

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 3/A

[amend]

Filing Date: **2009-01-26** | Period of Report: **2009-01-08**
SEC Accession No. **0001127602-09-001678**

([HTML Version](#) on secdatabase.com)

REPORTING OWNER

Eckhardt Ezra

CIK: **1343400**

Type: **3/A** | Act: **34** | File No.: **000-20800** | Film No.: **09546273**

Mailing Address

*111 NORTH WALL STREET
SPOKANE WA 99201*

Business Address

509-354-8165

ISSUER

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

CIK: **891106** | IRS No.: **911572822** | State of Incorporation: **WA** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
SIC: **6036** Savings institutions, not federally chartered

Mailing Address

*111 NORTH WALL STREET
SPOKANE WA 99201*

Business Address

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SPOKANE WA 99201
509-354-8165*

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>Eckhardt Ezra</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) 111 N. WALL STREET (Street) SPOKANE, WA 99201 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/08/2009	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]</u>		
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ___ Director ___ 10% Owner <u>X</u> Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below) <u>COO of Sterling Savings</u>		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 01/16/2009
				6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) ___ Form Filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	6,965 (1)	I	401k

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. 401(k) balance previously disclosed on Form 3 filed 1/16/2009 did not include shares of Sterling common stock owned from a rollover contribution previously made. Account balance is correct as of 12/31/2008.

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, Chief Financial Officer

** Signature of Reporting Person

01/26/2009

Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.