McKinney Stephen M Form 4 July 17, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB APPROVAL

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SECURITIES

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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Section 16.

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 * McKinney Stephen M			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol KROGER CO [KR]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check an applicable)		
			(Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% Owner		
THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET			07/13/2018	X_ Officer (give title Other (specification) Senior Vice President		
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)		
CINCINNATI, OH 45202				_X_Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-	Derivative	Secui	rities Acq	uired, Disposed of,	or Beneficiall	y 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. Securit on(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	sposed	of (D)	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	07/13/2018		A	19,751 (1)	A	\$ 0	161,567.3015	D	
Common Stock	07/13/2018		F	7,742 (2)	D	\$ 28.05	153,825.3015 (3)	D	

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

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

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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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amour Underlying Securit (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amo or Num of Sh
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 28.05	07/13/2018		A	44,838	<u>(4)</u>	07/13/2028	Common Stock	44,8

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

McKinney Stephen M THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Senior Vice President

Signatures

/s/ Stephen M. McKinney, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

07/17/2018

Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (2) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- Between March 16, 2018 and June 30, 2018, the reporting person acquired 331.8234 shares of Kroger common stock in the Company's employee benefit plans, based on information from plan trustees. The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be "tax-conditioned plans" pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- (4) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.

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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