

BankFinancial CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 30, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
(AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

(NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING PROXY STATEMENT, IF OTHER THAN THE REGISTRANT)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

No fee required.

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- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
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April 30, 2013

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of BankFinancial Corporation (the “Company”), I cordially invite you to attend our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time.

At the Annual Meeting, our stockholders will vote on the election of two directors, the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2013, and an advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation.

The Board of Directors, acting on the recommendations of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, has nominated John M. Hausmann and Glen R. Wherfel to serve as directors of the Company for three-year terms. Each nominee is a current director of the Company and our banking subsidiary, BankFinancial, F.S.B.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote your shares as follows: FOR the election of our two director nominees; FOR the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013; and FOR the approval on an advisory, non-binding basis of our executive compensation.

We are enclosing a Proxy Statement and our 2012 Annual Report for your review and consideration, as well as a proxy card for your use in voting your shares of the Company’s common stock.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please read the Proxy Statement, and then complete, sign and date the proxy card and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope as promptly as possible. As an alternative, you may authorize the voting of your shares by proxy by following the Internet or telephone proxy authorization instructions appearing on the proxy card.

By voting your shares promptly, you will help us reduce the time and expense of soliciting proxies, and you will also ensure that your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. We are most appreciative of your continued interest and support as stockholders of the Company and as valued customers of BankFinancial, F.S.B.

Very truly yours,

F. Morgan Gasior
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

15W060 North Frontage Road

Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On June 25, 2013

To the Stockholders of BankFinancial Corporation:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of BankFinancial Corporation, a Maryland corporation, will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to consider and act upon the following, as described more fully in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

1. To elect two directors for a three-year term and until their successors are duly elected and qualify;
2. To ratify the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of BankFinancial Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2013;
3. To consider an advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof; the Board of Directors and management are not aware of any such other business.

Accompanying this Notice of Annual Meeting are a Proxy Statement, our 2012 Annual Report, and a proxy card for your use in authorizing the voting of your shares of BankFinancial Corporation common stock by proxy.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 22, 2013 as the voting record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Only those stockholders of record as of the close of business on that date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or any such adjournments or postponements. In the event that there are not sufficient votes to establish a quorum or to approve the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting, the meeting may be adjourned or postponed in order to permit the further solicitation of proxies. Any action may be taken on the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting on the date specified above, or on the date or dates to which the Annual Meeting may be adjourned or postponed.

By Order of the Board of Directors

James J. Brennan

Secretary

Burr Ridge, Illinois

April 30, 2013

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SHARES THAT YOU OWN. PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND PROMPTLY RETURN YOUR PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY AUTHORIZE THE VOTING OF YOUR SHARES BY PROXY BY FOLLOWING THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE PROXY AUTHORIZATION INSTRUCTIONS APPEARING ON THE PROXY CARD. YOUR PROXY MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME BEFORE IT IS EXERCISED BY TAKING THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY STATEMENT.

2013 PROXY STATEMENT	
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PROXY STATEMENT

BankFinancial Corporation
15W060 North Frontage Road
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

June 25, 2013

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of BankFinancial Corporation of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") that will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting and proxy card are first being mailed to the stockholders of BankFinancial Corporation on or about April 30, 2013. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please read this Proxy Statement, and then complete, date and sign your proxy card and return it to us in the accompanying envelope as promptly as possible. No postage is necessary if you mail it in the United States. You may also authorize the voting of your shares by proxy by following the Internet or telephone proxy authorization instructions appearing on the proxy card.

An Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2012, which contains audited consolidated financial statements and other information pertaining to BankFinancial Corporation, accompanies this Proxy Statement.

THE COMPANY

BankFinancial Corporation, a Maryland corporation headquartered in Burr Ridge, Illinois, became the owner of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of BankFinancial, F.S.B. (the "Bank") on June 23, 2005, when it consummated a plan of conversion and reorganization that the Bank and its predecessor holding companies, BankFinancial MHC, Inc. ("BankFinancial MHC") and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, adopted on August 25, 2004. BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, was organized in 2004 to facilitate the mutual-to-stock conversion, and to become the holding company for the Bank upon the completion of the mutual-to-stock conversion. BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, did not engage in any business prior to, and the separate corporate existences of BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, the federal corporation, ceased upon the completion of the mutual-to-stock conversion on June 23, 2005. Consequently, the words "Company," "we" and "our," as used in this Proxy Statement, are intended to refer to BankFinancial MHC, BankFinancial Corporation, the federal corporation, and their subsidiaries with respect to matters and time periods occurring on or before June 23, 2005, and to BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, and its subsidiaries with respect to matters and time periods occurring after that date.

VOTING AND RELATED MATTERS

The following is information regarding the Annual Meeting and the voting process.

Why am I receiving this Proxy Statement and proxy card?

You are receiving this Proxy Statement and a proxy card from us because at the close of business on April 22, 2013, the record date for the Annual Meeting, you owned shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01, either directly or through a broker. This Proxy Statement describes the matters that will be presented for consideration by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting. It also gives you information concerning the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting to assist you in making an informed decision.

When you sign the enclosed proxy card, you appoint the proxy holder as your representative at the Annual Meeting. The proxy holder will vote your shares as you have instructed in the proxy card, thereby ensuring that your shares will be voted whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you should complete, sign and return your proxy card in advance of the Annual Meeting in case your plans change.

If you have signed and returned the proxy card and an issue comes up for a vote at the Annual Meeting that is not identified on the proxy card, the proxy holder will vote your shares, pursuant to your proxy, in accordance with his or her discretion.

What matters will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

You are being asked to vote on the election of our two director nominees; the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP (“Crowe Horwath”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013; and an advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation. These matters are more fully described in this Proxy Statement.

How do I vote?

You may use the mail, the telephone or the Internet to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, or you may vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting.

To use the mail to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, please complete and sign the enclosed proxy card and mail it back to us in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. No postage is required if the envelope is mailed in the United States.

To use the telephone or the Internet to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, please follow the instructions appearing on your proxy card.

To vote in person, you must come to the Annual Meeting. We will distribute written ballots to any stockholder as of the record date who wants to vote at the Annual Meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held in the name of your broker (or in what is usually referred to as “street name”), you will need to arrange to obtain a proxy from your broker in order to vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

If you mark your proxy card to indicate how you want your shares voted, and you sign and return your proxy card in the manner provided in this Proxy Statement, your shares will be voted as you instruct. If you sign and return your proxy card, but do not mark the proxy card to provide voting instructions, the shares represented by your proxy card will be voted “FOR” all of the director nominees named in this Proxy Statement, “FOR” the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath, and “FOR” the approval of our executive compensation.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

It means that you have multiple holdings reflected in our stock transfer records and/or in accounts with stockbrokers. Please sign and return ALL proxy cards to ensure that all your shares are voted, or alternatively, use the telephone or the Internet to authorize the voting of all of your shares by proxy.

If I hold shares in the name of a broker, who votes my shares?

If you received this Proxy Statement from your broker, your broker should have given you instructions for directing how your broker should vote your shares. It will then be your broker’s responsibility to vote your shares for you in the manner you direct.

Under the rules of various national and regional securities exchanges, brokers may generally vote on routine matters, such as the ratification of an independent registered public accounting firm, but cannot vote on non-routine matters such as the election of directors and advisory, non-binding votes on executive compensation unless they have received voting instructions from the person for whom they are holding shares. If your broker does not receive instructions

from you on how to vote particular shares on matters on which your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote, your broker will return the proxy card to us, indicating that he or she does not have the authority to vote on these matters. This is generally referred to as a “broker non-vote.” At the Annual Meeting, broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of the voting, as described below under “How many votes are needed for each proposal?” Therefore, we encourage you to provide directions to your broker as to how you want your shares voted on the matters to be brought before the Annual Meeting. You should do this by carefully following the instructions your broker gives you concerning its procedures so that your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting.

What if I change my mind after I return my proxy card?

If you hold your shares in your own name, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the polls close at the Annual Meeting. You may do this by:

signing another proxy card with a later date and returning the new proxy card by mail to our stock transfer agent and registrar, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., or by sending it to us to the attention of the Secretary of the Company, provided that the new proxy card is actually received by the Secretary before the polls close;

sending notice addressed to the attention of the Secretary of the Company that you are revoking your proxy, provided that the notice is actually received by the Secretary before the polls close;

following the instructions for telephone or Internet voting appearing on your proxy card; or

voting in person at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the established voting rules and procedures.

If you hold your shares in the name of a broker and desire to revoke your proxy, you will need to contact your broker to revoke your proxy.

Please mail any new proxy cards to Proxy Services, in care of Computershare Trust Company, N.A., at P.O. Box 43101, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-5067. You may send the notice described above or new proxy card to us as follows: BankFinancial Corporation, 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, Attention: James J. Brennan, Secretary.

How many votes do we need to hold the Annual Meeting?

A majority of the shares that are outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting in order for us to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business. Abstentions and broker non-votes are considered present at the Annual Meeting and are counted in determining whether or not a quorum is present.

Shares are counted as present at the Annual Meeting if the stockholder either:

is present and votes in person at the Annual Meeting; or

has properly submitted a signed proxy form or other proxy.

At the close of business on April 22, 2013, the record date, there were 21,072,966 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01, issued and outstanding. Therefore, at least 10,536,484 shares need to be present at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy in order for us to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business.

What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?

The Board of Directors may, by resolution, provide for a lesser number of directors or designate a substitute nominee. In the latter case, shares represented by proxies may be voted for the substitute nominee designated by the Board of Directors. Proxies cannot be voted for more than two nominees. We have no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to stand for election.

What options do I have in voting on each of the proposals?

Election of Directors (Proposal 1). You may mark the "FOR" box on your proxy card to vote for all director nominees, mark the "FOR ALL EXCEPT" box on your proxy card to vote for all nominees other than any nominee that you specify on your proxy card, or mark the "WITHHOLD" box to withhold your vote for all director nominees.

Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (Proposal 2). You may mark either the "FOR", "AGAINST", or "ABSTAIN" box with respect to the ratification engagement of Crowe Horwath.

Advisory, Non-Binding Vote on Executive Compensation (Say-On-Pay) (Proposal 3). You may cast your advisory, non-binding vote "FOR" or "AGAINST", or you may "ABSTAIN" from voting on the compensation of the Company's named executive officers. While this vote is required by law, it will neither be binding on the Company or its Board of Directors, nor will it create or imply any change in the fiduciary duties of or impose any additional fiduciary duties on the Company or its Board of Directors.

Where no instructions are indicated, validly executed proxies will be voted "FOR" the election of the two director nominees, "FOR" the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath, and "FOR" the approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers.

How many votes may I cast?

Generally, you are entitled to cast one vote for each share of stock you owned on the record date. The proxy card included with this Proxy Statement indicates the number of shares owned by an account attributable to you.

Are there any limits on the voting of shares?

As provided in Section F of Article 6 of our Charter, record holders of common stock that is beneficially owned by a person who beneficially owns in excess of 10% of the outstanding shares of our common stock are not entitled to vote any shares held in excess of this 10% limit. Subject to certain exceptions, a person is deemed to beneficially own shares owned by an affiliate of, as well as by persons acting in concert with, such person. Our Board of Directors is authorized to construe and apply the provisions of Section F of Article 6

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of the Charter, and to make all determinations it deems necessary or desirable to implement them, including determining the number of shares beneficially owned by any person and whether a person is an affiliate of or has an arrangement or agreement with another person. Further, the Board of Directors is authorized to demand certain information from any person who is reasonably believed to beneficially own stock in excess of the 10% limit and reimbursement for all expenses incurred by us in connection with an investigation conducted by the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of Section F of Article 6 of the Charter.

How many votes are needed for each proposal?

The two individuals receiving the highest number of votes cast "FOR" their election will be elected as our directors, without regard to shares as to which the "FOR ALL EXCEPT" or "WITHHOLD" box has been selected on the proxy card.

The ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013 will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, without regard to either broker non-votes or shares as to which the "ABSTAIN" box has been selected on the proxy card.

The approval of the advisory, non-binding vote on executive compensation will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting, without regard to either broker non-votes or shares as to which the "ABSTAIN" box has been selected on the proxy card.

Shares represented by broker non-votes and abstentions are considered present at the Annual Meeting for the purposes of determining whether or not a quorum is present, but such shares are not considered votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors, the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath, and the advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation.

Where do I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?

We intend to announce voting results at the Annual Meeting or at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The voting results will also be disclosed in a Current Report on Form 8-K that we will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

Who bears the cost of soliciting proxies?

The Company will pay all costs of soliciting proxies. The Company has retained AST Phoenix Advisors to assist with the solicitation of proxies for a fee of \$7,500, plus reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses and telephone solicitation fees. In addition, we may also use our officers and employees to solicit proxies either personally, or by telephone, e-mail, the Internet, letter or facsimile. These persons will not receive any special or additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to stockholders.

How does the Board recommend that I vote?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of the two director nominees, "FOR" the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath, and "FOR" the approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers.

What are the directions to the Annual Meeting location?

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time. The directions to the Annual Meeting are:

From the north (O'Hare Airport), take I-294 south to I-55, take I-55 south to the north Kingery Highway (Route 83) exit, go north on Kingery Highway for approximately 1/4 mile to the first traffic light (Midway Drive), turn right (east) on Midway Drive and then make an immediate right turn (south) onto Frontage Road. The hotel will be on your left (east).

From the south, take I-294 north to I-55, take I-55 south to the north Kingery Highway (Route 83) exit, go north on Kingery Highway for approximately 1/4 mile to the first traffic light (Midway Drive), turn right (east) on Midway Drive and then make an immediate right turn (south) onto Frontage Road. The hotel will be on your left (east).

From the east (Downtown Chicago), take I-55 south to the north Kingery Highway (Route 83) exit, go north on Kingery Highway for approximately 1/4 mile to the first traffic light (Midway Drive), turn right (east) on Midway

Drive and then make an immediate right turn (south) onto Frontage Road. The hotel will be on your left (east). From Midway Airport, take Cicero Avenue north two miles to I-55 south, take I-55 south to the north Kingery Highway (Route 83) exit, go north on Kingery Highway for approximately 1/4 mile to the first traffic light (Midway Drive), turn right (east) on Midway Drive and then make an immediate right turn (south) onto Frontage Road. The hotel will be on your left (east).

From the west, take I-55 north to the north Kingery Highway (Route 83) exit, go north on Kingery Highway for approximately 1/4 mile to the first traffic light (Midway Drive), turn right (east) on Midway Drive and then make an immediate right turn (south) onto Frontage Road. The hotel will be on your left (east).

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the 2013 Annual Meeting

The SEC has adopted e-proxy rules that require companies to post their proxy materials on the Internet and permit them to provide only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders. For this year's Annual Meeting Proxy Statement, we have chosen to follow the SEC's "full set" delivery option, and therefore, although we are posting a full set of our proxy materials on the Internet, we are also mailing a full set of our proxy materials to our stockholders.

Our Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 (which is our 2012 Annual Report) and the accompanying form of proxy are available online at www.RRDEZProxy.com/2013/BankFinancial.

We are mailing on or about April 30, 2013 a full set of our printed proxy materials to stockholders of record as of April 22, 2013. On April 30, 2013, all stockholders of record and beneficial owners will have the ability to access all of the proxy materials on the website referenced above. These proxy materials will be available free of charge.

If you have any questions or need assistance in submitting your proxy, voting your shares or need additional copies of this Proxy Statement or the enclosed proxy card, please contact our proxy solicitor, AST Phoenix Advisors, toll-free, at (877) 478-5038.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS; INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

There are seven members of the Board of Directors, which is divided into three classes. The Bylaws of the Company establish the initial terms of office for each class of directors and provide that directors are elected for a term of office that will expire at the third succeeding Annual Meeting of Stockholders following their election, with each director to hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies.

At the Annual Meeting, the stockholders of the Company will be requested to elect one class of directors consisting of two directors. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has recommended, and the Board of Directors has nominated, John M. Hausmann and Glen R. Wherfel for election as directors in this class of directors for a term of office that will expire at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2016 and until their successors are duly elected and qualify.

The proxies solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors will be voted at the Annual Meeting "FOR" the election of the above two nominees as directors, provided that your proxy will not be voted in favor of any nominee for which your proxy vote has been withheld. If a nominee is unable or unwilling to stand for election at the time of the Annual Meeting, the shares represented by all such proxies will be voted for the election of such replacement nominee as the Board of Directors, acting on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, may designate. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of the nominees might be unable or unwilling to stand for election as a director, or to serve as a director if elected.

The table below sets forth certain information regarding the members of the Board of Directors, including their years of service and terms of office. Except as indicated elsewhere in this Proxy Statement, there are no arrangements or understandings between any of the directors or nominees and any other person pursuant to which such directors or nominees were selected.

Name	Position(s) Held in the Company	Director Since ⁽¹⁾	Term of Class to Expire
NOMINEES			
John M. Hausmann, C.P.A.	Director	1990	2013
Glen R. Wherfel, C.P.A.	Director	2001	2013

CONTINUING DIRECTORS