

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 25, 2017

## UNCLAIMED PROPERTY REVENUES EXCEED \$129 MILLION FOR FY 2017 SALE OF SECURITIES HELP TO BRING IN AN ADDITIONAL \$26.6 MILLION FOR THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND

More than \$41 million Returned to Rightful Owners During the Year

HARTFORD, CT -- State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier announced today that the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division collected more than \$129 million in unclaimed property revenues during Fiscal Year 2017, exceeding projections by roughly \$26.6 million or 26 percent above expectations. These revenues included \$88 million that was voluntarily reported by financial institutions and other businesses, \$12 million from the examination of holder records, and nearly \$29 million that was generated from the sale of unclaimed securities.

Treasurer Nappier stated, "Thanks to a robust stock market, the values of unclaimed securities were nearly double the expected amount. That extra revenue will be deposited into the State's General Fund at just the right time, where it will be put to good use until the rightful owners step forward to claim their share." The Treasury had anticipated that the sale of unclaimed securities would yield \$16 million, but actual sales during the fiscal year generated \$29 million.

Nappier added, "Every dollar received in unclaimed property is one less dollar from our taxpayers, because the proceeds from unclaimed property help to pay for State programs impacting public health, public safety, education and consumer protection."

Also during the 2017 fiscal year, which ended June 30, the Treasury returned \$41 million in unclaimed property to 16,670 rightful owners. During the Nappier administration, from 1999 through FYE 2017, a total of \$653 million has been returned to 298,141 individuals, business, organizations and non-profits.

## Efforts to Collect Unclaimed Property Continue

"We have intensified efforts in recent years to reunite citizens with their money. I am happy to say that the Treasury is one of the few agencies in government that gives money back to people, and we have millions of dollars waiting to be returned to our citizens," said Treasurer Nappier.

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Holders of unclaimed property include businesses and organizations that hold dormant savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stocks, bonds, insurance proceeds, wages or commissions and other financial assets. These assets are turned over annually to the State Treasury after they have gone unclaimed for a period of generally three years. Overall, since Treasurer Nappier took office in 1999, more than \$1.8 billion has been collected as unclaimed property.

The Treasury's interactive website, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, includes roughly 1.5 million names of individuals and organizations that may be entitled to approximately \$809 million in unclaimed property. The website features a searchable database – updated with new names weekly – that makes it easy for claimants to find their names.

Owners of abandoned property may claim their property at any time without charge. Treasurer Nappier emphasized, "Searching the CT Big List is free, easy and only takes a few seconds. Check your name and Find What's Yours!"

There are two ways to "Find What's Yours:"

- Go to the Treasury's web site, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, search, print a claim form and follow the instructions; **or**
- Call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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