

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
January 13, 2011  
**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**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): January 13, 2011

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**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>Washington</b>	<b>001-34696</b>	<b>91-1572822</b>
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

**(509) 458-3711**  
(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))

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**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On January 13, 2011, Sterling Financial Corporation ("Sterling") issued a press release announcing the pending appointments of Howard P. Behar and C. Webb Edwards to the Sterling board of directors. The appointments remain subject to regulatory approval. A copy of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

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

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation.

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**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 thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

January By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

13,

2011

Date

**Daniel G. Byrne**

Executive Vice President, Assistant Secretary and  
Principal Financial Officer