

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

2024

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE, etc.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report, etc.
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.
D Check box if filing under: Form 5558, automatic extension, the DFVC program, special extension, etc.
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1996
2a Plan sponsor's name, mailing address, city or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 58-1928833
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 229-758-5511
2d Business code (see instructions): 522110

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<p><b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor</p> <p style="color: blue;">ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p style="color: blue;">PO BOX 218 COLQUITT, GA 39837-0218</p>	<p><b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN 58-1928833</p> <p><b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number 229-758-5511</p>
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<p><b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:</p> <p><b>a</b> Sponsor's name</p> <p><b>c</b> Plan Name</p>	<p><b>4b</b> EIN</p> <p><b>4d</b> PN</p>
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<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	190
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<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ).		
<b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year .....	<b>6a(1)</b>	147
<b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year .....	<b>6a(2)</b>	146
<b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....	<b>6b</b>	3
<b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits .....	<b>6c</b>	29
<b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> .....	<b>6d</b>	178
<b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. ....	<b>6e</b>	1
<b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> .....	<b>6f</b>	179
<b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....	<b>6g(1)</b>	187
<b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....	<b>6g(2)</b>	178
<b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6h</b>	3

<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....	<b>7</b>	
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**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
2I 2O 3H 3I

**b** If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

<p><b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts</p> <p>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust</p> <p>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor</p>	<p><b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts</p> <p>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust</p> <p>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor</p>
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**10** Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

<p><b>a Pension Schedules</b></p> <p>(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b> (Retirement Plan Information)</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MB</b> (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary</p> <p>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SB</b> (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary</p> <p>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DCG</b> (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____</p> <p>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MEP</b> (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)</p>	<p><b>b General Schedules</b></p> <p>(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> (Financial Information)</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b> (Financial Information – Small Plan)</p> <p>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u></p> <p>(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> (Service Provider Information)</p> <p>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> (DFE/Participating Plan Information)</p> <p>(6) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> (Financial Transaction Schedules)</p>
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**Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)**

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**11a** If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) .....  Yes  No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

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**11b** Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) .....  Yes  No

**11c** Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>SCHEDULE C</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Service Provider Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<b>A</b> Name of plan PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	003
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC.	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-1928833	

**Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)**

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

**1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation**

**a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).....  Yes  No

**b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

**(b)** Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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**(b)** Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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**2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation.** Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ARGENT TRUST COMPANY

62-1437218

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
21 50	NONE	21616	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

TRANSITION FINANCE STRATEGIES

13-4238973

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	NONE	6665	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

HOPKINS & HOWARD

43-1633986

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
10	NONE	5600	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Part I Service Provider Information (continued)**

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

**Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information**

**4** Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

**Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)**  
(complete as many entries as needed)

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>SCHEDULE H</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Financial Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2024</b> and ending <b>12/31/2024</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <b>003</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>58-1928833</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
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**1** Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>		
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>	360	360
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>		
<b>c</b> General investments:			
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>	4820	5900
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>		
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>		
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>		
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>		
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>		
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>		
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>		
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>		
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>		
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>		
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>		
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>		

<b>1d</b> Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	<b>1d(1)</b>	3618038	3880228
(2) Employer real property.....	<b>1d(2)</b>		
<b>e</b> Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	<b>1e</b>		
<b>f</b> Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	<b>1f</b>	3623218	3886488
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>g</b> Benefit claims payable.....	<b>1g</b>		
<b>h</b> Operating payables.....	<b>1h</b>		
<b>i</b> Acquisition indebtedness.....	<b>1i</b>		
<b>j</b> Other liabilities.....	<b>1j</b>		
<b>k</b> Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	<b>1k</b>	0	0
<b>Net Assets</b>			
<b>l</b> Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	<b>1l</b>	3623218	3886488

**Part II Income and Expense Statement**

**2** Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

<b>Income</b>		(a) Amount	(b) Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: <b>(A)</b> Employers.....	<b>2a(1)(A)</b>	214678	
<b>(B)</b> Participants.....	<b>2a(1)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Others (including rollovers).....	<b>2a(1)(C)</b>		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	<b>2a(2)</b>		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines <b>2a(1)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , <b>(C)</b> , and line <b>2a(2)</b> .....	<b>2a(3)</b>		214678
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
<b>(1) Interest:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	<b>2b(1)(A)</b>	3357	
<b>(B)</b> U.S. Government securities.....	<b>2b(1)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Corporate debt instruments.....	<b>2b(1)(C)</b>		
<b>(D)</b> Loans (other than to participants).....	<b>2b(1)(D)</b>		
<b>(E)</b> Participant loans.....	<b>2b(1)(E)</b>		
<b>(F)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(1)(F)</b>		
<b>(G)</b> Total interest. Add lines <b>2b(1)(A)</b> through <b>(F)</b> .....	<b>2b(1)(G)</b>		3357
<b>(2) Dividends:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred stock.....	<b>2b(2)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common stock.....	<b>2b(2)(B)</b>	178552	
<b>(C)</b> Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	<b>2b(2)(C)</b>		
<b>(D)</b> Total dividends. Add lines <b>2b(2)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , and <b>(C)</b> .....	<b>2b(2)(D)</b>		178552
(3) Rents.....	<b>2b(3)</b>		
<b>(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Aggregate proceeds.....	<b>2b(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	<b>2b(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Subtract line <b>2b(4)(B)</b> from line <b>2b(4)(A)</b> and enter result.....	<b>2b(4)(C)</b>		
<b>(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Real estate.....	<b>2b(5)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(5)(B)</b>	262190	
<b>(C)</b> Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines <b>2b(5)(A)</b> and <b>(B)</b> .....	<b>2b(5)(C)</b>		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts .....	<b>2b(6)</b>		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts .....	<b>2b(7)</b>		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts .....	<b>2b(8)</b>		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>2b(9)</b>		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		
<b>c</b> Other income .....	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2d</b>		658777

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers .....	<b>2e(1)</b>	361626	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits .....	<b>2e(2)</b>		
(3) Other .....	<b>2e(3)</b>		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		361626
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	<b>2f</b>		
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) .....	<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b> Interest expense .....	<b>2h</b>		
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances .....	<b>2i(1)</b>		
(2) Contract administrator fees .....	<b>2i(2)</b>		
(3) Recordkeeping fees .....	<b>2i(3)</b>	6665	
(4) IQPA audit fees .....	<b>2i(4)</b>		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>	21616	
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>		
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>	5600	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>		
(11) Other expenses .....	<b>2i(11)</b>		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		33881
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2j</b>		395507

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		263270
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan .....	<b>2l(1)</b>		
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		

**Part III Accountant's Opinion**

**3** Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

**a** The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1)  Unmodified (2)  Qualified (3)  Disclaimer (4)  Adverse

**b** Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1)  DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2)  DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3)  neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

**c** Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **DRAFFIN & TUCKER, LLP**

(2) EIN: **58-0914992**

**d** The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1)  This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2)  It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

**Part IV Compliance Questions**

**4** CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
<b>a</b> Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
<b>b</b> Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>c</b> Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>d</b> Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		5000000
<b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
<b>g</b> Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>h</b> Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>j</b> Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
<b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
<b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
<b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
<b>n</b> If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

**5a** Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?  Yes  No  
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year \_\_\_\_\_.

**5b** If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

<b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s)	<b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>5b(3)</b> PN(s)

**5c** Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) .....  Yes  No  Not determined  
 If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>SCHEDULE R</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Retirement Plan Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>003</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>58-1928833</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
---------------	----------------------

**All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.**

**1** Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions..... 

1		0
---	--	---

**2** Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):  
EIN(s): 62-1437218

**Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.**

**3** Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year..... 

3	
---	--

<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

**4** Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? .....  Yes  No  N/A  
**If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.**

**5** If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
**If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.**

<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	<b>6a</b>	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	<b>6b</b>	
<b>c</b> Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	<b>6c</b>	

**If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.**

**7** Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?.....  Yes  No  N/A

**8** If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? .....  Yes  No  N/A

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
-----------------	-------------------

**9** If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....  Increase  Decrease  Both  No

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

**10** Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? .....  Yes  No

**11 a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....  Yes  No

**b** If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) .....  Yes  No

**12** Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....  Yes  No

**Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**13** Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

<b>a</b> The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14a</b>	
<b>b</b> The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14b</b>	
<b>c</b> The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14c</b>	

**15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

<b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....	<b>15b</b>	

**16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

<b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</b> If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers .....	<b>16b</b>	

**17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment .....

**Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment .....

**19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

**a** Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:  
 Public Equity: \_\_\_\_\_% Private Equity: \_\_\_\_\_% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: \_\_\_\_\_%  
 High-Yield Debt: \_\_\_\_\_% Real Assets: \_\_\_\_\_% Cash or Cash Equivalents: \_\_\_\_\_% Other: \_\_\_\_\_%

**b** Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:  
 0-5 years  5-10 years  10-15 years  15 years or more

**20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

**a** Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero?  Yes  No

**b** If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:  
 Yes.  
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.  
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.  
 No. Other. Provide explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part VII IRS Compliance Questions**

**21a** Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules?  Yes  No

**21b** If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).  
 Design-based safe harbor method  
 "Prior year" ADP test  
 "Current year" ADP test  
 N/A

**22** If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number \_\_\_\_\_.

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC  
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023



Let's Think Together.®

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC  
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Plan Administrator  
PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc.  
Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Colquitt, Georgia

### ***Opinion on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### ***Basis for Opinion on the Financial Statements***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Continued

1

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In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current Plan instrument, including all Plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Continued

## **Other Matters**

### *Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including their form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

*Draffin & Tucker, LLP*

Albany, Georgia  
October 6, 2025

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
as of December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets:		
Money market fund	\$ 4,947	\$ 3,867
Investment in PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. common stock at estimated fair value	<u>3,880,228</u>	<u>3,618,038</u>
Total investments at fair value	<u>3,885,175</u>	<u>3,621,905</u>
Total assets	<u>3,885,175</u>	<u>3,621,905</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 3,885,175</u>	<u>\$ 3,621,905</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
for the year ended December 31, 2024

Additions:

Additions to net assets attributed to:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 262,190
Interest and dividend income	<u>181,909</u>

Total investment income	444,099
-------------------------	---------

Employer contributions	<u>214,678</u>
------------------------	----------------

Total additions	<u>658,777</u>
-----------------	----------------

Deductions from net assets attributed to:

Benefits paid to participants	361,626
Administrative expenses	<u>33,881</u>

Total deductions	<u>395,507</u>
------------------	----------------

Net increase	263,270
--------------	---------

Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	<u>3,621,905</u>
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End of year	<u><u>\$ 3,885,175</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024 and 2023

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1. Plan Description and Basis of Presentation

The following description of the PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan was adopted on January 1, 1996, and the Plan was restated effective January 1, 2013. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

Administration of Plan Assets

The Plan's assets, which consist principally of PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. (Company) common shares, are held by Argent Trust Company (Trustee), the trustee of the Plan.

Company contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which invests cash received, interest, and dividend income and makes distributions to participants.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company or its subsidiaries. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. Administrative expenses for the Trustee's fees are paid directly by the Plan.

Eligibility

Employees of the Company and its participating subsidiaries are generally eligible to participate in the Plan after one year of service, providing they worked at least 1,000 hours during such Plan year. Participants who do not have at least 1,000 hours of service during such Plan year or are not employed on the last working day of a Plan year are generally not eligible for an allocation of Company contributions for such year.

Contributions

Contributions are 3% of a participant's eligible compensation and are contributed by the Company annually.

Participants may deposit proceeds from other similar tax-qualified plans into the Plan. A participant must deposit such proceeds within 60 days of receiving the proceeds. A participant may also deposit amounts from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) that originated from a similar tax-qualified plan.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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1. Plan Description and Basis of Presentation, Continued

Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock and forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts. Allocations are based upon a participant's eligible compensation relative to total eligible compensation. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Plan earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's beginning of the year account balance to all participant's beginning of the year account balances.

Vesting

If a participant's employment with the Company ends for any reason other than retirement, permanent disability, or death, he or she will vest in the balances in his or her account based on total years of service with the Company. Participants vest at a rate of 20% per year beginning with the second year of service and are 100% vested after six years of service.

Payment of Benefits

No distributions from the Plan will be made until a participant retires, becomes disabled, or dies (in which case, payment shall be made to his or her beneficiary or, if none, his or her legal representatives), or otherwise terminates employment with the Company and its participating subsidiaries. Distributions are made in cash or, if a participant elects, in the form of Company common shares plus cash for any fractional share.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid from Plan assets and allocated among the accounts of all participants. During 2024, expenses of \$33,881 were paid by the Plan and allocated to participant accounts. Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Company and excluded from these financial statements.

Forfeitures

Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's eligible compensation to total eligible compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures allocated to participants for the year ended December 31, 2024, totaled \$26,220.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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1. Plan Description and Basis of Presentation, Continued

Put Option

Under federal income tax regulations, the Company stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the most recent appraised value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

Voting Rights

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. The Trustee is not permitted to vote any allocated share for which instructions have not been given by a participant.

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. In each of the first five years, an eligible participant may diversify up to 25% of his or her account balance adjusted for amounts previously withdrawn or diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage increases to 50%.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires the Plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The common stock shares of the Company are valued at estimated fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. Estimated fair value is determined annually by independent appraisals. See Note 5 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date.

Purchases and sales of Company common stock are recorded on a trade date basis using the most recent valuation. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gain (loss) on Company stock bought and sold, as well as held at end of the year.

Payment of benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 6, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated January 21, 2015, that the Plan is qualified and the trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt, under the appropriate sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed, and being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, they believe that the Plan was qualified, and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Company has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits of any tax periods in progress. For federal income tax purposes, the tax returns essentially remain open for possible examination for a period of three years after the respective filing deadlines of those returns.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

4. Investments

The Plan's investments, at December 31, are presented in the following table:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. common stock:		
Number of shares	<u>93,975</u>	<u>93,975</u>
Cost	<u>\$ 1,729,868</u>	<u>\$ 1,729,868</u>
Estimated fair value	<u>\$ 3,880,228</u>	<u>\$ 3,618,038</u>

5. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

- *Level 1* Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- *Level 2* Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
  - quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
  - quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
  - inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
  - inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

- *Level 3* Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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5. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

- *Money market fund:* The fair value of the money market fund is determined using the published daily net asset value.
- *Common stock:* The fair value of the Company common stock is determined by an annual independent appraisal. This appraisal was based on a combination of the market and income valuation methods, consistent with prior years. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables, and estimated fair value of Company assets and liabilities.

The valuation process involves Plan management's selection of an independent appraiser and securing a contract with that appraiser. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the audited financial statements of the Company. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report which Plan management, along with the ESOP Trustee, reviews in detail, discusses and approves. The results of this process are documented in minutes of the Plan fiduciary.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

5. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Company common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,880,228	\$ 3,880,228
Money market fund	<u>4,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,947</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 4,947</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,880,228</u>	<u>\$ 3,885,175</u>

  

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Company common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,618,038	\$ 3,618,038
Money market fund	<u>3,867</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,867</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 3,867</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,618,038</u>	<u>\$ 3,621,905</u>

The following table presents a summary of changes in fair value of the Plan's Level 3 investments:

	Level 3 Assets <u>Year Ended December 31</u>
	<u>Investment in Company Common Stock</u>
	<u>2024</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 3,618,038
Unrealized appreciation in fair value	<u>262,190</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 3,880,228</u>

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets for the period above are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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6. Related Party and Party-In-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are shares of common stock of the Company and cash and cash equivalents managed by the Trustee. The Trustee is the custodian of the Plan investments and, therefore, those transactions qualify as party-in-interest, which are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan held investments of \$4,947 and \$3,867, respectively, in a Fidelity Institutional Money Market Account. Fidelity National Corporation has a partnership agreement with the current Trustee.

7. Plan Termination

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon termination of the Plan, the Employee Benefits Administration Committee directs the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the ESOP and to sell shares of financed common stock held as collateral to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to repay the loan. Subsequently, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC.

8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan investments consist primarily of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and/or other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Continued

PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

9. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, to Form 5500:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 3,885,175	\$ 3,621,905
Other reconciling items	<u>1,313</u>	<u>1,313</u>
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 3,886,488</u>	<u>\$ 3,623,218</u>

The following is a reconciliation of benefits paid to participants per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2024:

Benefits paid to participants per the financial statements	\$ 361,626
Reconciling items	<u>-</u>
Benefits paid to participants per Form 5500	<u>\$ 361,626</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

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PEOPLESSOUTH BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS  
 (HELD AT END OF YEAR)  
 EMPLOYER ID NUMBER: 58-1928833 PLAN NUMBER: 003  
 December 31, 2024

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or <u>Similar Party</u>	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, <u>Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value</u>	(d) <u>Cost</u>	(e) Current <u>Value</u>
	Fidelity Investments	Money Market Funds: Treasury Portfolio	\$ 4,947	\$ 4,947
*	PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc.	Common Stock, 93,975 shares	<u>1,729,868</u>	<u>3,880,228</u>
		Total assets held at end of year	<u>\$ 1,734,815</u>	<u>\$ 3,885,175</u>

\* Represents party-in-interest as defined by ERISA.

See auditor's report.

**Schedule H, Line 4i**  
**Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)**

Name of Plan:

► PeoplesSouth Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Employer Identification Number: ► 58-1928833

For plan year (beginning/ending): ► 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Plan number: ► 003

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Fidelity Investments	Money Market Funds	4,919	4,919
*	PeopleSouth Bancshares, Inc.	Common Stock 93,975 shares	1,729,868	3,880,228