

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

October 28, 2008

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

**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): October 24, 2008**

**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)

**(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 5.02. Departure of Director  
SIGNATURE

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**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 5.02. Departure of Director.**

(b) Mr. Donald N. Bauhofer, a member of the Board of Directors of Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ), has resigned as a member of Sterling s Board of Directors effective October 24, 2008 to focus on his real estate development business given the current state of the real estate market. Mr. Bauhofer s resignation did not involve any disagreement with Sterling, Sterling s management or Sterling s Board of Directors.

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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)

October 28, 2008

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

Date

**Daniel G. Byrne**  
Executive Vice President,  
Assistant Secretary and Principal  
Financial Officer