

Eckhardt Ezra
Form 4
April 18, 2011

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Eckhardt Ezra

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
STERLING FINANCIAL CORP
/WA/ [STSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

(Last) (First) (Middle)
111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
04/15/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	Amount				(A) or (D)
Common Stock	04/15/2011		A ⁽¹⁾		730 ⁽²⁾	A	\$ 0	29,162	D	
Common Stock								8,897	I	401k
Common Stock								925	I	Spouse IRA

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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