



The Office Of State Treasurer  
Denise L. Nappier

## News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 31, 2017

### **RECORD-SETTING NUMBER OF SEARCHES IN OPENING MONTH OF CT BIG LIST CAMPAIGN**

*More than two million web hits, 59,600 new claims for more than \$48 million*

Hartford, CT – Driven by a record response to the latest CT Big List Unclaimed Property outreach campaign, more than 59,600 inquiries and claims were initiated during the first four weeks for assets valued in excess of \$48 million -- the largest number and dollar amount of claims ever opened in a month during the program's 83-year history.



State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier stated, "Our mission is to return unclaimed property to rightful owners. The incredible response to our latest web-based outreach campaign speaks to the growing appeal of the internet as an effective way to increase public awareness of the CT Big List."

The outreach campaign included greater use of internet and digital promotion along with a newly designed CT Big List website and a special online publication of 95,000 new names since the 2013 print publication.

The CT Big List, available online at [www.ctbiglist.com](http://www.ctbiglist.com), features the names of 1.4 million individuals, businesses and organizations that may be entitled to \$771 million in unclaimed property. The user-friendly database is updated weekly with new names.

During the first four weeks of the CT Big List campaign, the Treasury received 2.2 million inquiries on the Treasury's website; 10,351 telephone calls to the toll-free number; and 59,691 claims initiated.

For the last fiscal year ended June 30 2016, the Treasury collected \$111 million in unclaimed property, which was \$8 million more than projected. During that same year, the Treasury returned \$58 million to 15,758 rightful owners.

Unclaimed property includes money from uncashed payroll checks, bank accounts and utility deposits, insurance proceeds, liquidated assets from safe deposit boxes, stocks and bonds. The Treasury receives unclaimed assets from holders such as banks, insurance companies, stock transfer agents, utilities, hospitals, retail, manufacturing and service companies following a loss of contact with the owners of record. These assets are reported and turned over every year, and

are held in custody until claimants come forward or are located. There is no time limit to claim the money.

Prior to 2015, state law required newspaper publication every two years of potential rightful owners of unclaimed property turned over to the Treasury during previous years. Since the migration to a web-based outreach, the cost of promoting the CT Big List has declined while the number of claims has increased.

“Every dollar in unclaimed property that we receive is held in custody until the rightful owner steps forward. Until that happens, the money is deposited into the State’s General Fund and put to good use on behalf of Connecticut’s taxpayers,” Treasurer Nappier said.

“From helping to avoid tax increases during difficult economic times, chipping away at the State’s debt burden or relieving the pressure on local governments to fund services that might otherwise be cut, the Unclaimed Property program has been and continues to be an important component of the State’s revenue stream,” Treasurer Nappier said.

There are two ways to find out whether you may be entitled to unclaimed property:

- Go to [www.ctbiglist.com](http://www.ctbiglist.com) to search for a name. Download a claim form and follow the instructions; OR
- Call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

“I encourage Connecticut residents, businesses and non-profit organization alike to search the CT Big List website to find what’s theirs! And, even if you don’t see your own name on the list, you might notice a relative, friend or a local business with assets waiting to be claimed,” said Treasurer Nappier.

### **2016 campaign**

Comparison of the online outreach campaign to previous print publications indicates a significant increase in website searches and claims initiated. The chart below compares the first 30 days of each campaign:

Year	2016	2013	2011	2009	2007
Telephone calls	10,351	11,557	12,873	14,219	18,692
Website searches on <a href="http://www.ctbiglist.com">www.ctbiglist.com</a>	2,245,101	368,131	243,514	198,966	158,044
Claims initiated	59,691	49,638	48,687	40,185	52,891

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