

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
April 26, 2012

**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: April 26, 2012**

**(Date of earliest event reported)**

**Sterling Financial Corporation**

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

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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number) <b>111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201</b>  (Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)  <b>(509) 458-3711</b>  (Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)  <b>Not Applicable</b>  (Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
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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))

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On April 26, 2012, Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ) conducted an investor conference call in conjunction with the public release of its first quarter 2012 financial results. During the course of the call, Sterling management inadvertently provided an incorrect response to a question raised by a participant. Accordingly, Sterling would like to clarify that it does not expect to incur any income tax expense until the first quarter of 2013. Furthermore, Sterling expects that all of the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be reversed during the second quarter of 2012, except for the portion that is expected to offset the taxable income for the third and fourth quarters of 2012.

**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)

April 26, 2012  
Date

By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak  
**Patrick J. Rusnak**  
Chief Financial Officer