

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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).

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

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: MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1987
2a Plan sponsor's name, mailing address, city, state, and ZIP: MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC., PO BOX 248, WINONA, MN 55987
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 41-1504721
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 507-457-1193
2d Business code (see instructions): 551111

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

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 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: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	617
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	429
	6a(2)	419
	6b	0
	6c	212
	6d	631
	6e	0
	6f	631
	6g(1)	572
6g(2)	593	
6h	0	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- (4) **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

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.

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 _____

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

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

A Name of plan MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 41-1504721	

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

CHARLES SCHWAB INVESTMENT MGMT INC.

94-3106735

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

MERCHANTS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

41-0632402

(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	NONE	2507	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK

82-3967259

(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?
19 62	NONE	0	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	9491	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

(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?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input 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.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK	19 62	9491
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
EPIC RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES 16-1450952	CUSTODIAN FEES	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) 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.

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

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information 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). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
--	--	---

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 41-1504721

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
---------------	--------------------------------------

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
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	1127420	116367
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	27645	38174
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	141992	74498
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	1871096	1631710
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	358231	475763
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	56546707	62595105
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	60073091	64931617
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j	3860	145829
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	3860	145829
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	60069231	64785788

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.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	135913	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	2422297	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	1041528	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		3599738
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	32420	
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	29206	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		61626
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	2209737	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		2209737
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		5675071
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		11546172

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	8800275	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		8800275
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		42348
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	2507	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		2507
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		8845130

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		2701042
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		2015515
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

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: RSM US LLP

(2) EIN: 42-0714325

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
a 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 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	
c 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	
d 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	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g 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	
h 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	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
j 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	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
n 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.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) 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 _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information 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). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
--	---	---

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

A Name of plan <u>MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>MERCHANTS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>41-1504721</u>	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

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	
---	--

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): 82-3967259

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	
---	--

Part II	Funding Information (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.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c 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).....	6c	

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

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

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

Part IV	ESOPs (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:

a 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).....	14a	
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).....	14b	
c 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).....	14c	

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:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

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

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
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.....	16b	

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 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q704017A.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Financial Report
December 31, 2024

Contents

Independent auditor's report	1-3
<hr/>	
Financial statements	
Statements of net assets available for benefits	4
Statement of changes in net assets available for benefits	5
Notes to financial statements	6-11
Supplementary information	
Schedule H, line 4i—schedule of assets (held at end of year)	12

Independent Auditor's Report

Plan Participants and Employee Retirement Benefit Plan Committee
Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, 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.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 5 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

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 ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) 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 U.S. GAAP, 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. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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 issued or 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

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, 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 a 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.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certifications, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

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.

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, line 4i—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 DOL'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 included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits 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. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

RSM US LLP

La Crosse, Wisconsin
October 14, 2025

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	2024	2023
Assets:		
Investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 62,595,105	\$ 56,546,707
Money market account	1,631,710	1,871,096
Total investments	64,226,815	58,417,803
Receivables:		
Notes from participants	475,763	358,231
Participant contributions	74,498	141,992
Employer contributions	38,174	27,645
Total receivables	588,435	527,868
Noninterest-bearing cash	116,367	1,127,420
Total assets	64,931,617	60,073,091
Liabilities:		
Payables	145,829	3,860
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 64,785,788	\$ 60,069,231

See notes to financial statements.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Additions to net assets attributable to:	
Investment results:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 5,675,071
Interest and dividends	<u>2,242,157</u>
Total investment results	<u>7,917,228</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>29,206</u>
Contributions:	
Employer	135,913
Participant deferrals	2,422,297
Participant rollovers	<u>1,041,528</u>
Total contributions	<u>3,599,738</u>
Total additions	<u>11,546,172</u>
Deductions from net assets attributable to:	
Benefits paid	(8,842,623)
Administrative expenses	<u>(2,507)</u>
Total deductions	<u>(8,845,130)</u>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	2,701,042
Transfers from the Merchants Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan	2,015,515
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	<u>60,069,231</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 64,785,788</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Plan Description

The following description of Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (the 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 is a defined contribution plan covering eligible employees of Merchants Financial Group, Inc. (the Company and Plan Administrator). All employees of the Company are eligible for the Plan, except for employees covered by a union contract, nonresident aliens and leased employees. Each eligible employee shall become a participant of the Plan upon his or her hire date. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Company has appointed Merchants Bank, National Association, as the trustee of the Plan. The trustee is responsible for maintaining custody of the Plan's assets, processing contributions and distributions, and executing transactions to appropriate investment options.

Contributions: Participants may contribute up to 100% of eligible compensation, as defined in the Plan, up to the maximum dollar amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Participants elect to defer a specified amount or a percentage of their eligible compensation, and these elections may be changed at any time. Participants elect to make pre-tax or Roth after-tax deferrals to the Plan. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. The Company makes matching contributions equal to 100% of participant's contributions, subject to a \$300 limit per participant per plan year. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans (rollovers).

The Plan has an automatic enrollment feature in which eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan at a deferral rate of 2% of eligible compensation, unless the employee elects a different percentage or elects not to participate.

Participant accounts: Individual accounts are maintained for each participant of the Plan. Each participant's account is credited or charged with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching contributions and allocations of plan investment results and administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant contributions, participant account balances, or specified participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

Participants direct the investment of their deferral contributions and company matching contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may elect to have all or part of their account balances and future contributions transferred from one investment option to another in any combination.

Vesting: Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions and company matching contributions, including investment earnings and losses thereon.

Notes receivable from participants: Participants may borrow from their vested fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at one percentage point above the prime rate charged by Merchants Bank, National Association. Note terms range from one to five years, or longer if the proceeds from the note are used by the participant for the purchase of a primary residence. The rate of interest on existing notes at December 31, 2024, ranged from 4.25% to 9.50% on notes maturing through May 2035. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Plan Description (Continued)

Payment of benefits: On termination of service or after age 59½, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of his or her account, or payment in a series of substantially equal periodic installments. The Plan provisions state that if a terminated participant's vested account balance is less than \$1,000, the Company can authorize the distribution without consent by the participant. The Plan also allows for in-service distributions to participants, under certain circumstances, including financial hardship, as defined.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting: The Plan's financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and uncertainties: Participants are allowed to invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities have occurred since December 31, 2024, or will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the 2024 statement of net assets available for benefits.

Investment valuation and income recognition: The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan Administrator determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the Plan's investment advisors, trustee and other third parties. See Note 6 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Net appreciation in fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments purchased and sold, as well as held, during the year. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

Notes receivable from participants: Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2024 or 2023, as each note is fully secured by an individual participant's vested account balance. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are recorded as a distribution based upon the terms of the plan document.

Notes receivable from participants are classified as an investment for Form 5500 reporting purposes and, accordingly, are included as an investment in the supplemental schedule, Schedule H, line 4i—schedule of assets (held at end of year).

Excess contributions payable: Amounts payable to participants for contributions in excess of amounts allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction to contributions. The Plan distributed the 2024 and 2023 excess contributions to the applicable participants prior to March 15, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Contributions: Contributions from participants and company matching contributions on participants' contributions are recognized in the year related to participants' compensation (even if participants' deferrals are not yet withheld).

Payment of benefits: Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative expenses: The Plan's administrative expenses are paid by either the Company or the Plan. The administrative and investment expenses paid by the Company have been excluded from these financial statements. Certain administrative functions are performed by employees of the Company. No such employee receives separate compensation from the Plan. Fees paid by the Plan are included in administrative expenses in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Subsequent events: The Plan Administrator has evaluated subsequent events through October 14, 2025, the date these financial statements were available to be issued. See Note 3 for a subsequent event.

Note 3. Tax Status

The Plan adopted a nonstandardized preapproved plan sponsored by Ballard Spahr LLP. Ballard Spahr LLP has received an opinion letter, dated June 30, 2020, from the IRS as to the preapproved plan's qualified status. The preapproved plan opinion letter has been relied upon by this plan. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC.

Effective January 1, 2025, the Plan adopted a nonstandardized defined contribution preapproved plan sponsored by EPIC Advisors Inc. There were no significant changes to the Plan's provisions as a result of this adoption.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan. The Plan Administrator evaluated the Plan's tax positions and concluded that the Plan has maintained its tax-exempt status and has taken no uncertain income tax positions that require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 4. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions and Administrative Expenses

The Company pays all administrative and investment expenses related to the Plan except for fees related to notes receivable from participants, which are paid by the participants taking out the notes, and fees related to the processing of benefit payments, which are paid by the participants receiving benefit payments. Merchants Bank, National Association, the trustee, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Merchants Financial Group, Inc.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 5. Information Certified or Provided by Merchants Bank, National Association

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset information as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, included throughout the Plan's financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedule, Schedule H, line 4i—schedule of assets (held at end of year), that was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information provided by Merchants Bank, National Association, the trustee of the Plan. The Plan Administrator has obtained certifications from the trustee that information provided to the Plan Administrator by the trustee related to the following assets is complete and accurate. Accordingly, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the Plan Administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditor not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information that appears throughout the financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedule relating to the following assets:

	December 31	
	2024	2023
Investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 62,595,105	\$ 56,546,707
Money market account	1,631,710	1,871,096
Noninterest-bearing cash	116,367	1,127,420

Merchants Bank, National Association, also certified to the completeness and accuracy of \$5,675,071 of net appreciation in fair value of investments and \$2,242,157 of interest and dividends from the aforementioned investments for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Note 6. Fair Value Measurements

Accounting guidance establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 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 specific (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.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The asset's 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 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Mutual funds: Mutual funds are valued at the unadjusted quoted market prices for identical assets in active markets for the shares of the funds held by the Plan at year-end.

Money market account: The money market account is a cash equivalent, which has a maturity of less than three months. The money market account's carrying amount approximates fair value due to the short maturity of such account.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while 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 investments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

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

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments in the fair value hierarchy:				
Mutual funds	\$ 62,595,105	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,595,105
Money market account	1,631,710	-	-	1,631,710
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 64,226,815</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 64,226,815</u>

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments in the fair value hierarchy:				
Mutual funds	\$ 56,546,707	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,546,707
Money market account	1,871,096	-	-	1,871,096
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 58,417,803</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 58,417,803</u>

Note 7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right to discontinue its contributions to the Plan or to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 8. Transfers

Certain participants in the Merchants Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the ESOP), which is also sponsored by the Company, reached age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the ESOP and thus became eligible to elect to diversify a portion of their participant account by transferring part of the value of their vested account balance in the ESOP into the Plan for reinvestment. Also, certain participants in the ESOP terminated employment with the Company, chose not to receive a distribution from the ESOP, and had a combination of age and years of service that was less than 85 and, as such, their vested account balances were transferred into the Plan for reinvestment. In addition, there were participants in the ESOP which terminated employment and elected to have their vested account balance in the ESOP transferred into the Plan. Transfers from the ESOP into the Plan totaled approximately \$2,016,000 for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

**Schedule H, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024**

Description	Current Value
Mutual funds:	
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Fund I Class	\$ 12,164,226
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Fund I Class	8,228,646
J.P. Morgan Large Cap Growth Fund Class R6	6,443,102
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	4,782,275
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Fund I Class	4,731,498
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Fund I Class	4,193,019
Putnam Large Cap Value Fund Class R6	3,670,638
American Funds Bond Fund of America Class R6	3,624,580
Principal MidCap Fund Class R6	3,081,871
FullerThaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity Fund Class R6	1,962,819
MFS International Equity Fund Class R6	1,377,197
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Fund I Class	1,097,760
Allspring Short-Term Bond Plus Fund Class R6	1,036,808
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Fund I Class	1,003,284
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Fund I Class	730,299
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Fund I Class	672,660
MFS Mid Cap Value Fund Class R6	625,074
PIMCO RAE U.S. Small Fund Institutional Class	577,884
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Fund I Class	552,340
J.P. Morgan U.S. Research Enhanced Equity Fund Class R6	384,913
American Century Small Cap Growth Fund Class R6	299,643
Fidelity Small Cap Index Fund	285,123
American Funds American High Income Trust Class R6	247,072
Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	179,335
MFS Blended Research Mid CapEquity Fund Class R6	154,995
Fidelity Advisor International Small Cap Fund Class Z	120,623
DFA Inflation-Protected Securities Portfolio Institutional Class Fund	92,545
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 Fund I Class	75,598
Fidelity Advisor Focused Emerging Markets Discovery Fund Class Z	74,176
DFA Real Estate Securities Portfolio Institutional Class Fund	55,252
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2065 Fund I Class	47,333
T. Rowe Price Institutional Long Duration Credit Fund	22,517
	62,595,105
Money market account:	
Schwab Bank Savings	1,631,710
Notes receivable from participants, interest rates of 4.25% to 9.50%, maturing through May 2035	475,763
	\$ 64,702,578

The above mutual funds and money market account information has been certified by Merchants Bank, National Association, the trustee of the Plan, as complete and accurate. Merchants Bank, National Association, is a party-in-interest.

Merchants Financial Group, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

**Schedule H, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024**

Description	Current Value
Mutual funds:	
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Fund I Class	\$ 12,164,226
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Fund I Class	8,228,646
J.P. Morgan Large Cap Growth Fund Class R6	6,443,102
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	4,782,275
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Fund I Class	4,731,498
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Fund I Class	4,193,019
Putnam Large Cap Value Fund Class R6	3,670,638
American Funds Bond Fund of America Class R6	3,624,580
Principal MidCap Fund Class R6	3,081,871
FullerThaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity Fund Class R6	1,962,819
MFS International Equity Fund Class R6	1,377,197
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Fund I Class	1,097,760
Allspring Short-Term Bond Plus Fund Class R6	1,036,808
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Fund I Class	1,003,284
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Fund I Class	730,299
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Fund I Class	672,660
MFS Mid Cap Value Fund Class R6	625,074
PIMCO RAE U.S. Small Fund Institutional Class	577,884
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Fund I Class	552,340
J.P. Morgan U.S. Research Enhanced Equity Fund Class R6	384,913
American Century Small Cap Growth Fund Class R6	299,643
Fidelity Small Cap Index Fund	285,123
American Funds American High Income Trust Class R6	247,072
Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	179,335
MFS Blended Research Mid CapEquity Fund Class R6	154,995
Fidelity Advisor International Small Cap Fund Class Z	120,623
DFA Inflation-Protected Securities Portfolio Institutional Class Fund	92,545
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 Fund I Class	75,598
Fidelity Advisor Focused Emerging Markets Discovery Fund Class Z	74,176
DFA Real Estate Securities Portfolio Institutional Class Fund	55,252
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2065 Fund I Class	47,333
T. Rowe Price Institutional Long Duration Credit Fund	22,517
	62,595,105
Money market account:	
Schwab Bank Savings	1,631,710
Notes receivable from participants, interest rates of 4.25% to 9.50%, maturing through May 2035	475,763
	\$ 64,702,578

The above mutual funds and money market account information has been certified by Merchants Bank, National Association, the trustee of the Plan, as complete and accurate. Merchants Bank, National Association, is a party-in-interest.