

# NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of the Indiana Attorney General

## Contact

Erin Reece - Consumer PIO  
317.232.0168

Bryan Corbin – Policy/Litigation PIO  
317.233.3970

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WANTED: Rightful owners of \$23.2 million dollars** *Attorney General Greg Zoeller reminds Northern Indiana residents millions are waiting to be claimed*

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Residents in Northern Indiana have millions of dollars that's been forgotten - **\$23,151,409.48** to be exact. Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller stopped by Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend today to talk about the state's unclaimed property program and show people how to search for and claim unclaimed property.

"In every county around the state Hoosiers have money they have forgotten about or never knew existed. It is my duty to inform Hoosiers how to find and claim it. This money belongs to someone and I'm encouraging people to search for themselves, and their family, friends and neighbors," Zoeller said. "With more than \$350 million waiting to be claimed it is my goal to make sure this money finds its way back to the rightful owners."

Zoeller encouraged all Hoosiers to visit [www.IndianaUnclaimed.com](http://www.IndianaUnclaimed.com) as well as download the new, free mobile application to search for unclaimed property belonging to themselves, friends, relatives or neighbors. Businesses and charities can also have unclaimed property.

Financial institutions and other holders are required annually to turn over the assets of accounts in which there has been no activity for several years, depending on the type of account. Unclaimed property includes investment earnings, insurance proceeds and benefits, wages, and money from savings and checking accounts. Less than one percent of unclaimed assets are tangible, physical items, such as those found in safe-deposit boxes. **It is important to note that unclaimed property does NOT include abandoned vehicles, real estate or other such items.**

In 2011, **close to 60,000 new properties** valued at nearly **\$6.3 million dollars** were reported and originate from the eight county Northern Indiana region. This money belongs to residents or former residents of the area or their heirs. The state holds these assets for 25 years after they are reported.

The total value and number of properties added to the Unclaimed Property database in 2011 and the sum of all unclaimed property from 2000 - 2011 from counties in the Northern Indiana region are listed below:

County	2011 Property Totals	Total \$ Value added in 2011	Total \$ Value Claimable
Elkhart	16,063	\$1,503,009.74	\$6,213,771.86
Fulton	1,585	\$126,844.69	\$443,369.00
Kosciusko	6,664	\$689,197.07	\$2,251,794.48
LaGrange	1,922	\$140,220.54	\$490,199.49
Marshall	3,829	\$222,230.22	\$930,764.88
Pulaski	1,023	\$142,085.17	\$349,340.98
Saint Joseph	27,107	\$3,338,621.84	\$11,839,614.00
Starke	1,775	\$105,484.46	\$632,554.79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59,968</b>	<b>\$6,267,693.73</b>	<b>\$23,151,409.48</b>

In total, the state's unclaimed property database holds more than **\$350 million** in assets. In 2011, the attorney general's office **returned** more than 77,000 properties totaling **\$44.3 million** in unclaimed property. Last year, more than **\$2.5 million** was returned to individuals with last known addresses in Northern Indiana.

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Every year, the attorney general is required to advertise the list of unclaimed property turned over to the state during the previous year. The announcements run twice in a two week period in the newspaper closest to the last known address of the property owner.

Below are the listing dates for the Northern Indiana region only.

County	Newspaper	Dates of Publication
Elkhart	ELKHART TRUTH	May 17 & May 27
Pulaski	WINAMAC PULASKI CO. JOURNAL	May 16 & May 26
St. Joseph	SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE	May 17 & May 27
Starke	KNOX LEADER	May 17 & May 24
La Grange	LA GRANGE STANDARD	May 15 & May 22
Marshall	PLYMOUTH PILOT-NEWS	May 16 & May 26
Fulton	ROCHESTER SENTINEL	May 16 & May 26
Kosciusko	WARSAW TIMES-UNION	May 16 & May 26

A public awareness campaign highlighting where Hoosiers can look for unclaimed property includes newspaper, radio, online and television ads. Also added to the campaign this year is a new, free mobile application that allows Hoosiers to search and begin a claim for unclaimed property free from their iPhone or Android.

The Unclaimed Property database can be searched 24-hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.IndianaUnclaimed.com](http://www.IndianaUnclaimed.com). The Unclaimed Property Division's toll-free number is **1-866-IN-CLAIM (1-866-462-5246)**. This is a free service of the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

**Media Contact:**

Jaime Barb  
Office of the Indiana Attorney General  
317-883-4558  
[Jaime.Barb@atg.in.gov](mailto:Jaime.Barb@atg.in.gov)