

POPULAR INC  
Form PRE 14A  
June 08, 2009

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

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Consent Solicitation Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)**  
**of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- |                                     |  |                          |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Preliminary Consent Solicitation Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Definitive Consent Solicitation Statement  |                          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Definitive Additional Materials            |                          | (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12      |                          |   |

**POPULAR, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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5) Total fee paid:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

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2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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3) Filing Party:

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4) Date Filed:

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**PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION**

Popular, Inc.

P.O. Box 362708

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-2708

June 8, 2009

Dear Holder of Shares of Preferred Stock:

We are soliciting consents (the "Consent") in respect of shares of our 6.375% Non-cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A (the "Series A Preferred Stock") and 8.25% Non-cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, Series B (the "Series B Preferred Stock" and, collectively with the Series A Preferred Stock, the "Preferred Stock") that you held as of the close of business on June 8, 2009 (the "Record Date") in favor of the authorization and issuance (the "Senior Preferred Stock Issuance") of a new series of our preferred stock ("Senior Preferred Stock") ranking, as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution, senior to each series of Preferred Stock.

If approved, the Senior Preferred Stock will be issued to the United States Department of the Treasury (the "U.S. Treasury"), as holder of our shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C (the "Series C Preferred Stock") with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$935 million, either in exchange for the shares of Series C Preferred Stock, by redesignation of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock as Senior Preferred Stock or in another transaction in which the shares of Series C Preferred Stock are cancelled and new shares of Senior Preferred Stock are issued (the "Series C Preferred Stock Exchange"). Except for the seniority with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution, the Senior Preferred Stock would have the same terms as the Series C Preferred Stock.

This consent solicitation statement is being delivered to you in connection with the Exchange Offer (as defined below). As described in our Prospectus, dated June 8, 2009 (the "Prospectus") for the Exchange Offer, a copy of which is being distributed to you together with the enclosed consent solicitation statement, we will not accept your shares of Preferred Stock for exchange unless you follow the procedures contained in the letter of transmittal relating to the Exchange Offer (the "Letter of Transmittal") to grant your Tendering Consent (as defined below) in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance or make a Tender Certification (as defined below). If you do not wish to tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, but you wish to take action in favor of or against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you may give a Non-Tendering Consent (as defined below) by following the instructions using the detachable voting instruction form provided in the Letter of Transmittal. The Prospectus is also included in our registration statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333- ), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on June 8, 2009.

On today's date, we commenced an exchange offer (the "Exchange Offer") pursuant to which we are offering to exchange up to 390,000,000 newly issued shares of our common stock (a) for any and all issued and outstanding shares of Preferred Stock, and (b) for certain issued and outstanding trust preferred securities described in the Prospectus. We have agreed with the U.S. Treasury, as holder of the Series C Preferred Stock, to the Series C Preferred Stock Exchange, provided we obtain the required approval from holders of our Preferred Stock. If such approval is not obtained, we will seek the approval of the U.S. Treasury, in consideration of their consent to the Exchange Offer without requiring any adjustment to the terms of the warrant that was issued to the U.S. Treasury at the time that the Series C Preferred Stock was issued, to exchange its Series C Preferred Stock for newly issued trust preferred securities (the "New TPS") having a distribution rate and aggregate liquidation amount equal to the dividend rate and aggregate liquidation preference on the Series C Preferred Stock.

We are subject to risk-based capital ratio guidelines issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ( Federal Reserve ). One such ratio is Tier 1 Capital to risk-weighted assets ( Tier 1 Capital Ratio ). The Senior Preferred Stock (as is the case with the Series C Preferred Stock) would count as Tier 1 Capital. However, because there are quantitative limitations on the amount of trust preferred securities that count as Tier 1 Capital, we would not be able to count the full amount of the New TPS for purposes of the Tier 1 Capital Ratio. As explained in this consent solicitation statement, granting your consent in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance will allow us to maintain the regulatory capital treatment of the Series C Preferred Stock and our Tier 1 Capital Ratio following the Exchange Offer at the same level as prior to the Exchange Offer.

If the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance is approved by the requisite consent of our holders of Preferred Stock, we will consummate the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance regardless of whether we consummate the Exchange Offer.

In order to validly tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, give a written consent, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock, in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Tendering Consent ).

If you were not a record or beneficial holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, you will not be required to grant a Tendering Consent with respect to such shares in order to tender your shares in the Exchange Offer, but you will be required to certify that you were not a record or beneficial holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date and are not entitled to consent with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock (a Tender Certification ).

If you do not wish to tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, but you wish to take action with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, using the detachable form provided in the Letter of Transmittal, consent to, withhold consent on, or abstain on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance and discard the remaining portions of the Letter of Transmittal, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction on your behalf in the manner specified in the accompanying letter of transmittal with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Non-Tendering Consent and, together with each Tendering Consent, a Consent ).

The consent solicitation statement enclosed with this letter provides you with important information about the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance for which we are seeking your Consent. We encourage you to read the entire consent solicitation statement carefully. You may also obtain additional information about us from documents we have filed with the SEC and on our website at [www.popularinc.com](http://www.popularinc.com).

Thank you for your support of Popular.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Carrión

*Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer*

Popular, Inc.

P.O. Box 362708

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-2708

Notice of Solicitation of Written Consents

Dear Holder of Shares of Preferred Stock:

This consent solicitation statement is being delivered to you in connection with the solicitation on behalf of Popular, Inc. of Consents (as defined below) from the holders of shares of our 6.375% Non-cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A (the Series A Preferred Stock ) and 8.25% Non-cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, Series B (the Series B Preferred Stock and, collectively with the Series A Preferred Stock, the Preferred Stock ). As of the close of business on June , 2009 (the Record Date ), there were 7,475,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$186,875,000 issued and outstanding and 16,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$400,000,000 issued and outstanding. We are requesting that holders of our outstanding shares of Preferred Stock as of the close of business on the Record Date grant their Consent with respect to the authorization and issuance (the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance ) of a new series of our preferred stock ( Senior Preferred Stock ) ranking, as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution, senior to each series of Preferred Stock. If approved, the Senior Preferred Stock will be issued to the United States Department of the Treasury, as holder of our shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C (the Series C Preferred Stock ) with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$935 million, either in exchange for shares of Series C Preferred Stock, by redesignation of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock as Senior Preferred Stock or in another transaction in which the shares of Series C Preferred Stock are cancelled and new shares of Senior Preferred Stock are issued. Except for the seniority with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution, the Senior Preferred Stock would have the same terms as the Series C Preferred Stock.

We are soliciting Consents from all of our holders as of the Record Date of shares of Preferred Stock.

In order to validly tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, give a written Consent, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock, in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Tendering Consent ).

If you were not a record or beneficial holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, you will not be required to grant a Tendering Consent with respect to such shares in order to tender your shares in the Exchange Offer, but you will be required to certify that you were not a record or beneficial holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date and are not entitled to consent with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock (a Tender Certification ).

If you do not wish to tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, but you wish to take action with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, using the detachable form provided in the Letter of Transmittal, consent to, withhold consent on, or abstain on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance and discard the remaining portions of the Letter of Transmittal, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction on your behalf, in the manner specified in the accompanying Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Non-Tendering Consent and, together with each Tendering Consent, a Consent ).

Samuel T. Céspedes

*Secretary*

June , 2009

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### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this consent solicitation statement and the information incorporated by reference in this consent solicitation statement are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may relate to Popular's financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business, including, but not limited to, statements with respect to the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, market risk and the impact of interest rate changes, capital adequacy and liquidity, and the effect of legal proceedings and new accounting standards on Popular's financial condition and results of operations. All statements contained herein that are not clearly historical in nature are forward-looking, and the words anticipate, believe, continues, expect, estimate, intend, project and similar expressions and conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, might, can, may, or similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks, uncertainties, estimates and assumptions by management. Various factors, some of which are beyond Popular's control, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to:

the rate of declining growth in the economy and employment levels, as well as general business and economic conditions;

changes in interest rates, as well as the magnitude of such changes;

losses on our subprime mortgage loan portfolio;

the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies;

changes in federal bank regulatory and supervisory policies, including required levels of capital;

the relative strength or weakness of the consumer and commercial credit sectors and of the real estate markets in Puerto Rico and the other markets in which our borrowers are located;

the performance of the stock and bond markets;

competition in the financial services industry;

possible legislative or regulatory changes; and

difficulties in combining the operations of acquired entities.

All forward-looking statements included in this consent solicitation statement are based upon information available to Popular as of the date of this consent solicitation statement, and we assume no obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements to reflect occurrences or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date of such statements.

In this consent solicitation statement, unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, Popular, we, us and our refer to Popular, Inc. and its subsidiaries.





**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE CONSENT MATERIALS  
AND THE CONSENT SOLICITATION**

***Q: Who is soliciting my Consent?***

A: We are providing these consent solicitation materials to you in connection with our solicitation of Consents (as defined below) to approve the authorization and issuance (the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance ) of a new series of our preferred stock ( Senior Preferred Stock ) ranking, as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution, senior to each series of Preferred Stock. If approved, the Senior Preferred Stock will be issued to the United States Department of the Treasury (the U.S. Treasury ), as holder of our shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C (the Series C Preferred Stock ) with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$935 million, either in exchange for shares of Series C Preferred Stock, by redesignation of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock as Senior Preferred Stock or in another transaction in which the shares of Series C Preferred Stock are cancelled and new shares of Senior Preferred Stock are issued (the Series C Preferred Stock Exchange ). We are providing this consent solicitation statement, a Prospectus (as defined below) and a Letter of Transmittal (as defined below) to holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock beginning on or about June , 2009. This consent solicitation statement contains important information for you to consider when deciding whether to consent to this matter. Please read it carefully. This consent solicitation statement, the Prospectus, the Letter of Transmittal and the Notice of Solicitation of Written Consents will also be available starting on June , 2009 on our website at [www.popularinc.com](http://www.popularinc.com). No additional information on our website is deemed to be part of or incorporated by reference in this consent solicitation statement.

***Q: Who is entitled to give a Consent?***

A: The board of directors set the close of business on June , 2009 as the record date (the Record Date ) for determining holders of shares of Preferred Stock entitled to grant a Consent with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance. If you are a holder on the Record Date of our shares of Preferred Stock, you are entitled to grant your Consent (and if you are a holder of shares of Preferred Stock on the Record Date and wish to tender your shares in the Exchange Offer (as defined below), you must grant your Tendering Consent (as defined below)) with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: What am I being asked to give my Consent to?***

A: You are being asked to give your Consent with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: What portion of shares must give their consent in order to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance?***

A: Under the certificates of designation with respect to the Preferred Stock, the affirmative written consent of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock and two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock, in each case as of the close of business on the Record Date, each acting as a separate class, are required to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: How will the number of consents for each share of Preferred Stock be determined?***

A: The Preferred Stock acts by number of shares, with holders being entitled to one vote per share of Preferred Stock.

***Q:***

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*If I am a holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, am I required to consent to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance if I wish to participate in the Exchange Offer?*

- A: Yes, holders of shares of Preferred Stock that were holders as of the Record Date are required to give their Consent in favor of the proposals if they wish to participate in the Exchange Offer. In order to validly tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of

your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, give a written consent, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction on your behalf, in the manner specified in the Letter of Transmittal, with respect to such shares of Preferred Stock, in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Tendering Consent ).

**Q: *If I am a holder of shares of Preferred Stock, but I did not hold my shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, am I required to vote in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance if I wish to participate in the Exchange Offer?***

A: If you were not a record or beneficial holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, you will not be required to vote such shares in order to tender your shares in the Exchange Offer, but you will be required to certify that you were not a record or beneficial holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date (a Tender Certification ).

**Q: *If I am a holder of shares of Preferred Stock, but I do not wish to tender my shares in the Exchange Offer, how do I vote on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance?***

A: If you do not wish to tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, but you wish to give a consent with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you must: (1) if you were a record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, using the detachable form provided in the Letter of Transmittal, consent to, withhold consent on, or abstain on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance and discard the remaining portions of the Letter of Transmittal, or (2) if you were a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee promptly and instruct it to give a voting instruction on your behalf, in the manner specified in the accompanying Letter of Transmittal with respect to such series of Preferred Stock (each of the instructions referred to in (1) and (2) above, a Non-Tendering Consent and, together with each Tendering Consent, a Consent ).

**Q: *Will there be a meeting of the holders of Preferred Stock?***

A: No, there will not be a meeting. In order to save the expense associated with holding a special meeting, we have elected to obtain approval of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance from holders of Preferred Stock by written consent pursuant to Article 7.17 of the Puerto Rico General Corporation Law and the provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation, rather than by calling a meeting of holders of Preferred Stock. We are soliciting Consents from all of our holders as of the Record Date of shares of Preferred Stock.

**Q: *What is the deadline for delivering my Consent?***

A: If you are a holder of shares of Preferred Stock and you wish to participate in the Exchange Offer, you must validly tender the stock certificate representing your shares of Preferred Stock and give your Tendering Consent or Tender Certification prior to the expiration date of the Exchange Offer, which is set forth in the Prospectus (the Consent Deadline ). This deadline may be extended in accordance with applicable law. If you hold your shares of Preferred Stock through a bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, due to the time required for your nominee to complete the required actions on your behalf, we urge you to contact your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee at least five business days prior to the Consent Deadline. We are not providing for guaranteed delivery procedures and therefore you must allow sufficient time to process your completed Tendering Consent or Tender Certification, and comply with the other procedures set forth in the Prospectus prior to the Consent Deadline.

Any extension of the expiration date of the Exchange Offer will be followed as promptly as practicable by a public announcement thereof to be issued no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the last previously scheduled Consent Deadline.

Holders of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date that are not tendering in the Exchange Offer must return their Non-Tendering Consent prior to the Consent Deadline to have their Consent count. The board of directors may, subject to applicable law, extend the Consent Deadline in its sole discretion. If you hold your shares of Preferred Stock through a bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, due to the time required for your nominee to complete the required actions on your behalf, we urge you to contact your nominee at least five business days prior to the Consent Deadline. Consents received after the Consent Deadline will be disregarded and have no effect.

***Q: Can I change or revoke my Consent?***

A: If you did not tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer and granted a Non-Tendering Consent, you may change or revoke your Non-Tendering Consent at any time before the earlier of the Consent Deadline and the date on which we receive enough Consents in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance. If you wish to revoke or withhold your previously granted Non-Tendering Consent, you may do so by sending in a new Non-Tendering Consent with a later date.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares of Preferred Stock and wish to change your instruction on how to vote your Non-Tendering Consent given to your bank, broker, custodian or other nominee, you will need to follow the procedures established by them in order to revoke your Non-Tendering Consent.

If you have tendered shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer and we accept your shares of Preferred Stock, your Tendering Consent will become irrevocable, and you will be unable to change or revoke your Tendering Consent on and after the expiration date of the Exchange Offer. You may withdraw your tender of shares of Preferred Stock at any time prior to the expiration date of the Exchange Offer, but valid withdrawal of your tender will not revoke your Tendering Consent with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: What if I don't indicate my decision with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance?***

A: If you are a holder of record of shares of Preferred Stock and return a signed detachable voting instruction form or Letter of Transmittal without indicating your decision on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you will be deemed to have given your Consent in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

If you hold your shares of Preferred Stock through a bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, and you return your voting instruction without indicating your decision, you will be deemed to have voted against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance. Your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee will not have the discretion to consent with respect to the shares beneficially owned by you, and the failure to consent will be equivalent to a vote against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: What happens if I do not grant my Consent?***

A: If you are a holder of shares of Preferred Stock and you wish to participate in the Exchange Offer, if you do not give your Tendering Consent or Tender Certification, we will not accept any of your shares of Preferred Stock for exchange, and you will remain a holder of shares of Preferred Stock following the conclusion of the Exchange Offer. Because we need two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, each acting as a separate class, on the Record Date to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, if you do nothing, it will have the effect of voting against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

If you are a beneficial owner, you must instruct your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee how to vote. Your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee does not have the discretion to consent with respect to your shares on your behalf without your instructions. Failure to provide the record holder of your shares of Preferred Stock with instructions on a matter, such that your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee is unable to grant a voting instruction on the matter, will be equivalent to a vote against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: How will the results of the consent solicitation be tabulated?***

A: The results of the consent solicitation will be tabulated by Global Bondholder Services Corporation, as exchange agent on our behalf, who will separately count each Consent to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance (which is equivalent to a vote for the proposal), to withhold consent (which is equivalent to a vote against the proposal), or to abstain on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance. If you abstain from consenting on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, the abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

***Q: How can I access Popular's consent solicitation materials and annual report electronically?***

A: This consent solicitation statement and Popular's 2008 annual report are available on Popular's website at [www.popularinc.com](http://www.popularinc.com). Click on "About Us" and then "SEC Filings". No additional information on our website is deemed to be part of or incorporated by reference in this consent solicitation statement.

***Q: Who can help answer my questions?***

A: If you have any questions about how to grant or revoke your Consent or need additional copies of any relevant documentation, you should contact the information agent:

**Global Bondholder Services Corporation**

65 Broadway, Suite 723

New York, New York 10006

Banks and Brokers, Call Collect:

(212) 430-3774

All Others Call Toll-Free:

(866) 540-1500

### INFORMATION ON GRANTING CONSENTS

We have elected to solicit approval of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance from holders of shares of Preferred Stock by written consent pursuant to Article 7.17 of the Puerto Rico General Corporation Law and our Certificate of Incorporation, rather than by calling a meeting of holders of Preferred Stock. We are soliciting Consents from all of our holders as of the Record Date of shares of Preferred Stock.

Under the certificates of designation with respect to the Preferred Stock, the affirmative written consent of holders of two-thirds of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock and two-thirds of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock, as of the close of business on the Record Date, each acting as a separate class, are required to approve the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance. As of the close of business on the Record Date, there were 7,475,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$186,875,000 issued and outstanding and 16,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$400,000,000 issued and outstanding.

When consenting to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, holders are entitled to one vote per share of Preferred Stock.

If you were a holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, in order to validly tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer, you must give (or instruct your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee to give) your Tendering Consent in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

If you were not a record or beneficial holder of your shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date, you will not be required to Consent in order to tender your shares in the Exchange Offer, but you will be required to provide a Tender Certification.

If you were a holder of shares of Preferred Stock as of the Record Date and you do not wish to tender your shares of Preferred Stock in the Exchange Offer but you wish to take action with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance, you may give (or instruct your bank, broker, custodian, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee to give) your Non-Tendering Consent to consent to, withhold consent on, or abstain on the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

Please see the Prospectus for additional information on the Exchange Offer.

### BACKGROUND FOR THE EXCHANGE OFFER

As part of the U.S. Government's Financial Stability Plan, on February 25, 2009, the U.S. Treasury announced preliminary details of its Capital Assistance Program, or the CAP. To implement the CAP, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Reserve Banks, the FDIC and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency commenced a review, referred to as the Supervisory Capital Assessment Program, or the SCAP, of the capital of the 19 largest U.S. banking institutions. We were not included in the group of 19 banking institutions reviewed under the SCAP. On May 7, 2009, Federal banking regulators announced the results of the SCAP and determined that 10 of the 19 banking institutions were required to raise additional capital and to submit a capital plan to their Federal banking regulators by June 8, 2009 for their review.

Even though we were not one of the banking institutions included in the SCAP, we have closely assessed the announced SCAP results, particularly noting that (1) the SCAP credit loss assumptions applied to regional banking institutions included in the SCAP are based on more adverse economic and credit scenarios, and (2) Federal banking regulators are focused on the composition of regulatory capital. Specifically, the regulators have indicated that voting common equity should be the dominant element of Tier 1 capital and have established a 4% Tier 1 common/risk-weighted assets ratio as a threshold for determining capital needs. Although the SCAP results are not applicable to us, they do express general regulatory expectations.

While we are well capitalized based on a Tier 1 Capital basis at 11.16%, as of March 31, 2009 we believe that an improvement in the composition of our regulatory capital, including Tier 1 common equity, will better position us in a more adverse economic and credit scenario. Our Tier 1 common/risk-weighted assets ratio was 3.13% as of March 31, 2009.

As a result, we are conducting the Exchange Offer in order to increase our common equity capital to accommodate the more adverse economic and credit scenarios assumed under the SCAP as applied to regional banking institutions and have structured the Exchange Offer to increase our Tier 1 common equity by up to approximately \$1.2 billion. Our future interest expense associated with our Trust Preferred Securities will also be reduced.

#### **APPROVAL OF SENIOR PREFERRED STOCK ISSUANCE**

The certificates of designation of the Preferred Stock require the affirmative written consent of holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock and two-thirds of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock, as of the close of business on the Record Date, each acting as a separate class, in order for us to be able to authorize and issue any shares ranking as to dividend rights or rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution senior to the Preferred Stock.

#### *Background and Reasons for the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance*

On December 5, 2008, we entered into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury pursuant to which the U.S. Treasury invested \$935 million in our Series C Preferred Stock under the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Assets Relief Program Capital Purchase Program. Under the agreement, we issued and sold to the U.S. Treasury, (1) 935,000 shares of our Series C Preferred Stock, and (2) a warrant to purchase 20,932,836, shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$6.70 per share.

The shares of Series C Preferred Stock qualify as Tier 1 regulatory capital and pay cumulative dividends quarterly at a rate of 5% per annum for the first five years, and 9% per annum thereafter. The shares of Series C Preferred Stock are non-voting, other than class voting rights on certain matters that could adversely affect the shares of Series C Preferred Stock. If dividends on the shares of Series C Preferred Stock have not been paid for an aggregate of six quarterly divided periods or more, whether consecutive or not, the number of our authorized number of directors will be automatically increased by two and the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock, voting together with holders of any then outstanding voting stock ranking equally with the Series C Preferred Stock, will have the right to elect those directors at our next annual meeting of stockholders or at a special meeting of stockholders called for that purpose. These preferred share directors are subject to election annually. These additional directors shall exist until all accumulated but unpaid dividends on the preferred shares have been paid.

The shares of Series C Preferred Stock may be redeemed by us at par after December 5, 2011. Prior to that date, the shares of Series C Preferred Stock may only be redeemed by us at par in an amount up to the cash proceeds received by us (minimum \$233.75 million) from qualifying equity offerings of any Tier 1 perpetual preferred or common stock. Any redemption of the shares of the Series C Preferred Stock is subject to the consent of the Federal Reserve. Until December 5, 2011, or such earlier time as all shares of Series C Preferred Stock have been redeemed or transferred by U.S. Treasury, we will not, without U.S. Treasury's consent, be able to increase the dividend rate per share of common stock or repurchase our common stock.

The warrant is immediately exercisable and has a 10-year term. The exercise price and number of shares subject to the warrant are both subject to anti-dilution adjustments.

In connection with the Exchange Offer, we have agreed with the U.S. Treasury, as holder of the Series C Preferred Stock, to the Series C Preferred Stock Exchange, provided we obtain the required approval from holders of our Preferred Stock. Except for the seniority with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation,

winding up and dissolution, the Senior Preferred Stock would have the same terms as the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock described above. If the approval to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance from the holders of Preferred Stock is not obtained, we will seek the approval of the U.S. Treasury, in consideration of their consent to the Exchange Offer without requiring any adjustment to the terms of the warrant that was issued to the U.S. Treasury at the time that the Series C Preferred Stock was issued, to exchange its Series C Preferred Stock for newly issued trust preferred securities (the New TPS ) having a distribution rate and aggregate liquidation amount equal to the dividend rate and aggregate liquidation preference on the Series C Preferred Stock.

The Senior Preferred Stock (as is the case with the Series C Preferred Stock) would count as Tier 1 Capital. However, because there are quantitative limitations on the amount of trust preferred securities that count as Tier 1 Capital, we would not be able to count the full amount of the New TPS for purposes of the Tier 1 Capital Ratio. Thus, granting your Consent in favor of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance will allow us to maintain the regulatory capital treatment of the Series C Preferred Stock and our ratio of Tier 1 Capital to risk-weighted assets ( Tier 1 Capital Ratio ) following the Exchange Offer at the same level as prior to the Exchange Offer.

Either as a result of giving effect to the Series C Preferred Stock Exchange or the exchange of Series C Preferred Stock into New TPS, the U.S. Treasury will continue to receive distributions with respect to its investment in our securities without regard to the suspension of dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock.

#### *Effect of the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance on Stockholders*

The Senior Preferred Stock Issuance will not change the terms of the Preferred Stock. However, the Senior Preferred Stock will be senior to the Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding up and dissolution. As such, we would be allowed to declare and pay dividends on the shares of Senior Preferred Stock without paying or setting aside for payment any dividends of the shares of Preferred Stock. In the event of our liquidation, winding up or dissolution, whether voluntary or involuntary, holders of the Senior Preferred Stock would be entitled to receive out of the assets available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of such assets is made to or set aside for the holders of Preferred Stock, payment in full of the liquidation amount of the Senior Preferred Stock and any accumulated and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, to the date of payment.

#### *No Appraisal Rights*

Under Puerto Rico law and our certificate of incorporation, holders of Preferred Stock will not be entitled to dissenter's rights or appraisal rights with respect to the Senior Preferred Stock Issuance.

### **SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

Effective January 1, 2005, we adopted an Executive Stock Ownership Requirements Policy, which establishes common stock ownership requirements for the Named Executive Officers ( NEOs ), defined as the Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and Chairman of the Board and the members of the Corporate Leadership Circle ( CLC ). The CEO is required to own the common stock amounting to at least five times his base salary. Other NEOs are required to own common stock amounting to at least three times their base salary. For purposes of determining stock ownership under the guidelines, ownership shares are made up of shares purchased in the open market; shares jointly owned with or separately by spouse and/or children; shares held in the Savings and Investment Plan (401(k) or 1165(e) Plans); shares purchased through the 2001 Stock Option Plan; NEOs non-qualified deferred share awards; vested restricted stock; and shares of our common stock held in a trust established for estate and/or tax planning purposes that is revocable by the NEOs and/or the NEOs' spouse.

NEOs who have worked for Popular for more than five years must comply with their stock ownership requirements within three years of the first day of the year following their appointment to a position subject to



the requirements. Those who have worked for Popular for less than five years must achieve compliance within five years of the first day of the year following their appointment to a position subject to the requirements. If an NEO's requirement changes because of a promotion, a three-year period is granted to achieve the new requirement. Once the requirement is achieved, the corresponding ownership level must be maintained for as long as the NEO is subject to the stock ownership requirements. Failure to meet the stock ownership requirements within the appropriate timeframe may result in the payment of future short-term incentive awards in the form of stock rather than cash. The stock ownership requirements are revised every five years.

All NEOs are currently in compliance with our stock ownership requirements.

Effective June 9, 2004, each director not employed by Popular must own common stock with a dollar value equal to five times his or her annual retainer. Such ownership level was required to be achieved by June 9, 2007 for directors serving on June 9, 2004 and within three years of being named or elected as a director for directors named or elected after June 9, 2004. Each director and nominee for director is currently in compliance with his or her common stock ownership requirements.

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of our common stock and Preferred Stock as of May 31, 2009, for each director and nominee for director and each NEO and by all directors (including nominees), NEOs, the Corporate Secretary and the Principal Accounting Officer as a group.

### Common Stock

Name	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Class
Juan J. Bermúdez	1,590,010 <sup>(2)</sup>	*
Richard L. Carrion	3,264,179 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.16
María Luisa Ferré	6,601,506 <sup>(4)</sup>	2.34
Michael J. Masin	70,083	*
Manuel Morales Jr.	477,442 <sup>(5)</sup>	*
Francisco M. Rexach Jr.	408,917 <sup>(6)</sup>	*
Frederic V. Salerno	96,766	*
William J. Teuber Jr.	57,186	*
José R. Vizcarrondo	105,394	*
David H. Chafey Jr.	636,222	*
Jorge A. Junquera	681,970 <sup>(7)</sup>	*
Amílcar L. Jordán	134,523	*
Eduardo J. Negrón	48,584	*
Brunilda Santos de Álvarez	160,964	*
Felix M. Villamil	151,417	*
All directors and NEOs, Corporate Secretary and the Principal Accounting Officer as a group (17 persons as a group)	14,584,921	5.17

**Preferred Stock**

Name	Title of Security	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Class
Juan J. Bermúdez	Series B Preferred Stock	63,600	**
Richard L. Carrion	Series A Preferred Stock	7,156 <sup>(8)</sup>	**
	Series B Preferred Stock	4,000 <sup>(9)</sup>	**
María Luisa Ferré	Series B Preferred Stock	4,175 <sup>(10)</sup>	**
Jorge A. Junquera	Series B Preferred Stock	13,260	**
José R. Vizcarrondo	Series B Preferred Stock	12,000	**
All directors and NEOs, Corporate Secretary and the Principal Accounting Officer as a group (18 persons as a group)			
	Series A Preferred Stock	7,156	**
	Series B Preferred Stock	97,035	**

\* Represents less than 1% of our outstanding common stock.

\*\* Represents less than 1% of our outstanding Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock, as applicable.

(1) For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the 1934 Act, pursuant to which a person or group of persons is deemed to have beneficial ownership of a security if that person has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of such security within 60 days. Therefore, it includes the number of shares of common stock that could be purchased by exercising stock options that were exercisable as of May 31, 2009 or within 60 days after that date, as follows: Mr. Bermúdez, 16,122; Ms. Ferré, 16,122; Mr. Morales, 16,122; Mr. Rexach, 16,122; Mr. Salerno, 6,058; Mr. Vizcarrondo, 1,274; Mr. Chafey, 206,106; Mr. Junquera, 181,374; Mr. Jordán, 38,816; Mr. Negrón, 39,521; Ms. Santos de Álvarez, 92,748; Mr. Villamil, 82,893; and Ms. González, 18,153; which represent 731,431 shares for all directors and NEOs, the Corporate Secretary, and the Principal Accounting Officer as a group. Also, it includes shares granted under the Popular, Inc. 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan and the Senior Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan, subject to transferability restrictions and/or forfeiture upon failure to meet vesting conditions, as follows: Mr. Bermúdez, 44,374; Mr. Carrion, 129,997; Ms. Ferré, 32,486; Mr. Masin, 33,920; Mr. Morales, 57,803; Mr. Rexach, 37,153; Mr. Salerno, 51,272; Mr. Teuber, 47,714; Mr. Vizcarrondo, 32,486; Mr. Chafey, 50,854; Mr. Junquera, 37,293; Mr. Jordán, 20,342; Mr. Negrón, 1,798; Ms. Santos de Álvarez, 20,342; Mr. Villamil, 20,342; and Ms. González, 1,892; which represent 639,349 shares for all directors and NEOs, the Corporate Secretary, and the Principal Accounting Officer as a group. As of May 31, 2009, there were 282,031,108 shares of common stock outstanding, 7,475,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock outstanding, and 16,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding.

(2) This amount includes 36,417 shares owned by his wife, as to which Mr. Bermúdez disclaims beneficial ownership.

(3) Mr. Carrión owns 1,450,943 shares and also has indirect investment power over 56,887 shares owned by his children and 2,077 shares owned by his wife. Mr. Carrión has 1,070,774 shares pledged as collateral. Mr. Carrión, has a 17.89% ownership interest in Junior Investment Corporation, which owns 9,805,882 shares of which 1,754,272 are included in the table as part of Mr. Carrión's holdings. Junior Investment Corporation has 4,633,796 shares pledged as collateral.

(4) Ms. Ferré has direct or indirect investment and voting power over 6,585,384 shares. Ms. Ferré owns 52,015 shares and has indirect investment and voting power over 3,081,087 shares owned by FRG, Inc., 437,400 shares owned by The Luis A. Ferré Foundation, 2,970 shares owned by RANFE, Inc., 2,961,917 shares owned by El Día, Inc, and 25,000 shares owned by her husband. Shares owned by The Luis A. Ferré Foundation and shares owned by El Día, Inc. have been pledged as collateral.

(5) This amount includes 386,365 shares owned by Mr. Morales' parents over which he has voting power as attorney-in-fact.



- (6) This amount includes 45,792 shares held by Capital Assets, Inc., over which Mr. Rexach has indirect voting power as President and shareholder.
- (7) This number includes 24,868 shares owned by Mr. Junquera's son and daughter over which he has voting power and disclaims beneficial ownership. Mr. Junquera has 81,356 shares pledged as collateral.
- (8) Junior Investment Corporation owns 40,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock. The amount shown in the table reflects Mr. Carrión's ownership of 17.89% of Junior Investment Corporation.
- (9) The amount shown in the table reflects shares owned by his wife.
- (10) The amount shown in the table reflects shares owned by her husband.

Following is the information with respect to any person, including any group as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the 1934 Act) who is known to Popular to beneficially own more than five percent (5%) of the outstanding common stock.

**Name and Address of**

<b>Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percent of Class<sup>(2)</sup></b>
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (and related entities) One State Farm Plaza Bloomington, IL 61710	18,265,533 <sup>(3)</sup>	6.47%
Wellington Management Company, LLP 75 State Street Boston, MA 02109	24,498,766 <sup>(4)</sup>	8.72%

(1) For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the 1934 Act.

(2) Based on 282,031,108 shares of common stock outstanding as of May 31, 2009.

(3) On February 10, 2009, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (State Farm) and affiliated entities filed a Schedule 13G/A with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) reflecting their common stock holdings as of December 31, 2008. According to this statement, State Farm and its affiliates may be deemed to constitute a group within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) of the 1934 Act and could also be deemed to be the beneficial owners of 18,265,553 shares of common stock. However, Sta