FIRST MERCHANTS CORP

Form 4 July 31, 2006

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Check this box

January 31, Expires: 2005

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading **ELLINGTON KIMBERLY J** Issuer Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP (Check all applicable) [FRME] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _X_ Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 200 EAST JACKSON STREET 06/30/2006 Senior Vice President / Director-Human Resources (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting MUNCIE, IN 47305 Person (City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities Acquired (A) 5. Amount of 6. 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficial (Instr. 3) Code Beneficially Form: (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Direct (D) Ownership Following or Indirect (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

Common Stock (1) 185 $922.0892 \frac{(3)}{}$ 06/30/2006 A D 20.6635 (2)

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

Persons who respond to the collection of **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form 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)

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,		ate	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
					4, and 5)	Date	Expiration		Amount		
				Code V	/ (A) (D)	Exercisable	Date	Title	Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

ELLINGTON KIMBERLY J 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305

Senior Vice President Director-Human Resources

Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 07/31/2006

**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) Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) equals 19,059 shares.
- (2) Deferred Stock Units equal 362.86 shares.
- (3) Includes common stock owned by reporting person in 401-K account: 130.2832

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.

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