

News Release

February 1 Recognized as Unclaimed Property Day in Maryland

Governor Moore issues a statewide proclamation; Comptroller Lierman urges Marylanders to search for and claim forgotten assets

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (February 1, 2023) — Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman and the Office of the Comptroller today encourage Marylanders to celebrate February 1, 2024, as Unclaimed Property Day in Maryland. This day highlights Maryland’s free unclaimed property service and prompts individuals to search for and claim lost and forgotten assets. **Governor Wes Moore** issued [a proclamation](#) to commemorate the day.

Nearly 33 million people in the United States have unclaimed property, according to the [National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators](#) (NAUPA). NAUPA estimates that states return \$5 billion in unclaimed property every year. In 2023, the Maryland State Comptroller’s Unclaimed Property Division brought in \$315 million in unclaimed property from businesses and organizations and returned \$81 million to rightful owners. In her submitted comments, the Comptroller noted that many states, including Maryland, have well-established programs that are effective at reuniting citizens with their unclaimed funds.

For more than 50 years, Maryland has received and safeguarded forgotten funds, including uncashed checks, insurance proceeds, stocks, dividends, financial accounts, savings bonds, and valuable items like jewelry left in forgotten safety deposit boxes.

“I am proud of the unclaimed property program in our agency and its work safeguarding and reuniting individuals with money and other forgotten assets while ensuring businesses comply with the law by reporting unclaimed property to our agency,” **Comptroller Lierman** said. “Because our agency is continuously accepting assets from financial institutions and elsewhere, we encourage Marylanders to regularly check our website to see if they have unclaimed money or property available. We want to put money back into the hands of Marylanders.”

Unclaimed property is usually money reported to the Comptroller's Office by financial institutions, insurance companies, and corporations. If an account at a financial institution or business has no activity or a check is unclaimed for three years in Maryland, the property in that account is considered unclaimed and must be reported to the state.

Since 2007, the Comptroller's Office has returned more than \$1 billion in unclaimed property to property owners. In Maryland, there is no time limit by which individuals or legitimate heirs must claim the property.

The Office of the Comptroller provides a free service to reunite Marylanders with unclaimed assets, including an online search tool. To learn more about unclaimed property and to use the state's free online search tool, visit <https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/unclaimed-property/>.

Claims can be [filed online](#). Claimants should follow all instructions that fit their circumstances. Once a claim is received, the Unclaimed Property Division will review the claim and determine if additional information is needed. Claims processing can take up to twelve weeks depending on the season.

Questions about the program or submissions can be sent to unclaim@marylandtaxes.gov or call 410-767-1700.

Marylanders can share their unclaimed property stories on social media using the hashtag: **#GetYourMoneyMD**.

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