



The Office Of State Treasurer
Denise L. Nappier

News

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Find What's Yours:
Electronic Special Edition
of Unclaimed Property Owners Released

Nearly 53,000 New Names to Appear on the Treasury Website

HARTFORD, CT -- State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier today kicked off the 2018 campaign to return millions of dollars in unclaimed property to thousands of rightful owners. Approximately 53,000 new names of individuals, businesses and organizations will be released tomorrow in a special online limited edition of the CT Big List.

“We have millions of dollars waiting to be returned to owners,” Treasurer Nappier said. “Found money is always good! Check www.CTBigList.com and Find What's Yours! And even if you don't see your own name on the list, you might notice a relative who has passed away with unclaimed property waiting to be claimed by their heirs.”

The campaign's aim is to alert everyone whose unclaimed funds have been turned over to the State that the Connecticut Treasury is waiting to reunite those assets with rightful owners or heirs.

The special electronic publication is in addition to the larger CT Big List, which can be found at www.CTBigList.com. That website contains the complete list of about 1.6 million names of individuals and entities that may be entitled to \$888 million in unclaimed property. The website features a searchable database – updated with new names weekly – that makes it easy for residents to find their names.

The Treasurer's Office electronically publishes, every other year, names that have been added to its database since the previous publication. This year's list includes 52,994 new names of individuals, businesses and organizations, including associations and non-profit organizations.

The electronic special edition has more than 24,901 names with property valued between \$50 and \$100; 21,199 names with property valued between \$100 and \$500; 3,130 names with property valued between \$500 and \$1,000; 3,261 names with property valued between \$1,000 and \$5,000; and 503 names with property valued greater than \$5,000. Of the 503 owners, 11 have unclaimed property valued at more than \$100,000, with 1 having property valued at more than \$250,000.

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To make sure the Treasury reaches people across the state, it is sending letters and flyers to libraries, senior centers and the Probate Court Administrator's Office. Electronic ads are being placed in newspapers covering all eight counties. And postcards were mailed to individuals where the Office attained a current address.

Many people have forgotten an old savings account or payroll check that went uncashed, and others are unaware that they have inherited money.

The Treasurer's Office collects and safeguards assets that have been unclaimed for a period of generally three years. The assets, called "unclaimed property," include dormant balances in savings and checking accounts, unredeemed stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares, unreturned security deposits and un-cashed checks such as insurance benefits, commissions or wages.

If you find your name, there are two ways to claim what's yours:

- At www.CTBigList.com, print a claim form and follow the instructions
- Call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

In addition, the Treasury website offers a link to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Databases, which provides access to unclaimed property databases in states across the country. Its free national search site is available at <https://www.unclaimed.org>.

Money being returned to rightful owners at record pace

Since Treasurer Nappier took office in 1999, the Treasury has aggressively worked to notify rightful owners. The office has an ongoing and comprehensive outreach effort, that includes tapping both print and electronic media to publicize that the Treasury has unclaimed property, participating in community events and fairs across the state, and offering the user-friendly searchable website, www.ctbiglist.com and a toll free number, 1-800-833-7318.

During Treasurer Nappier's five terms in office, nearly \$730 million has been returned to more than 320,000 claimants. In Fiscal Year 2018 ending June 30, 2018, the Treasury returned more than \$58 million to more than 18,000 claimants.

Among the claims paid during Fiscal Year 2018, there were 70 claims in excess of \$100,000. Additionally, there were 140 claims paid between \$50,000 and \$100,000; 833 claims paid between \$10,000 and \$50,000; 754 claims paid between \$5,000 and \$10,000; 3,888 claims paid between \$1,000 and \$5,000; and 12,779 claims paid that were \$1,000 or less.

During the first 10 years of the Nappier administration, more than \$193 million was returned to 155,402 claimants. The amount of money returned nearly tripled during the second half of her tenure -- from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2018, the office returned more than \$536 million to 165,180 rightful owners.

“We have stepped up our outreach efforts to reunite citizens with their money, and achieved significant results. The beneficiaries of our efforts are individuals, and businesses across the state,” said Treasurer Nappier. “That’s what our work is all about – we are one of the few agencies in government that is devoted to giving money back to people!”

Treasurer Nappier emphasized that searching the Treasury’s unclaimed property website is free.

State residents are regularly contacted by firms, often called “finders,” offering to find their unclaimed funds for fees that can go as high as 10 percent of assets recovered. Some individuals hire these firms because they believe it is the only way to recover their lost assets. But that’s simply not true.

“My advice is that before you send your hard earned money to strangers, search the CT Big List – there is no charge for what rightfully belongs to you,” Treasurer Nappier said.

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