

CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP INC/RI

Form 8-K

October 25, 2018

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 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): October 25, 2018**

**CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or other jurisdiction**  
**of incorporation)**

**001-36636**  
**(Commission**  
**File Number)**

**05-0412693**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

**One Citizens Plaza**

**02903**

**Providence, RI**  
**(Address of principal executive offices)** **(Zip Code)**  
**(401) 456-7000**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

**Not Applicable**

**(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))  
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.405) or Rule 12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.12b-2).

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 3.03. Material Modification to Rights of Security Holders.**

Upon issuance of the 6.375% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, par value \$25.00 per share, liquidation preference \$1,000 per share (the Series C Preferred Stock ) by Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (the Registrant ) on October 25, 2018, the ability of the Registrant to declare or pay dividends on, or purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, shares of its common stock or any shares of other stock of the Registrant that rank junior to the Series C Preferred Stock will be subject to certain restrictions in the event that the Registrant does not declare and pay (or set aside) dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock for the last preceding dividend period, and the ability of the Registrant to declare full dividends on any preferred stock that ranks equally with the Series C Preferred Stock will be subject to certain limitations in the event the Registrant declares partial dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock. The terms of the Series C Preferred Stock, including such restrictions, are more fully described in, and this description is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Certificate of Designations (as defined in Item 5.03 below), a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 3.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 5.03. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year.**

On October 24, 2018, the Registrant filed a Certificate of Designations (the Certificate of Designations ) with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware to establish the preferences, limitations and relative rights of the Series C Preferred Stock. The Certificate of Designations became effective upon filing, and a copy is filed as Exhibit 3.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On October 22, 2018, the Registrant entered into an underwriting agreement (the Underwriting Agreement ) with Barclays Capital Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Citizens Capital Markets, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters listed therein, relating to the public offering of 300,000 shares of the Series C Preferred Stock. The Underwriting Agreement contains various representations, warranties and agreements by the Registrant, conditions to closing, indemnification rights and obligations of the parties and termination provisions. The description of the Underwriting Agreement set forth above is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Underwriting Agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 1.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference. This Current Report on Form 8-K is being filed for the purpose of filing Exhibit 1.1 as an exhibit to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-227792) (the Registration Statement ) and such exhibit is hereby incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement.

A copy of the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, counsel for the Registrant, relating to the legality of the issuance and sale of the Series C Preferred Stock is attached as Exhibit 5.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K. Exhibits 5.1 and 23.1 of this Current Report on Form 8-K are hereby incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

**Exhibit  
Number**

**Description**

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- 1.1 Underwriting Agreement, dated October 22, 2018, among Citizens Financial Group, Inc. and Barclays Capital Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Citizens Capital Markets, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters listed on Schedule I thereto
- 3.1 Certificate of Designations of the Registrant with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock, dated October 24, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and effective October 24, 2018
- 4.1 Filed as Exhibit 3.1
- 5.1 Opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
- 23.1 Consent of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)

**SIGNATURES**

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

Citizens Financial Group, Inc.  
(Registrant)

Date: October 25, 2018

By: /s/ Stephen T. Gannon  
Name: Stephen T. Gannon  
Title: Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Chief Legal Officer