



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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Treasurer Frerichs Encourages Residents to Claim the Cash and Property That Belongs to Them

\$3 Billion in Unclaimed Property Available to Claim at

www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH

SPRINGFIELD – A statewide advertising and direct mail push began this week to reunite Illinois residents with more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs said today.

Frerichs drew attention to this advertising and mail blitz to reassure residents that this is legitimate and not a scam.

“We hope our advertising and direct mail efforts encourage residents to claim their cash and property,” Frerichs said. “We are continuously trying new ways to spread the word about unclaimed property and make the claims process easier and faster.”

This specific U.S. mail effort is an attempt to connect thousands of Illinois residents with more than \$77 million in cash that has been recently reported and remitted to the Illinois treasury.

In Fiscal Year 2019, which is July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the treasurer’s office fulfilled approximately 236,000 claims worth more than \$239 million. By comparison, approximately 116,000 claims were fulfilled in Fiscal Year 2018 (\$180 million returned), 58,000 claims in Fiscal Year 2017 (\$159 million returned), and 53,000 claims in Fiscal Year 2016 (\$155 million returned).

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In Illinois, the state treasurer is tasked with safeguarding unclaimed property, such as unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. Illinois holds more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property. **The state treasurer is legally required to return the property to the rightful owners no matter how long it takes.** Individuals can search the state treasurer's database for their name or the name of their business or non-profit at www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH. Because the treasurer's office accepts unclaimed property twice each year, Frerichs encourages individuals to search the database twice each year.

About the Illinois Treasurer

As Illinois State Treasurer, Frerichs is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$30 billion. The portfolio includes \$13 billion in state funds, \$11 billion in college savings plans and \$6 billion on behalf of local and state governments. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital and returns \$42 to the state for every \$1 spent in operations. Frerichs' office protects consumers by safeguarding more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property, encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, assisting people with disabilities save without losing government benefits, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. The Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

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