

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 8-K

December 26, 2006

**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: December 26, 2006

**FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

0-12379  
(Commission File  
Number)

31-1042001  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

300 High Street  
Hamilton, Ohio  
(Address of principal executive offices)

45011  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 979-5782

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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))
-

**Form 8-K**

**First Financial Bancorp.**

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

Anthony M. Stollings, age 52, joined First Financial Bancorp as Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller effective December 20, 2006. Prior to joining First Financial, Mr. Stollings was most recently Chief Financial Officer of Midwest Financial Holdings, Inc. He previously spent 13 years at Provident Financial Group, Inc., a commercial banking and financial services company in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was most recently the Chief Accounting Officer and Controller from 2002 to 2004 and Senior Vice President and Controller from 1998 to 2002. Mr. Stollings is a CPA and has more than 25 years experience in the financial services industry.

No transactions have occurred in the last two years to which First Financial was a party in which Mr. Stollings had or is to have a direct or indirect material interest.

---

**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.

**FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.**

By: /s/ J. Franklin Hall

J. Franklin Hall  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 26, 2006