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Florida unclaimed property reporting 2020

FLTreasureHunt.GovThis question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submission.Your support ID is: 2257403754182300075 TAMPA BAY, Fla. — More than \$1 billion worth of unclaimed property is waiting to be collected by its rightful owners throughout Florida.That's right, you may have money to your name and not know it. Most of the unclaimed money comes from "dormant accounts in financial institutions, insurance and utility companies, securities and trust holdings," according to the Florida Department of Financial Services.The best part about the unclaimed funds is that they never expire and can be claimed at any time at no cost. To see if you have unclaimed money or property, visit FLTreasureHunt.gov.In addition to the unclaimed funds with the Florida Department of Financial Services, thousands of dollars are waiting to be claimed at your local clerk of court office.Unlike with the Florida Department of Financial Services, the funds at the clerk of court offices must be claimed by a certain date otherwise they are forfeited and never see your bank account.Click on your county below to see if you have money waiting to be claimed and when you must claim it by: Hillsborough County Manatee County Pasco County Pinellas County Polk County If you get lucky, you'll find your name and have a few extra bucks in your pocket. FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Think of it as a treasure hunt, but one that you can do from your cell phone or computer screen. And one that can give your bank account a boost this holiday season.The state of Florida is holding more than \$2 billion in unclaimed property waiting for rightful owners to come forward and take what belongs to them. Of that, more than \$835 million is right here in South Florida, the state's CFO Jimmy Patronis says.To be precise, there's \$503,124,576 sitting unclaimed in Miami-Dade County, \$319,252,342 in Broward and \$13,230,797 in Monroe.This unclaimed property can be the result of bank accounts left dormant, unclaimed insurance proceeds, stocks, refunds, or even abandoned safe deposit boxes.So, how do you check to see if any of this money belongs to you?Head over to fltreasurehunt.gov and plug in your info to search.One in five Floridians has unclaimed funds from a forgotten financial account, the state says, and it's free to claim it."Currently, the Miami area holds more than \$835 million in unclaimed property and now is the perfect time to search to see if you or your business has unclaimed property in Florida," Patronis said in a news release. "With the holiday season being an expensive time of year, we could all use a little extra spending money. This year has been a very difficult year for most, and my goal in doing this is to spread a little holiday cheer by helping Floridians find cash they didn't know they had."Patronis says that since he took office in 2017, the state has returned more than \$1 billion of this money to residents.About \$323 million was paid out last year.Copyright 2020 by WPLG Local10.com - All rights reserved. TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - If you're sitting around at home during the coronavirus pandemic, you might think about searching for treasure. Not buried treasure, but unclaimed property being held by the state. After accounts have been inactive for seven years, state law requires banks and others to turn over the unclaimed assets to the state.The state reports its holding property for one in five Floridians.Radio personality Shane Collins said he got bored during the pandemic, searched FLTreasureHunt.gov on a lark and hit the jackpot."I just put in my name and started searching," Collins said. "Literally, there were, I don't mind telling you, thousands of dollars in my name that I had no clue about. If I had not searched that website, I would not have found that money." Along with individuals, 1.3 million businesses have unclaimed property totaling nearly half a billion dollars."I put in my name -- my first name, my middle initial. And then I did it with my middle initial and my last name, and it pulled up different accounts all across the state of Florida where I had worked in broadcasting or where I had lived or made business transactions," Collins said.Collins said the good fortune couldn't have come at a better time."I couldn't believe the amount of money that was sitting in ... the state fund for years," Collins said. "Now, it's coming back to me and my family at the perfect time. We are so grateful."The real property ends up in a vault in the state capital. It's usually auctioned in the spring, but this year's auction has been delayed until fall. And fear not, if the state has already sold your treasure, you're still entitled to the money that it brought in. The proceeds from any property or cash not claimed goes into the state education fund.And there is more good news: You never lose the ability to claim what's rightfully yours, even decades later.Copyright 2020 by WJXT News4Jax - All rights reserved. When a bank or other financial account remains inactive long enough, the money gets turned over to the state.You might ask, who forgets about a bank account? But it happens enough that Florida is holding about \$2 billion in unclaimed property, including money and items like watches, jewelry, coins, stamps and other collectibles from unused safe deposit boxes.The state doesn't keep the money in a big bank account. Instead, it spends it on schools but pays back the amount (or returns the property) if the rightful owner comes forward. The state also employs investigators to track down account holders.Last year, the state received about \$536 million and returned about \$323 million, though some of that was from money received in previous years.Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis. [DFS FLORIDA]"One of my top priorities ... is returning every cent of unclaimed funds and tangible property in the state to its rightful owners," said state Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis.Patronis' office estimates the odds at 1 in 5 that some of it is yours. To find out, go to www.fltreasurehunt.gov and enter your information. You can even check to see if family members or friends have a windfall. If so, the website walks you through the next steps.Mike Bracken, president of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, [National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators]Mark Bracken, president of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, recommended checking the website every year. Like most states, Florida updates its list regularly. The state has no time limit on how long a rightful owner has to collect unclaimed property."We constantly fight the misconception that people know where their money is," said Bracken, who also runs Massachusetts' unclaimed property program, which is holding \$3.4 billion. "I say, 'Hey, if you knew where your money was, I wouldn't have \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property.'"To check other states, try www.missingmoney.com.Top 20: The largest unclaimed property amounts in Florida1. \$6.9 million (Miami)*2. \$2.9 million (Miami) 3. \$2 million (Lauderhill) 4. \$866,604 (Atlantis)5. \$787,640 (Lauderdale-by-the-Sea) 6. \$689,142 (Miami) 7. \$650,435 (Crescent City) 8. \$526,724 (Tampa) 9. \$519,374 (Boynton Beach) 10. \$420,358 (Hollywood) 11. \$408,702 (Melbourne) 12. \$395,263 (Sebring) 13. \$393,800 (Tampa)14. \$391,270 (Miami)15. \$385,074 (Miami) 16. \$379,496 (Miami Shores)17. \$377,292 (Miami) 18. \$362,787 (Hialeah) 19. \$356,409 (Fort Lauderdale) 20. \$356,101 (Miami)* The location of the financial institution that turned the money over to the state. Source: Florida Chief Financial OfficerTips for keeping track of your accountsReview your bank and other financial accounts regularly. It may make sense to consolidate accounts if some of them aren't being used often.Set up an automatic deposit or transfer. Even a small amount added every year or two will keep most accounts active. In general, it takes three to five years for an account to become officially dormant.Make sure your bank and other financial institutions have your current address. When you move, make updating your address part of your checklist. "The bank is going to reach out to you before they turn the property over to the state," Bracken said. "But if they have the wrong address, the search can get difficult."Let trusted family members know where you have accounts. That way if something happens to you, they know which institutions to contact.

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