

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
May 17, 2010  
**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: May 17, 2010**

(Date of earliest event reported)

**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 Number)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices and 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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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On May 17, 2010, Sterling issued a press release, a copy of which is attached to this report as Exhibit 99.1.

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

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press release of Sterling Financial Corporation dated May 17, 2010.

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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)

May 17, 2010    By: /s/ Ezra A. Eckhardt  
Date                    **Ezra A. Eckhardt**  
                                 Chief Operating Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

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