



ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

WHAT'S NEW

TREASURER'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of our monthly newsletter.

This publication will inform you

of important updates on programs, events, and initiatives in the Office of the Illinois Treasurer.

I am new to the role of Illinois Treasurer, and I hope to work with you and all of Illinois' citizens. Before being elected Treasurer, I served in the Illinois State Senate, and championed government efficiency, job creation, and education investments.

As the state's chief investment officer, I pledge to expand access to savings plans for colleges and trade schools, increase financial education among all ages, and work toward a retirement with dignity and security for all of our residents.

I look forward to working with you on new, innovative ways that we will use to build a better financial future for Illinois.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs

WHAT IS THE TREASURER'S OFFICE?

The Illinois Treasurer is the state's chief investment officer. The office invests money to address today's challenges and the challenges we will face years from now.

When we plan, the results support families and strengthen the middle class. That return on investment helps our communities and our state.

We do this by [expanding paths to college and trade schools](#) through our college savings plans. We know educational attainment is the best predictor of employability.

We do this through financial literacy programs for all ages. Financial literacy leads to better decision making.

Together, all of this leads to a retirement with security and dignity.

[Treasurer Michael Frerichs is a Certified Public Finance Officer.](#) The state's \$27 billion investment portfolio includes \$7 billion in savings for college and trade school and \$5 billion on behalf of local and state government units. Our investment approach is conservative to ensure the safety of principal.

The Treasurer's Office was created as part of Illinois' incorporation in 1818.



LEARN MORE AT: WWW.ILLINOISTREASURER.GOV





DO WE HAVE MONEY THAT BELONGS TO YOU?

It is easy to see if the Office of the Illinois Treasurer has unclaimed cash or property that belongs to you.

Visit www.illinoistreasurer.gov to search for property in as little as three minutes. Last year, 1 in 4 Illinois adults who searched the I-Cash database found forgotten property. The average claim value was \$1,000. Don't wait. Visit now!



CREAM OF THE CROP PHOTO CONTEST

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announces the 3rd annual Cream of the Crop agriculture photo contest for Illinois photographers ages 8 to 18.

"We hope students take the opportunity to showcase their creativity and learn more about Illinois agriculture," Frerichs said.

Participants must be Illinois residents and amateur photographers. Contestants will compete in three age categories: 8 to 10, 11 to 14, and 15 to 18. Each contestant is limited to two photo entries. Photo entries must be in JPG format, 300 dpi, and no larger than 5MB.

To find more contest rules and to submit photos, go to the treasurer's office website at www.illinoistreasurer.gov. Click on the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest link and follow upload instructions or read the rules. The submission deadline is July 9, 2015.

Winners and runners-up will be notified by telephone call and email. Winning entries will be published online and in print.

The Cream of the Crop photo contest is a part of the Treasurer's Ag Invest program. For more information, visit www.illinoistreasurer.gov, call (217) 558-6217 or email aginvest@illinoistreasurer.gov.

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PERFORMANCE REVIEW TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY

The Office of the Illinois Treasurer is undergoing an independent review to evaluate performance, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. Plante Moran, a governmental assurance and consulting firm, is reviewing accounting, budgeting, and cash management at no cost to taxpayers.

"We are working diligently to restore trust and integrity in government, starting with the Treasurer's Office," Treasurer Frerichs said. "The public should be confident that we are looking at every opportunity to streamline processes, improve services, and reduce costs. With the expertise of Plante Moran, together we can move Illinois forward."

Plante Moran is a large, Midwestern-based firm with offices in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. It is ranked 13th nationally in size and 6th largest in the state of Illinois.

ILLINOIS TREASURER ANNOUNCES APRIL ONLINE AUCTION FOR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Commemorative coins, jewelry, and comic books are among the thousands of items offered for the online auction hosted by the Office of the Illinois Treasurer. The online auction begins April 27, 2015. A preview of items is available [here](#).

The items are auctioned only after 10 years of public and private attempts to reunite the property with its owners. Unclaimed property can be searched by name [here](#).

Under Illinois law, the Illinois Treasurer's office is the custodian of unclaimed property, including lost bank accounts, insurance policy proceeds, and forgotten safe deposit boxes. Notification efforts will continue and auction proceeds will be held for rightful owners until they are identified.

All auction items have been appraised by an outside vendor. [Registration is required to bid on auction items](#). Questions about auction items can be answered at (217) 557-8567.

SELECTION SET FOR COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM MANAGER

The firm that will manage the Bright Directions College Savings Program will be selected in April.

Bright Directions is a 529-qualified tuition program that provides investment options to save for college or trade school.

The Request for Proposal ("RFP") seeks a firm that will be responsible for administering the program, customer service, record keeping, marketing, and distribution services. The RFP includes weighted evaluation factors for bidders that are Illinois based and promote diversity. Illinois is believed to be the first state in the country to include such a request in a 529 plan RFP.

The current program management term ends Nov. 15, 2015. The new management agreement will run through July 19, 2017 to coincide with the term of Illinois' other advisor-sold 529 savings program called Bright Start Advisor.