

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
August 26, 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: August 26, 2010**  
(Date of earliest event reported)

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**Sterling Financial Corporation**  
**(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

<b>Washington</b> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	<b>001-34696</b> (Commission File Number)	<b>91-1572822</b> (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
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**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 August 26, 2010, the Company issued a press release announcing the successful completion of its previously announced recapitalization transactions. The text of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) The following exhibit is being filed herewith:

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Exhibit Description</u>
<u>No.</u>	

99.1	Press release of Sterling Financial Corporation dated August 26, 2010.
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SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

August 26, 2010

Date

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

**Daniel G. Byrne**

Executive Vice President, Assistant

Secretary and Principal Financial Officer