

gehlmann gregory a  
Form 4  
April 28, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

Check this box  
if no longer  
subject to  
Section 16.  
Form 4 or  
Form 5  
obligations  
may continue.  
*See Instruction*  
1(b).

**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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
gehlmann gregory a

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP  
/OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
201 E. FOURTH STREET, SUITE  
2000

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
04/26/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_X\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP/Corporate General Counsel

(Street)  
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

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

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>(A) or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common<br>Stock                       | 04/26/2011                              |                                                             | D                                       | (A)<br>or<br>(D)<br>Code V Amount Price<br>2,830 \$<br>(2) 16.5            | 24,197                                                                                                             | I                                                                    | Restricted                                                        |
| Common<br>Stock                       | 04/26/2011                              |                                                             | A                                       | (A)<br>or<br>(D)<br>Code V Amount Price<br>1,923 \$<br>(1) 16.5            | 16,196                                                                                                             | D                                                                    |                                                                   |
| Common<br>Stock                       |                                         |                                                             |                                         |                                                                            | 4,492.1306                                                                                                         | I                                                                    | 401k                                                              |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
required to respond unless the form**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price or Value of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V                                                                                       | (A)                                                      | (D)                                                           |                                                             |
| 2005 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 18.63                                               |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 06/21/2006                                               | 06/21/2016                                                    | Common Stock 5,367                                          |
| 2005 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 18.63                                               |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 06/21/2006                                               | 06/21/2016                                                    | Common Stock 6,033                                          |
| 2006 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 16.02                                               |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 04/24/2007                                               | 04/24/2016                                                    | Common Stock 6,242                                          |
| 2006 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 16.02                                               |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 04/24/2007                                               | 04/24/2016                                                    | Common Stock 10,258                                         |
| 2007 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 14.9                                                |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 04/30/2008                                               | 04/30/2017                                                    | Common Stock 6,711                                          |
| 2007 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 14.9                                                |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 04/30/2008                                               | 04/30/2017                                                    | Common Stock 12,889                                         |
| 2008 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 11.64                                               |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | 02/14/2009                                               | 02/14/2018                                                    | Common Stock 8,591                                          |

2008  
(NQ)  
Stock  
Option

\$ 11.64

02/14/2009 02/14/2018 Common  
Stock 43,909

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                   | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|                                                                                  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| gehlmann gregory a<br>201 E. FOURTH STREET<br>SUITE 2000<br>CINCINNATI, OH 45202 |               |           | EVP/Corporate General Counsel |       |

## Signatures

/s/Terri J  
Ziepfel, POA

04/28/2011

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).
- (1) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award less shares withheld for taxes
- (2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.