

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
December 03, 2009  
**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): December 3, 2009

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**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Washington</b>   | <b>0-20800</b>           | <b>91-1572822</b>                       |
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization) | (Commission File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>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 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On December 3, 2009, Sterling Savings Bank (the "Bank"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sterling Financial Corporation, issued a press release providing an update with regard to the Bank's compliance with the consent agreement that the Bank entered into with its regulators in October of 2009. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report. The information in this report (including Exhibit 99.1) shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

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

(d) The following exhibit is being furnished herewith:

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Exhibit Description</u>           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 99.1               | Sterling Savings Bank press release. |

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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)

December 3, 2009

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

Date

**Daniel G. Byrne**

Executive Vice President, Assistant Secretary and  
Principal Financial Officer