

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 8-K  
November 21, 2011

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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 (Date of earliest event reported): November 21, 2011

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

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: (877) 322-9530

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))

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First Financial Bancorp.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On November 21, 2011, First Financial Bancorp issued a press release announcing that the quarterly cash dividend of \$0.27 per common share previously declared by its board of directors will be payable on January 3, 2012 to shareholders of record as of December 2, 2011. Under the Company's current policy of paying 100% of quarterly earnings as cash dividends, the upcoming dividend will consist of: 1) a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per share; and 2) a variable dividend of \$0.15 per share based on the remainder of the third quarter 2011 diluted earnings per share of \$0.27. A copy of the news release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

First Financial Bancorp does not intend for this Item 7.01 or Exhibit 99.1 to be treated as "filed" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or incorporated by reference into its filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

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

(d) Exhibits:

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Press Release.

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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.

/s/ J. Franklin Hall  
J. Franklin Hall  
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and  
Chief Operating Officer

Date: November 21, 2011

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Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.      Description

99.1              First Financial Bancorp. Press Release.