

Section 1: DEFA14A (DEFA14A)

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549**

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Wintrust Financial Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: _____
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: _____
- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): _____
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: _____
- (5) Total fee paid: _____

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

- (1) Amount Previously Paid: _____
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: _____
- (3) Filing Party: _____
- (4) Date Filed: _____

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting of

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

To Be Held On:

May 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time)

at 9700 West Higgins Road, 2nd Floor, Rosemont, Illinois 60018

COMPANY NUMBER	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CONTROL NUMBER	

This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of the proxy materials you must request one. There is no charge to you for requesting a copy. To facilitate timely delivery please make the request as instructed below before May 13, 2019.

Please visit <https://materials.proxyvote.com/97650W>, where the following materials are available for view:

- Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders
- Proxy Statement
- Form of Electronic Proxy Card
- Annual Report on Form 10-K
- Annual Letter to Shareholders

TO REQUEST MATERIAL: TELEPHONE: 888-Proxy-NA (888-776-9962) or 718-921-8562 (for international callers)

E-MAIL: info@astfinancial.com

WEBSITE: <https://us.astfinancial.com/OnlineProxyVoting/ProxyVoting/RequestMaterials>

TO VOTE:



ONLINE: To access your online proxy card, please visit www.voteproxy.com and follow the on-screen instructions or scan the QR code with your smartphone. You may enter your voting instructions at www.voteproxy.com up until 11:59 PM Eastern Time the day before the meeting date.

IN PERSON: You may vote your shares in person by attending the Annual Meeting.

TELEPHONE: To vote by telephone, please visit www.voteproxy.com to view the materials and to obtain the toll free number to call.

MAIL: You may request a card by following the instructions above.

1. Election of Directors

Peter D. Crist

Bruce K. Crowther

William J. Doyle

Marla F. Glabe

H. Patrick Hackett, Jr.

Scott K. Heitmann

Deborah L. Hall Lefevre

Christopher J. Perry

Ingrid S. Stafford

Gary D. "Joe" Sweeney

Karin Gustafson Teglia

Edward J. Wehmer

2. Proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the Company's executive compensation as described in the 2019 Proxy Statement.

3. Proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2019.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTORS, AND "FOR" PROPOSALS 2 AND 3.

This is not a ballot. Please note that you cannot use this notice to vote by mail.

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