



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

LATREASURY.COM

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2024

Governor Landry dedicates Feb. 1, 2024 to Treasury's Unclaimed Property efforts

BATON ROUGE, LA – Governor Jeff Landry has proclaimed Feb. 1, 2024 as Unclaimed Property Day in Louisiana in support of Louisiana Treasury’s efforts to return property to its rightful owners.

Feb. 1 is also National Unclaimed Property Day, and unclaimed property offices nationwide are promoting this special day.

Louisiana Treasury oversees the safeguarding of unclaimed property for the state. Unclaimed property is money and not physical property. This money encompasses a wide range of assets, from unpaid life insurance benefits to dormant bank accounts, uncashed payroll checks, stock dividends, and utility deposit refunds. There is no time limit on claiming and if a person is deceased, their heirs are entitled to it.

At present there is over \$1.2 billion waiting to be claimed with \$759 million having been returned via 1.5 million checks over the past 50 years since Louisiana’s Unclaimed Property program was initiated. Statistically, one in six Louisianans has money in the system, with the average claim being around \$900.

When the rightful owners of these assets cannot be located, the companies holding them are obligated to send them to Louisiana Treasury’s Unclaimed Property program for safekeeping. The most common reason the money becomes lost is due to an old address.

“Whether it’s a forgotten paycheck from several years ago or a long-lost life insurance policy from a decade past, this is your money and you never lose your right to claim it,”

said Treasurer John Fleming, MD. “It’s your money, and Treasury is dedicated to holding it in trust until it finds its way back to you.”

Fleming encourages residents to not only check LaCashClaim.org for their own names, but to also check for the names of their family members, deceased relatives, businesses, organizations and churches, too. As of last September, you can now also search for your funds straight from the LA Wallet app on your smartphone.

He added that there is never a cost to search for or claim unclaimed property.

“No matter which way you choose, it’s free and easy to make a claim. And it’s your money,” said Fleming.