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Treasurer's Note

December 31, 2024

My Resolutions for 2025

I used to think of New Year's resolutions the same way I think of birthday wishes when blowing out candles: If you tell people what they are, they won't come true.

But I have learned through life that if we share our resolutions with friends, they are more likely to hold us accountable and we are more likely to follow through with them.

With that in mind, I want to share my list of New Year's resolutions with you.

- **I want to set a new record for returning missing money to you through our I-CASH program.** With some changes we have made, this might not be the toughest resolution to keep. Watch for some exciting news this spring!
- **I intend to communicate better through different media.** You are obviously a reader of emails, but not everyone is. I am going to try to reach those people through new videos and audio platforms.
- **I want more families to take advantage of First Steps!** More than 10,000 accounts have been opened through the First Steps program. We hope to double that number in 2025.
- **I want to pass the ENABLE Act through Congress to help those with disabilities and their families.** We need to ensure three ABLE program provisions don't sunset this year: ABLE to Work contributions, ABLE saver's credit, and 529-to-ABLE rollovers.



Before we look forward, it good to see where we've been. Take a look at this video, which highlights some of our achievements from 2024.

- **I want to help charities make more money off their investments.** We have helped local governments earn more than \$2.5 billion since taking office, and we would like to help Illinois charities [do the same](#). We'll need the General Assembly to pass a law. [Please let us know if you can help](#).
- **I will share more Illinois success stories.** We've invested in 600 companies and helped them create more than 19,000 jobs through our [Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund](#). I have enjoyed interviewing these entrepreneurs and sharing their stories with you. I plan to interview many more in 2025.
- **I want to earn another \$1 billion in interest income by investing responsibly and wisely.** Lower interest rates may make accomplishing this challenging, but we owe it to taxpayers to try even harder in these tough times.
- **I plan to help more local governments take part in our Illinois Funds investment pool to earn more interest income.** Every dollar we make in interest is a dollar in local property taxes that doesn't have to be raised.
- **I want to write a book.** Everyone needs a stretch goal! 😊

By writing these down, I resolve to make my best effort to keep these resolutions.

You might have resolutions of your own. If we resolve to make every corner of our state a better place to live and raise a family, and we keep our resolutions, then 2025 could be a pretty good year for all of us.

Happy New Year!

Michael



Welcome to "The Mailbag," which is your opportunity to ask me about topics like our programs, other state government functions, or anything else that interests you.

Q. I really enjoy receiving your emails. My question is about savings bonds. What happens to them when a family member passes away? —**Judy L.**

A. The federal Treasury website, TreasuryDirect.gov, outlines [detailed instructions](#) in the event of a bondholder's death for both paper and electronic bonds. The website also provides a [Contact Us](#) link for additional questions.

If you have a question for "The Mailbag," please [send me an email](#) with the subject line "Mailbag." I can't promise that every one of your questions will run, but we do read them all and try to respond. And let us know if we can use your name, or if you'd prefer to be anonymous.

[Email Your Questions](#)



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