

Bivens advises to check for unclaimed property

Do you have unclaimed property? State Treasurer's Office returns more than \$80.5 million since January 2024



State Representative Ryan Bivens

With the cost of living on the rise — from grocery aisles to the gas pump — every extra dollar can make a difference for Kentucky families. I thought it might be helpful to share a bit about Kentucky's Unclaimed Property Fund. You might be surprised to learn that the state could have money or assets that belong to you or someone you love.

Right now, the Kentucky Unclaimed Property Fund holds nearly \$800 million waiting to be claimed by individuals, businesses, and local governments across the Commonwealth. That is a lot of money sitting on the sidelines — and some of it could belong to you.

Unclaimed property refers to financial assets that have been lost, forgotten, or left inactive over time. This can include dormant bank accounts, uncashed paychecks, unclaimed insurance benefits, utility deposits, or even the contents of forgotten safe deposit boxes. The Kentucky State Treasury serves as a steward for these funds, keeping them safe until they are re-

turned to their rightful owners. In many cases, Kentuckians also discover unclaimed property that once belonged to a family member who has passed away. The program is administered by State Treasurer Mark Metcalf's Office, which works diligently to reunite Kentuckians with what is rightfully theirs. Common types of unclaimed property include old payroll checks, forgotten safe deposit boxes, life insurance proceeds, and stock certificates that haven't been cashed in. After about three years of inactivity, these funds are turned over by banks, insurance companies, and

other institutions to the Treasury for safekeeping. Since taking office, Treasurer Metcalf's team returned more than \$80 million to thousands of Kentuckians. That's money going right back into communities — helping pay bills, cover tuition, or fund family vacations.

Checking to see if you have unclaimed property is quick, free, and secure. You can search the Treasury's online database at treasury.ky.gov, where you'll find the Unclaimed Property section. The site also connects to MissingMoney.com, a national database that allows you to search for prop-

erty in other states. You can file a claim, check the status of a previous claim, and even locate property that may have belonged to a loved one.

It's easy to lose track of an old account or uncashed check — especially during big life changes like moving, changing jobs, or settling an estate. Taking a few minutes to search could uncover something valuable that has been waiting for you.

A quick note of caution: as with anything involving money, scammers sometimes try to take advantage of this process. The Treasurer's Office will never ask you to pay a fee or provide credit card information to search for

or claim your property. If you ever receive a suspicious call or letter, verify it by contacting the office directly at 1-800-465-4722.

You might not strike it rich, but you never know — your next grocery trip or utility bill might just get a little easier, thanks to a forgotten account that has finally found its way home.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

Congressman Guthrie celebrates passage of Three-Bill Appropriations Package

Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02) issued the following statement following the House passage of H.R. 6938, the Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act.

"I am thrilled to support the passage of this legislation, which counters the opioid epidemic, unleashes our nation's vast energy potential, supports our hardworking law enforcement officers, and modernizes our nuclear arsenal," said Congressman Guthrie. "I'm especially proud of the inclusion of \$13.9 million in funding for local projects across Kentucky's Second District. These projects will invest in crucial infrastructure projects and keep our communities safe."

Background:

Once signed into law, H.R. 6938 will allocate nearly \$175 billion across three appropriations bills to fund projects and programs to support law enforcement, crack down on illicit drugs, unleash American energy, and support new water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This bill now awaits consideration in the Senate.

This bill allocates over \$4.3 million for

six community projects requested by Congressman Guthrie.

\$817,491 to improve and replace undersized waterlines in Vine Grove, improving water pressure, reliability, and providing highly effective fire flow protection for the community.

\$854,400 towards infrastructure upgrades at the Greenville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

\$750,000 to rehabilitate the wastewater collection system for Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District, previously the Bullitt County Sanitation District, that serves the cities of Hillview, Pioneer Village, Fox Chase, Hebron Estates, and Hunters Hollow.

\$656,000 to replace 3,000 linear feet of galvanized water lines that have been in service since 1938 in Logan County.

\$470,617 for the Barren County Sheriff's Department to purchase critical technology improvements such as body and cruiser cameras, software for cell phone recovery and access technology to expedite criminal investigations, license plate identification management equipment, a firearm training simulator, thermal imaging equipment, and digital speed monitors.

\$796,528 for the Daviess County Sheriff's

Office Community Response and Safeguard Initiative to purchase critical equipment and provide tactical services that are needed to safeguard the public.

Congressman Guthrie and Senator McConnell continue to work together advocating for county projects in the district. Congressman Guthrie supported a provision, secured by Senator McConnell as a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, providing \$9.25 million to support a water treatment plant modernization effort within the Edmonson County Water District. The package also includes a provision, secured by Senator McConnell and supported by Congressman Guthrie, for Warren County to receive \$352,000 for a new emergency operations center and updated law enforcement equipment.

This legislation also notably:

Provides \$300 million for Interagency Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces to enhance multi-agency efforts to combat transnational organized crime and reduce the availability of illicit drugs.

Increases funding for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) by \$63 million to end the scourge of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and to continue to support notable take-downs, including the co-founder of the notorious Sinaloa Cartel.

Includes provisions related to state and local law enforcement assistance and community-oriented policing services programs established under my SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

Provides \$20.38 billion for the continued modernization of the nuclear weapons stockpile and infrastructure.

Prohibits the sale of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum

Reserve to the Chinese Communist Party.

Includes \$3.27 billion for the National

Park Service to support the continued success of parks like Mammoth Cave.

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He went on to say that after the bills are assigned to the various committees, that is where the real work and the power comes into play.

"Not all bills are going to be discussed on the House floor," Bivens said. "The ones with true merit will be heard in the committee and then if it passes through the committee, will go to the House floor. If it passes in the

House, then it will go to the Senate and go through the exact same process."

Bivens may be reached by email at ryan.bivens@kylegislature.gov or by leaving a message at the Legislative Research Committee at 502-564-8100.

This session of the legislature is a 60 day session and is scheduled to adjourn on April 15, 2026.

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