

PEOPLES BANCORP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 11, 2011

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  x  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  o

Check the appropriate box:

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

Peoples Bancorp Inc.

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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Marietta, OH 45750-0738  
Telephone: (740) 374-6136  
www.peoplesbancorp.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
PEOPLES BANCORP INC.  
Marietta, Ohio  
March 18, 2011

Dear Fellow Shareholders:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of Peoples Bancorp Inc. (“Peoples”) will be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, on Thursday, April 28, 2011, in the Ball Room of the Holiday Inn, 701 Pike Street in Marietta, Ohio (Interstate 77, Ohio exit 1), for the following purposes:

1. To elect the following directors for terms of three years each:

Nominee		Term Will Expire In
Wilford D. Dimit	(for re-election)	2014
Brenda F. Jones, M.D.	(for re-election)	2014
Theodore P. Sauber	(for re-election)	2014

2. To approve, in a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation of Peoples’ executive officers as disclosed in the accompanying proxy statement for the Annual Meeting;
3. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as Peoples’ independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011; and
4. To transact any other business which properly comes before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Peoples’ Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Annual Meeting.

If you were a holder of record of common shares of Peoples at the close of business on February 25, 2011, you will be entitled to vote in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting.

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Your vote is important, regardless of the number of common shares you own. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, please complete, sign, date and return your proxy card in the enclosed envelope at your earliest convenience.

Peoples’ 2010 Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, accompanies this notice and proxy statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Rhonda L. Mears  
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

To obtain directions to attend the  
Annual Meeting and vote in  
person,  
please call Investor Relations at  
740-374-6136.

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Table of Contents

PEOPLES BANCORP INC.  
 PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
 To Be Held April 28, 2011

<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mailing</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2012 ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>VOTING INFORMATION</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How do I vote?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How do I vote if my common shares are held in “street name”?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How do I vote if my common shares are held through the Peoples Bancorp Inc. Retirement</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Savings Plan?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How will my common shares be voted?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How do I change or revoke my proxy?</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>If I vote in advance, can I still attend the Annual Meeting?</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>What constitutes a quorum and how many votes are required for adoption of the proposals?</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Who pays the cost of proxy soliciation?</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>NOTICE REGARDING INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>PARTICIPATION IN CAPITAL PURCHASE PROGRAM</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND</u>	
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>PROPOSAL NUMBER 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Recommendation and Vote</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Independence of Directors</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Executive Sessions</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Meetings of the Board and Attendance at Annual Meetings of Shareholders</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Committees of the Board</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Compensation Committee</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Governance and Nominating Committee</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Risk Committee</u>	<u>21</u>

<u>NOMINATING PROCEDURES</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>PROPOSAL NUMBER 2: NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION OF PEOPLES' EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Recommendation and Vote</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION: COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Overview of Previous Year Performance and Compensation</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>TARP Capital Purchase Program</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Compensation Philosophy and Objectives</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Setting Executive Compensation</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>2010 Executive Compensation Components</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Base Salary</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Cash and Equity-Based Incentive Program</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Management Transition Bonus Plan</u>	<u>34</u>

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Table of Contents	
<u>Retirement and Other Benefits</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Change in Control Agreements</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Tax and Accounting Implications</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Deductibility of Executive Compensation</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Accounting for Equity-Based Compensation</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Summary</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Other Information</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Discussion of Risk Reveiw and Assessment</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FOR 2010</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS FOR 2010</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END 2010</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED FOR 2010</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>PENSION BENEFITS FOR 2010</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION FOR 2010</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>OTHER POTENTIAL POST EMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Payments Made Upon Termination</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Payments Made Upon Retirement</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Payments Made Upon Death or Disability</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Payments Made Upon a Change in Control</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Cash Compensation Paid to Board Members</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Equity-based Compensation</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>All Other Compensation</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>Compensation Changes for 2011</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR 2010</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Fees</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Pre-Approval Policy</u>	<u>55</u>



<u>PROPOSAL NUMBER 3: RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Recommendation and Vote</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS</u>	56
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	56

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138 Putnam Street  
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Marietta, Ohio 45750-0738  
(740) 374-6136  
www.peoplesbancorp.com

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
To Be Held April 28, 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are sending this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card to you as a shareholder of Peoples Bancorp Inc. (“Peoples”) because the Peoples’ Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time (the “Annual Meeting”), or at any adjournment thereof. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Ball Room of the Holiday Inn, 701 Pike Street in Marietta, Ohio (Interstate 77, Ohio exit 1). This proxy statement summarizes the information that you will need in order to vote.

Peoples has three wholly-owned subsidiaries: Peoples Bank, National Association (“Peoples Bank”), Peoples Investment Company and PEBO Capital Trust I. Peoples Bank also owns an insurance agency subsidiary, Peoples Insurance Agency, LLC, and an asset management subsidiary, PBNA, L.L.C. Peoples Investment Company also owns a capital management subsidiary, Peoples Capital Corporation. In 2003, Peoples established Peoples Bancorp Foundation, Inc., as an independent charitable foundation to provide financial assistance and grants to local organizations within Peoples’ market area.

Mailing

We mailed this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card on or about March 18, 2011, to all shareholders entitled to vote their common shares at the Annual Meeting. The common shares are the only shares of Peoples’ capital stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. We also sent with this proxy statement, Peoples’ 2010 Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (the “2010 Annual Report”). Additional copies of the 2010 Annual Report may be obtained, without charge, by sending a written request to: Rhonda L. Mears, Corporate Secretary, 138 Putnam Street, P.O. Box 738, Marietta, Ohio 45750-0738. A copy of Peoples’ Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, can be obtained through the “Company Information/SEC Filings Updated” section of the “Investor Relations” page of Peoples’ website at [www.peoplesbancorp.com](http://www.peoplesbancorp.com) and is also on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) and available on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

FOR 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Proposals by shareholders intended to be presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “2012 Annual Meeting”) must be received by the Corporate Secretary of Peoples no later than November 18, 2011, to be eligible for inclusion in Peoples’ proxy, notice of meeting, proxy statement and Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials relating to the 2012 Annual Meeting. Peoples will not be required to include in its proxy, notice of meeting, proxy statement or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, a shareholder proposal that is received after that date

or that otherwise fails to meet the requirements for shareholder proposals established by the applicable SEC rules.

The SEC has promulgated rules relating to the exercise of discretionary voting authority under proxies solicited by the Board of Directors. If a shareholder intends to present a proposal at the 2012 Annual Meeting without inclusion of that proposal in Peoples' proxy materials, and does not notify the Corporate Secretary of Peoples of the proposal by February 1, 2012, or if Peoples meets other requirements of the applicable SEC rules, the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors for use at the 2012 Annual Meeting will confer discretionary authority to vote on the proposal should it then be raised at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

In each case, written notice must be given to Peoples' Corporate Secretary, at the following address: Peoples Bancorp Inc., 138 Putnam Street, P.O. Box 738, Marietta, Ohio 45750-0738.

Table of Contents

Shareholders desiring to nominate candidates for election as directors at the 2012 Annual Meeting must follow the procedures described in the section captioned “NOMINATING PROCEDURES.”

VOTING INFORMATION

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only holders of common shares of record at the close of business on February 25, 2011, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on February 25, 2011, there were 10,560,767 common shares outstanding and entitled to vote. The common shares are the only shares of Peoples’ capital stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Each common share entitles the holder thereof to one vote on each matter to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. There is no cumulative voting with respect to the election of directors.

How do I vote?

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote in advance by proxy. To do so, you may complete, sign and date the accompanying proxy card and return it in the envelope provided.

If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, we will give you a ballot when you arrive. If your common shares are held in the name of your broker, your financial institution or another record holder (i.e., held in “street name”), you must bring an account statement or letter from that broker, financial institution or other holder of record authorizing you to vote on behalf of such record holder. The account statement or letter must show that you were the direct or indirect beneficial owner of the common shares (i.e., you retained the right to make voting and/or investment decisions with respect to the common shares) on February 25, 2011, the record date for voting at the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote if my common shares are held in “street name”?

If you hold your common shares in “street name” with a broker, financial institution or other holder of record, you should review the information provided to you by such record holder. This information will set forth the procedures you need to follow in instructing the record holder how to vote your “street name” common shares and how to revoke previously given instructions. If you hold your common shares in “street name,” you may be eligible to appoint your proxy electronically via the Internet or telephonically and may incur costs associated with the electronic access or telephone usage.

How do I vote if my common shares are held through the Peoples Bancorp Inc. Retirement Savings Plan?

If you participate in the Peoples Bancorp Inc. Retirement Savings Plan (the “Retirement Savings Plan”), you will be entitled to instruct the trustee of the Retirement Savings Plan how to vote common shares that have been allocated to your account. If you are such a participant, you will receive a proxy card for common shares allocated to your account in the Retirement Savings Plan. If you do not provide voting instructions to the trustee of the Retirement Savings Plan, the trustee will not vote the common shares allocated to your account.

How will my common shares be voted?

Those common shares represented by a properly executed proxy card that is received prior to the Annual Meeting and not subsequently revoked will be voted in accordance with your instructions by your “proxies” (the individuals named on your proxy card). If you submit a valid proxy card prior to the Annual Meeting, but do not complete the voting instructions on the proxy card, except in the case of broker non-votes where applicable, your proxy will vote your common shares as recommended by the Board of Directors, as follows:

- “FOR” the election as Peoples directors of the nominees listed on pages 10 through 11 under “PROPOSAL NUMBER 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS”;
- “FOR” the approval, in a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of Peoples’ executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement; and
- “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP (“E&Y”) as Peoples’ independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

No appraisal or dissenters’ rights exist for any action proposed to be taken at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly presented for voting at the Annual Meeting, the individuals appointed as proxies on the accompanying proxy card will vote on those matters, to the extent permitted by applicable law, in accordance with their best judgment.

Table of Contents

How do I change or revoke my proxy?

Shareholders who submit proxies retain the right to revoke them at any time before they are exercised. Unless revoked, the common shares represented by such proxies will be voted at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually exercised at the Annual Meeting by:

- filing a written notice of revocation with the Corporate Secretary of Peoples at 138 Putnam Street, P.O. Box 738, Marietta, Ohio 45750-0738, which must be received prior to the Annual Meeting;
- executing and returning a later-dated proxy card, which must be received prior to the Annual Meeting; or
- attending the Annual Meeting and giving notice of revocation in person.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.