



# Michael W. Frerichs

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ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

APRIL 2018 E-NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Note

## Follow the Money

Today, we know too many people do not trust government.

One way to repair this relationship is to provide information in a format that is easy to use, understand, and analyze.

That is why we built [The Vault](#). It is our latest tool to serve the people of Illinois.

This interactive website increases transparency and accountability so you can 'follow the money.' It makes it easier to see how the treasury invests taxpayer dollars and pulls aside the curtain so people can see how the state manages its debt.

The Vault takes static information and makes it interactive. Information about the treasury's \$28 billion portfolio is presented so users can easily compare, filter, and expand charts, tables, and graphs. Data can be exported and shared to social media for investment comparisons.

Available at [www.iltreasurervault.com](http://www.iltreasurervault.com), The Vault also shows the treasury's business transactions with firms based in Illinois and firms owned by minorities, women, Veterans, or a person with a disability.

Individuals interested in state investment and banking activities are expected to be frequent visitors to The Vault. We strongly encourage everyone who visits to offer suggestions on how we can improve.

I often say the treasury's primary function is to invest money on behalf of the state, units of local government, and families saving for college. However, we must also offer tools to help people invest in themselves. The Vault is our latest step on that journey. I encourage you to visit.

Sincerely,  
**Michael W. Frerichs**  
Illinois State Treasurer

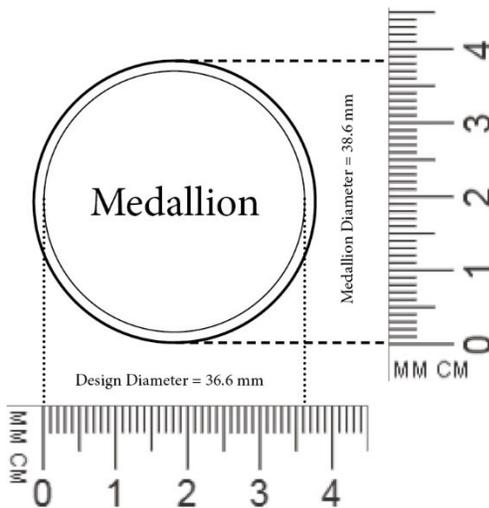


Illinois Turns 200

## Enter the Bicentennial Coin Contest

A **Bicentennial Coin Contest** is underway to create a coin that will celebrate the 200th birthday of the State of Illinois. Contestants are invited to design one side of the coin.

Design entries must be submitted by May 1, 2018, at [www.IllinoisCoinContest.com](http://www.IllinoisCoinContest.com). The winning design will be used for the commemorative bicentennial coin and the coin will be available for purchase. One entry per contestant. Contestants must be a resident of Illinois.



In June, the public will vote online to choose the winner from five finalists. The winner will be announced on June 18, 2018.

To read contest rules, terms and legal conditions, please visit [www.IllinoisCoinContest.com](http://www.IllinoisCoinContest.com).

The State of Illinois will celebrate its 200th birthday on December 3, 2018.

The General Assembly approved the coin contest in a bi-partisan vote.



Responsible Management

## Treasurer Investments

### Enjoy Great Ratings - Again

Not all of the credit rating news about Illinois is negative. The Illinois Funds investment pool in the Illinois State Treasurer's Office has a AAAm credit rating, the highest available from S&P Global Ratings.

The Illinois Funds is a local government investment pool that invests dollars from local units of government such as counties, municipalities and school districts. Investing together generates rates of return typically not available if participants invested alone.

More than 7,000 government units in Illinois participate in The Illinois Funds. Deposits and withdrawals are available daily. Any custodian of public funds in Illinois can participate. The pool invests in liquid, high-quality, short-term investments. The Illinois Funds has been rated since 1996.

Deposits into The Illinois Funds cannot be used for any purpose by the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Funds is designed to complement, not replace, relationships that local governments have with local financial institutions.

For more information, visit [here](#) or call (217) 524-1427.



## Unclaimed Property

# The Letter is in the Mail

This is the time of year when people receive a letter from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office advising them that they might have unclaimed property.

The letter is sent each spring and fall. Items such as unpaid life insurance policies, bank accounts, or uncashed rebates are surrendered to the treasurer's office after there has been no contact with the owner for up to three years

Too often, however, recipients believe the letter is a scam and do not respond.

Please know that:

- The treasurer's office never charges money to search for, or return, unclaimed property.
- Unclaimed property can be searched at [www.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov). Click on the I-Cash button and you will be directed to a database where you can search for your name, the name of a business, or a non-profit, and begin the claim process.
- Because the treasurer's office receives unclaimed property twice each year, it is possible that a person can receive additional letters in subsequent years.

Most claims are easy. However, there are claims that require additional information. These include if the property is jointly owned by several people or the original owner has passed away. Please understand these safeguards are in place to protect you. One common fraud scheme involves impersonating a family member to claim property.



On the Horizon

## Event: Live Unclaimed Property Auction

Saturday, May 12 (Chicago): The treasurer's office will hold a live auction of unclaimed property at the Plumbers Local 130 Union Hall in Chicago. Of the \$100,500 worth of unclaimed property items available, noteworthy items include three Lee Godie drawings, a gold national Bicentennial medal and five Bicentennial coin sets, a yellow gold Rolex, currency from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and Columbian Half Dollars to commemorate the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 held in Chicago.

Click [here](#) to register.



On the Horizon

## Event: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

Monday, May 7 (Chicago): Join Treasurer Frerichs as he celebrates Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and honors the accomplishments of community members.

Click [here](#) to register.



On the Horizon

## Event: Small Business Expo in Chicago

Thursday, May 24 (Chicago): Attend one of the largest business-to-business networking events. The Illinois Treasurer's Office will be on site to reconnect business owners and entrepreneurs with their unclaimed property.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

If you would like to contact the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, please visit our [contact us](#) page.

To modify your e-mail options or opt out of receiving the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer's electronic communications, please [click here](#).