

Townsend Thomas J
 Form 4
 May 15, 2018

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Townsend Thomas J

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 100 LIBERTY STREET
 (Street)

WARREN, PA 16365

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Northwest Bancshares, Inc. [NWBI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 05/14/2018

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 EVP Chief Risk Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Code | V | Amount (A) or Price (D) | | |
| Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock | 05/14/2018 | | A | | 5,850 (1) | A | \$ 16.59 |
| Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock | | | | | 4,460.408 | (2) | I 401-K |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | \$ 16.59 | 05/14/2018 | | A | 12,480 (3) | 05/14/2018 05/14/2028 | Common Stock | 12,480 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|---|--|
| Townsend Thomas J 100 LIBERTY STREET WARREN, PA 16365 | Director 10% Owner Officer EVP Chief Risk Officer |

Signatures

Thomas J. Townsend
05/15/2018

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) One seventh of this grant of RRP shares will vest each year beginning May 14, 2018 and on each May 14th thereafter through May 14, 2024.
- (2) Reflects Transactions not required to be reported pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (3) One seventh of this grant of stock options will vest each year beginning May 14, 2018 and on each May 14th thereafter through May 14, 2024.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.