

INDEPENDENT BANK CORP

Form S-3

August 24, 2012

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 24, 2012

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE**  
**SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Massachusetts

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

6036

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number)

04-2870273

(IRS Employer Identification Number)

Office Address: 2036 Washington Street, Hanover, Massachusetts 02339

Mailing Address: 288 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

(781) 878-6100

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Edward H. Seksay, Esq.

General Counsel

Independent Bank Corp.

2036 Washington Street, Hanover, Massachusetts 02339

(781) 982-6158

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*With copies to:*

James A. McDaniel, Esq.

Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP

Two International Place

Boston, MA 02110

(617) 248-5000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

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

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

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

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

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

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Depository Shares	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Warrants or Other Rights	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Stock Purchase Contracts	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Debt Securities	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Units (3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
<b>Total:</b>			\$125,000,000	\$14,325

- (1) The securities covered by this registration statement may be sold or otherwise distributed separately or together as units with any other securities covered by this registration statement. This registration statement covers offers, sales and other distributions of the securities listed in this table, from time to time, at prices to be determined, as well as (i) shares of preferred stock distributable in accordance with, or upon the termination of, a deposit arrangement for depository shares so offered, sold or distributed, (ii) shares of common stock issuable upon the exchange or conversion of shares of preferred stock or depository shares so offered, sold or distributed that are exchangeable for, or convertible into, shares of common stock, and (iii) shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or depository shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants so offered, sold or distributed. This registration statement also covers shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, depository shares and other security or property that may be offered or sold under stock purchase contracts pursuant to which the counterparty may be required to purchase such securities, as well as such contracts themselves. Such contracts would be issued with the shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, depository shares or other security or property.
- (2) Not specified as to the applicable class of securities to be registered hereunder pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3. The registrant is hereby registering an indeterminate amount and number of securities up to a proposed maximum aggregate offering price of \$125,000,000 which may be offered from time to time at indeterminate prices. The registrant has estimated the proposed maximum aggregate offering price for such securities solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933. Separate consideration may not be received for shares of common stock or preferred stock that are issued upon

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

conversion or exchange of shares of preferred stock or depositary shares registered hereunder or for shares of preferred stock distributed in accordance with, or upon termination of, a deposit arrangement for depositary shares.

- (3) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in two or more other securities, which may or may not be separable from one another.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.

**Table of Contents**

**The information contained in prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.**

**Subject To Completion, Dated August 24, 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

# **INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.**

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Warrants or Other Rights

Stock Purchase Contracts

Debt Securities

Units

We may offer to sell, from time to time, shares of common stock or preferred stock, either separately or represented by depositary shares, rights or warrants exercisable for our common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares representing preferred stock, stock purchase contracts, debt securities and units (together, the Securities), for an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$125,000,000. We may offer these Securities separately or together, in separate series or classes and in amounts, at prices and on terms described in one or more prospectus supplements. The preferred stock and warrants may be convertible into or exercisable for common or preferred stock.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities that may be offered. Each time Securities are sold, we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus that will contain additional information about the specific offering and the terms of the Securities being offered. The supplements may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our Securities.

We may offer and sell any combination of the Securities in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of any particular offering, to or through one or more agents, dealers or underwriters, or directly to purchasers, including through subscription rights offerings, on a continuous or delayed basis.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market and trades on the exchange under the symbol INDB. On August 21, 2012, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$29.52 per share. The other Securities that may be offered are not listed on any securities exchange or included in any automated quotation system.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2036 Washington Street, Hanover, Massachusetts 02339, and our telephone number at that address is (781) 878-6100.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 2 of this prospectus and the risk factors that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, for information that you should consider before purchasing the securities offered by this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, nor any bank regulatory agency, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The securities are not savings or deposit accounts and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Bank Insurance Fund, Savings Association Insurance Fund or any other governmental agency.**

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of such documents. We 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 is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference</u>	1
<u>Cautionary Note About Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>The Company</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	6
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	7
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	11
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	13
<u>Description of Warrants or Other Rights</u>	15
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts</u>	21
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	22
<u>Description of Units</u>	27
<u>Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance</u>	30
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	34
<u>Legal Matters</u>	35
<u>Experts</u>	35
<u>Information Not Required in Prospectus</u>	36
<u>Signatures</u>	41
<u>Power of Attorney</u>	41
<u>Index to Exhibits</u>	43
EX 4.9	
EX 4.10	
EX 5.1	
EX 12.1	
EX 23.2	

## **Table of Contents**

### **ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), using a shelf registration process for the delayed offering and sale of securities pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Under the shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any of the Securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. Additionally, under the shelf process, we may provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of a particular offering by us. We may also provide a prospectus supplement to add information to, or update or change information contained in, this prospectus.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3, of which this prospectus is a part, under the Securities Act, with respect to the Securities. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, portions of which we have omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. You should refer to the copy of each contract or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement for a complete description.

You should read this prospectus together with any additional information you may need to make your investment decision. You should also read and carefully consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in **Where You Can Find Additional Information** and **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** below. Information incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus may add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any information in such subsequent filings that is inconsistent with this prospectus will supersede the information in this prospectus or any earlier prospectus supplement.

As used in this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms **we**, **us**, **our** and **the Company** mean, collectively, Independent Bank Corp. and its subsidiaries and their predecessors.

### **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Independent Bank Corp. (Independent) 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 website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor relations link at [www.rocklandtrust.com](http://www.rocklandtrust.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 the information we file with it in this prospectus. This helps us disclose certain important information to you by referring you to the documents we file. The information we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference each of the documents listed below.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 9, 2012;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 7, 2012 and August 7, 2012, respectively; and



---

**Table of Contents**

Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments thereto filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 19, 2012, January 23, 2012, February 22, 2012, February 28, 2012, March 1, 2012, March 15, 2012, March 30, 2012, April 12, 2012, April 16, 2012, April 18, 2012, April 19, 2012, April 26, 2012, May 1, 2012, May 3, 2012, May 7, 2012, May 16, 2012, May 21, 2012, May 22, 2012, June 11, 2012, June 21, 2012, July 10, 2012, July 18, 2012, July 19, 2012, July 20, 2012, July 23, 2012, July 24, 2012 and August 15, 2012 (except, with respect to each of the foregoing, for portions of such reports which were deemed to be furnished and not filed).

The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on January 21, 1986, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All filings filed by Independent pursuant to the Exchange Act subsequent to the date hereof and prior to effectiveness of this registration statement shall be deemed to be incorporated in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. In addition, all documents and reports filed by Independent subsequent to the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all Securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all Securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

You may obtain copies of these documents, other than exhibits, free of charge by contacting Edward H. Seksay, General Counsel, at our principal office, which is located at 2036 Washington Street, Hanover, Massachusetts 02339, or by telephone at (781) 982-6158.

**CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in it, as well as any prospectus supplement that accompanies it, include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act. We intend our forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in these sections. All statements regarding our expected financial position and operating results, our business strategy, forecasted demographic and economic trends relating to our industry and similar matters are forward-looking statements. These statements can sometimes be identified by our use of forward-looking words such as may, will, should, could, expects, intends, plans, anticipates, believes, estimate, potential or continue, or terms or other comparable terminology. We cannot promise you that our expectations in such forward-looking statements will turn out to be correct. Our actual results may differ materially from those projected in these statements because of various factors, including those discussed in this prospectus under the caption Risk Factors and those discussed in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

**RISK FACTORS**

Before purchasing any of the Securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Independent described below and the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, 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. 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 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.

**Table of Contents**

**Risks Related to an Investment in Our Common Stock**

*The price of our common stock may be volatile or may decline.*

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

actions by institutional shareholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry;

proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

anticipated or pending investigations, proceedings or litigation that involve or affect us; or

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance.

The stock market and, in particular, the market for financial institution stocks, has experienced significant volatility in recent years. As a result, the market price of our common stock may be volatile. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate more than usual and cause significant price variations to occur. The trading price of the shares of our common stock and the value of our other securities will depend on many factors, which may change from time to time, including, without limitation, our financial condition, performance, creditworthiness and prospects, future sales of our equity or equity related securities, and other factors identified above in *Cautionary Note About Forward-Looking Statements*.

Accordingly, the shares of common stock that an investor purchases, whether in this offering or in the secondary market, may trade at a price lower than that at which they were purchased, and, similarly, the value of our other securities may decline. Current levels of market volatility are unprecedented. The capital and credit markets have been experiencing volatility and disruption for more than a year. In recent months, the volatility and disruption has reached unprecedented levels. In some cases, the markets have produced downward pressure on stock prices and

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

credit availability for certain issuers without regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual shareholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

## **Table of Contents**

*There is a limited trading market for our common stock and, as a result, you may not be able to resell your shares at or above the price you pay for them.*

Although our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, the volume of trading in our common stock is lower than that of many other companies whose stock trades on this market. A public trading market with depth, liquidity and orderliness depends on the presence in the market of willing buyers and sellers of our common stock at any given time. This presence depends on the individual decisions of investors and general economic and market conditions over which we have no control.

*Our common stock is not insured and you could lose the value of your entire investment.*

An investment in shares of our common stock is not a deposit and is not insured against loss by the government.

*There may be additional future dilution of our common stock.*

To the extent options to purchase common stock under our employee and director stock option plans are exercised, holders of our common stock will incur dilution. Further, if we sell additional equity or convertible debt securities, such sales could result in increased dilution to our shareholders.

### **Risks Related to an Investment in Our Preferred Stock**

*Preferred stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness.*

Any shares of preferred stock that may be issued are equity interests in the Company and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, any shares of preferred stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on the Company with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on the Company, including in a liquidation of the Company. Our existing and future indebtedness may restrict payment of dividends on preferred stock. Additionally, unlike indebtedness, where principal and interest would customarily be payable on specified due dates, in the case of preferred stock (1) dividends may be payable only if declared by our Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee of the Board and (2) as a corporation, we are subject to restrictions on payments of dividends and any redemption price out of lawfully available assets. Further, the preferred stock could impose no restrictions on our business or operations or on our ability to incur indebtedness or engage in any transactions. Also, as a bank holding company, our ability to declare and pay dividends is dependent on certain federal regulatory considerations.

*Our ability to redeem preferred stock may be limited.*

Preferred stock may have no maturity or mandatory redemption date and may not be redeemable at the option of investors. Any decision we may make at any time to propose a redemption of the preferred stock will depend upon, among other things, our evaluation of our capital position, including for bank capital ratio purposes, the composition of our shareholders' equity and general market conditions at that time. In addition, under the Federal Reserve's risk-based capital guidelines applicable to bank holding companies, any redemption of the preferred stock is subject to prior approval of the Federal Reserve. There can be no assurance that the Federal Reserve will approve any redemption of preferred stock that we may propose.

*Holders of preferred stock may have limited voting rights.*

Holders of preferred stock and, if applicable, holders of depositary shares may have no voting rights with respect to matters that generally require the approval of voting shareholders, or may have only limited voting rights.

*An active trading market for preferred stock may not develop.*

We currently have no preferred stock outstanding, and we do not anticipate listing any preferred stock on an exchange or in the NASDAQ Global Select Market. There can be no assurance that an active trading market for the preferred stock will develop, or, if developed, that an active trading market will be maintained. If an active market is not developed or sustained, the market value and liquidity of the preferred stock may be adversely affected.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Preferred stock may be junior in rights and preferences to preferred stock issued later.***

Subject to whatever approvals (if any) of the then-existing holders of our preferred stock may be required, we may issue preferred stock in the future the terms of which are expressly senior to the then existing preferred stock. The terms of any such future preferred stock expressly senior to the then existing preferred stock may restrict dividend payments on the then existing preferred stock. For example, the terms of any such senior preferred stock may provide that, unless full dividends for all of our outstanding preferred stock senior to the then existing preferred stock have been paid for the relevant periods, no dividends may be paid on the then existing preferred stock, and no shares of the then existing preferred stock may be repurchased, redeemed, or otherwise acquired by us. This could result in dividends on the then existing preferred stock not being paid when contemplated. In addition, in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the terms of the senior preferred stock may prohibit us from making payments on the previously issued preferred stock until all amounts due to holders of the senior preferred stock in such circumstances are paid in full.

### **Risks Related to an Investment in Our Debt Securities**

#### ***Any indebtedness we incur could adversely affect our financial results and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under any debt securities issued under this prospectus.***

In addition to any indebtedness we may incur pursuant to any offerings related to this prospectus, we may be able to borrow substantial additional secured or unsecured indebtedness in the future. If any new indebtedness is incurred, the related risks that we now face could increase.

Any indebtedness we may incur in the future, could have important consequences for the holders of any of our debt securities, including:

limiting our ability to satisfy our obligations with respect to such debt securities;

increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;

limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate requirements;

requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations for the payment of principal of, and interest on, our indebtedness and reducing our ability to use our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures and general corporate requirements;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry; and

putting us at a disadvantage compared to competitors with less indebtedness.

#### ***Our business operations may not generate the cash needed to service our indebtedness.***

Our ability to make payments on any indebtedness, including any debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus, and to fund planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future borrowings will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our indebtedness, including such debt securities, or to fund our other liquidity needs.

### **THE COMPANY**

Independent is a Massachusetts corporation organized in 1985 and is registered with the Federal Reserve as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act. Independent is the sole shareholder of Rockland Trust Company ( Rockland Trust ), and its primary business is serving as the holding company of Rockland Trust.

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

Rockland Trust is a Massachusetts-chartered trust company. Rockland Trust was chartered in 1907. Rockland Trust's deposits are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund of the FDIC up to applicable limits. Rockland Trust offers a full range of banking services through a network of 67 full-service bank branches in eastern Massachusetts and its commercial lending centers and investment management offices in eastern Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. Rockland Trust provides investment management and trust services to individuals, institutions, small businesses and charitable institutions throughout eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

---

**Table of Contents**

At June 30, 2012, Independent had total consolidated assets of approximately \$5.1 billion, net loans of approximately \$4.0 billion, total deposits of approximately \$4.1 billion and total stockholders' equity of approximately \$0.5 million.

At June 30, 2012, Independent had (a) a total risk-based capital ratio of 12.63%, (b) a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 10.64%, and (c) a Tier 1 leverage capital ratio of 8.68%. Independent is not subject to any written agreement, order, capital directive, or prompt corrective action directive issued by the Federal Reserve to meet and maintain a specific capital level for any capital measure. Rockland Trust is a well-capitalized institution as defined by federal banking agencies.

On May 1, 2012, Independent announced the signing of a definitive agreement under which Independent will acquire Central Bancorp, Inc., parent of Central Bank. Under the terms of the agreement, 60% of outstanding Central Bancorp, Inc. shares will be exchanged for shares of Independent Bank Corp., at an exchange ratio subject to limited adjustment, and 40% of outstanding Central Bancorp, Inc. shares will be purchased for \$32.00 per share in cash. Based upon Independent's \$28.67 per share closing price on April 27, 2012 the transaction is valued at approximately \$54.8 million. The transaction is intended to qualify as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes and to provide a tax-free exchange of shares for Central Bancorp shareholders who receive shares of Independent Bank Corp. stock in the transaction. Shareholders of Central Bancorp will be able to elect between receiving cash or shares of Independent Bank Corp. stock in exchange for their shares, subject to proration and allocation so that 60% of the outstanding shares of Central Bancorp stock are exchanged for Independent Bank Corp. stock and the remaining 40% are exchanged for cash. The transaction has been approved by the boards of directors of each company and is subject to certain conditions, including the receipt of required regulatory approvals, approval by Central Bancorp, Inc. shareholders, and other standard conditions. The parties anticipate that the closing of the transaction will likely occur in the fourth quarter of 2012.

You can find more information about Independent in Independent's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission referenced in the sections in this document titled "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference" beginning on page 1.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

This prospectus relates to the Securities that may be offered and sold from time to time by us. We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Securities for general corporate purposes unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise.

**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table sets forth historical selected financial information for Independent. Effective January 1, 2012, Independent adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Accounting Standards Update (ASU) no. 2011-05, Comprehensive Income (topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income, as amended by ASU 2011-02, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05. These updates revise the manner in which entities present comprehensive income in their financial statements. The following selected financial information revises historical information to illustrate the new presentation required by this pronouncement for the periods presented.

**Table of Contents****INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****(Unaudited - Dollars in Thousands)**

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
NET INCOME	\$ 45,436	\$ 40,240	\$ 22,989
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), NET OF TAX:			
CUMULATIVE EFFECT ACCOUNTING ADJUSTMENT			(3,823)
UNREALIZED GAINS (LOSSES) ON SECURITIES			
Change in Fair Value of Securities Available for Sale	181	2,007	4,789
Less: Net Security Losses (Gains) Reclassified into Earnings	88	(95)	4,799
Net Change in Fair Value of Securities Available for Sale	269	1,912	9,588
UNREALIZED GAINS (LOSSES) ON CASH FLOW HEDGES			
Change in Fair Value of Cash Flow Hedges	(7,021)	(7,894)	8,584
Less: Net Cash Flow Hedge Losses Reclassified into Earnings	3,198	2,345	(1,138)
Net Change in Fair Value of Cash Flow Hedges	(3,823)	(5,549)	7,446
AMORTIZATION OF CERTAIN COSTS INCLUDED IN NET PERIODIC RETIREMENT COSTS	(166)	118	(588)
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	(3,720)	(3,519)	12,623
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$ 41,716	\$ 36,721	\$ 35,612

**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND****COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

Our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated are set forth in the table below. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing (1) income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges by (2) total fixed charges. The ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is computed by dividing (1) income from continuing operations before income taxes, fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, by (2) total fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. For purposes of computing these ratios:

earnings consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges;

fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, include interest expense (other than on deposits) and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest, net of income from subleases; and

fixed charges, including interest on deposits, include all interest expense and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest, net of income from subleases.



**Table of Contents**

Preferred stock dividends consist of dividends and accretion on preferred stock. The term Preferred Stock Dividends is the amount of pre-tax earnings that is required to pay dividends on the Company's outstanding preferred stock. No shares of preferred stock of the Company were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, 2008 and 2007 or for the six months ended June 30, 2012. Therefore, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is not different from the ratio of earnings to fixed charges presented below for such periods. There were shares of the Company's preferred stock outstanding from January 9, 2009 to April 22, 2009, with respect to which dividends did accrue and have been paid in connection with the redemption of such stock.

	Year Ended December 31,					Six Months Ended June 30, 2012
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges						
Including Interest on Deposits(1)	1.58	1.51	1.56	2.32	3.13	3.40
Excluding Interest on Deposits(2)	2.80	2.46	2.35	3.69	4.92	5.38
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends						
Including Interest on Deposits	1.58	1.51	1.49	2.32	3.13	3.40
Excluding Interest on Deposits	2.80	2.46	2.01	3.69	4.92	5.38

For purposes of computing the ratios in the above table, earnings represent net income before taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges include all interest expense. These ratios are presented both including and excluding interest on deposits.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

Independent is authorized to issue up to 75,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with 21,665,130 issued as of August 21, 2012. Independent is also authorized to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, none of which was issued as of August 21, 2012. Independent has designated 15,000 shares of preferred stock as Series B Junior Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, none of which was outstanding as of August 21, 2012. The capital stock of Independent does not represent or constitute a deposit account and is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by the Depositors Insurance Fund.

The following description of the Independent capital stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in all respects by reference to Independent's articles of organization and bylaws, and the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act.

**Common Stock***General*

Each share of Independent's common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects with each other share of common stock.

*Voting Rights*

Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote in person or by proxy for each share held on all matters voted upon by shareholders. Shareholders are not permitted to cumulate votes in elections of directors.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Preemptive Rights*

Holders of common stock do not have any preemptive rights with respect to any shares that may be issued by Independent in the future. Thus, Independent may sell shares of its common stock without first offering them to the then holders of common stock.

### *Liquidation*

In the event of any liquidation or dissolution of Independent, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of Independent's common stock would be entitled to receive pro rata, after payment of all debts and liabilities of Independent (including all deposits of subsidiary banks and interest on those deposits), all assets of Independent available for distribution, subject to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock which may be issued with a priority in liquidation or dissolution over the holders of common stock.

## **Preferred Stock**

The Independent board of directors is authorized, subject to limitations by its articles of organization and by applicable law, to issue preferred stock in one or more series. The Independent board of directors may fix the dividend, redemption, liquidation and conversion rights of each series of preferred stock, and may provide for a sinking fund or redemption or purchase account to be provided for the preferred stock. The board of directors may also grant voting rights to the holders of any series of preferred stock, subject to certain limitations in Independent's articles or organization. Specifically, the holders of any series of preferred stock may not be given the right to more than one vote per share on any matters requiring the approval or vote of the holders of Independent's common stock, except as otherwise required by applicable law, the right to elect more than two Independent directors or, together with the holders of all other series of preferred stock, the right to elect in the aggregate more than six Independent directors.

## **Series B Junior Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock**

### *General*

Independent's articles of organization provide for 15,000 shares of non-redeemable Series B Junior Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock (the Series B Preferred Stock).

### *Dividends*

When and if a quarterly cash dividend is declared by the board of directors, the holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock shall be entitled to receive dividends in an amount per share described in Independent's articles of organization, subject to the rights of the holders of any shares of any series of preferred stock ranking prior and superior to the Series B Preferred Stock with respect to dividends. The amount per share of the dividend to which the holders of Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled is equal to the greater of (a) \$1.00 or (b) 1,000 times the aggregate per share amount of all cash dividends and non-cash dividends or other distributions declared on the common stock since the immediately preceding dividend payment date for the Series B Preferred Stock (other than dividends payable in shares of common stock), subject to adjustment as provided in the articles or organization.

Dividends will accrue and be cumulative on outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock as provided in Independent's articles or organization. Accrued but unpaid dividends do not bear interest. Dividends paid on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock in an amount less than the total amount of such dividends accrued and payable on such shares shall be allocated pro rata on a share-by-share basis among all such shares outstanding at that time.

### *Voting Rights*

Each share of Series B Preferred Stock shall entitle the holder thereof to 1,000 votes on all matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders of the Corporation, which number of votes is subject to adjustment from time to time under Independent's articles or organization. In general, the holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock and the holders of shares of common stock and any other capital stock of Independent with general voting rights will vote together as one class on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders of the Corporation.

## **Table of Contents**

If dividends or distributions payable on the Series B Preferred Stock have not been paid when due, until all accrued and unpaid dividends and distributions, whether or not declared, on shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding are paid in full, Independent may not declare or pay dividends on, make any other distributions on, or redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of stock ranking junior to the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, may not declare or pay dividends on or make other distributions on any shares of stock ranking on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, other than dividends paid ratably on the Series B Preferred Stock and all such parity stock on which dividends are payable or in arrears in proportion to the total amounts to which the holders of all such shares are then entitled. Further, in such a situation, Independent may not redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for consideration shares of any stock ranking on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, unless the shares are exchanged for shares of Independent stock ranking junior to the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon dissolution, liquidation or winding up and may not purchase or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of Series B Preferred Stock, or any shares of any stock ranking on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, except in accordance with a purchase offer made to all holders of such shares upon terms that the board of directors determines in good faith will result in fair and equitable treatment among the respective series or classes.

### *Liquidation, Dissolution or Winding-Up*

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of Independent, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock shall receive an amount equal to accrued and unpaid dividends and distributions thereon, plus an amount equal to the greater of (1) \$1,000.00 per share, subject to the adjustment as provided in the articles or organization, or (2) an aggregate amount per share equal to 1,000 times the aggregate amount to be distributed per share to the holders of common stock, subject to adjustment as provided in the articles or organization, or to the holders of stock ranking on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock (other than distributions made ratably on the Series B Preferred Stock and all other such parity stock).

### *Consolidation or Merger*

If Independent enters into any consolidation, merger, combination or other transaction in which the shares of Independent common stock are exchanged for or converted into other consideration, the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock shall at the same time be similarly exchanged for or converted into an amount per share equal to 1,000 times the aggregate amount of consideration into which or for which each share of common stock is exchanged or converted, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, payable with respect to the Series B Preferred Stock, subject to adjustment as provided in Independent's articles or organization.

### *Priority*

The Series B Preferred Stock will rank junior to any other series of Independent's preferred stock later issued for the purpose of paying dividends and distributing assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and shall rank senior to the common stock for these purposes.

### *Amendment*

The holders of two-thirds or more of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock, voting separately as a class, must affirmatively vote to amend Independent's articles of organization in a manner that would materially alter or change adversely the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series B Preferred Stock.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Other Provisions**

The articles of organization and bylaws of Independent contain a number of provisions that may have the effect of discouraging or delaying attempts to gain control of Independent, including provisions:

classifying the Independent board of directors into three classes to serve for three years, with one class being elected annually;

authorizing the Independent board of directors to fix the size of the Independent board of directors;

limiting for removal of directors by a majority of shareholders to removal for cause; and

increasing the amount of stock required to be held by shareholders seeking to call a special meeting of shareholders above the minimum established by statute.

Massachusetts has adopted a business combination statute (Chapter 110F of the Massachusetts Business Corporation Law) that may also have additional anti-takeover effects to provisions in Independent Bank's articles of organization and bylaws. Massachusetts has also adopted a control share statute (Chapter 110D of the Massachusetts Business Corporation Law), the provisions of which Independent has provided in its bylaws shall not apply to control share acquisitions of Independent within the meaning of said Chapter 110D.

### **Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent and registrar for Independent common stock is Computershare Limited.

### **Undesignated Preferred Stock**

The purpose of authorizing our board of directors to issue preferred stock and determine its rights and preferences is to eliminate delays and costs associated with a stockholder vote on specific issuances. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible future acquisitions, future financings and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or could discourage a third party from seeking to acquire, a controlling interest in Independent. It is not possible to state the actual effect of the issuance of any shares of preferred stock on the rights of holders of common stock until the board of directors determines the specific rights attached to that preferred stock. The effects of issuing preferred stock could include one or more of the following:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

discouraging, delaying or preventing changes in control or management of Independent.

The preferred stock could have other rights, including economic rights senior to our common stock, so that the issuance of the preferred stock could adversely affect the market value of our common stock. The issuance of the preferred stock may also have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Independent without any action by the stockholders.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK**

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the preferred stock that we may offer by this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the series of the preferred stock offered through that prospectus supplement. Those terms may differ from the terms discussed below. Any series of preferred stock we will issue will be governed by our articles of organization, as amended, including the certificate of designations relating to such series of preferred stock, and our bylaws, as amended. We will file a certificate of designations for each series of preferred stock to be offered hereunder with the SEC and incorporate it by reference as an exhibit to our registration statement at or before the time we issue any preferred stock of that series. In this section entitled Description of Preferred Stock, references to Independent, we, our and us refer only to Independent Bank Corp. and not to its consolidated subsidiaries.

**Table of Contents**

We will fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series in the certificate of designations relating to that series. We will incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus the form of any certificate of designations which describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include the following, to the extent applicable:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate, period and payment date, and method of calculation for dividends, if any;

whether any dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemptive rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; any limitations on issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

## **Table of Contents**

When we issue shares of preferred stock under this prospectus, the shares, when issued in accordance with the terms of the applicable agreement, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

Section 10.04 of the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act provides that the holders of each class or series of stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on certain amendments to our articles of organization that would affect the class or series of preferred stock, as applicable. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

This section outlines some of the provisions of the deposit agreement to govern any depositary shares, the depositary shares themselves and the depositary receipts. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipt with respect to the depositary shares relating to any particular series of preferred stock. We will file the applicable deposit agreement and form of depositary receipt with the SEC and incorporate it by reference as an exhibit to our registration statement at or before the time we issue any depositary shares. The specific terms of any depositary shares we may offer will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

In this section entitled Description of Depositary Shares, references to Independent, we, our and us refer only to Independent Bank Corp. and to its consolidated subsidiaries.

#### **General**

We may offer fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of such amount as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, which we refer to in this section as the depositary. We will name the depositary in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will have a fractional interest in all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying the depositary share. Those rights include any dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. If you purchase fractional interests in shares of the related series of preferred stock, you will receive depositary receipts as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, you will not be entitled to receive the whole shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares.

#### **Specific Terms of Depositary Shares**

##### ***Dividends***

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to each record depositary shareholder based on the number of the depositary shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any depositary shareholders a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record depositary shareholders.



## **Table of Contents**

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the entitled record depositary shareholders, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, adopt the method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and distribution of the net proceeds from this sale to the concerned holders.

The deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of the preferred stock will be made available to the holders of depositary shares.

### ***Conversion or Exchange Rights***

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

### ***Redemption***

If the series of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, all or a part of the depositary shares will be redeemed from the redemption proceeds of that series of the preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will bear the same relationship to the redemption price per share of preferred stock that the depositary share bears to the underlying preferred stock. Whenever we redeem preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock redeemed. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will cease, except the right to receive money or other property that the holders of the depositary shares were entitled to receive upon the redemption. Payments will be made when holders surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary.

### ***Voting Rights***

When the depositary receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock may vote, the depositary will mail information about the meeting contained in the notice, and any accompanying proxy materials, to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to how the preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares should be voted.

### ***Taxation***

Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares. If necessary, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide a description of U.S. Federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the depositary shares and the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares.

### ***Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement***

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary at any time. However, certain amendments as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be effective unless approved by the record holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then-outstanding. A deposit agreement may be terminated by us or the depositary only if:

all outstanding depositary shares relating to the deposit agreement have been redeemed; or

## **Table of Contents**

there has been a final distribution on the preferred stock of the relevant series in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business and the distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related depositary shares.

### ***Charges of Depositary***

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay associated charges of the depositary for the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges that are stated to be their responsibility in the deposit agreement.

### ***Resignation and Removal of Depositary***

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us. We may also remove the depositary at any time. Resignations or removals will take effect when a successor depositary is appointed and it accepts the appointment.

## **DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS OR OTHER RIGHTS**

We may issue warrants or other rights. We may issue these securities in such amounts or in as many distinct series as we wish. This section summarizes the terms of these securities that apply generally. We will describe most of the financial and other specific terms of any such series of securities in the prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus. Those terms may vary from the terms described here.

When we refer to a series of securities in this section, we mean all securities issued as part of the same series under any applicable indenture, agreement or other instrument. When we refer to your prospectus supplement, we mean the prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the security you purchase. The terms used in your prospectus supplement will have the meanings described in this prospectus, unless otherwise specified.

In this section entitled *Description of Warrants or Other Rights*, references to *Independent*, *we*, *our* and *us* refer only to Independent Bank Corp. and not to its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, in this section, references to *holders* mean those who own warrants or other rights registered in their own names, on the books that we or any applicable trustee or warrant or rights agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in warrants or rights registered in street name or in warrants or rights issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in warrants or rights should also read the section entitled *Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance*.

### **Warrants**

The following description of warrants does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the description of a particular series of warrants contained in an applicable prospectus supplement. For information relating to common stock, preferred stock and depositary shares representing preferred stock, see *Description of Capital Stock*, *Description of Preferred Stock* and *Description of Depositary Shares*, respectively.

We may offer by means of this prospectus warrants for the purchase of our preferred stock, depositary shares representing preferred stock or common stock. We may issue warrants separately or together with any other securities offered by means of this prospectus, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent specified therein. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Rights**

The following description of rights does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the description of a particular series of rights contained in an applicable prospectus supplement. For a description of the rights issued pursuant to our Renewal Rights Agreement, please see Description of Capital Stock Renewal Rights Plan. For information relating to our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock and depositary shares representing preferred stock, see Description of Debt Securities, Description of Capital Stock, Description of Preferred Stock and Description of Depositary Shares, respectively

We may also issue rights, on terms to be determined at the time of sale, for the purchase or sale of, or whose cash value or stream of cash payments is determined by reference to, the occurrence or non-occurrence of or the performance, level or value of, one or more of the following:

securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock or other securities described in this prospectus or debt or equity securities of third parties;

one or more currencies;

one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

We refer to each property described above as a Right Property.

We may satisfy our obligations, if any, and the holder of a right may satisfy its obligations, if any, with respect to any rights by delivering, among other things:

the Right Property;

the cash value of the Right Property; or

the cash value of the rights determined by reference to the performance, level or value of the right.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe what we may deliver to satisfy our obligations, if any, and what the holder of a right may deliver to satisfy its obligations, if any, with respect to any rights.

As of August 21, 2012, there were no rights outstanding.

### **Agreements**

Each series of warrants or rights may be evidenced by certificates and may be issued under a separate indenture, agreement or other instrument to be entered into between us and a bank that we select as agent with respect to such series. The agent, if any, will have its principal office in the U.S. and have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. Warrants or rights in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depositary, which will be the holder of all the securities represented by the global security. Those who own

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

beneficial interests in a global security will do so through participants in the depositary's system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depositary and its participants. We describe book-entry securities under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

**Table of Contents**

**General Terms of Warrants or Rights**

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of warrants or rights will identify the name and address of the warrant or rights agent, if any. The prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, where applicable, of the warrants or rights in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the title and issuer of the warrants or rights;

the aggregate number of warrants or rights;

the price or prices at which the warrants or rights will be issued;

the currencies in which the price or prices of the warrants or rights may be payable;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the designation and terms of the other securities with which the warrants or rights are issued and the number of warrants or rights issued with each such security or each principal amount of security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants or rights and any related securities will be separately transferable;

any securities exchange or quotation system on which the warrants or rights or any securities deliverable upon exercise of such securities may be listed;

the price or prices at which and currency or currencies in which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

whether the warrants or rights will be issued in fully registered for or bearer form, in global or non-global form or in any combination of these forms;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

any other material terms of the warrants or rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

**Exercise of Warrants or Rights**

If any warrant or right is exercisable for other securities or other property, the following provisions will apply. Each such warrant or right may be exercised at any time up to any expiration date and time mentioned in the prospectus supplement relating to those warrants or rights as may otherwise be stated in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on any applicable expiration date, unexercised warrants or rights will become void.

Warrants or rights may be exercised by delivery of the certificate representing the securities to be exercised, or in the case of global securities, as described below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance, by delivery of an exercise notice for those warrants or rights, together with certain information, and payment to any agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the prospectus supplement, of the required purchase amount, if any. Upon receipt of payment and the certificate or exercise notice properly executed at the office indicated in the

## **Table of Contents**

prospectus supplement, we will, in the time period the relevant agreement provides, issue and deliver the securities or other property purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants or rights represented by such certificates are exercised, a new certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of warrants or rights.

If mentioned in the prospectus supplement, securities may be surrendered as all or part of the exercise price for warrants or rights.

## **Antidilution Provisions**

In the case of warrants or rights to purchase common stock, the exercise price payable and the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon warrant exercise may be adjusted in certain events, including:

the issuance of a stock dividend to common shareholders or a combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock;

the issuance of rights, warrants or options to all common and preferred shareholders entitling them to purchase common stock for an aggregate consideration per share less than the current market price per share of common stock;

any distribution to our common shareholders of evidences of our indebtedness of assets, excluding cash dividends or distributions referred to above; and

any other events mentioned in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement will describe which, if any, of these provisions shall apply to a particular series of warrants or rights. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, no adjustment in the number of shares purchasable upon warrant or right exercise will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% of such number and no fractional shares will be issued upon warrant or right exercise, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable.

## **Modification**

We and any agent for any series of warrants or rights may amend any warrant or rights agreement and the terms of the related warrants or rights by executing a supplemental agreement, without any such warrant holders or rightholders' consent, for the purpose of:

curing any ambiguity, any defective or inconsistent provision contained in the agreement, or making any other corrections to the agreement that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the warrant or rights certificates;

evidencing the succession of another corporation to us and its assumption of our covenants contained in the agreement and the securities;

appointing a successor depository, if the securities are issued in the form of global securities;

evidencing a successor agent's acceptance of appointment with respect to any securities;

adding to our covenants for the benefit of securityholders or surrendering any right or power we have under the agreement;

issuing warrants or rights in definitive form, if such securities are initially issued in the form of global securities; or



## **Table of Contents**

amending the agreement and the warrants or rights as we deem necessary or desirable and that will not adversely affect the interests of the applicable warrant holders or rightsholders in any material respect.

We and any agent for any series of warrants or rights may also amend any agreement and the related warrants or rights by a supplemental agreement with the consent of the holders of a majority of the warrants or rights of any series affected by such amendment, for the purpose of adding, modifying or eliminating any of the agreement's provisions or of modifying the rights of the holders of warrants or rights. However, no such amendment that:

reduces the number or amount of securities receivable upon any exercise of any such security;

shortens the time period during which any such security may be exercised;

otherwise adversely affects the exercise rights of warrant holders or rightsholders in any material respect; or

reduces the number of securities the consent of holders of which is required for amending the agreement or the related warrants or rights;

may be made without the consent of each holder affected by that amendment.

## **Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**

Any agreement with respect to warrants or rights will provide that we are generally permitted to merge or consolidate with another corporation or other entity. Any such agreement will also provide that we are permitted to sell our assets substantially as an entirety to another corporation or other entity or to have another entity sell its assets substantially as an entirety to us. With regard to any series of securities, however, we may not take any of these actions unless all of the following conditions are met:

if we are not the successor entity, the person formed by the consolidation or into or with which we merge or the person to which our properties and assets are conveyed, transferred or leased must be an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia and must expressly assume the performance of our covenants under any relevant indenture, agreement or other instrument; and

we or that successor corporation must not immediately be in default under that agreement.

## **Enforcement by Holders of Warrants or Rights**

Any agent for any series of warrants or rights will act solely as our agent under the relevant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for any securityholder. A single bank or trust company may act as agent for more than one issue of securities. Any such agent will have no duty or responsibility in case we default in performing our obligations under the relevant agreement or warrant or right, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any legal proceedings or to make any demand upon us. Any securityholder may, without the agent's consent or consent of any other securityholder, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise any warrant or right exercisable for any property.

## **Replacement of Certificates**

We will replace any destroyed, lost, stolen or mutilated warrant or rights certificate upon delivery to us and any applicable agent of satisfactory evidence of the ownership of that certificate and of its destruction, loss, theft or mutilation, and (in the case of mutilation) surrender of that certificate to us or any applicable agent, unless we have, or the agent has, received notice that the certificate has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser. That securityholder will also be required to provide indemnity satisfactory to us and the relevant agent before a replacement certificate will be issued.



**Table of Contents**

**Title**

We, any agents for any series of warrants or rights and any of their agents may treat the registered holder of any certificate as the absolute owner of the securities evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the warrants or rights so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS**

In this section entitled Description of Stock Purchase Contracts, references to Independent, we, our and us refer only to Independent Bank C and not to its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, in this section, references to holders mean those who own stock purchase contracts registered in their own names, on the books that we or our agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in stock purchase contracts registered in street name or in purchase contracts issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in the purchase contracts should read the section below entitled Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

This section outlines some of the provisions of the stock purchase contracts, the purchase contract agreement and the pledge agreement that we may enter into. This information is not complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the purchase contract agreement and pledge agreement with respect to the stock purchase contracts of any particular series. The specific terms of any series of stock purchase contracts will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in a particular supplement, the specific terms of any series of stock purchase contracts may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other security or property at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the stock purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other security or property. The consideration per share of common stock or preferred stock or per depositary share or other security or property may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by a specific reference to a formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may provide for settlement by delivery by or on behalf of Independent of shares of the underlying security or property or may provide for settlement by reference or linkage to the value, performance or trading price of the underlying security or property. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of stock purchase units consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred stock or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, other stock purchase contracts or common stock, or other securities or property, securing the holders obligations to purchase or sell, as the case may be, the common stock or the preferred stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis and may be paid on a current or on a deferred basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and may provide for the prepayment of all or part of the consideration payable by holders in connection with the purchase of the underlying security or other property pursuant to the stock purchase contracts.

The securities related to the stock purchase contracts may be pledged to a collateral agent for Independent s benefit pursuant to a pledge agreement to secure the obligations of holders of stock purchase contracts to purchase the underlying security or property under the related stock purchase contracts. The rights of holders of stock purchase contracts to the related pledged securities will be subject to Independent s security interest therein created by the pledge agreement. No holder of stock purchase contracts will be permitted to withdraw the pledged securities related to such stock purchase contracts from the pledge arrangement except upon the termination or early settlement of the related stock purchase contracts or in the event other securities, cash or property is made subject to the pledge agreement in lieu of the pledged securities, if permitted by the pledge agreement, or as otherwise provided in the pledge agreement. Subject to such security interest and the terms of the purchase contract agreement and the pledge agreement, each holder of a stock purchase contract will retain full beneficial ownership of the related pledged securities.

Except as described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the collateral agent will, upon receipt of distributions on the pledged securities, distribute such payments to Independent or the purchase contract agent, as provided in the pledge agreement. The purchase agent will in turn distribute payments it receives as provided in the purchase contract agreement.

## **Table of Contents**

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our senior debt indenture and our subordinated debt indenture that would be important to holders of any series of debt securities that we may offer by this prospectus. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered through that prospectus supplement. Those terms may differ from the terms discussed below. In this section entitled Description of Debt Securities, references to Independent, we, our and us refer only to Independent Bank Corp. and not to its consolidated subsidiaries.

#### **Overview**

We may issue senior or subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will be secured by any of our property or assets. Thus, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will constitute part of our senior debt, will be issued under a senior debt indenture described below and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations.

We will issue the senior notes under the senior indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated notes under the subordinated indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We use the term indentures to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The indentures may be modified by one or more supplemental indentures, which we will incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We use the term trustee to refer to either the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

In this prospectus, debt securities refers to both the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities.

#### **We Are a Holding Company**

Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, is subject to the prior claims of its creditors, except to the extent we may be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, our obligations under the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and liabilities of our subsidiaries, and you, as holders of debt securities should look only to our assets for payment thereunder. As of June 30, 2012, the consolidated indebtedness of Independent and its subsidiaries totaled \$476.2 million, all but \$61.9 million of which was indebtedness of Rockland Trust Company.

**Table of Contents**

**General**

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

the title;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, and, if so, who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the interest payment dates and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be senior or subordinated;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt securities;

the place where payments will be payable;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;

whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;

a discussion on any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

### **Conversion or Exchange Rights**

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities of ours. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of common stock or other securities of ours that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Consolidation, Merger or Sale**

The indentures do not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate.

### **Events of Default under the Indentures**

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and our failure continues for 30 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, or premium, if any, when due and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the notes or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of notes, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur to us.

If an event of default with respect to the debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, on and accrued interest, if any, on the debt securities due and payable immediately.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies, if:

the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;





## **Table of Contents**

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

the trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on, the notes.

We will periodically file statements with the trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

## **Modification of Indenture; Waiver**

We and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

reducing the minimum percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment.

## **Discharge**

Each indenture provides that we can elect, under certain circumstances, to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

## **Table of Contents**

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

### **Form, Exchange and Transfer**

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See **Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance** for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will not require any payment for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

### **Information Concerning the Trustee**

The trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given to it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

### **Payment and Paying Agents**

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest payment.

## **Table of Contents**

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee in the city of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to the debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

## **Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

## **Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities**

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities that we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

## **DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

This section outlines some of the provisions of the units and the unit agreements that we may enter into. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the unit agreement with respect to the units of any particular series. The specific terms of any series of units will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in a particular supplement, the specific terms of any series of units may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

In this section entitled Description of Units, references to Independent, we, our and us refer only to Independent Bank Corp. and not to its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, in this section, references to holders mean those who own units registered in their own names, on the books that we or our agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in units registered in street name or in units issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories. Owners of beneficial interests in the units should read the section below entitled Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

We may issue units comprised of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, stock purchase contracts, warrants, rights and other securities in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement may describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

## **Table of Contents**

any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units. The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under Description of Preferred Stock, Description of Capital Stock, Description of Warrants or Other Rights, Description of Debt Securities and Description of Stock Purchase Contracts will apply to the securities included in each unit, to the extent relevant.

### **Issuance in Series**

We may issue units in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we wish. This section summarizes terms of the units that apply generally to all series. Most of the financial and other specific terms of your series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Unit Agreements**

We will issue the units under one or more unit agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or other financial institution, as unit agent. We may add, replace or terminate unit agents from time to time. We will identify the unit agreement under which each series of units will be issued and the unit agent under that agreement in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following provisions will generally apply to all unit agreements unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### ***Enforcement of Rights***

The unit agent under a unit agreement will act solely as our agent in connection with the units issued under that agreement. The unit agent will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of those units or of the securities comprising those units. The unit agent will not be obligated to take any action on behalf of those holders to enforce or protect their rights under the units or the included securities.

Except as indicated in the next paragraph, a holder of a unit may, without the consent of the unit agent or any other holder, enforce its rights as holder under any security included in the unit, in accordance with the terms of that security and the indenture, warrant agreement, rights agreement or other instrument under which that security is issued. Those terms are described elsewhere in this prospectus under the sections relating to debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or warrants, as relevant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a unit agreement may limit or otherwise affect the ability of a holder of units issued under that agreement to enforce its rights, including any right to bring a legal action, with respect to those units or any securities, other than debt securities, that are included in those units. Limitations of this kind will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### ***Modification without Consent of Holders***

We and the applicable unit agent may amend any unit or unit agreement without the consent of any holder:

to cure any ambiguity;

to correct or supplement any defective or inconsistent provision; or

to make any other change that we believe is necessary or desirable and will not adversely affect the interests of the affected holders in any material respect.

## **Table of Contents**

We do not need any approval to make changes that affect only units to be issued after the changes take effect. We may also make changes that do not adversely affect a particular unit in any material respect, even if they adversely affect other units in a material respect. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the approval of the holder of the unaffected unit; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected units.

### ***Modification with Consent of Holders***

We may not amend any particular unit or a unit agreement with respect to any particular unit unless we obtain the consent of the holder of that unit, if the amendment would:

impair any right of the holder to exercise or enforce any right under a security included in the unit if the terms of that security require the consent of the holder to any changes that would impair the exercise or enforcement of that right; or

reduce the percentage of outstanding units or any series or class the consent of whose holders is required to amend that series or class, or the applicable unit agreement with respect to that series or class, as described below.

Any other change to a particular unit agreement and the units issued under that agreement would require the following approval:

if the change affects only the units of a particular series issued under that agreement, the change must be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding units of that series; or

if the change affects the units of more than one series issued under that agreement, it must be approved by the holders of a majority of all outstanding units of all series affected by the change, with the units of all the affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.

These provisions regarding changes with majority approval also apply to changes affecting any securities issued under a unit agreement, as the governing document.

In each case, the required approval must be given by written consent.

### ***Unit Agreements Will Not Be Qualified Under Trust Indenture Act***

No unit agreement will be qualified as an indenture, and no unit agent will be required to qualify as a trustee, under the Trust Indenture Act. Therefore, holders of units issued under unit agreements will not have the protections of the Trust Indenture Act with respect to their units.

### **Mergers and Similar Transactions Permitted; No Restrictive Covenants or Events of Default**

The unit agreements will not restrict our ability to merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets to, another corporation or other entity or to engage in any other transactions. If at any time we merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets substantially as an entirety to, another corporation or other entity, the successor entity will succeed to and assume our obligations under the unit agreements. We will then be relieved of any further obligation under these agreements.

The unit agreements will not include any restrictions on our ability to put liens on our assets, including our interests in our subsidiaries, nor will they restrict our ability to sell our assets. The unit agreements also will not provide for any events of default or remedies upon the occurrence of any events of default.

### **Governing Law**

The unit agreements and the units will be governed by New York law.





## **Table of Contents**

### **Form, Exchange and Transfer**

We will issue each unit in global i.e., book-entry form only. Units in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository, which will be the holder of all the units represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a unit will do so through participants in the depository's system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe book-entry securities below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

In addition, we will issue each unit in registered form, unless we say otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Bearer securities would be subject to special provisions, as we describe below under Securities Issued in Bearer Form.

Each unit and all securities comprising the unit will be issued in the same form.

If we issue any units in registered, non-global form, the following will apply to them.

The units will be issued in the denominations stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders may exchange their units for units of smaller denominations or combined into fewer units of larger denominations, as long as the total amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their units at the office of the unit agent. Holders may also replace lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated units at that office. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their units, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange, and any replacement, will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership. The transfer agent may also require an indemnity before replacing any units.

If we have the right to redeem, accelerate or settle any units before their maturity, and we exercise our right as to less than all those units or other securities, we may block the exchange or transfer of those units during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of exercise and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers of or exchange any unit selected for early settlement, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unsettled portion of any unit being partially settled. We may also block the transfer or exchange of any unit in this manner if the unit includes securities that are or may be selected for early settlement.

Only the depository will be entitled to transfer or exchange a unit in global form, since it will be the sole holder of the unit.

### **Payments and Notices**

In making payments and giving notices with respect to our units, we will follow the procedures we plan to use with respect to our debt securities, where applicable.

### **LEGAL OWNERSHIP AND BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE**

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly

## **Table of Contents**

through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

### **Book-Entry Holders**

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depositary or its participants. Consequently, for global securities, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not legal holders, of the securities.

### **Street Name Holders**

We may terminate a global security or issue securities that are not issued in global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we or any applicable depositary will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we or any such depositary will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not legal holders, of those securities.

### **Legal Holders**

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable depositary or warrant agent or other third party employed by us or any of the foregoing, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an instrument defining the rights of security holders, to relieve us of the consequences of a breach or of our or its obligation to comply with a particular provision of such an instrument or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Special Considerations for Indirect Holders**

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

### **Global Securities**

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless specified otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ( "DTC" ), will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under "Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and legal holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

### **Special Considerations for Global Securities**

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a legal holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.



## **Table of Contents**

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below.

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above.

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form.

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective.

The depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security. We and any applicable agent have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and any applicable agent also will not supervise the depository in any way.

The depository may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in the global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well.

Financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

### **Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated**

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate, and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

The global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable depository or warrant agent that we wish to terminate that global security; or

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived. The applicable prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository, and not us or any applicable agent, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the Securities covered by this prospectus, directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us. 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.

If underwriters are used in an offering of Securities, such offered Securities may be resold in one or more 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 NASDAQ Global Select Market 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.

If required, each prospectus supplement relating to an offering of Securities will state the terms of the offering, including, but not limited to:

the names of any underwriters, dealers, or agents;

the public offering or purchase price of the Securities and the net proceeds that we will receive from the sale;

any underwriting discounts and commissions or other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any discounts, commissions, or fees allowed or paid to dealers or agents; and

any securities exchange on which the offered securities may be listed.

If we sell Securities to underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with these sales, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation in the form of underwriting discounts and commissions. The underwriters also may receive commissions from purchasers of Securities for whom they may act as agent. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase the Securities unless the conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement are satisfied, and if the underwriters purchase any of the Securities offered by such prospectus supplement, they will be required to purchase all of such offered Securities. The underwriters may acquire the Securities for their own account and may resell the Securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or varying prices determined at the time of sale. The underwriters may sell the Securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive discounts, concessions, or commissions from the underwriters as well as from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

## Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENT BANK CORP - Form S-3

We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchasers for the period of their appointment or to sell Securities on a continuing basis. We may also sell Securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents.

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



## **Table of Contents**

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, any Securities covered by this prospectus must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states 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.

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of Securities pursuant to this prospectus.

Under agreements entered into with us, underwriters and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution for payments the underwriters or agents may be required to make. The underwriters, agents, and their affiliates may engage in financial or other business transactions with us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

### **Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is:

Computershare, Limited

250 Royall Street

Canton, Massachusetts 02021

(781) 575-4179

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the Securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate Hall & Stewart LLP.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Independent, included in Independent's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various expenses in connection with the registration of the securities offered hereby. Independent Bank Corp. will bear all of these expenses. All amounts are estimated except for the SEC registration fee:

Item	Amount
SEC registration fee	\$ 14,325
Legal fees and expenses	25,000*
Accounting fees and expenses	10,000*
Printing and related expenses	8,000*
Miscellaneous	10,000*
Total	\$ 67,325

\* Estimated.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Independent is a Massachusetts corporation. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 156D, Part 8, Subdivision E, provides that a corporation may, subject to certain limitations, indemnify its directors, officers, employees and other agents, and individuals serving with respect to any employee benefit plan, and must, in certain cases, indemnify a director or officer for his reasonable costs if he is wholly successful in his defense in a proceeding to which he was a party because he was a director or officer of the corporation. In certain circumstances, a court may order a corporation to indemnify its officers or directors or advance their expenses. Chapter 156D, Section 8.58 allows a corporation to limit or expand its obligation to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents in the corporation's articles of organization, a bylaw adopted by the shareholders, or a contract adopted by its board of directors or shareholders.

Both Chapter 156D, Section 8.57 and Independent's Articles of Organization provide that the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance against liability incurred by an officer or director in his capacity as officer or director or while serving at Independent's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity, or arising out of his status as such. Independent currently maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance, which insures the officers and directors of Independent from any claim arising out of an alleged wrongful act by such person in their respective capacities as officers and directors of Independent.

Under Independent's Articles of Organization and its Bylaws, Independent may not indemnify a director or officer unless ordered to do so by a court if his or her conduct: (a) was a breach of the director's or officer's duty of loyalty to Independent or its shareholders, (b) was not in good faith or involved intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) resulted in an improper distribution under Section 6.40 of Chapter 156D of the Massachusetts General Laws, (d) was conduct from which the director or officer derived an improper personal benefit, or (e) was at least not opposed to the best interests of Independent, if the conduct was with respect to an employee benefit plan, for a purpose he or she reasonably believed to be in the interests of the participants in, and the beneficiaries of, the plan.

The determination of whether the relevant standard of conduct has been met shall be made: (a) if there are two or more disinterested directors, by the board of directors by a majority vote of all the disinterested directors or

**Table of Contents**

by a majority of the members of a committee of two or more disinterested directors appointed by vote; (b) by special legal counsel selected by a majority vote of all the disinterested directors or by a majority of the members of a committee of two or more disinterested directors appointed by vote; (c) if there are fewer than two disinterested directors, selected by the board of directors, in which selection directors who do not qualify as disinterested directors may participate; or (d) by the shareholders (but shares owned by or voted under the control of a disinterested director may not be voted on the determination).

Independent is not obligated under its Articles of Organization to indemnify or advance expenses to a director or officer of a predecessor of Independent, pertaining to conduct with respect to the predecessor, unless otherwise specifically provided.

Independent's Articles of Organization provide that no amendment or repeal of the indemnification provision of its Bylaws or of the relevant provisions of Chapter 156D shall affect or diminish the rights of any indemnified person to indemnification with respect to any action or proceeding arising out of or relating to any actions occurring prior to the final adoption of the amendment or repeal. Independent's Articles of Organization provide that no amendment or repeal of the provision limiting the liability of directors shall adversely affect the rights and protections afforded to directors of Independent for acts or omissions occurring prior to the amendment or repeal. The Articles of Organization also provide that if the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act is subsequently amended to increase the scope of permitted indemnification, indemnification under the Articles of Organization shall be provided to the full extent permitted or required by the amendment.

**Item 16. Exhibits**

The following Exhibits are filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference:

- 1.1 Form of Underwriting Agreement or Purchase Agreement.\*
- 3.1 Restated Articles of Organization of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to Independent's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 24, 2010 (SEC File No. 001-09047)).
- 3.2 Amended and Restated Bylaws of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.5 to Independent's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 24, 2010 (SEC File No. 001-09047)).
- 4.1 Specimen certificate for shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Independent Bank Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992).
- 4.3 Certificate of Designations for Preferred Stock.\*
- 4.4 Specimen certificate for shares of Preferred Stock.\*
- 4.5 Form of Depositary Shares.\*
- 4.7 Form of Warrant.\*
- 4.8 Form of Stock Purchase Contract.\*
- 4.9 Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (the form of any senior debt security with respect to each particular series of senior debt securities issued hereunder will be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.10 Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (the form of any subordinated debt security with respect to each particular series of subordinated debt securities issued hereunder will be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.11 Form of Senior Debt Security.\*

**Table of Contents**

4.12 Form of Subordinated Debt Security.\*

4.13 Form of Unit Agreement.\*

5.1 Opinion of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP regarding the legality of the securities registered hereby.

12.1 Statement of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and preferred stock Dividends.

23.1 Consent of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).

23.2 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm.

24.1 Power of Attorney (included in the signature page to this Registration Statement).

25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Senior Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*

25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*

\* To be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

\*\* To be incorporated herein by reference from a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

*Provided, however,* That Paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

**Table of Contents**

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415 (a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

*Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

**Table of Contents**

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby further undertakes that, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X is not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the last quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.

(d) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Rockland, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

INDEPENDENT BANK CORP.

By: /s/ Edward H. Seksay, Esq.  
Edward H. Seksay, Esq.  
General Counsel

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Edward H. Seksay, Esq. and Denis K. Sheahan his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, each acting alone, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments (including post-effective amendments and registration statements filed pursuant to Rule 462 under the Securities Act) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed as of August 24, 2012 by the following persons in the capacities indicated.

Signature	Title
/s/ Christopher Oddleifson	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Christopher Oddleifson	(Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Donna L. Abelli	Director and Chairman of the Board
Donna L. Abelli	
/s/ Denis K. Sheahan	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Denis K. Sheahan	(Principal Financial Officer)
/s/ Barry H. Jensen	Controller
Barry H. Jensen	(Principal Accounting Officer)
/s/ Richard S. Anderson	Director
Richard S. Anderson	
/s/ William P. Bissonette	Director
William P. Bissonette	

/s/ Benjamin A. Gilmore, II

Director

Benjamin A. Gilmore, II



**Table of Contents**

/s/ Kevin J. Jones	Director
Kevin J. Jones	
/s/ Eileen C. Miskell	Director
Eileen C. Miskell	
/s/ Daniel F. O Biren	Director
Daniel F. O Brien	
/s/ Carl Ribeiro	Director
Carl Ribeiro	
/s/ Richard H. Sgarzi	Director
Richard H. Sgarzi	
/s/ John H. Spurr, Jr.	Director
John H. Spurr, Jr.	
/s/ Robert D. Sullivan	Director
Robert D. Sullivan	
/s/ Brian S. Tedeschi	Director
Brian S. Tedeschi	
/s/ Thomas R. Venables	Director
Thomas R. Venables	

**Table of Contents**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

- 1.1 Form of Underwriting Agreement or Purchase Agreement.\*
- 3.1 Restated Articles of Organization of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to Independent's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 24, 2010 (SEC File No. 001-09047)).
- 3.2 Amended and Restated Bylaws of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.5 to Independent's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 24, 2010 (SEC File No. 001-09047)).
- 4.1 Specimen certificate for shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of Independent Bank Corp. (incorporated by reference to Independent Bank Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992).
- 4.3 Certificate of Designations for Preferred Stock.\*
- 4.4 Specimen certificate for shares of Preferred Stock.\*
- 4.5 Form of Depositary Shares.\*
- 4.7 Form of Warrant.\*
- 4.8 Form of Stock Purchase Contract.\*
- 4.9 Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (the form of any senior debt security with respect to each particular series of senior debt securities issued hereunder will be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.10 Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (the form of any subordinated debt security with respect to each particular series of subordinated debt securities issued hereunder will be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.11 Form of Senior Debt Security.\*
- 4.12 Form of Subordinated Debt Security.\*
- 4.13 Form of Unit Agreement.\*
- 5.1 Opinion of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP regarding the legality of the securities registered hereby.
- 12.1 Statement of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and preferred stock Dividends.
- 23.1 Consent of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
- 23.2 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included in the signature page to this Registration Statement).
- 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Senior Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*
- 25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*

\* To be filed by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

\*\* To be incorporated herein by reference from a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.