

June 16, 2017

Beaufort County Treasurer Hosts Successful Unclaimed Property Event

South Carolina [State Treasurer Curtis Loftis](#) and Beaufort [County Treasurer Maria Walls](#) hosted an [Unclaimed Property Event](#) at the Bluffton Branch Library on June 15. Loftis and Walls helped Beaufort County residents find more than \$200,000 in unclaimed money. The State Treasurer's Office currently has over \$550 million in unclaimed property across the state. Individuals who did not attend the event can search the unclaimed funds database on the State Treasurer's website at www.treasurer.sc.gov or by clicking [here](#).

Additional Unclaimed Property Resources:

[Missing Money](#)

[Unclaimed Money from the Government](#)

Common Questions:

How do I find out if I have unclaimed property?

Go to the official website: www.treasurer.sc.gov and click on "Unclaimed Property".

What is unclaimed property?

Unclaimed property refers to accounts in financial institutions and companies with no activity generated or contact with the owner for a period of time. Common forms of unclaimed property include savings or checking accounts, stocks, uncashed dividends or payroll checks, refunds, traveler's checks, trust distributions, insurance payments or refunds and life insurance policies, annuities, certificates of deposit, customer overpayments and utility security deposits.

How does unclaimed property end up at the State Treasurer's Office?

If a company cannot locate the owner of funds after a certain period of time (usually five years), the company cannot keep the money. Acting in the best interest of consumers, every state has a law that requires unclaimed funds to be sent to the State's Unclaimed Property Program, where the funds are held until the rightful owner can be found. There is no time limit on how long the State holds the money. The rightful owner always has the right to claim the funds.

What if the original owner is deceased?

The Personal Representative for the estate can make a claim on the property by providing a copy of the death certificate, a currently dated Certificate of Appointment from the Probate Court, as well as proof of ownership of the property.

Is there any charge or fee for this program?

No. There is no fee for this service whether or not property is found under your name. If you are contacted by an individual or firm offering to return property to you for a fee, contact the [South Carolina Unclaimed Property Program Offices](#) before signing an agreement at unclaimed@sto.sc.gov or 803-737-4771.

How much money was returned to its rightful owners last year by the Treasurer's Office?

\$23.2 million was returned.

For more information, contact the Beaufort County Treasurer's Office at 843-255-2600 or visit www.beaufortcountytreasurer.com.