



Michael W. Frerichs

ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

JUNE 2018 E-NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Note

Say No More

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office invests \$28 billion on behalf of Illinois residents, units of local government, and families saving for college.

However, we also must invest in people.

That is why I am proud to have hosted an informational session presented by the Chicago branch of the [Say No More](#) campaign.

Say No More is part of a national movement focused on ending the silence that protects those who perpetrate domestic violence and sexual assault. Members promote an honest conversation to confront the excuses and misinformation that allow controlling behavior to survive in Illinois and across our country.

Say No More works with employers. This novel approach teaches employers how to identify potential victims and how to professionally, cautiously, respectfully, approach them and offer help.

Employers are in a unique position to notice subtle changes that occur to a person victimized by such violence. Unexplained work absences, shifts in self-confidence, and no longer available for after-work activities often are seen before any abrasions or bruising are visible.

The gathering hosted by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office allowed human resource professionals to learn ways to identify violence and appropriately intervene.

The moral reasons to intervene are undeniable. There are, however, quantifiable costs. *Say No More* cites studies that estimate the annual cost of domestic violence for U.S. employers exceeds \$8.3 billion, with \$2.5 billion attributed to absenteeism and \$5.8 billion to increased healthcare costs.

There are many challenges facing our state. When we work together, and offer assistance as needed, we can put each other in a position to succeed.

For more information on *Chicago Says No*
More visit www.chicagosaysnomore.org

Sincerely,
Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer



Open The Vault

Transparency breeds trust.

That was the driving force behind an interactive website that details how Illinois invests taxpayer money, manages state debt, and tracks bond ratings. The website is part of an ongoing effort to increase transparency and accountability in Illinois' finances.

The Vault provides details on the treasury's \$28 billion investment portfolio. The information is presented so that users can easily compare, click through, and filter information. Users can choose to track information using charts, tables, or graphs.

Research firms, investment houses, and companies that wish to do business with the treasury are expected to be frequent users of the data.



Photo Contest

Cream of the Crop

The deadline is fast approaching for the Treasurer's Office 6th annual **Cream of the Crop Photo Contest**. The contest encourages young photographers to share their vision of agriculture in our state.

The Treasurer's Office will accept electronic submissions for the **Cream of the Crop Photo Contest** from Illinois students, ages 8-18. Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14, and 15-18. Each student is allowed to submit up to two photos by July 16, 2018.

To read the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at illinoistreasurer.gov and look under the Resource Center on the right side of the screen.

The photo contest is part of the Ag Invest program and offers an opportunity for Illinois students to submit snapshots that depict their vision of the agriculture in our state. Contest winners will be featured in Ag Invest marketing materials and displayed at the 2018 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation's largest agricultural linked deposits. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The Treasurer's Office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible lenders to offer farmers annual and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses, and livestock purchases.

To read the Terms and Conditions of the program, click [here](#).

To enter the Cream of the Crop photo contest, click [here](#).



Saving for College

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office recently held meetings to provide tax and investment professionals with important updates to Illinois' [Bright Start](#) and [Bright Directions](#) college savings programs.

Attendees learned about enhancements to both college savings plans. They also learned about potential tax considerations for these investments and about financial aid.

Independent analyst, Morningstar, now ranks the programs among the best in the country.

Bright Start recently received a Gold Medal. Bright Directions received a Silver Medal for the third consecutive year.

Attendees also learned that a child is more likely to go to college if they know they have a dedicated savings fund for those expenses.

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](#).