

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 8-K  
May 28, 2010

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

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FORM 8-K

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CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 25, 2010

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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Ohio  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

31-1042001  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)

Commission file number: 000-12379

201 East Fourth Street, Suite 1900, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 979-5837

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations 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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Form 8-K

First Financial Bancorp.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(d) On May 25, 2010, the board of directors of First Financial Bancorp., pursuant to Article FIFTH of the Regulations of the company, expanded the board to 11 members and elected David S. Barker and Maribeth S. Rahe directors of the company. Their terms shall expire at the next annual meeting of shareholders of the company. It has not been determined on what committees of the board they will serve.

A copy of the press release announcing their appointment is included as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Exhibits.

(d) Exhibit:

The following exhibit shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated May 25, 2010.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report on Form 8-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.

Dated: May 28, 2010

By: /s/ Gregory A. Gehlmann  
Name: Gregory A. Gehlmann  
Title: Executive Vice President and  
General Counsel

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Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.

Description

99.1

First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated May 25, 2010

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