

INDEPENDENT BANK CORP

Form 8-K

January 12, 2009

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 8-K
Current Report Pursuant
to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 6, 2009
INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

Massachusetts
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-9047
(Commission
File Number)

04-2870273
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

288 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts

(Address of principal executive offices)

02370

(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(781) 878-6100**

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

Item 3.02 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities.

Item 3.03 Material Modification of the Rights of Security Holders.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On January 9, 2009, as part of the Capital Purchase Program established by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA), Independent Bank Corp. (the Company) entered into a Letter Agreement (including the Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms incorporated by reference therein, the Purchase Agreement) with Treasury pursuant to which the Company issued and sold to Treasury (i) 78,158 shares of the Company s Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, par value \$0.01 per share, having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share (the Series C Preferred Stock) and (ii) a ten-year warrant to purchase up to 481,664 shares of the Company s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Stock), at an initial exercise price of \$24.34 per share (the Warrant), for an aggregate purchase price of \$78,158,000 in cash. All of the proceeds from the sale of the Series C Preferred Stock will be treated as Tier 1 capital for regulatory purposes.

Cumulative dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will accrue on the liquidation preference at a rate of 5% per annum for the first five years, and at a rate of 9% per annum thereafter. The Series C Preferred Stock has no maturity date and ranks senior to both the Common Stock and the Company s Series B Junior Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with respect to the payment of dividends and distributions and amounts payable upon any liquidation, dissolution, and/or winding up of the Company. The Series C Preferred Stock generally is non-voting, other than class voting on certain matters that could adversely affect the Series C Preferred Stock. If dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock have not been paid for an aggregate of six quarterly dividend periods or more, whether consecutive or not, the Company s authorized number of directors will be automatically increased by two and the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock, voting together with the holders of any then outstanding voting parity stock, will have the right to elect those directors at the Company s next annual meeting of shareholders or at a special meeting of shareholders called for that purpose. These two directors will be elected annually and will serve until all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock have been paid.

The Company may redeem the Series C Preferred Stock after February 15, 2012. Prior to this date, the Company may redeem the Series C Preferred Stock if (i) the Company has raised aggregate gross proceeds in one or more Qualified Equity Offerings (as defined in the Purchase Agreement and set forth below) in excess of \$19,539,000 and (ii) the aggregate redemption price does not exceed the aggregate net cash proceeds from such Qualified Equity Offerings. Any redemption is subject to the consent of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. 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, of shares of

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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).

Prior to January 9, 2012, unless the Company has redeemed the Series C Preferred Stock or Treasury has transferred the Series C Preferred Stock to a third party, the consent of Treasury will be required for the Company to (1) increase our Common Stock dividend or (2) redeem, purchase or acquire any shares of our Common Stock or other equity or capital securities, other than in connection with benefit plans consistent with past practice and certain other circumstances specified in the Purchase Agreement.

The Warrant is immediately exercisable. 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 \$78,158,000, the number of the 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. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, Treasury has agreed not to exercise voting power with respect to any shares of Common Stock issued upon exercise of the Warrant.

The Series C Preferred Stock and the Warrant were issued in a private placement exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Company has agreed to register the resale or secondary offering of the Series C Preferred Stock, the Warrant and the shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant (the Warrant Shares) as soon as practicable after the date of the issuance of the Series C Preferred Stock and the Warrant. Neither the Series C Preferred Stock nor the Warrant are subject to any contractual restrictions on transfer, except that Treasury may only transfer or exercise an aggregate of one-half of the Warrant Shares prior to the earlier of (i) the date on which the Company has received aggregate gross proceeds of not less than \$78,158,000 from one or more Qualified Equity Offerings and (ii) December 31, 2009.

Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, the Company agreed that, until such time as Treasury ceases to own any debt or equity securities of the Company acquired pursuant to the Purchase Agreement or the Warrant, the Company will take all necessary action to ensure that its benefit plans with respect to its senior executive officers comply with Section 111(b) of EESA as implemented by any guidance or regulation under the EESA that has been issued and is in effect as of the date of issuance of the Series C Preferred Stock and the Warrant, and has agreed to not adopt any benefit plans with respect to, or which covers, its senior executive officers that do not comply with EESA. Additionally, each of Christopher Oddleifson, Jane L. Lundquist, Gerard F. Nadeau, Edward H. Seksay and Denis K. Sheahan (each a Senior Executive Officer), executed waivers voluntarily waiving any claim against Treasury or the Company for any changes to such Senior Executive Officer s compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program as published

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in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008 and acknowledging that the regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements and policies and agreements (including so-called golden parachute agreements) as they relate to the period Treasury holds any equity or debt securities of the Company acquired through the Capital Purchase Program.

Copies of the Purchase Agreement, the Warrant, the Certificate of Designations with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock and the form of the Specimen Stock Certificate for the Series C Preferred Stock are included as exhibits to this Report on Form 8-K and are incorporated by reference into these Items 1.01, 3.02, 3.03, 5.02 and 5.03. The foregoing summary of certain provisions of these documents is qualified in its entirety by reference thereto.

Item 5.03 Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year.

On January 6, 2009 the Company filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Articles of Amendment to the Company's Restated Articles of Organization that included as an attachment a Certificate of Designations to designate the Series C Preferred Stock and to specify the preferences, rights, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the Series C Preferred Stock. A copy of the Articles of Amendment and the Certificate of Designations is included as an exhibit to this Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference into this Item 5.03.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

The following exhibits are being filed as part of this Current Report on Form 8-K:

3.1 Articles of Amendment with attached Certificate of Designations for the Series C Preferred Stock.

4.1 Form of Specimen Stock Certificate for the Series C Preferred Stock.

4.2 Warrant to purchase shares of Common Stock.

10.1 Letter Agreement, dated January 9, 2009, between Independent Bank Corp. and the United States Department of the Treasury, and the Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms attached thereto.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Edward H. Seksay
Name: Edward H. Seksay
Title: General Counsel

Date: January 12, 2009

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- 3.1 Articles of Amendment with attached Certificate of Designations for the Series C Preferred Stock.
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