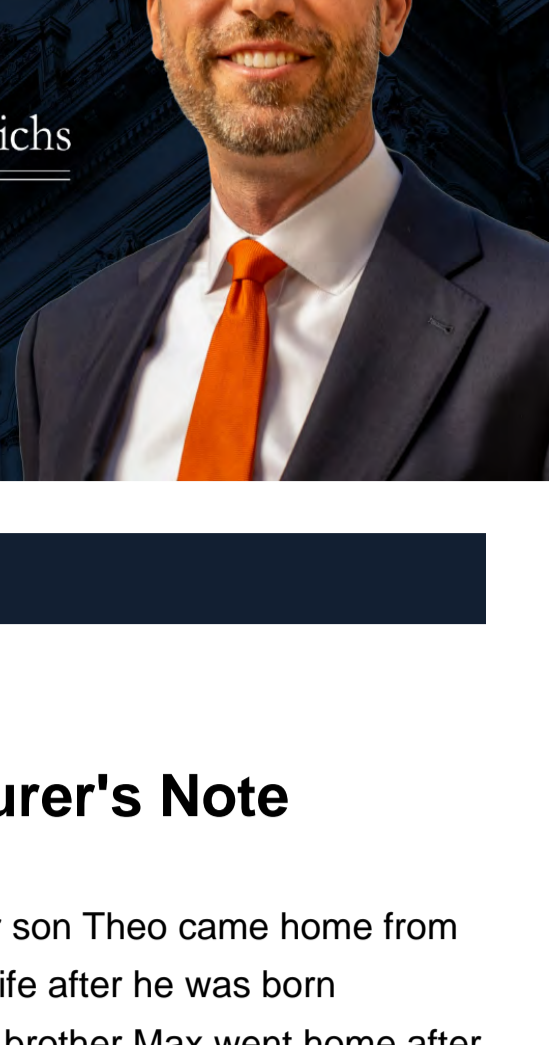




Michael W. Frerichs
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER



Treasurer's Note

July 30, 2024

A Different Treasurer's Note

One year ago on Sunday, our son Theo came home from the NICU. I [wrote about](#) his life after he was born prematurely in June. His twin brother Max went home after four weeks. But Theo had an extended stay in the neonatal ICU having been diagnosed with [NEC](#), a serious, life-threatening illness that affects newborns, especially those born prematurely. My wife, Erica, and I didn't know if Theo would make it.

I was not prepared for the response. Hundreds of people wrote me with their prayers, best wishes, and stories of their own experiences with premature babies, NICU stays, and NEC. During a very trying time in our lives, these notes were comforting and appreciated.

When Theo made it home and was on the mend, I [updated you](#). The response, again, was overwhelming.

Before then, I had kept my communications professional and separated my personal life from my work life. I learned that when I shared more about myself, readers shared their stories back. They also paid more attention to our office's programs.

However, some were not so kind, and I understand that. So, I didn't take it too personally when one reader told me, "Who gives a damn about your dumb a** babies." Throughout my time in public office, I've developed some thick skin.

In these Treasurer's Notes, I typically tell a story about an experience I've had in my life that highlights a problem. Then I highlight a program in my office that can help with that problem. Today's note is a little different.

More and more, I see incivility creeping into our daily lives. As a public figure, that comes with the territory, but our society has become so polarized that we often see some of our fellow Americans as the enemy.

"We shouldn't lose sight of the fact that those we disagree with are also people trying to live their lives and deal with similar day-to-day problems. I think we would all be better off if we realized that and treated our fellow Americans with more respect, kindness and empathy."

This behavior has not gone unnoticed. I recently attended a roundtable of the Society for Human Resource Management where we discussed how incivility is affecting their members' organizations. They have committed to bridging the divide in the workplace through the [1 Million Civil Conversations](#) initiative.

The Illinois Supreme Court has also formed a [commission on professionalism](#) to combat increasing incivility in our courtrooms among judges and lawyers.

I think most Americans want a better country. We just disagree about the best way to make that happen. That's OK. But we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that those we disagree with are also people trying to live their lives and deal with similar day-to-day problems.

I think we would all be better off if we realized that and treated our fellow Americans with more respect, kindness, and empathy. My office doesn't have a program for that, but I encourage you to think about that before firing off your next social media post. Let's all be civil and agree to disagree agreeably.

I plan to keep writing to you about my personal stories and the stories I hear as I travel throughout the state. It's my way of highlighting our programs that help people achieve their version of the American Dream. Please visit [our website](#) to see if we are able to help you [save](#), plan your [financial future](#), or even find [missing money](#).

You may be a reader who reads this newsletter regularly and appreciates the changes. You may be new and didn't know there was a change. Or you may not like the change in tone. My hope is that you continue to read and enjoy, but whatever your reaction is, feel free to [let me know](#). I don't know if we will see things the same way, but I promise to respond kindly to your opinions and concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Michael W. Frerichs

Illinois State Treasurer



State Fair Auction Will Feature Sports Cards of NFL Stars, Jewelry and Other Unique Collectibles

Join us at the Illinois State Fair on August 17 as Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosts a live auction of [unclaimed property items](#). See something you like? Come to the Lincoln Stage and bid on a Mike Singletary or Troy Aikman football card, a yellow gold Rolex Oyster watch, uncut sheets of U.S. currency and much more.

working for you

JUNE State portfolio investment earnings:
\$140.9 million

+\$89.6 million
for cities, school districts and the like that take part in the Illinois Funds local government investment pool

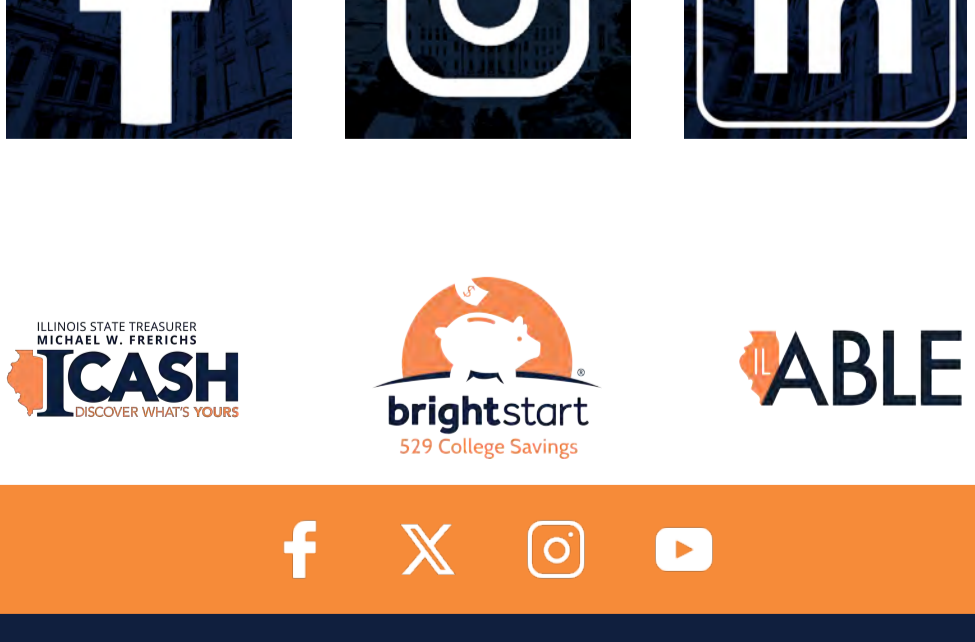
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Working for You: Record Investment Earnings in June

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs' office made a record \$140.9 million in investment earnings for the [state portfolio](#) in June. Another \$89.6 million was earned for cities, school districts and other units of government that take part in the [Illinois Funds](#) local government investment pool.

Click on this link for important disclosures, including information about investments, fees, and risks related to [Illinois Funds](#).

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