

VALERO ENERGY CORP/TX

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March 23, 2006

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
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Valero Energy Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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**THE PROMPT RETURN OF PROXY CARDS WILL SAVE THE EXPENSE OF
FURTHER REQUESTS FOR PROXIES IN ORDER TO ASSURE A QUORUM.**

**VALERO
ENERGY CORPORATION**

NOTICE OF 2006 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The Board of Directors has determined that the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Valero Energy Corporation will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, at Valero's offices located at One Valero Way, San Antonio, Texas 78249 (near the southwest corner of the intersection of I.H. 10 and Loop 1604 West), for the following purposes:

- (1) Elect four Class III directors to serve until the 2009 Annual Meeting or until their respective successors are elected and have been qualified;
- (2) Ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as Valero's independent registered public accounting firm for 2006; and
- (3) Transact any other business properly brought before the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Jay D. Browning
*Vice President and
Corporate Secretary*

Valero Energy Corporation
One Valero Way
San Antonio, Texas 78249
March 23, 2006

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**VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION
PROXY STATEMENT
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

April 27, 2006

General Information

This proxy statement is being mailed to stockholders beginning on or about March 23, 2006 in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Valero Energy Corporation to be voted at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Valero on April 27, 2006. The accompanying notice describes the time, place and purposes of the Annual Meeting.

Holders of record of Valero's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, at the close of business on March 1, 2006 are entitled to vote on the matters presented at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, 619,469,844 shares of Common Stock were issued and outstanding and entitled to one vote per share.

Holders of record of Valero's 2% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock (liquidation preference \$25 per share) at the close of business on March 1, 2006 are entitled to vote on the matters presented at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, 2,451,191 shares of Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, and entitled to 1.982 votes per share.

Action may be taken at the Annual Meeting on April 27, 2006 or on any date or dates to which the meeting may be adjourned. Holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock representing a majority of the voting power, present in person or represented by properly executed proxy, shall constitute a quorum. If instructions to the contrary are not given, shares will be voted as indicated on the proxy card. A stockholder may revoke a proxy at any time before it is voted by submitting a written revocation to Valero, returning a subsequently dated proxy to Valero or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

Brokers holding shares must vote according to specific instructions they receive from the beneficial owners. If specific instructions are not received, brokers may generally vote these shares in their discretion. However, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) precludes brokers from exercising voting discretion on certain proposals without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. This results in a broker non-vote on such a proposal. A broker non-vote is treated as present for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum, has the effect of a negative vote when a majority of the voting power of the issued and outstanding shares is required for approval of a particular proposal and has no effect when a majority of the voting power of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote or a plurality or majority of the votes cast is required for approval. Pursuant to NYSE rules, brokers will have discretion to vote on the items scheduled to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Valero pays for the cost of soliciting proxies and the Annual Meeting. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, proxies may be solicited by personal interview, telephone and similar means by directors, officers or employees of Valero, none of whom will be specially compensated for such activities. Valero also intends to request that brokers, banks and other nominees solicit proxies from their principals and will pay such brokers, banks and other nominees certain expenses incurred by them for such activities. Valero has retained Georgeson Shareholder Communications, Inc., a proxy soliciting firm, to assist in the

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solicitation of proxies, for an estimated fee of \$12,500, plus reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Participants in Valero Benefit Plans please note:

In the case of participants in Valero's thrift plan, the proxy card will represent (in addition to any shares held individually of record) the number of shares allocated to the participant's accounts under the thrift plan. For those shares held under the plan, the proxy card will constitute an instruction to the trustee of the plan as to how those shares are to be voted. Shares for which instructions are not received may be voted by the trustee in accordance with the terms of the plan.

Information Regarding the Board of Directors

The business of Valero is managed under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Board conducts its business through meetings of the Board and its committees. During 2005, the Board held seven meetings and the standing committees held 22 meetings in the aggregate. No member of the Board attended less than 75% of the meetings of the Board and committees of which he or she was a member. The Company expects all Board members to attend the Annual Stockholder Meeting. All Board members attended the 2005 Annual Stockholder Meeting.

Valero's Restated Certificate of Incorporation requires the Board to be divided into Class I, Class II and Class III directors, with each class serving a staggered three-year term.

The Board has standing Audit, Compensation, Executive, Finance and Nominating/Governance committees. Each committee has a written charter. The committees of the Board and the number of meetings held by each committee in 2005 are described below.

Independent Directors

The Board of Directors has one member of management, William R. Klesse, Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board, and 11 non-management directors. The Board has determined that 10 of 11 of its non-management directors meet the independence requirements of the NYSE listing standards as set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual. The independent directors are: E. Glenn Biggs, W.E. Bill Bradford, Ronald K. Calgaard, Jerry D. Choate, Irl F. Engelhardt, Ruben M. Escobedo, Bob Marbut, Donald L. Nickles, Robert A. Profusek and Susan Kaufman Purcell.

William E. Greehey, Chairman of the Board, retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Company at the end of 2005. As a former member of management, Mr. Greehey is not an independent director under the NYSE's listing standards, and cannot be considered as an independent director until three years after his retirement from his employment with the Company.

William R. Klesse, previously Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, was elected Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board upon Mr. Greehey's retirement as Chief Executive Officer. As a member of management, Mr. Klesse is not an independent director under the NYSE's listing standards. The Audit, Compensation and Nominating/Governance committees of the Board are each composed entirely of directors who meet the independence requirements of the NYSE listing standards. Each member of the Audit Committee also meets the additional independence standards for Audit Committee members set forth in the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

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Independence Determinations

Under the NYSE's listing standards, no director qualifies as independent unless the Board of Directors affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the Company. Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning their background, employment and affiliations, including commercial, industrial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting, charitable and familial relationships, the Board of Directors has determined that, other than being a director and/or stockholder of the Company, each of the independent directors named above has either no relationship with the Company, either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company, or has only immaterial relationships with the Company, and is therefore independent under the NYSE's listing standards.

As provided for under the NYSE listing standards, the Board of Directors has adopted categorical standards or guidelines to assist the Board in making its independence determinations with respect to each director. Under the NYSE listing standards, immaterial relationships that fall within the guidelines are not required to be disclosed in this proxy statement.

A relationship falls within the guidelines adopted by the Board if it:

is not a relationship that would preclude a determination of independence under Section 303A.02(b) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual;

consists of charitable contributions by the Company to an organization where a director is an executive officer and does not exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of the organization's gross revenue in any of the last three years;

consists of charitable contributions to any organization with which a director, or any member of a director's immediate family, is affiliated as an officer, director or trustee pursuant to a matching gift program of the Company and made on terms applicable to employees and directors; or is in amounts that do not exceed \$1 million per year; and

is not required to be, and it is not otherwise, disclosed in this proxy statement.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reviews and reports to the Board on various auditing and accounting matters, including the quality, objectivity and performance of Valero's internal and external accountants and auditors, the adequacy of its financial controls and the reliability of financial information reported to the public. The Audit Committee also monitors Valero's efforts to comply with environmental laws and regulations. The members of the Audit Committee during 2005 were Ruben M. Escobedo (Chairman), E. Glenn Biggs, and Susan Kaufman Purcell. Irl F. Engelhardt was appointed to the committee in 2006. The Audit Committee met eight times in 2005. For further information, see the *Report of the Audit Committee* below.

The Board of Directors has determined that each of the Audit Committee members meets the independence standards for audit committee members set forth in the NYSE listing standards and applicable regulations of the SEC. The Board of Directors has determined that a member of the Audit Committee, namely Ruben M. Escobedo, is an audit committee financial expert (as defined by the SEC), and that he is independent as that term is used in Item 7(d)(3)(iv) of Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee reviews and reports to the Board on matters related to compensation strategies, policies and programs, including certain personnel policies and policy controls, management development, management succession and benefit programs. The Compensation Committee also approves and administers Valero's equity compensation plans and incentive bonus plan. See "*Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board on Executive Compensation*" below. The members of the Compensation Committee are Bob Marbut (Chairman), W.E. Bill Bradford, Jerry D. Choate and Robert A. Profusek, none of whom is a current or former employee or officer of Valero. The Compensation Committee met seven times in 2005.

There are no compensation committee interlocks. For the previous three fiscal years, except for compensation arrangements disclosed in this proxy statement, the Company has not participated in any contracts, loans, fees, awards or financial interests, direct or indirect, with any committee member, nor is the Company aware of any means, directly or indirectly, by which a committee member could receive a material benefit from the Company.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee exercises the power and authority of the Board during intervals between meetings of the Board. With limited exceptions specified in Valero's bylaws and under Delaware law, actions taken by the Executive Committee do not require Board ratification. The members of the Executive Committee during 2005 were William E. Greehey (Chairman), E. Glenn Biggs and Ruben M. Escobedo. Irl F. Engelhardt and William R. Klesse were appointed to the committee in 2006. The Executive Committee met one time in 2005.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews and monitors the investment policies and performance of the Company's thrift and pension plans, insurance and risk management policies and programs, and finance matters and policies as needed. The members of the Finance Committee during 2005 were Ronald K. Calgaard (Chairman), Bob Marbut, Donald L. Nickles and Susan Kaufman Purcell. William E. Greehey was appointed to the committee in 2006. The Finance Committee met three times in 2005.

Nominating/Governance Committee

The Nominating/Governance Committee evaluates policies on the size and composition of the Board and criteria and procedures for director nominations, and considers and recommends candidates for election to the Board. The committee also evaluates, recommends and monitors corporate governance guidelines, policies and procedures, including codes of business conduct and ethics. The members of the Nominating/Governance Committee are Jerry D. Choate (Chairman), W. E. Bill Bradford, Ronald K. Calgaard, Donald L. Nickles and Robert A. Profusek. The Nominating/Governance Committee met three times in 2005.

In addition to recommending Jerry D. Choate, William R. Klesse, Donald L. Nickles and Susan Kaufman Purcell as the director nominees for election as Class III directors at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the committee considered and recommended the appointment of a lead director to preside at meetings of the independent directors without management, and recommended assignments for the committees of the Board. The full Board approved the recommendations of the Nominating/Governance Committee and adopted resolutions approving the slate of director nominees to stand for election at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the appointment of a lead director and assignments for the committees of the Board. Since the date of the 2005 Annual Meeting, the committee also identified and interviewed Robert A. Profusek and

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Irl F. Engelhardt as prospective board members, and recommended to the full board that they be elected as directors.

Selection of Director Nominees

The Nominating/Governance Committee solicits recommendations for potential Board candidates from a number of sources including members of the Board of Directors, officers of the Company, individuals personally known to the members of the Board of Directors, and third-party research. In addition, the committee will consider candidates submitted by stockholders. Any such submissions must be in writing and should include the candidate's name, qualifications for Board membership, sufficient biographical and other relevant information such that an informed judgment as to the proposed nominee's qualifications can be made. Submissions should be directed to the Company's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the cover page of this proxy statement. The level of consideration that the committee will give to the stockholder's candidate will be commensurate with the quality and quantity of information about the candidate that the nominating stockholder makes available to the committee. The committee will consider all candidates identified through the processes described above and will evaluate each of them on the same basis. In addition, in order to nominate a person for election as a director at an annual stockholders meeting, the bylaws of the Company require stockholders to follow certain procedures, including providing timely notice, as described under *Additional Information Advance Notice Required for Stockholder Nominations and Proposals* below.

Evaluation of Director Candidates

The Nominating/Governance Committee is responsible for assessing the skills and characteristics that candidates for election to the Board should possess, as well as the composition of the Board as a whole. The assessments include the qualifications under applicable independence standards and other standards applicable to the Board and its committees, as well as consideration of skills and experience in the context of the needs of the Board. Each candidate must meet certain minimum qualifications, including:

independence of thought and judgment;

the ability to dedicate sufficient time, energy and attention to the performance of her or his duties, taking into consideration the nominee's service on other public company boards; and

skills and expertise complementary to the existing Board members' skills; in this regard, the Board of Directors will consider the Board's need for operational, managerial, financial, governmental affairs or other relevant expertise.

The committee may also consider the ability of the prospective candidate to work with the then-existing interpersonal dynamics of the Board of Directors and her or his ability to contribute to the collaborative culture among Board members.

Based on this initial evaluation, the committee will determine whether to interview the candidate, and if warranted, will recommend that one or more of its members, other members of the Board or senior management, as appropriate, interview the candidate in person or by telephone. After completing this evaluation and interview process, the committee determines the nominees and submits them to the full Board for consideration and approval.

Following the above procedures, the committee identified, interviewed and recommended to the Board that Robert A. Profusek and Irl F. Engelhardt be elected as directors. Mr. Profusek was elected as a director at the meeting of the Board held on September 15, 2005. Mr. Engelhardt was elected as a director at the meeting of the Board held on January 19, 2006.

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Lead Director/Meetings of Independent Directors

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Nominating/Governance Committee, the Board has designated Ronald K. Calgaard to serve as the Lead Director for meetings of the independent Board members outside the presence of management. The independent Board members regularly meet outside the presence of management.

Communications with the Board, Independent Directors or Lead Director

Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate with the Board, the independent directors or the Lead Director by sending a written communication in an envelope addressed to Board of Directors, Independent Directors, or Lead Director in care of the Company's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the cover page of this proxy statement.

Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, and controller. This code charges the senior financial officers with responsibilities regarding honest and ethical conduct, the preparation and quality of the disclosures in documents and reports the Company files with the SEC and compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Governance Documents

Valero has posted its Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers, the charters of the committees of the Board of Directors and other governance documents on Valero's internet website at <http://www.valero.com> (in the Investor Relations section). Valero's governance documents are available in print to any stockholder of record who makes a written request to Valero. Requests must be directed to the Company's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the cover page of this proxy statement.

Compensation of Directors

Non-employee directors (other than William E. Greehey, Chairman of the Board) receive a retainer fee of \$60,000 per year, plus \$1,500 for each Board and committee meeting attended in person and \$1,000 for each Board and committee meeting attended telephonically. Directors who serve as chairperson of the Audit or Compensation Committees receive an additional \$20,000 annually and directors who serve as chairperson of a committee other than the Audit or Compensation Committees receive an additional \$10,000 annually. Each director is also reimbursed for expenses of meeting attendance. Directors who are employees of the Company receive no compensation (other than reimbursement of expenses) for serving as directors.

Mr. Greehey retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Company on Friday, December 30, 2005. Mr. Greehey is continuing to serve as Chairman of the Board at the request and upon the discretion of the Board. The Employment Agreement between Valero and Mr. Greehey, dated March 25, 1999, provides for Mr. Greehey to serve as Chairman, at the discretion of the Board, for a period of two years after his retirement as Chief Executive Officer at a rate of compensation equal to one-half of his base salary as Chief Executive Officer in effect at the time of his retirement. Accordingly, Mr. Greehey is receiving for his service as Chairman an amount per annum equal to \$700,000. For more information, see *Transactions With Management and Others* below.

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Valero maintains the Restricted Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors, or Director Stock Plan, and the Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, or Director Option Plan, to supplement the compensation paid to non-employee directors and increase their identification with the interests of Valero's stockholders through ownership of Common Stock. Each non-employee director receives an annual grant of Common Stock valued at \$60,000 that vests (becomes nonforfeitable) in equal annual installments over a three-year period.

Under the Director Option Plan, each non-employee director receives an annual grant of options to purchase Valero Common Stock. The plan provides that each new non-employee director elected to the Board receives an initial grant of 5,000 options that vest in equal annual installments over a three-year period. On the date of each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders, each non-employee director (who is not a new non-employee director) receives a grant of 1,000 additional options that vest fully one year following the date of grant. Stock options awarded under the Director Option Plan have an exercise price equal to the market price of the Common Stock on the date of grant. All options expire seven years following the date of grant. Options vest and remain exercisable in accordance with their original terms if a director retires from the Board.

In the event of a Change of Control as defined in the Director Stock Plan and Director Option Plan, all unvested shares of Common Stock and options previously granted immediately become vested or exercisable. Each plan also contains anti-dilution provisions providing for an adjustment in the number of restricted shares or options, respectively, that have been granted to prevent dilution of benefits in the event any change in the capital structure of the Company affects the Common Stock.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1 Election of Directors
(Item 1 on the Proxy Card)**

The Company's Board is divided into three classes for purposes of election. Four Class III directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve a three-year term that will expire at the 2009 Annual Meeting. The nominees for Class III directors are Jerry D. Choate, William R. Klesse, Donald L. Nickles and Susan Kaufman Purcell.

The persons named in the enclosed proxy card intend to vote for the election of each of the nominees, unless you indicate on the proxy card that your vote should be withheld from any or all of such nominees.

The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR ALL nominees.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the holders of the shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock represented at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote. The nominees for Class III directors receiving the greatest number of votes, whether or not these votes represent a majority of the votes of the holders of the shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock present and voting at the Annual Meeting, will be elected as directors. Votes withheld from a nominee will not count against the election of the nominee. However, any director who receives a greater number of votes withheld from his or her election than votes for his or her election will be required to tender his or her resignation. See *Majority Voting Policy* below.

If any nominee is unavailable as a candidate at the time of the Annual Meeting, either the number of directors constituting the full Board will be reduced to eliminate the vacancy, or the persons named as proxies will use their best judgment in voting for any available nominee. The Board has no reason to believe that any current nominee will be unable to serve.

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Majority Voting Policy

The Board has adopted a majority voting policy. See Appendix A for the full text of the policy. Under the policy, in an uncontested election of directors (*i.e.*, an election where the only nominees are those recommended by the Board), any nominee for director who receives a greater number of votes withheld from his or her election than votes for his or her election (a Withheld Director) will promptly tender his or her resignation. The Nominating/Governance Committee will promptly consider the resignation submitted by the Withheld Director, and the Nominating/Governance Committee will recommend to the Board whether to accept the tendered resignation or reject it. In considering whether to accept or reject the tendered resignation, the Nominating/Governance Committee will consider all factors deemed relevant by the members of the committee, including the stated reasons why stockholders withheld votes for election from such Withheld Director, the length of service and qualifications of the Withheld Director, the Withheld Director's contributions to the Company, and the company's corporate governance guidelines.

The Board will act on the Nominating/Governance Committee's recommendation no later than 90 days following the date of the stockholders meeting when the election occurred. In considering the Nominating/Governance Committee's recommendation, the Board will consider the factors considered by the committee and such additional information and factors the Board believes to be relevant. Following the Board's decision on the Nominating/Governance Committee's recommendation, the Company will promptly publicly disclose the Board's decision whether to accept the resignation as tendered (providing a full explanation of the process by which the decision was reached and, if applicable, the reasons for rejecting the tendered resignation) in a Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. To the extent that one or more Withheld Directors' resignations are accepted by the Board, the Nominating/Governance Committee will recommend to the Board whether to fill such vacancy or vacancies or to reduce the size of the Board.

Table of Contents**Information Concerning Nominees and Other Directors**

The following table sets forth information concerning each nominee for election as a director for a three-year term of office that will expire in 2009 and the other members of the Board of Directors, whose terms expire in 2007 and 2008. The information provided is based partly on data furnished by the directors and partly on the Company's records. There is no family relationship among any of the executive officers, directors or nominees for director of Valero.

Name	Position(s) Held with Valero	Executive Officer or Director Since (1)	Age as of December 31, 2005	Director Class (2)
Nominees				
Jerry D. Choate	Director	1999	67	III
William R. Klesse	Director, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	2001	59	III
Donald L. Nickles	Director	2005	57	III
Susan Kaufman Purcell	Director	1994	63	III
Other Directors				
E. Glenn Biggs (3)	Director	2001	72	I
Ruben M. Escobedo	Director	1994	68	I
Bob Marbut	Director	2001	70	I
Robert A. Profusek	Director	2005	55	I
W. E. Bill Bradford	Director	2001	70	II
Ronald K. Calgaard	Director	1996	68	II
William E. Greehey	Director, Chairman of the Board	1979	69	II
Irl F. Engelhardt	Director	2006	59	II

- (1) Dates reported include service on the Board of Valero's former parent company prior to Valero's separation from that company in 1997.
- (2) The terms of office of Class III directors will expire at the 2009 Annual Meeting. The terms of office of the Class I directors will expire at the 2007 Annual Meeting and the terms of office of the Class II directors will expire at the 2008 Annual Meeting.
- (3) Directors are required to retire at the annual meeting of stockholders immediately following their 72nd birthday. Mr. Biggs will be retiring from the Board as of the date of the 2006 Annual Meeting in accordance with the retirement policy.

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Class III Nominees

Mr. Choate retired from Allstate Corporation at the end of 1998 where he had served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer since January 1, 1995. Mr. Choate also serves as a director of Amgen, Inc. and Van Kampen Mutual Funds. Mr. Choate has served as a director of Valero since 1999.

Mr. Klesse was elected as Valero's Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board upon Mr. Greehey's retirement as Chief Executive Officer at the end of 2005. Mr. Klesse was elected Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Valero in January 2003. He previously served as Executive Vice President Refining and Commercial Operations of Valero since the closing of Valero's acquisition of Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corporation (UDS) on December 31, 2001. He had served as Executive Vice President, Operations of UDS from January 1999 through December 2001. Prior to that he served as an Executive Vice President for UDS since February 1995, overseeing operations, refining, product supply and logistics. Mr. Klesse is also a director of the managing general partner of Valero L.P.¹

Senator Nickles retired in January 2005 as U.S. Senator from Oklahoma after serving in the U.S. Senate for 24 years. Previously, he served in the Oklahoma State Senate for two years. During his tenure as a U.S. Senator, he held many leadership positions, including Assistant Republican Leader for six years, Chairman of the Republican Senatorial Committee and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. He served as Chairman of the Budget Committee and served on several other committees, including the Finance and Energy and Natural Resources Committees. Upon his retirement from the Senate, he formed and is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Nickles Group, a Washington-based consulting and business venture firm. Senator Nickles also serves on the Board of Chesapeake Energy Corporation and Fortress America Acquisition Corporation. Senator Nickles has served as a director of Valero since February of 2005.

Dr. Purcell is the Director of the Center for Hemispheric Policy at the University of Miami. The center was formed to examine the relationship between the United States and Latin America with respect to economic development, trade, healthcare, politics, security and other issues. Dr. Purcell previously served as Vice President of the Americas Society in New York, New York since 1989 and also as Vice President of the Council of the Americas. She serves as a director of The Brazil Fund, Inc. and Scudder New Asia Fund, Inc. Dr. Purcell has served as a director of Valero or its former parent company since 1994.

Other Directors

Mr. Biggs will be retiring from the Board as of the date of the Annual Meeting in accordance with Valero's retirement policy, which requires board members to retire at the Annual Meeting immediately following their 72nd birthday. Mr. Biggs is President of Biggs & Co., which is engaged in developmental projects and financial planning. He is currently Chairman of Hester Asset Management Corp. and Southwestern Bancorp. He previously served as Chairman of the Board of City Public Service, the gas and electric utility company for the City of San Antonio. He also served as a director of Valero Natural Gas Company from 1987 to 1989. Mr. Biggs served as a director of UDS or its predecessors since 1987, and has served as a director of Valero since Valero's acquisition of UDS at the end of 2001.

Mr. Bradford is the retired Chairman of Halliburton Company. Prior to its 1998 merger with Halliburton, he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dresser Industries, Inc., where he had been

¹ Valero L.P. is a Delaware limited partnership whose common units are listed on the NYSE under the symbol VLI. Valero, through its wholly

owned
subsidiaries,
owns an
aggregate of
approximately
21.4% of the
limited partner
interests in
Valero L.P. and
also owns a 2%
general partner
interest.

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employed in various capacities since 1963. He is also a director of Kerr-McGee Corporation. Mr. Bradford served as a director of UDS or its predecessors since 1992, and has served as a director of Valero since Valero's acquisition of UDS at the end of 2001.

Dr. Calgaard is Chairman of the Ray Ellison Grandchildren Trust in San Antonio, Texas. He was formerly Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Austin Calvert & Flavin Inc. in San Antonio from 2000 to February 2006.

Dr. Calgaard served as President of Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, from 1979 until his retirement in 1999. He is also a director of The Trust Company, N.A. and served as its Chairman from June 1999 until January 2000. He previously served as a director of Valero Natural Gas Company from 1987 to 1994. Dr. Calgaard has served as a director of Valero or its former parent company since 1996.

Mr. Engelhardt is Chairman of the Board of Peabody Energy Corporation, the world's largest private-sector coal company. He has been a director of Peabody and its predecessor company since 1990. He served as both Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Peabody from 1993 through 2005 when he retired as Chief Executive Officer. He served as Chief Executive Officer of a predecessor company from 1990 to 1998. Mr. Engelhardt is also a director of The Williams Companies, Inc. and is Deputy Chairman of The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Mr. Escobedo has been with his own public accounting firm, Ruben Escobedo & Company, CPAs, in San Antonio, Texas since its formation in 1977. Mr. Escobedo also serves as a director of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. and previously served as a director of Valero Natural Gas Company from 1989 to 1994. Mr. Escobedo has served as a director of Valero or its former parent company since 1994.

Mr. Greehey is the Chairman of the Board of Valero. He served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Valero and its former parent company from 1979 until he retired as Chief Executive Officer at the end of 2005. He was also President of Valero from 1998 until January 2003. Mr. Greehey is also Chairman of the Board of the managing general partner of Valero L.P.

Mr. Marbut has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Argyle Communications, Inc. since 1992, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SecTecGLOBAL, Inc. since 2002. He also serves as Executive Chairman of Electronics Line 3000 Ltd. and as Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Argyle Security Acquisition Corporation. He is a director of Tupperware Corporation and Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc. He previously served as Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Argyle Television, Inc. and of Argyle Television Holding, Inc., and as Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Harte-Hanks Communications, Inc. Mr. Marbut served as a director of UDS since 1990, and has served as a director of Valero since Valero's acquisition of UDS at the end of 2001.

Mr. Profusek is a partner and heads the Mergers and Acquisitions department of the Jones Day law firm. His law practice focuses on M&A/takeovers, restructurings, and corporate governance matters, including compensation. He is also a director of CTS Corporation. He served as Executive Vice President of Omnicom Group Inc. from May 2000 to August 2002. Prior to May 2000, he was a partner at Jones Day, which he joined in 1975. Prior to his election as a director of Valero in 2005, Mr. Profusek served as a director of the managing general partner of Valero L.P. since 2001.

For detailed information regarding the nominees' holdings of Common Stock, compensation and other arrangements, see *Information Regarding the Board of Directors*, *Beneficial Ownership of Valero Securities*, *Executive Compensation* and *Transactions with Management and Others*.

Table of Contents**Beneficial Ownership of Valero Securities**

2005 and 2004 Stock Splits. Valero effected a two-for-one Common Stock split on December 15, 2005 and on October 7, 2004. Each split was effected in the form of a Common Stock dividend. All share and per share data (except par value) in this proxy statement have been adjusted to reflect the effect of the 2005 stock split and the 2004 stock split for all periods presented.

The following table sets forth information with respect to each entity known to Valero to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of its Common Stock as of December 31, 2005 and of its Preferred Stock as of March 1, 2006, and with respect to its Common Stock, is based solely upon statements on Schedules 13G filed by such entities with the SEC.

Title of Security	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class *
Common Stock	FMR Corp. (1) 82 Devonshire Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109	77,519,559	12.56%
	Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust (2) and Banking Company Limited Ebisu Prime Square Tower, 8 th Floor 1-1-39 Hiroo Shibuya-Ku Tokyo, Japan 150-0012	45,619,100	7.39%
	Barclays Global Investors, N.A. (3) 45 Fremont St., 17 th Floor San Francisco, California 94105	36,412,048	5.90%
Preferred Stock	Bank of New York One Wall Street New York, New York 10286	1,146,200	46.76%
	Citibank, N.A. 3800 CitiBank Center B3-15 Tampa, Florida 33610	571,619	23.32%
	Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. 1251 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10020	319,898	13.05%
	Goldman, Sachs & Co. 180 Maiden Lane New York, New York 10038	180,190	7.35%

* The reported percentages are based on 617,422,290 shares of Common Stock outstanding on

December 31,
2005 and
2,451,191
shares of
Preferred Stock
outstanding on
March 1, 2006.

- (1) FMR Corp. has filed with the SEC a Schedule 13G, reporting that it or certain of its affiliates beneficially owned in the aggregate 77,519,559 shares, that it had sole dispositive power with respect to 77,519,559 shares and sole voting power with respect to 9,995,882 shares.

- (2) Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust and Banking Company Limited has filed with the SEC a Schedule 13G, reporting that it or certain of its affiliates beneficially owned in the aggregate 45,619,100 shares, that it had sole voting power with respect to

40,336,245
shares and sole
dispositive
power with
respect to
45,619,100
shares.

- (3) Barclays Global
Investors, N.A.
has filed with
the SEC a
Schedule 13G,
reporting that it
or certain of its
affiliates
beneficially
owned in the
aggregate
36,412,048
shares, that it
had sole voting
power with
respect to
31,548,305
shares and sole
dispositive
power with
respect to
36,412,048
shares.

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Except as otherwise indicated, the following table sets forth information as of February 1, 2006 regarding Common Stock beneficially owned (or deemed to be owned) by each nominee for director, each current director, each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table and all current directors and executive officers of Valero as a group. The persons listed below have furnished this information to Valero and accordingly this information cannot be independently verified by Valero.

Name of Beneficial Owner (1)	Common Stock		Percent of Class Common Stock (2)
	Shares Beneficially Owned (2)(3)	Shares Under Exercisable Options (4)	
E. Glenn Biggs	15,718	93,176	*
Keith D. Boone	205,462	270,600	*
W. E. Bradford	42,718	93,176	*
Ronald K. Calgaard	26,025	26,000	*
Jerry D. Choate	14,586	54,000	*
Michael S. Ciskowski	260,137	358,144	*
Irl F. Engelhardt	3,252	0	*
S. Eugene Edwards	209,545	256,580	*
Ruben M. Escobedo (5)	69,370	42,000	*
William E. Greehey	4,686,967	8,402,376	2.07%
Gregory C. King (6)	387,995	654,800	*
William R. Klesse	551,515	805,164	*
Bob Marbut (7)	46,636	93,176	*
Richard J. Marcogliese	56,571	236,800	*
Donald L. Nickles	3,270	3,334	*
Robert A. Profusek (8)	2,720	0	*
Susan Kaufman Purcell	23,114	47,976	*
All executive officers and directors as a group	6,603,601	11,437,302	2.85%

* Indicates that the percentage of beneficial ownership does not exceed 1% of the class.

(1) The business address for all beneficial owners listed above is One Valero Way, San Antonio, Texas 78249.

- (2) As of February 1, 2006, 621,835,781 shares of Common Stock were issued and outstanding. No executive officer, director or nominee for director of Valero owns any class of equity securities of Valero other than Common Stock. The calculation for Percent of Class includes shares listed under the captions Shares Beneficially Owned and Shares Under Exercisable Options.
- (3) Includes shares allocated pursuant to the Valero Thrift Plan through January 31, 2006, as well as shares of restricted stock. Except as otherwise noted, each person named in the table, and each other executive officer, has sole power to vote or direct the vote and to dispose or direct the disposition of

all such shares
beneficially
owned by him
or her.

Restricted stock
may not be
disposed of until
vested. Does not
include shares
that could be
acquired under
options, which
information is
reported in the
second column.

- (4) Includes options
that are
exercisable
within 60 days
from
February 1,
2006. Shares
subject to
options may not
be voted unless
the options are
exercised.
Options that
may become
exercisable
within such
60-day period
only in the event
of a change of
control of
Valero are
excluded.
Except as set
forth in this
proxy statement,
none of the
current
executive
officers,
directors or
nominees for
director of
Valero hold any
rights to acquire
Common Stock,

except through
exercise of
stock options.

- (5) Includes 2,692 shares held by spouse and 2,692 shares held in a trust.
- (6) Includes 390 shares held by spouse
- (7) Includes 4,000 shares held by spouse and 4,680 shares held by a corporation controlled by the listed person.
- (8) Includes 2,000 shares purchased by the listed person on February 6, 2006.

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Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires Valero's executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders to file with the SEC certain reports of ownership and changes in ownership. Based on a review of the copies of such forms received and written representations from certain reporting persons, Valero believes that during the year ended December 31, 2005 all Section 16(a) reports applicable to its executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders were filed on a timely basis.

The following Performance Graph and Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board on Executive Compensation are not soliciting material, are not deemed filed with the SEC and are not to be incorporated by reference in any of Valero's filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, respectively, whether made before or after the date of this proxy statement and irrespective of any general incorporation language therein.

Table of Contents**Performance Graph**

The following line graph compares the cumulative total return* on an investment in Valero Common Stock against the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Composite Index and an index of peer companies selected by Valero for the five-year period commencing December 31, 2000 and ending December 31, 2005. The peer group selected by Valero consists of the following 10 companies that are engaged in the domestic energy industry: Amerada Hess Corp., Chevron Corp., ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil Corp., Frontier Oil Corp., Marathon Oil Corp., Murphy Oil Corp., Occidental Petroleum Corp., Sunoco Inc., and Tesoro Corp. On June 30, 2005 Marathon Oil acquired Ashland Inc.'s interest in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC, and Ashland exited the refining and marketing business; therefore, Ashland was dropped from the peer group. On September 1, 2005, Valero acquired Premcor Inc.; therefore, Premcor was dropped from the peer group.

	12/2000	12/2001	12/2002	12/2003	12/2004	12/2005
Valero Common Stock	100	103.39	101.23	128.35	253.67	579.54
S&P 500	100	88.12	68.64	88.33	97.94	102.75
Peer Group	100	96.68	84.66	107.80	139.39	166.00

This Performance Graph and the related textual information are based on historical data and are not necessarily indicative of future performance.

* Assumes that an investment in Valero Common Stock and that each index was \$100 on December 31, 2000. Cumulative total return is based on share price appreciation plus reinvestment of dividends on Valero Common Stock from December 31, 2000 through December 31, 2005.

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Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board on Executive Compensation

Valero's executive compensation programs are administered by the Compensation Committee of Valero's Board of Directors. The committee is composed of four independent directors who are not participants in the Company's executive compensation programs. Policies adopted by the committee are implemented by Valero's compensation and benefits staff. Valero's executive compensation programs are intended to provide strong incentives for high performance, enabling Valero to recruit, retain and motivate the executive talent necessary to be successful.

Compensation Policies

Valero's philosophy for compensating executive officers is based on the belief that a significant portion of executive compensation should be incentive based and determined by both the Company's and the executive's performance. Compensation for Valero executives includes base salary, an annual incentive bonus opportunity, and long-term, equity-based incentives. The CEO and other executive officers also participate in benefit plans generally available to other employees.

To assist with determining executive compensation, including base salary and annual and long-term incentive compensation, Valero utilizes a Compensation Peer Group, consisting of compensation database information and analyses of an independent compensation consultant retained by the committee that includes compensation practices and data for a group of 13 companies that have significant participation in the domestic oil refining and marketing industry, and includes those peer group companies included in the peer group for the Performance Graph for which compensation data is available. The selection of the companies included in the Compensation Peer Group reflects consideration of each company's relative revenues, asset base, employee population and capitalization, along with the scope of managerial responsibility and reporting relationships for the positions under consideration. Additionally, Valero periodically references other independent compensation surveys for executive pay practices in the oil refining and marketing industry. Recommendations for base salary, bonuses and other compensation arrangements are developed under the supervision of the committee by Valero compensation and benefits staff utilizing the foregoing information and analyses and with assistance from the independent compensation consultant.

Annual incentive bonuses, when awarded, are related both to measures of Company financial performance and to individual performance. Long-term incentives, which can include performance shares, restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock option grants, are intended to balance executive management focus between short- and long-term goals and provide capital accumulation linked directly to Valero's performance. For executive officers, including the CEO, base salary levels as well as annual and long-term incentive compensation are targeted at approximately the 50th percentile of the Compensation Peer Group.

Base Salaries

Base salaries for each executive position are set based on the Compensation Peer Group data for positions having similar duties and levels of responsibility. Base salaries are reviewed annually and may be adjusted to reflect promotions, the assignment of additional responsibilities, individual performance or the performance of the Company. Salaries are also periodically adjusted to remain competitive with the Compensation Peer Group.

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Annual Incentive Bonus

Executive officers have the opportunity to earn an annual incentive bonus based on the following three factors:
the position of the executive officer, which is used to determine a targeted percentage of annual base salary that may be awarded as incentive bonus, with the targets ranging from a low of approximately 50% of base salary to approximately 125% of base salary for the CEO;

realization by the Company of quantitative financial performance goals approved by the committee; and

a qualitative evaluation of the individual's performance.

For each executive, the target percentage of base salary is adjusted upward or downward depending upon whether Valero achieves certain financial performance goals. The committee retains discretion to further adjust bonus awards upward or downward by up to 25%, based upon such factors as the committee deems appropriate, and ultimately to determine whether to award a bonus to any individual. The following three, equally weighted quantitative measures of financial performance were utilized in establishing incentive bonuses for 2005:

earnings per share, or EPS, of Valero compared to a target EPS approved in advance by the committee;

total shareholder return, or TSR, compared to a target TSR approved in advance by the committee (TSR measures the growth in the daily average closing price per share of Valero's Common Stock during the month of November, including