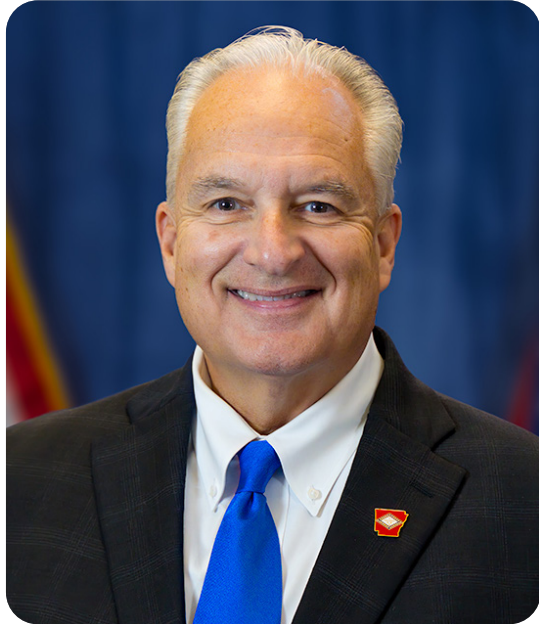




DENNIS MILLIGAN  
AUDITOR OF STATE

# EMAIL NEWSLETTER



*"I want to be known as the state auditor who has given back the most money in unclaimed property of any state auditor in history."*

## Welcome to my first email newsletter!

Through this quarterly newsletter, I hope to inform Arkansans about the work we're doing in the Auditor of State's office. I serve as the state's accountant and process payroll for about 800 state elected officials, government employees, prosecuting attorneys and their deputies, and Supreme Court justices. In addition, I administer the state's unclaimed property program, better known as **The Great Arkansas Treasure Hunt.**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### TO GET YOUR MONEY BACK MORE EFFICIENTLY

We have over \$400 million that belongs to current or former Arkansans, and I'm trying to get that money off our books and back into your hands where it belongs. One of the ways I hope to do this in the coming legislative session is by seeking approval from the legislature to pass Senate Bill 14 by Sen. Dave Wallace and Rep. Jon Milligan (no relation). This bill would allow me to implement a Data Match program – making it legal for my office to automatically mail you a check for your unclaimed property, so long as the **data matches.**

We have roughly 360,000 unclaimed properties worth more than \$83 million that would be eligible for Arkansas' Unclaimed Property Data Match program. Twenty-four (24) other states around the country have implemented similar initiatives.

Why? **It's the right thing to do.** This isn't the state's money; it's the citizens' money.

## REPORTING UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Businesses and financial institutions are required to report and remit any unclaimed property to my office annually. We receive more than 8,000 reports which include more than 400,000 owner properties each year.

Prior to my administration, these reports were sent to us via postal mail. Members of my warrants and compliance teams would then record the data *manually*. One of the first practices I implemented when I took office was updating this process to where we could receive reports and remittances (payments) online.

In my first year in office, 85% of businesses reporting unclaimed property utilized this online system. This simple solution has improved efficiency and cut down *months* of manual work by my compliance and warrants teams.

## CAMPAIGN PROMISES FULFILLED

While campaigning for Auditor of State, I made the citizens of Arkansas two promises:

I would convert the Auditor of State's outdated payroll system to the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System, or AASIS, which most state agencies use.

Second, I would be the Auditor of State who returned the most unclaimed property in history back to citizens.

In my first year as Auditor of State, I began the transition from an old, outdated accounting system to the AASIS system, and on July 1, 2024, that process was completed successfully. Making good on my second promise, I returned more than \$36 million back to citizens during my first full fiscal year in office – more money returned than in any other fiscal year in at least the last decade.



## THE GREAT Arkansas TREASURE HUNT

### UNCLAIMED PROPERTY OUTREACH

My unclaimed property & outreach teams have been working hard for you since Day 1. Here is a snapshot of what we accomplished in 2024:

- **60** events (speaking engagements, parades, festivals, etc.)
- **11,000+** miles traveled to nearly every county in Arkansas
- **30,000+** people informed about **The Great Arkansas Treasure Hunt**
- **8,600** mailers sent out to individuals, non-profits & businesses
- Over **\$36 million** returned to current and former Arkansans
- **5** mobile offices (Springdale, Hot Springs Village, Camp Robinson, Fort Chaffee & Jonesboro)
- Over **\$57,000** in unclaimed property was found during these mobile offices