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

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event Reported): August 17, 2023

Stellar Bancorp, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Texas
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

001-38280
(Commission File Number)

20-8339782
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

**9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 110
Houston, Texas 77046**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(713) 210-7600
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	STEL	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01. Other Events.*Declaration of Dividend*

On August 21, 2023, the Company issued a press release announcing that on August 17, 2023, its Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of \$0.13 per share of common stock. The dividend will be payable on September 29, 2023 to the Company's shareholders of record as of the close of business on September 15, 2023. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference, including the cautionary language regarding forward-looking statements.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) *Exhibits.* The following are furnished as exhibits to this Current Report on Form 8-K:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
99.1	Press Release issued by Stellar Bank dated August 21, 2023
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

STELLAR BANCORP, INC.

Date: August 21, 2023

By: /s/ Paul P. Egge
Paul P. Egge
Chief Financial Officer

stellar BANCORP, INC.

PRESS RELEASE

STELLAR BANCORP, INC. DECLARES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

HOUSTON, August 21, 2023 - (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Stellar Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) (NYSE: STEL) today announced that on August 17, 2023, its Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of \$0.13 per share of common stock. The dividend will be payable on September 29, 2023 to the Company’s shareholders of record as of the close of business on September 15, 2023.

About Stellar Bancorp, Inc.

Stellar Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company headquartered in Houston, Texas. The Company’s principal banking subsidiary, Stellar Bank, provides a diversified range of commercial banking services primarily to small- to medium-sized businesses and individual customers across the Houston, Dallas, Beaumont and surrounding communities in Texas.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company’s actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements anticipated in such statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made and, except as required by law, the Company does not assume any duty to update forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the Company’s plans, objectives, strategies, expectations, intentions and other statements that are not statements of historical fact, and may be identified by words such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “building,” “continue,” “could,” “drive,” “estimates,” “expects,” “extent,” “focus,” “forecasts,” “goal,” “guidance,” “intends,” “may,” “might,” “outlook,” “plan,” “position,” “probable,” “progressing,” “projects,” “prudent,” “seeks,” “should,” “target,” “view,” “will” or “would” or the negative of these words and phrases or similar words or phrases. For a list of factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements, see the risk factors described in the Company’s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other reports that are filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

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