



# State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

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## **New Jersey Ad Campaign Seeks Thousands of Rightful Owners of Millions of Dollars in Unclaimed Property**

TRENTON – State Treasurer David Rousseau announced today that New Jersey planned a series of advertisements beginning this week as part of the continuing effort to find thousands of State residents who are the rightful owners of millions of dollars in unclaimed property.

“The advertisements published in newspapers around the state will list approximately 45,000 names of those who are the rightful owners of forgotten bank accounts, payroll checks, utility deposits and many other types of property,” Treasurer Rousseau said. “We place these ads twice a year as just one of several tools we use in our ongoing effort to reunite New Jersey residents with their lost property.

“In Fiscal Year 2009 the State’s Office of Unclaimed Property returned \$80 million to about 42,000 New Jersey residents,” Rousseau said. “We encourage the public to check the ads to see if they have a claim on any property that accumulates interest as it is being held for safe keeping.”

The newspaper advertisements were published today and will also be published tomorrow, and on August 27 and 28. Approximately 45,000 names of those whose unclaimed property with a monetary value of \$100 or more was turned over to the State in FY 2009 will be listed in the ads. The ads will appear in a daily or weekly newspaper in each of the 21 counties in the State. The lists will include the name and last known address of the owners of abandoned funds as reported by entities turning over unclaimed property to the State.

The Unclaimed Property Office maintains the State's online searchable database for abandoned assets at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation>. In addition to the database, the Unclaimed Property Office attends a number of community events and trade shows around the State throughout the year and makes information available. Upcoming events include the Union County Music Festival in Clark on Sept. 12 and 13; the Point Pleasant Beach Festival of the Sea on Sept. 19; the Mercer County Italian American Festival in West Windsor on Sept. 25-27; and the Chatsworth Cranberry Festival on Oct. 17 and 18.

Following a period of dormancy, property turned over to the State is remitted for safekeeping to the Division of Taxation's Unclaimed Property Office. There is no time limit on claiming property and the State pays interest from the time it receives the property until it is claimed.

Those who believe they may be entitled to a claim can complete the form found on the website or in the newspaper ads. The form must be returned along with credentials that establish identity, including a copy of a driver's license or other legal photo identification, and proof of Social Security Number or Federal Employer ID Number. The Unclaimed Property Office will then send the claimant a packet that identifies the property being held. Claimants identified as the rightful owner of property will receive it in four to six weeks.

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