

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
November 15, 2004

**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): **November 12, 2004**

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**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Washington**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**0-20800**  
(Commission File Number)

**91-1572822**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

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(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))

**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On November 12, 2004, Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ) issued a press release announcing that Sterling has called for redemption of the Sterling Financial Corporation Floating Rate Notes Due June 15, 2006. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

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

(c) The following exhibits are being furnished herewith:

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Exhibit Description</b>  |
|--------------------|---|
| 99.1               | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated November 12, 2004. |

**S I G N A T U R E**

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)

November 15, 2004  
Date

By:

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne  
**Daniel G. Byrne**  
Executive Vice President-Finance and

