

FIRST BUSEY CORP /NV/
Form S-4
January 20, 2016

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 20, 2016.

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-4

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Nevada
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

6022
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)
100 W. University Ave.
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 365-4500

37-1078406
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Van A. Dukeman
President and Chief Executive Officer
First Busey Corporation
100 W. University Ave.
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 365-4500

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Robert M. Fleetwood
Abdul R. Mitha
Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum &
Nagelberg LLP
200 West Madison Street, Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 984-3100

Aaron M. Kaslow
Edward G. Olifer
Erich M. Hellmold
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
607 14th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 508-5800

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APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE OF THE SECURITIES TO THE PUBLIC:

As soon as reasonably practicable after the Registration Statement becomes effective and after the conditions to the completion of the proposed transaction described in the joint proxy statement/prospectus have been satisfied or waived.

If the securities being registered on this form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>
		(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee(3)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	9,624,961	N/A	\$183,429,451.53	\$18,471.35

- (1) The estimated maximum number of shares of First Busey Corporation ("First Busey") common stock to be issuable upon completion of the merger of First Busey and Pulaski Financial Corp. ("Pulaski"), as described herein and pursuant to the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Merger between First Busey and Pulaski, dated as of December 3, 2015, and attached to the joint proxy statement/prospectus as *Appendix A*. Pursuant to Rule 416, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may become issuable as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price of First Busey's common stock was calculated based upon the market value of shares of Pulaski common stock (the securities to be cancelled in the merger) in accordance with Rules 457(c) and 457(f) under the Securities Act as follows: the product of (i) \$15.21, the average of the high and low prices per share of Pulaski common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on January 14, 2016, and (ii) the estimated maximum number of shares of Pulaski common stock that may be exchanged in the merger.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee required by Section 6(b) of the Securities Act and computed pursuant to Rules 457(f) and 457(c) under the Securities Act, based on a rate of \$100.70 per \$1,000,000 of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not offer or sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This joint proxy statement/prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 20, 2016

PROXY STATEMENT OF PULASKI FINANCIAL CORP.

PROXY STATEMENT AND PROSPECTUS OF FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

Merger Proposal Your Vote Is Important

DEAR PULASKI FINANCIAL CORP. AND FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION STOCKHOLDERS:

The boards of directors of Pulaski Financial Corp. (which we refer to as "Pulaski") and First Busey Corporation (which we refer to as "First Busey") have each unanimously approved a transaction that will result in the merger of Pulaski with and into First Busey (which we refer to as the "merger"). First Busey will be the surviving bank holding company in the merger. If the merger is completed, Pulaski stockholders will receive 0.79 shares of First Busey common stock for each of their Pulaski shares. First Busey stockholders will continue to own their existing First Busey shares. After the merger is completed, we expect that current First Busey stockholders will own approximately 75% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the combined company, and current Pulaski stockholders will own approximately 25% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the combined company.

First Busey's common stock currently trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "BUSE." Pulaski's common stock currently trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "PULB." Based on the closing price of First Busey common shares of \$21.82 on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, on December 3, 2015, the trading day of the public announcement of the merger, the 0.79 exchange ratio represented approximately \$17.24 in value for each share of Pulaski common stock. Based on the closing price of First Busey common shares of [•] on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on [•], 2016, the latest practicable date before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the 0.79 exchange ratio represented approximately \$[•] in value for each share of Pulaski common stock. The shares of First Busey common stock issued pursuant to the merger will be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (which we refer to as the "Securities Act"), and will trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

We cannot complete the merger unless we obtain the necessary governmental approvals and unless the stockholders of both companies approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein. Each of us is asking our stockholders to consider and vote on this merger proposal at our respective company's special meeting of stockholders. **Your vote is important, regardless of the number of shares that you own.** Whether or not you plan to attend your company's meeting, please take the time to vote by following the voting instructions included in the enclosed proxy card. Submitting a proxy now will not prevent you from being able to vote in person at your company's special meeting. If you do not vote your shares as instructed in the enclosed proxy card, or if you do not instruct your broker how to vote any shares held for you in "street name," the effect will be a vote against the merger and the transactions contemplated therein.

The places, dates and times of the stockholders' meetings are as follows:

For stockholders of Pulaski:

For stockholders of First Busey:

This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains a more complete description of the stockholders' meetings and the terms of the merger. We urge you to review this entire document carefully. You may also obtain information about Pulaski and First Busey from documents that each has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (which we refer to as the "SEC").

The Pulaski and First Busey boards of directors recommend that the Pulaski and First Busey stockholders, respectively, vote "FOR" approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein and "FOR" the other matters to be considered at the special meeting.

Gary W. Douglass
President and Chief Executive Officer
Pulaski Financial Corp.

Van A. Dukeman
President and Chief Executive Officer
First Busey Corporation

You should read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus carefully because it contains important information about the merger. In particular, you should read carefully the information under the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities regulatory body has approved or disapproved of the securities to be issued under this joint proxy statement/prospectus or determined if this joint proxy statement/prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities to be issued in connection with the merger are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or nonbank subsidiary of any of the parties, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is dated [•], 2016, and is first being mailed to Pulaski's and First Busey's stockholders on or about [•], 2016.

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PULASKI FINANCIAL CORP.

12300 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
(314) 878-2210

Notice of Special Meeting of Stockholders

Date: [•], 2016

Time: [•], local time

Place: [•]

TO PULASKI STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pulaski Financial Corp. ("Pulaski") will hold a special meeting of stockholders on [•], 2016 at [•], local time, at [•]. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote on the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 3, 2015, between First Busey and Pulaski (which we refer to as the "merger proposal"), pursuant to which Pulaski will merge with and into First Busey, and the transactions contemplated therein. A copy of the merger agreement is included as *Appendix A* to the joint proxy statement/prospectus accompanying this notice;

a proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of Pulaski may receive in connection with the merger proposal pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with Pulaski (which we refer to as the "Pulaski compensation proposal"); and

the approval to adjourn the special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein.

Holders of record of Pulaski common stock at the close of business on [•], 2016 are entitled to receive this notice and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Pulaski common stock entitled to vote. Approval of the Pulaski compensation proposal and the adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of the majority of shares entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy.

The board of directors of Pulaski unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, "FOR" approval of the Pulaski compensation proposal and "FOR" approval to adjourn the special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein.

Your vote is important. Please vote via the Internet, by telephone or by completing and signing the enclosed form of proxy and mailing it promptly in the enclosed envelope. Your proxy will not be used if you attend the meeting and vote in person.

Under Missouri law, if the merger is completed, Pulaski stockholders of record who do not vote to approve the merger agreement, and otherwise comply with the applicable provisions of Missouri law pertaining to objecting stockholders, will be entitled to exercise rights of appraisal and obtain payment in cash for the fair value of their shares of Pulaski common stock by following the procedures set forth in detail in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. A copy of the section of the General and Business Corporation Law of Missouri pertaining to objecting stockholders' rights of appraisal is included as *Appendix B* to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

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If you have any questions regarding the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus, you may contact [•], Pulaski's proxy solicitor, by calling toll-free at [•].

By Order of the Board of Directors

Paul J. Milano
Corporate Secretary

St. Louis, Missouri
[•], 2016

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FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

100 W. University Ave.
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 365-4500

Notice of Special Meeting of Stockholders

Date: [•], 2016

Time: [•], local time

Place: [•]

TO FIRST BUSEY STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that First Busey Corporation ("First Busey") will hold a special meeting of stockholders on [•], 2016 at [•], local time, at [•]. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote on the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 3, 2015, between First Busey and Pulaski (which we refer to as the "merger proposal"), pursuant to which Pulaski will merge with and into First Busey, and the transactions contemplated therein, including the issuance of First Busey common stock in connection with the merger; and

the approval to adjourn the special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein.

Holders of record of First Busey common stock at the close of business on [•], 2016 are entitled to receive this notice and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of First Busey common stock entitled to vote. Approval of the adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast for the proposal.

The board of directors of First Busey unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, including the issuance of First Busey common stock in connection with the merger. Your board of directors also unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" approval to adjourn the special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein.

Your vote is important. We hope that you will be able to attend the special meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend, please review the attached proxy statement and return the enclosed proxy card or vote by telephone or Internet by following the preprinted instructions set forth on the enclosed proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Gregory B. Lykins

Van A. Dukeman

Chairman of the Board

President and Chief Executive Officer

Champaign, Illinois

[•], 2016

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REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about First Busey and Pulaski from documents filed with the SEC that are not included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a listing of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, please see the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page [•]. You can obtain any of the documents filed with or furnished to the SEC by First Busey and/or Pulaski at no cost from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also request copies of these documents, including documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, at no cost by contacting the appropriate company at the following address:

Pulaski Financial Corp.
12300 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
(314) 878-2210

First Busey Corporation
100 W. University Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 365-4544

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. To obtain timely delivery of these documents, you must request them no later than five business days before the date of your special meeting. This means that First Busey stockholders requesting documents must do so by [•], 2016, in order to receive them before the First Busey special meeting, and Pulaski stockholders requesting documents must do so by [•], 2016, in order to receive them before the Pulaski special meeting.

ABOUT THIS JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS

This document, which forms part of a registration statement on Form S-4 filed with the SEC by First Busey (File No. 333-[•]), constitutes a prospectus of First Busey under Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the "Securities Act," with respect to the shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of First Busey, which we refer to as "First Busey common stock," to be issued pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 3, 2015, by and between First Busey and Pulaski, as it may be amended from time to time, which we refer to as the "merger agreement." This document also constitutes a proxy statement of each of First Busey and Pulaski under Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the "Exchange Act." It also constitutes a notice of meeting with respect to the special meeting at which First Busey stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon the approval of the merger agreement and a notice of meeting with respect to the special meeting at which Pulaski stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon the approval of the merger agreement.

First Busey has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus relating to First Busey, and Pulaski has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus relating to Pulaski.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. This document is dated [•], 2016, and you should assume that the information in this document is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this document is accurate as of the date of such document. Neither the mailing of this document to Pulaski stockholders or First Busey stockholders nor the issuance by First Busey of shares of First Busey common stock in connection with the merger will create any implication to the contrary.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER

The following questions and answers are intended to briefly address some commonly asked questions regarding the merger, the merger agreement and the special meetings. We urge you to read carefully the remainder of this joint proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section may not provide all the information that might be important to you in determining how to vote. Additional important information is also contained in the appendices to, and the documents incorporated by reference in, this document.

Q: What is the proposed transaction?

A: You are being asked to vote on the approval of a merger agreement that provides for the merger of Pulaski with and into First Busey, with First Busey as the surviving company. The merger is anticipated to be completed in the first half of 2016. At a date following the completion of the merger, First Busey intends to merge Pulaski Bank, National Association (which we refer to as "Pulaski Bank"), Pulaski's wholly-owned bank subsidiary, with and into Busey Bank, First Busey's wholly-owned bank subsidiary, with Busey Bank as the surviving bank (which we refer to as the "bank merger"). At such time, Pulaski Bank's banking offices will become banking offices of Busey Bank. Until the banks are merged, First Busey will own and operate Pulaski Bank and Busey Bank as separate bank subsidiaries.

Q: What will Pulaski stockholders be entitled to receive in the merger?

A: If the merger is completed, each share of Pulaski common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger (other than shares owned by Pulaski as treasury stock or otherwise owned by Pulaski or First Busey and any dissenting shares), will be converted into the right to receive 0.79 shares of First Busey common stock. Only whole shares of First Busey common stock will be issued in the merger. As a result, cash will be paid instead of any fractional shares based on the reference price of First Busey common stock as more fully described on page [•]. Shares of Pulaski common stock held by Pulaski stockholders who elect to exercise their dissenters' rights will not be converted into merger consideration.

Q: What is the value of the per share merger consideration?

A: The value of the merger consideration to be received by Pulaski stockholders will fluctuate as the market price of First Busey common stock fluctuates before the completion of the merger. This price will not be known at the time of the Pulaski special meeting and may be more or less than the current price of common stock or the price of First Busey common stock at the time of the special meeting. Based on the closing stock price of First Busey common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on December 3, 2015, the trading day of the public announcement of the merger, of \$21.82, the value of the merger consideration was \$17.25. Based on the closing stock price of First Busey common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on [•], 2016, the latest practicable date before the mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, of \$[•], the value of the merger consideration was \$[•]. We urge you to obtain current market quotations for shares of First Busey common stock and Pulaski common stock.

Q: Why do Pulaski and First Busey want to engage in the merger?

A: Pulaski believes that the merger will provide Pulaski stockholders with substantial benefits, and First Busey believes that the merger will further its strategic growth plans. To review the reasons for the merger in more detail, see "The Merger Pulaski's reasons for the merger and recommendation of the board of directors" on page [•] and "The Merger First Busey's reasons for the merger and recommendation of the board of directors" on page [•].

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Q: In addition to approving the merger agreement, what else are Pulaski stockholders being asked to vote on?

A: In addition to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, Pulaski is soliciting proxies from holders of its common stock with respect to, a proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of Pulaski may receive in connection with the merger proposal pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with Pulaski (which we refer to as the "Pulaski compensation proposal"), a proposal to adjourn the Pulaski special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein. Completion of the merger is not conditioned upon approval of the Pulaski compensation proposal or the adjournment proposal.

Q: Why are Pulaski stockholders being asked to vote on the Pulaski compensation proposal?

A: The SEC, in accordance with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (which we refer to as the "Dodd-Frank Act"), has adopted rules that require Pulaski to seek an advisory (non-binding) vote with respect to certain payments that are payable to Pulaski's named executive officers in connection with the merger.

Q: What will happen if Pulaski's stockholders do not approve such compensation at the special meeting?

A: Pulaski stockholders' approval of the compensation payable to certain of Pulaski's executive officers in connection with the merger is not a condition to completion of the merger. The vote with respect to such compensation is an advisory vote and will not be binding on Pulaski (or First Busey after the merger) regardless of whether the merger agreement is approved. Accordingly, because the compensation to be paid to certain Pulaski executive officers in connection with the merger is contractual, such compensation will be payable if the merger is completed regardless of the outcome of the advisory vote.

Q: In addition to approving the merger agreement, what else are First Busey stockholders being asked to vote on?

A: In addition to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, First Busey is soliciting proxies from holders of its common stock with respect to a proposal to adjourn the First Busey special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein. Completion of the merger is not conditioned upon approval of the adjournment proposal.

Q: What does the Pulaski board of directors recommend?

A: Pulaski's board of directors has determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein are in the best interests of Pulaski and its stockholders. Pulaski's board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote "**FOR**" the approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, "**FOR**" approval of the Pulaski compensation proposal and "**FOR**" the approval to adjourn the special meeting to permit further solicitation in the event that an insufficient number of votes are cast to approve the merger agreement and the transactions c