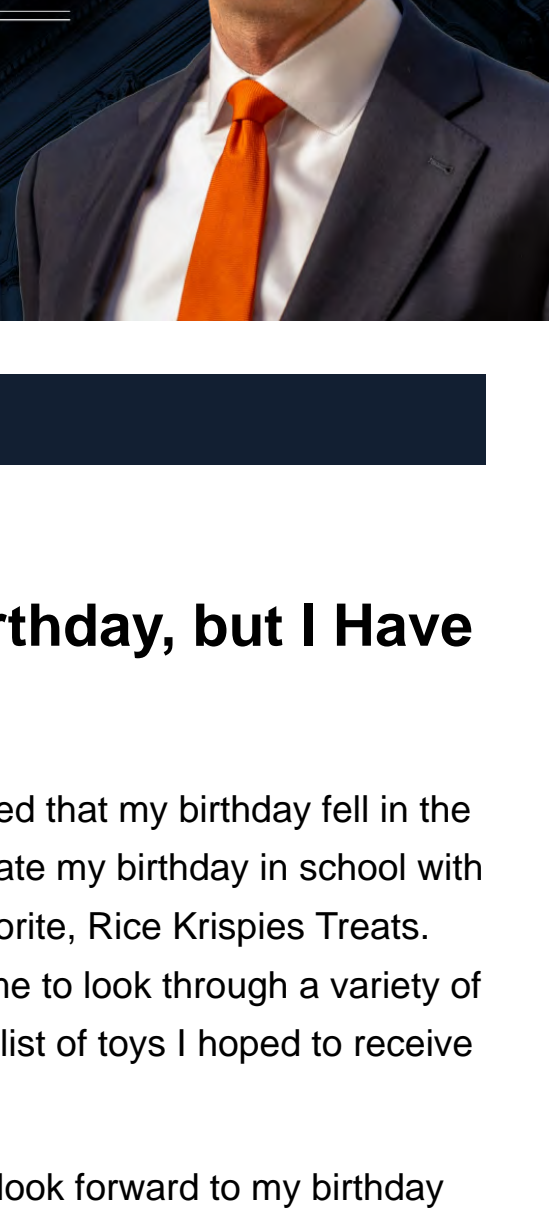


I ask you to check out the I-CASH unclaimed property database to see if we have any money that belongs to you.

[View online version](#)



**Michael W. Frerichs**  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER



## Treasurer's Note

July 23, 2024

### It's Almost My Birthday, but I Have a Wish for You

Growing up, I was disappointed that my birthday fell in the summer. I didn't get to celebrate my birthday in school with cookies, cupcakes, or my favorite, Rice Krispies Treats.

But this did give me lots of time to look through a variety of catalogs and make a lengthy list of toys I hoped to receive from my family.

As an adult, I generally don't look forward to my birthday and turning another year older. I rarely give my family gift ideas. I have been blessed enough already.

Last year, though, I was excited about celebrating one of those milestone birthdays that end in a zero. Not for any presents I would receive, but for the presence of friends.

Erica had talked about a party and inviting a lot of close friends, including some friends that live far way who I don't get to see too often.

*Here I am at age 3, back when I was excited about opening birthday gifts.*

But life has a way of quickly rearranging your priorities. The [twins arrived early](#) and spent some time in the hospital. And then Theo was fighting for his life, and we spent my birthday in the NICU, praying he would get better. Thankfully, my one birthday wish was granted:

Theo [is now home](#), healthy, thriving, and ready to take his first unassisted steps. I am so grateful for that.

My birthday is coming up this weekend, and it's not as exciting to celebrate a birthday that ends in a 1. That's OK, because I already have received gifts that can't be topped.

I have changed a lot since I was scouring the Sears and JCPenney catalogs looking for birthday toys. I have learned that it truly is better to give than to receive. It brings me more joy to return money to people than to open gifts myself.

So go to the [I-CASH unclaimed property database](#) to see if we have any money that belongs to you. Check for yourself. Check for your family. Check for your business or favorite charity.

*I was happy to have this Darth Vader birthday cake because as a kid, I really loved the movie "Star Wars." Some things never change.*

We have overhauled our missing money program to make it easier for people to claim their money, and we have worked with our friends in the General Assembly to reduce some of the obstacles that people have encountered in the past.

As a result, we have smashed records, and recently [we passed the \\$2 billion mark](#) in money that we have returned to folks. This month, we set another record by returning \$301 million in the last fiscal year.

It brings me joy when people stop me on the street and tell me about money that we were able to return to them, and my birthday wish is to have a lot more encounters like that in the next year. Please visit [icash.illinoistreasurer.gov](#) to see if we have some money that belongs to you.

It may not seem like as much fun as sharing Rice Krispies Treats with your friends, but I think it would still be fun for both of us.

Sincerely,

**Michael W. Frerichs**

Illinois State Treasurer

### Treasurer Frerichs Returns \$58K on "Good Morning America"

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and staff recently set up shop in Millennium Park before the Grant Park Orchestra played and reunited people with more than \$58,000 in missing money.

"Good Morning America" was there to capture the excitement as people rang the bell and exclaimed, "Show Me the Money!" Dr. Stella Hickman accepted an unclaimed property check for more than \$11,500 that will be returned to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority coffers, and even one of the Grant Park Orchestra violinists went home with missing money through [I-CASH](#).

The [National Association of State Treasurers](#) (NAST), which Frerichs serves as president, partnered with "Good Morning America" for the event.



### Celebrating Disability Pride Month

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office salutes all people with disabilities during this Disability Pride Month. July marks the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Boston, Massachusetts, observed the first Disability Pride Day in 1990, and the first official celebration of Disability Pride Month occurred in July 2015, according to the [American Bar Association](#).

Across the country, people with disabilities and their allies honor the achievements, contributions, struggles, culture, and pride of the disability community.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office runs IL ABLE, which is a program for people with disabilities and their families to save and invest their money for expenses that come with living with a disability.

We asked a few Illinois Achieving a Better Life Experience — or IL ABLE — account owners about what disability pride means to them.

[Gigi expressed pride](#) about owning her IL ABLE account. "I can save money and spend money on expenses like my assistive technology needs," Gigi said. "My parents help me keep my savings safe in my IL ABLE account." You can read what other IL ABLE account owners had to say at [illinoisaccessible.com](#).

To learn more about the IL ABLE, visit [illinoisable.com](#). You can read the Plan Disclosure Booklet for full plan details and important disclosures about investments, fees, and risks [here](#).



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