



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 18, 2023

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State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Honors LGBTQ+ Leaders

Gay Men's Chorus, Bar Association president, DePaul art professor honored during LGBTQ+ History Month celebration

CHICAGO – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today hosted a celebration to commemorate LGBTQ+ History Month at the state government building at 555 W. Monroe St.

The event was an opportunity to reflect on the great achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, and their allies. Frerichs presented awards to leaders in the community, education, legislature, business, labor, and arts.

“Today, we took a moment to recognize the contributions of our LGBTQ+ neighbors,” Frerichs said. “Let’s celebrate their dedication to justice and equal opportunity, and the history surrounding that movement.”

LGBTQ+ History Month was started in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, then a Missouri high school teacher who thought the historical importance of gays and lesbians should be emphasized. From those small steps, the month grew. The Equality Forum now champions the promotion of the history month, shedding new light on past accomplishments at equalityforum.com.

Treasurer Frerichs honored the following individuals for their outstanding commitment to their Illinois communities:

Outstanding Service in Business

LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois | Chicago

Outstanding Service in Leadership

Ray J. Koenig III

President | Chicago Bar Association

Outstanding Commitment in Community Service

Phoenix Center | Springfield

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Outstanding Achievement in Education

Dr. Laura Kina

Vincent de Paul Professor, The Art School | DePaul University

Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official

Hon. Kevin Morrison

Cook County Commissioner | 15th District

Outstanding Commitment in Workforce and Labor

Daniel J. Montgomery

President & COO | Illinois Federation of Teachers

Outstanding Achievement in Sportsmanship

Dr. Eric Lueshen

Co-Founder & Director | LGBT SportSafe Inclusion Program

Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanities

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

About the Illinois Treasurer

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state. As State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'iks) is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$55 billion. The investments help families pay for college and trade school; workers save for a dignified retirement; and local governments process bill payments more efficiently so they can pass along the savings to taxpayers. The office provides financial institutions money to loan to farmers, small business owners, and qualified individuals at below-market rates because better jobs create stronger communities. The office operates the state's largest consumer-protection initiative, the unclaimed property I-Cash program, which has returned a record-breaking \$1.8 billion since Frerichs was elected.

For more news about the State Treasurer's Office, please follow Treasurer Frerichs on X (formerly Twitter) at [@ILTreasurer](#), Threads [@iltreasurer@threads.net](#), Instagram at [ILTreasurer](#), [LinkedIn](#) and on Facebook at [Invested in You – Treasurer Michael Frerichs](#).

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