

Brown Joel Edward  
Form 4  
December 20, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Brown Joel Edward

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
518 E. BROAD STREET  
(Street)

COLUMBUS, OH 43215

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
State Auto Financial CORP [STFC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/16/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Vice President

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

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price	
Common Shares without par value	12/16/2011		A <sup>(1)</sup>	5 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$ 0	6,090.689 <sup>(2)</sup>	D

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

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**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 of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Reporting Transaction (Instr. 6)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Brown Joel Edward 518 E. BROAD STREET COLUMBUS, OH 43215			Vice President	

## Signatures

/s/Joel E. Brown by James A. Yano, attorney in fact pursuant to POA filed with the Commission 3/7/11.

12/20/2011

\_\_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) Transaction reflects an Annual Stock Award made to the reporting person and to all full time employees of the Issuer.

Includes the following acquisitions: 42,259 shares acquired in March 2011, 45,317 shares acquired in June 2011 and 64,278 shares

(2) acquired in September 2011 as Dividend Reinvestment; 460,530 shares acquired in June 2011 under the State Auto Financial Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan; and 0.605 shares acquired in September 2011 under the 401k Plan.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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