

ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORP  
Form DEF 14A  
April 23, 2012

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  [X]  
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Check the appropriate box:

- [ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement
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- [ ] Definitive Additional Materials
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ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORP  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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- [X] No fee required.
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  - 4 Date Filed:

ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORP

150 NORTH MERAMEC  
CLAYTON, MISSOURI 63105

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NOTICE OF 2012 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

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The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Enterprise Financial Services Corp will be held at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63110 on Monday, June 4, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. local time, for the following purposes:

1. The election of 12 directors to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are elected and have qualified.
2. Proposal A, ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent registered public accounting firm.
3. Proposal B, an advisory (non-binding) vote to approve our executive compensation, as disclosed in this proxy statement.
4. Proposal C, ratification of performance measures in the 2002 Stock Incentive Plan.
5. Proposal D, approval of amendment of the Stock Plan for Non-Management Directors.
6. Proposal E, approval of the Annual Incentive Plan.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 13, 2012 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the meeting. You have three options for voting your shares:

1. vote via the Internet,
2. vote via the telephone or
3. complete and return the proxy card sent to you.

For Internet or telephone voting, instructions are printed on the proxy card sent to you. You can revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the meeting by following the instructions in the accompanying proxy statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Noel J. Bortle, Secretary  
Clayton, Missouri  
April 24, 2012



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ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORP

150 NORTH MERAMEC

CLAYTON, MISSOURI 63105

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PROXY STATEMENT

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These proxy materials are delivered by the Board of Directors of Enterprise Financial Services Corp (the “Company” or “EFSC”), in connection with the solicitation of proxies to be voted at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or any adjournment or postponement thereof. The meeting will be held at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63110 on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

This Proxy Statement and the proxy card were first mailed to stockholders on or about April 24, 2012.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEETING AND THESE PROXY MATERIALS

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What may I vote on?

1. The election of 12 directors to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are elected and have qualified.
2. Proposal A, ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent registered public accounting firm.
3. Proposal B, an advisory (non-binding) vote to approve our executive compensation, as disclosed in this proxy statement.
4. Proposal C, ratification of performance measures in the 2002 stock incentive plan.
5. Proposal D, approval of amendment of the stock plan for non-management directors.
6. Proposal E, approval of the Annual Incentive Plan

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION AS DIRECTORS OF THE NOMINEES NAMED HEREIN AND A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSALS A, B, C, D, and E.**

Who can vote at the meeting? Our Board of Directors has set April 13, 2012 as the record date for the Annual Meeting. All stockholders who owned our common stock at the close of business on the record date may attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 17,795,511 shares of common stock outstanding. Shares held as of the record date include shares that are held directly in your name as the stockholder of record and those shares held for you as a beneficial owner through a stockbroker, bank or other nominee.

How do I vote my shares? If your shares are registered directly in your name with our stock transfer agent, Computershare, you are considered a stockholder of record and the beneficial owner of those shares. As a stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to the Company, or to vote in person at the meeting. You may submit your ballot by mail, over the internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com), or via the telephone at 1-800-690-6903.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank, you are still considered the beneficial owner of those shares, but your shares are said to be held in “street name.” Generally, only stockholders of record may vote in person at the meeting. If your shares are held in street name, you will receive a form from your broker or bank seeking instruction as to how your shares should be voted. If you desire to vote shares held in street name in person at the meeting, you need to contact your broker and ask how to obtain a “legal proxy” to directly vote such shares.

Internet Availability of Proxy Solicitation and Other Annual Meeting Materials. Rules adopted by the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, or SEC, permit us to mail a notice to our stockholders advising that our proxy statement, annual report to stockholders, electronic proxy card and related materials are available for viewing, free of charge, on the Internet. Stockholders may then access these materials and vote over the Internet or request delivery of a full set of materials by mail or email. These rules help us lower the cost of conducting our annual meeting by reducing costs associated with printing and postage.

We will begin mailing the required Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders on or about April 24, 2012. The proxy materials will be posted on the Internet, at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com), no later than the day we begin mailing the Notice. If you receive the Notice, you will not receive a paper or email copy of the proxy materials unless you request one in the manner set forth in the Notice.

The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains the following important information:

- The date, time and location of the annual meeting;
- A brief description of the matters to be voted on at the meeting;
- A list of the proxy materials available for viewing on [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) and the control number you will use to access the site; and
- Instructions on how to access and review the proxy materials online, how to vote your shares over the Internet, and how to get a paper or email copy of the proxy materials, if that is your preference.

Can I change my vote? Yes. If you are the stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time before the Annual Meeting by:

- entering a new vote by Internet or telephone;
- returning a later-dated proxy card;
- sending written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company; or
- attending the Annual Meeting and voting by ballot.

To change your vote for shares you hold in street name, you will need to follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

How are shares of Common Stock voted at the meeting? Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held with respect to each matter to be voted upon; provided, however, that cumulative voting is available for the election of directors.

All shares of common stock represented at the Annual Meeting by properly executed proxies received prior to or at the Annual Meeting which are not properly revoked will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions indicated on the proxies. If no contrary instructions are indicated, proxies will be voted FOR the election of the Board's director nominees and FOR approval of Proposals A, B, C, D, and E.

What does cumulative voting in the election of directors involve? Under cumulative voting, each stockholder is entitled to cast a number of votes equal to the number of shares held by such stockholder multiplied by the total number of directors to be elected. These votes may be divided among all nominees equally or may be voted for one or more of the nominees, either in equal or unequal amounts, as the stockholder may elect. A plurality of votes cast at the Annual Meeting is required for the election of each director, which effectively means that the twelve persons receiving the most votes will be elected as directors. Shares held by a stockholder who elects to withhold authority to vote for all nominees will not participate in the election for directors but will be present for other quorum and business purposes. A stockholder who withholds authority to vote for one or more (but less than all) director nominees will be deemed to have elected to allocate all his votes equally among all remaining director nominees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the proxies have, and may exercise, authority to cumulate and allocate votes among the nominees, including to allocate votes from other stockholders to vote in favor of the nominees as to which the "withholding stockholder" has withheld authority. If any other proposals were to come before the meeting, each stockholder would be entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held by such stockholder.

How many votes are required to adopt the other proposals? The proposals, other than the election of directors, will be adopted if a majority of the votes cast on the respective proposal are in favor.

How do I vote if my shares are held in a benefit plan? If you are a current or former employee of the Company or one of its subsidiaries and you have any portion of your investment funds allocated to the EFSC Common Stock Fund in the EFSC Incentive Savings Plan ("Savings Plan"), you may instruct the Savings Plan's trustees how to vote the shares of common stock allocated to your account under the Savings Plan. You will instruct the voting of your stock in the same manner as other stockholders, i.e., by submitting your voting instructions by telephone or through the Internet or by requesting a proxy card to sign and return. Please see the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials we sent to you or this proxy statement for specific instructions on how to provide voting instructions by any of these methods. Please note that your voting instructions for stock you hold in the Savings Plan must be returned by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 30, 2012.

What if I don't give specific voting instructions or abstain?

If you indicate a choice on your proxy on a particular matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted as indicated.



If you are a stockholder of record and you return a signed proxy card but do not indicate how you wish to vote, the shares will be voted in favor of the election as directors of the nominees described in this proxy statement and for the other proposals. If you do not return the proxy card, your shares will not be voted and will not be deemed present for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists.

Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, which regulates stock brokers, Proposal A, the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, is considered a routine matter, and your brokerage firm or other nominee will be entitled to vote your shares in their discretion on this proposal even if you do not provide voting instructions to your broker or other nominee. However, the election of directors, Proposal B-the advisory (non-binding) vote to approve our executive compensation, Proposal C-the ratification of the performance measures in the 2002 Stock Incentive Plan, Proposal D-the approval of an amendment to our stock plan for non-management directors and Proposal E - the approval of the Annual Incentive Plan, are not considered routine matters, and brokers will not be permitted to vote on the election or directors or Proposals A, B, C, D and E if beneficial owners fail to provide voting instructions. The shares that cannot be voted by brokers on non-routine matters are commonly referred to as "broker non-votes."

Abstentions and broker non-votes (assuming a quorum is present) will have no effect on the election of directors or on the remaining matters to be considered at the meeting.

Who pays for this proxy solicitation? The Company will pay the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing and distributing these proxy materials. In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited in person or by telephone or by other means by the Company's directors, officers or employees, who will not receive any additional compensation for solicitation activities. The Company has engaged Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., for a fee to be determined, to assist in the distribution and tabulation of proxies. The Company will also reimburse brokerage firms and other nominees, custodians and fiduciaries for costs incurred by them in mailing proxy materials to the beneficial owners of common stock as of the record date.

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The date of this Proxy Statement is April 24, 2012.

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**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**


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The Board of Directors, upon recommendations of its Nominating and Governance Committee, has nominated for election the 12 persons named below. It is intended that proxies solicited will be voted for such nominees, in accordance with our cumulative voting structure as discussed above. The Board of Directors believes that each nominee named below will be able to serve, but should any nominee be unable to serve as a director, the persons named in the proxies have advised that they will vote for the election of such substitute nominee as the Board of Directors may propose.

The following biographical information is furnished with respect to each member of the Board of Directors of the Company, some of whom also serve as directors and officers of one or more of the Company's subsidiaries, including Enterprise Bank & Trust (the "Bank").

There are no family relationships between or among any directors or executive officers of the Company. Except as noted below, none of the Company's directors or executive officers serves as a director of (i) any company other than EFSC that has a class of securities registered under or that is subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or (ii) any investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Other than Mr. Benoist, all directors who served for any part of fiscal year 2011, including Mr. Warshaw, have been determined to be independent for purposes of Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ stock market.

Name of Nominee	Age	Director Since
Peter F. Benoist	64	2002
Michael A. DeCola	58	2007
William H. Downey	67	2002
John S. Eulich	61	2010
Robert E. Guest, Jr.	57	2002
Judith S. Heeter	62	2012
Lewis A. Levey	70	2005
Birch M. Mullins	68	1996
James J. Murphy, Jr.	68	2002
Brenda D. Newberry	58	2007
John M. Tracy	53	2010
Sandra A. Van Trease	51	2005

The biographies of the nominees below contain information regarding the person's service as a director, business experience, director positions held currently or at any time during the last five years, information regarding involvement in certain legal or administrative proceeds, if applicable, and the experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that caused the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board to determine that the person should serve as a director.

James J. Murphy has been a director of the Company since 2002. Since 1982, Mr. Murphy has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Murphy Company, a mechanical specialty contracting firm. Mr. Murphy has been the Chairman of the Board of the Company since 2008 and served as the Lead Independent Director of the Company from November 2005 through May 2008. He is also a past chairman of the St. Louis Regional Business Council and is currently engaged in various community activities. Mr. Murphy has built a successful, private business and brings a

long history of entrepreneurship which is the cornerstone of the Company's strategy of focusing on the banking and wealth management needs of privately-held businesses, their owner families and other success-minded individuals.

Peter F. Benoist has been a director of the Company since 2002. Since May 2008, Mr. Benoist has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Benoist was the Executive Vice President and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank from October 2002 through May 2008, and served as the Chairman of the Company's Board from November 2005 through May 2008. Mr. Benoist was the Executive Director of the St. Louis Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance from 1999 through 2002. He has over thirty years of public company banking experience as an officer and director and

has served on public company boards. Mr. Benoist brings deep knowledge of the Company and its business and is the voice of management on the Board.

Michael A. DeCola has been a director of the Company since 2007. Mr. DeCola is currently the Chief Executive Officer and has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mississippi Lime Company (calcium based chemical products) since 1999. Mr. DeCola serves on several private company boards in the St. Louis community and is the past chairman of the St. Louis Regional Business Council. He brings to the Board executive business experience and connections with the St. Louis business community.

William H. Downey has been a director of the Company since 2002. Mr. Downey served as President, Chief Operating Officer and director of Great Plains Energy Inc. (NYSE:GXP), an electric utility company from 2003 until his retirement on August 31, 2011. Mr. Downey had also been the President and Chief Operating Officer of Great Plains Energy's subsidiary, Kansas City Power & Light Company since 2003 and 2008, respectively and served as Chief Executive Officer from 2003 to 2008. In addition, he had served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Greater Missouri Operations, a subsidiary of Great Plains Energy since 2008. He joined the Board of Directors of BPL Global Inc (BPLG), a smartgrid technology company, in December, 2011. Mr. Downey is currently providing advisory services to the Kansas City water services department as an employee of Burns and McDonnell Engineering. He also serves on several private company boards in the Kansas City community. Mr. Downey's broad strategic experience and knowledge of operations along with his experience in a publicly traded utility company and the related experience in regulatory relations at both a federal and state level is an asset for the board.

John S. Eulich has been a director of the Company since March 11, 2010. Mr. Eulich has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aspeq Holdings, Inc. (dba INDEECO), a manufacturing company, since 2005. He has been a member of the Enterprise Bank & Trust Board of Directors since July 2009. Since 2005, Mr. Eulich has also been a director of LMI Aerospace (NASDAQ: LMIA) where he currently serves as a member of LMIA's Audit Committee and as the Chairman of LMIA's Compensation Committee. In addition to his public company experience, he is a successful entrepreneur and familiar with the needs of privately held businesses. He also is engaged in the St. Louis community through various boards.

Robert E. Guest, Jr. has been a director of the Company since 2002. Since 2007, Mr. Guest has been a partner at The Affinity Law Group. Mr. Guest was a partner at Doster Mickes James Ullom Benson & Guest, LLC, a law firm, from 2005 through 2007, and prior to that he was a partner at the law firm of Benson & Guest LLP, from 1986 through 2005. Mr. Guest brings significant legal experience in commercial activities and merger and acquisitions. He is also very familiar with the St. Louis and Kansas City business communities.

Judith S. Heeter was appointed as a director by action of the Board on February 7, 2012. Since February 2011, Ms. Heeter has served as president of Pathfinder Consulting, LLC, a marketing consulting company based in Mission Hills, Kansas which she founded. From 1990 to 2010, Ms. Heeter served as Director of Business Affairs and Licensing for the Major League Baseball Players Association. Also from 1989 until February 2011, Ms. Heeter was a partner with the law firm of Polsinelli Shugart P.C. Ms. Heeter currently serves on the Board of Directors of Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company and also serves on several non-public boards in the Kansas City metro area. Ms. Heeter brings a variety of executive and legal experience to the Board, including having practiced as an attorney for over 30 years. She is experienced in negotiating and implementing strategic business transactions and reorganizations. She also has a significant business network within the Kansas City community.

Lewis A. Levey has been a director of the Company since 2005. Since 1997, Mr. Levey has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Enhanced Value Strategies, Inc., a real estate consulting company. During 2011, Mr. Levey joined Colliers International St. Louis, a commercial real estate firm, as a Principal. Mr. Levey serves as Trust Manager (Director) and Lead Independent Trust Manager of Camden Property Trust, a REIT focused on multi-family

residential housing (NYSE: CPT). Mr. Levey brings expertise in local and national commercial real estate development and public company governance. He also has strong ties to the St. Louis business community.

Birch M. Mullins has been a director of the Company since 1996. He has been the President of Baur Properties, a real estate investment company, since 1988. Mr. Mullins is a successful real estate developer and brings expertise in St. Louis commercial real estate.

Brenda D. Newberry has been a director of the Company since 2007. Ms. Newberry is the Chief Executive Officer of Neshor, LLC, a business and leadership consulting firm, since 2010. She is the retired Chairman of The Newberry Group, a global IT company she founded in 1996. She was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 2006 through 2009, and was President and Chief Executive Officer from 1996 through 2005. Ms. Newberry has been a director of The Laclede Group, a natural gas distribution company, (NYSE: LG), since 2007 and has served on that company's Audit, Compensation and Investment committees. Ms. Newberry started, built and sold a successful, privately-held business after serving in the USAF for 6 years, a major defense contractor for 5 years and MasterCard International for 12 years, where she served in positions ranging from technology specialist

to a global VP of a profit and loss business unit. She is also very active in the St. Louis community, especially programs encouraging education, as well as, youth and minority development. Ms. Newberry's experience in global operations combined with her entrepreneurial background and service on other publicly-traded company boards provides a broad and valuable perspective to our Board.

John M. Tracy has been a director of the Company since March 11, 2010. Mr. Tracy has been the Chief Executive Officer of Dot Foods, a food distribution company, since 2006. He has been employed by Dot Foods since 1980 and has held several positions in the organization including sales, marketing and operations. Mr. Tracy serves on several private company boards in the St. Louis metro area. He is also the current chairman of the St. Louis Regional Business Council. Mr. Tracy's experience leading a successful, privately-held business provides entrepreneurial perspective. In addition, he brings his experience in and perspective of the Illinois markets of the St. Louis area.

Sandra A. Van Trease has been a director of the Company since 2005. Since 2004, Ms. Van Trease has been the Group President of BJC HealthCare, a not-for-profit operator of hospitals and the largest healthcare institution in the St. Louis area. Ms. Van Trease was President and Chief Executive Officer at UNICARE, an operating unit of Well Point Inc., a health insurance company, from 2002 through 2004, and she was President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of RightChoice, a health insurance company, from 2000 through 2002. Ms. Van Trease has been a director of Peabody Energy (NYSE: BTU) since 2002, where she has served as a member of their Audit Committee since 2002 and a member of their Health, Safety and Environmental Committee and Nominating and Governance Committee since 2010. Ms. Van Trease is also a Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Van Trease's executive management and experience at these institutions together with her service on other publicly-traded company boards and strong community service make her a valued advisor and highly qualified to serve on our board and its committees.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED ABOVE FOR ELECTION AS DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY.

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## BOARD AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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The Board of Directors has determined that having an independent director serve as Chairman of the Board is in the best interest of stockholders at this time. The structure ensures a greater role for the independent directors in the oversight of the Company and active participation of the independent directors in setting agendas and establishing priorities and procedures for the work of the Board.

The Board is actively involved in oversight of risks that could affect the Company. This oversight is conducted primarily through committees of the Board, as disclosed in the descriptions of each of the committees below and in the charters of each of the committees, but the full Board has retained responsibility for general oversight of risks. The Board satisfies this responsibility through full reports by each committee chair regarding the committee's considerations and actions, as well as through regular reports directly from officers responsible for oversight of particular risks within the Company.

All Committee members are appointed by the Board. In addition, the Board has established membership standards for each committee which requires that a certain number of committee members must be "independent directors," as that term is defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ rules.

The Board met eight times in 2011. All directors attended at least 75% of all meetings of the full Board and of those

committees on which they served in 2011. The Company's Board of Directors periodically held executive sessions of the members of the Board who met the then current standards of independence. Executive sessions of the Board were presided over by the Chairman. In 2012, the Board is scheduled to meet six times. While there is no formal policy concerning director attendance at the annual meeting, all members of the Board are encouraged to attend if reasonably able to do so. All then current members of the Board attended the 2011 annual meeting.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following table sets forth compensation paid to each of the Company's non-employee directors during 2011.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)(a)	Stock Awards (\$)	Total Annual Compensation (\$)
Michael A. DeCola	8	30,992	31,000
William H. Downey	12,642		