

FIRST FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW DIRECTORS ELIZABETH PAGLIARINI AND DIANE RUBIN

IRVINE, Ca.— May 28, 2019 – First Foundation Inc. (NASDAQ: FFWM), a financial services company with two wholly-owned operating subsidiaries, First Foundation Advisors and First Foundation Bank, announced today the newly elected members to its Board of Directors, Elizabeth Pagliarini and Diane Rubin.

“We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth and Diane to the First Foundation Board of Directors,” said Scott F. Kavanaugh, CEO of First Foundation. “Their knowledge and experience, coupled with their diverse professional backgrounds, will be an asset to our Board and Company. We are fortunate to be able to attract directors who are such accomplished leaders in their fields.”

Ms. Pagliarini brings over 25 years of experience in finance, corporate governance, and executive management. She currently is the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for Summit Healthcare REIT, Inc., a publicly registered non-traded REIT that is focused on investing in senior housing real estate located throughout the United States. She previously served as a principal at The Elizabeth Group, a company she founded to provide outsourced chief financial officer services for registered investment advisers and broker-dealers. Prior to that, she founded a boutique investment bank and registered broker-dealer, and served as chief executive officer and chairwoman of a Nasdaq-listed investment brokerage subsidiary. She is on the Emeritus Board of the nonprofit Forever Footprints and is a member of the City of Mission Viejo, California City Council Investment Advisory Commission.

Ms. Rubin brings over 40 years of expertise in the accounting industry. She currently serves as the Vice Chair for the Board of Trustees for the Financial Accounting Foundation. She is a retired Audit Partner and Quality Control Partner at Novogradac & Company LLP, a national public accounting firm offering audit, tax, valuation, and expert witness services with an emphasis on affordable housing, community development, and renewable energy. Prior to that, she owned a diversified auditing, accounting, and tax practice. Her professional experience also includes having served on the California Board of Accountancy and as a member of the Auditing Standards Board.

About First Foundation

First Foundation, (NASDAQ: FFWM), a financial institution founded in 1990, provides private wealth management, personal banking, and business banking. The Company has offices in California, Nevada, and Hawaii with headquarters in Irvine, California. For more information, please visit www.firstfoundationinc.com.

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