such distribution.

Certain Repurchases. If we effect a *pro rata* repurchase of common stock, both the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the Warrant and the exercise price will be adjusted.

Business Combinations. In the event of a merger, consolidation or similar transaction involving Webster Financial and requiring stockholder approval, the warrant holder's right to receive shares of our common stock upon exercise of the Warrant shall be converted into the right to exercise the Warrant for the consideration that would have been payable to the warrant holder with respect to the shares of common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised, as if the Warrant had been exercised prior to such merger, consolidation or similar transaction.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following is a general description of the terms of our common stock that may be resold by the selling securityholders. The description below does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, or the Certificate of Incorporation, and bylaws, as amended. The description herein does 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 our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws because they, and not the summaries, define the rights of holders of shares of our common stock. You can obtain copies of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws by following the directions under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

General

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides the authority to issue 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. At September 30, 2008, there were 56,603,497 shares of common stock issued and we had outstanding stock options granted to directors, officers and other employees for 2,817,476 shares of our common stock.

Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects to each other share of our common stock. Our common stock is non-withdrawable capital, is not of an insurable type and is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental entity.

Voting Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on each matter properly submitted to stockholders for their vote, including the election of directors. Holders of our common stock do not have the right to cumulate their votes for the election of directors, which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares of common stock voting for the election of directors can elect 100% of the directors standing for election at any meeting if they choose to do so. In that event, the holders of the remaining shares voting for the election of directors will not be able to elect any person or persons to our board of directors at that meeting.

Liquidation Rights

The holders of our common stock and the holders of any class or series of stock entitled to participate with the holders of our common stock as to the distribution of assets in the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of Webster Financial, whether voluntary or involuntary, will become entitled to participate equally in the distribution of any of our assets remaining after we have paid, or provided for the payment of, all of our debts and liabilities and after we have paid, or set aside for payment, to the holders of any class of stock having preference over the common stock in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the full preferential amounts, if any, to which they are entitled.

Dividends

The holders of our common stock and any class or series of stock entitled to participate with the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends declared by our board of directors out of any assets legally available for distribution. The board may not declare, and we may not pay, dividends or other distributions, unless we have paid or the board has declared or set aside all accumulated dividends and any sinking fund, retirement fund or other retirement payments on any class of stock having preference as to payments of dividends over our common stock. As a holding company, our ability to pay distributions is affected by the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends. The ability of our bank subsidiary, and our ability, to pay dividends in the future is, and could in the future be further, influenced by bank regulatory requirements and capital guidelines.

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights for any shares that may be issued. Our common stock is not subject to additional calls or assessments, and all shares of our common stock currently outstanding are fully paid and nonassessable. All shares of common stock offered pursuant to a prospectus supplement, or issuable upon conversion, exchange or exercise of the Preferred Stock or other convertible securities, will, when issued, be fully paid and non-assessable, which means that the full purchase price of the shares will have been paid and the holders of the shares will not be assessed any additional monies for the shares.

Some Important Charter Provisions

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides for the division of our board of directors into three classes of directors, each class as nearly as equal as possible, with each serving staggered, three-year terms. Any amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation must be approved by at least two-thirds of our board of directors at a duly constituted meeting called for that purpose and also by stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the shares entitled to vote thereon at a duly called annual or special meeting; provided, however, that approval by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote is required to amend the provisions regarding amendment of our Certificate of Incorporation, directors, bylaws, approval for acquisitions of control and offers to acquire control, criteria for evaluating offers, the calling of special meetings of stockholders, greenmail, and stockholder action by written consent. In addition, the provisions regarding business combinations may be amended only by the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the shares entitled to vote on the matter. Our bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the board of directors or by stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the total votes eligible to be voted, at a duly constituted meeting called for that purpose.

Our Certificate of Incorporation requires that if any individual, firm, corporation or other entity seeks to acquire the sole or shared power to vote or to direct the voting of, or to dispose of or to direct the disposition of, 10% or more of our outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, such acquisition must be approved by at least two-thirds of the total number of outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. In addition, prior to such acquisition, such individual, firm, corporation or other entity must obtain all required federal regulatory approvals for such acquisition.

Our Certificate of Incorporation also provides that no individual, firm, corporation or other entity may, alone or based on shared power, make any offer to buy or acquire, any solicitation of an offer to sell, any tender offer for, or any request or invitation for tender of, 10% or more of our outstanding shares of capital stock generally entitled to vote for directors without either:

(1) receiving the approval of at least two-thirds of our directors then in office; or

(2) obtaining approval from the appropriate federal regulatory authorities pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

Our Certificate of Incorporation requires that business combinations between Webster Financial or any majority-owned subsidiary of Webster Financial and a 10% or more stockholder or its affiliates or associates, referred to collectively in this section as the interested stockholder, be approved either by:

(1) at least 80% of the total number of outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors;

(2) at least two-thirds of our continuing directors, which means those directors unaffiliated with the interested stockholder and serving before the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder; or

(3) meet specified price and procedure requirements that provide for consideration per share generally equal to or greater than that paid by the interested stockholder when it acquired its block of stock.

The types of business combinations with an interested stockholder covered by this provision include:

any merger, consolidation or share exchange

any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge or other transfer of assets other than in the usual and regular course of business;

Table of Contents

any issuance or transfer of equity securities having an aggregate market value in excess of 5% of the aggregate market value of our outstanding shares;

the adoption of any plan or proposal of liquidation proposed by or on behalf of an interested stockholder; or

any reclassification of securities, recapitalization of Webster Financial or any merger or consolidation of Webster Financial with any of its subsidiaries or any other transaction which has the effect of increasing the proportionate ownership of the interested stockholder.

These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control or management of Webster Financial.

Our Certificate of Incorporation excludes our employee stock purchase plans and other employee benefit plans from the definition of interested stockholder.

Since the terms of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws may differ from the general information we are providing, you should only rely on the actual provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws. If you would like to read our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws, you may request a copy from us by following the directions under the heading [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

NYSE Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol [WBS](#).

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is BNY Mellon Shareowner Services.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling securityholders and their successors, including their transferees, may sell the securities directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling securityholders or the purchasers of the securities. These discounts, concessions or commissions as to any particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved.

The securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions:

on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the preferred stock or the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including, as of the date of this prospectus, the New York Stock Exchange in the case of the common stock;

in the over-the-counter market;

in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market; or

through the writing of options, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise.

In addition, any securities that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus supplement.

In connection with the sale of the securities or otherwise, the selling securityholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling securityholders may also sell short the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant and deliver common stock to close out short positions, or loan or pledge the Series B Preferred Stock or the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities.

The aggregate proceeds to the selling securityholders from the sale of the securities will be the purchase price of the securities less discounts and commissions, if any.

In effecting sales, broker-dealers or agents engaged by the selling securityholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling securityholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale.

In offering the securities covered by this prospectus supplement, the selling securityholders and any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. Any profits realized by the selling securityholders and the compensation of any broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. Selling securityholders who are underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and may be subject to certain statutory and regulatory liabilities, including liabilities imposed pursuant to Sections 11, 12 and 17 of the Securities Act and Rule 10b-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the securities must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states the securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

Table of Contents

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of securities pursuant to this prospectus and to the activities of the selling securityholders. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus supplement available to the selling securityholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, which may include delivery through the facilities of the New York Stock Exchange pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act.

At the time a particular offer of securities is made, if required, a prospectus supplement will set forth the number and type of securities being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name of any underwriter, dealer or agent, the purchase price paid by any underwriter, any discount, commission and other item constituting compensation, any discount, commission or concession allowed or reallocated or paid to any dealer, and the proposed selling price to the public.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the Series B Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the Series B Preferred Stock in any automated quotation system unless requested by the initial selling securityholder. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market, if any, for the Series B Preferred Stock.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling securityholders against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act. We have also agreed, among other things, to bear substantially all expenses (other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions) in connection with the registration and sale of the securities covered by this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

On November 21, 2008, we issued the securities covered by this prospectus supplement to the United States Department of Treasury, which is the initial selling securityholder under this prospectus supplement, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The initial selling securityholder, or its successors, including transferees, may from time to time offer and sell, pursuant to this prospectus supplement any or all of the securities they own. The securities to be offered under this prospectus supplement for the account of the selling securityholders are:

400,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, representing beneficial ownership of 100% of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement;

a Warrant to purchase 3,282,276 shares of our common stock; and

3,282,276 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant, which shares, if issued, would represent ownership of approximately 5.9% of our common stock outstanding as of November 21, 2008.

For purposes of this prospectus supplement, we have assumed that, after completion of the offering, none of the securities covered by this prospectus supplement will be held by the selling securityholders.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. To our knowledge, the initial selling securityholder has sole voting and investment power with respect to the securities.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling securityholders may offer the securities for sale. The selling securityholders might not sell any or all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement. Because the selling securityholders may offer all or some of the securities pursuant to this offering, and because currently no sale of any of the securities is subject to any agreements, arrangements or understandings, we cannot estimate the number of the securities that will be held by the selling securityholders after completion of the offering.

Other than with respect to the acquisition of the securities, the initial selling securityholder has not had a material relationship with us.

Information about the selling securityholders may change over time and changed information will be set forth in supplements to the prospectus if and when necessary.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Series B Preferred Stock, the Warrant and the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Hogan & Hartson LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Webster Financial as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.