



Treasurer's Note

Thanks to You, We Did It Again

We did it again.

We set another record on Feb. 1, National Unclaimed Property Day.

A record-setting number of unclaimed property searches – up 292 percent.

A record-setting number of unclaimed property claims initiated – 16,162.

A record-setting value of completed claims - \$8,976,556.86.

It is clear our fight for Illinois families is paying off. In the past few years, we have tripled the number of paid claims; returned more than \$1.3 Billion to Illinois taxpayers; and forced life insurance companies to pay death benefits when they knew a customer passed away.

Efficiency and transparency are at the heart of our historic achievements, just as you would expect from a fiscal watchdog as the state's treasurer. Others have taken note, as well.

The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) is the foremost authority on unclaimed property. Its membership includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and several Canadian provinces.

In 2021, NAUPA bestowed upon my Chief of Staff the Lifetime Achievement Award. "The NAUPA Lifetime Achievement Award is the association's highest honor, presented to individuals who have worked diligently in the unclaimed property arena for many years. Recipients have excelled in their careers inside and outside of their state or corporate boundaries."

In 2017, we were honored with NUAPA's Presidential Distinguished Service Award. "Recipients of this award have demonstrated superior service and dedication to the association's mission and goals—based on time, effort, and willingness to contribute wherever needed."

Our expertise often is sought by other states. As a result, in 2021 leaders from our office chaired three of the five NAUPA committees – the Legal Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Auditors Committee.

The private sector has weighed in, as well. The Unclaimed Property Professionals Association in 2019 honored us with the Above & Beyond Award that "recognizes specific state administrators, staff, and unclaimed property programs for their excellence."

The accolades are nice because they come from real, independent professionals in the public and private sector. The honors reinforce our leadership in this space, and the requests to chair such important public-facing committees is a testament to our professionalism and good work.

Still, nothing beats the feeling when [we return property to the rightful owner](#). For that, I am most grateful of all.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Achieving a Better Life Experience

Galena Welcomes ABLE Special Olympics!

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs kicked-off the Special Olympics Illinois Winter Games in Galena earlier this month.

Frerichs is a strong supporter of the Special Olympics because many of the athletes participate in ABLE – Achieving a Better Life Experience.

ABLE accounts give people with disabilities and their families greater financial independence while preserving benefits. A high-quality, low-cost IL ABLE savings and investment account can be opened by an eligible individual or an authorized individual at any time.

If you know someone who can benefit from such an account, click [here](#) for more information.



Charitable Trust

Help is Available to Non-Profits

The Charitable Trust grant program seeks to help small non-profits with annual budgets of \$1 million or less that provide food assistance, housing assistance, or workforce and economic development assistance. Grant applicants located in an area that suffers from pervasive poverty, unemployment and economic distress will be given special attention. [Applications will be accepted through March 31st.](#)

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs' office manages the program. More than \$3.3 million has been awarded to 163 non-profit organizations since the grant program was established in 2017. Money comes from filing fees non-profits pay when incorporating in the state of Illinois, not personal or property tax dollars.

For this grant cycle, \$200,000 is available to be split between 10 non-profits. Each organization can receive up to \$20,000. Previous grant recipients are eligible if the term of their grant has been complete for at least one calendar year. An independent 11-member committee that oversees the fund's management will select the winners.

For more information, or to apply, click [here](#). Inquiries also can be directed to (217) 836-4590.

**Did You Know?**

State law prohibits investing any portion of the \$27 billion state portfolio in the stock market.

Market volatility understandably has some investors concerned. However, timing the market is not a strategy. In positive and negative markets, asset allocation and diversification are key. The mix should meet short-term needs; the goal is to avoid selling equities in a downturn.

Individual investors cannot control the many influences on the market, especially how the market will react to events any day or week. Individuals should focus on factors they can control, especially their short-and long-term needs, asset diversification, willingness to be open to opportunities, and risk tolerance.



Retire with Dignity

Frerichs Honored as Leader For Retirement Savings Work

The Center for Retirement Initiatives honored Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs with the inaugural 2020 Distinguished State Leader Award.

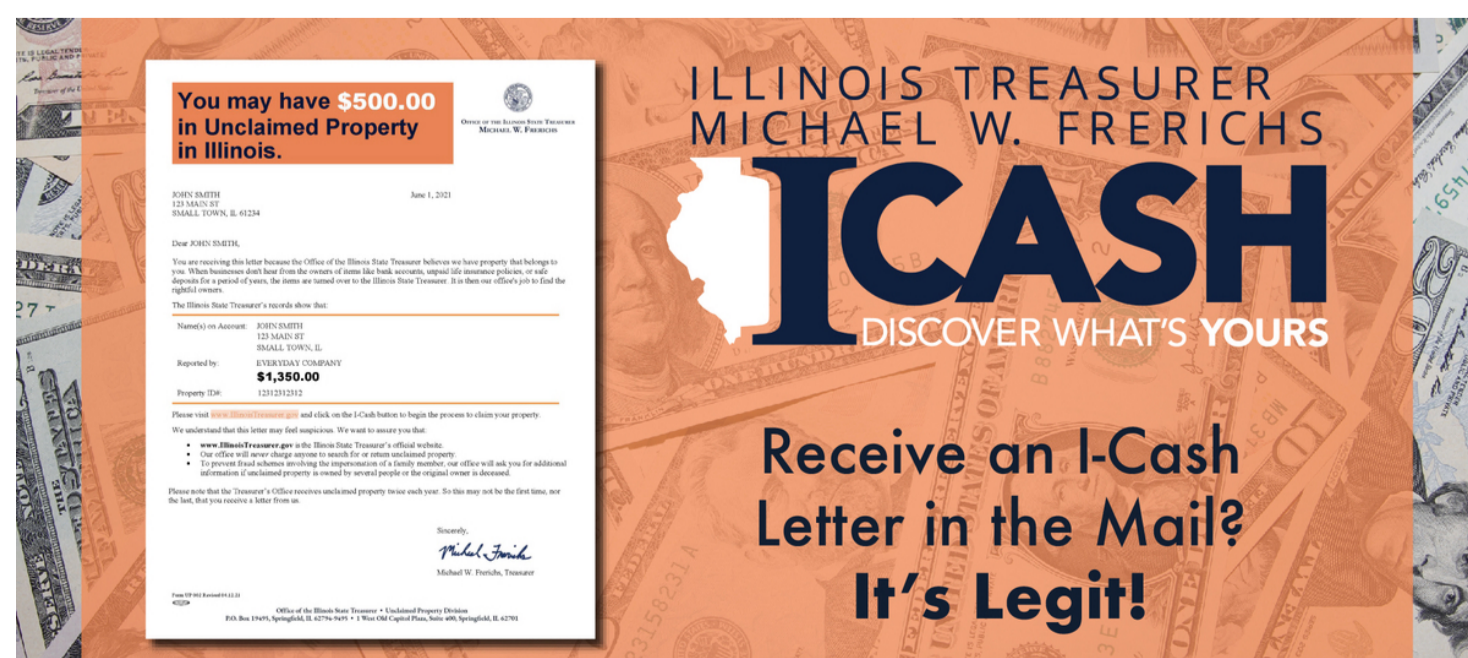
The Center is within the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

The recognition cites the success of Illinois Secure Choice, a statewide retirement savings program that already has almost 52,000 new savers and more than \$14.7 million in savings in just 14 months. (Today, there are more than nearly 100,000 savers and more than \$80 million in savings.)

Calling him a "pioneer" in improving access to retirement savings, the Center said Frerichs' leadership has been felt nationwide in the effort to grow retirement savings for all Americans.

Secure Choice launched in November 2018 and uses an automatic payroll deduction to help workers save their own money for retirement. The IRA investment is portable and travels with the worker when a job change occurs.

More information about Secure Choice is available [here](#).



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](#).

Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs
1 East Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
WWW.ILLINOISTREASURER.GOV

This e-mail has been sent to @, click here to unsubscribe.