



Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis'

DOLLARS & SENSE

Florida Department of Financial Services

Dear Fellow Floridians:

Floridians work hard to provide for their families, and it can be tough to see your hard-earned money lost to rising costs. Many factors influence increasing costs, but one that we continue to fight is fraud. I'm proud to lead a nationally-recognized investigative team that works to address insurance fraud and fraud within public programs paid for by your tax dollars.

Fraud can be tough to detect, but our investigative team has paved the way and works to stay one step ahead of the criminals. We're only halfway through the year, but collectively we've already made more than 700 arrests and secured nearly 500 successful prosecutions.



The work of law enforcement is never done, but we are sending a message that Florida won't tolerate theft and will push for the toughest punishment possible.

Our investigations have prevented more than \$13 million in fraudulent public assistance benefits from being paid out, and nearly \$4 million more has been collected back from dishonest people who did not legitimately qualify for these public services.

It's amazing to see the lengths that some people will go to cheat the system, but the efforts of our investigators are unending and their dedication is unparalleled. By working with local police departments and sheriffs' offices around Florida, we're extending our reach and achieving even greater success.

We'll keep working, and I'll do everything I can to support their efforts and to ensure that they have the resources needed to keep fighting for you.

Sincerely,

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Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

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News of Interest

Palm Beach Post: [People called this number. They got \\$16.6 million. Here's why.](#)

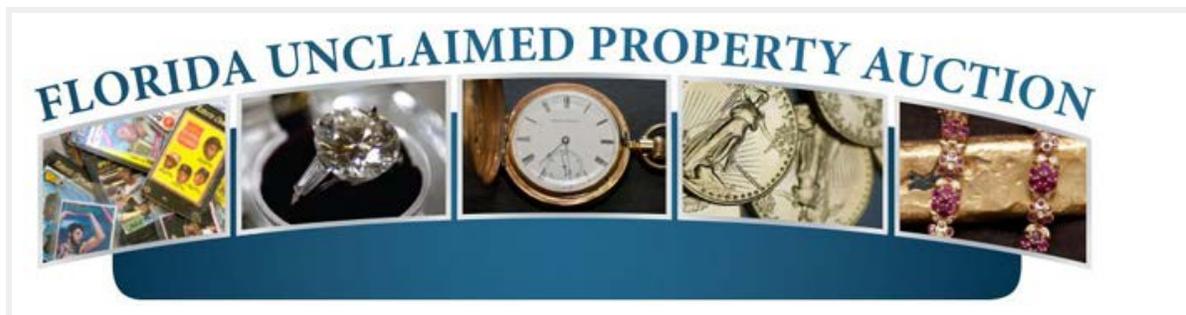
Sun-Sentinel: [State auctioning unclaimed jewelry, rare currency and gold coins](#)

Sarasota Herald-Tribune: [Nine arrested in unlicensed contractor sting](#)

Miami Herald: [South Florida hotels struggled in 2016. Now it seems they are finally on the mend](#)

Tampa Bay Times: [Florida's unemployment rate drops for fourth straight month](#)

Palm Beach Post: [Managed repair programs help avoid the middleman](#)



CFO Patronis Invites Floridians to the 2017 Unclaimed Property Auction in Fort Lauderdale

Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis invites Floridians to participate in the 2017 Florida Unclaimed Property Auction. This public auction featuring the sale of nearly 50,000 individual items valued at more than \$630,000 will be hosted Saturday, July 29, at the Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek in Fort Lauderdale. A public preview will be held Friday, July 28, at the Sheraton Suites hotel.

Featured items in this year's auction include a 12-pound silver bar recovered from shipwreck Atocha, a vintage Wilt Chamberlain basketball card, 4.3-carat diamond earrings, and several high-end watches from brands such as Rolex, Chopard and Bulgari.

2017 Unclaimed Property Auction Preview

Date: Friday, July 28

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek

Address: 555 NW 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 32256

2017 Unclaimed Property Auction

Date: Saturday, July 29

Time: 10:00 a.m. (Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.)

Location: Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek

Address: 555 NW 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 32256

The unclaimed property auction features items from safe deposit boxes that have gone unclaimed for years despite exhaustive efforts to return them to their owners. Proceeds from the auction are deposited into the state's education fund where they work to support Florida's public school system. Should a property owner discover that he or she owned an item that was auctioned; however, the proceeds from the sale can be claimed any time at no cost.

For full details about this weekend's auction, or to search for or claim unclaimed property, visit www.FLTreasureHunt.gov, or call 1-88-VALUABLE or 850-413-5555. A free catalog, which lists each item up for sale, is also available on the website.



Florida Economic Briefs

Florida's unemployment rate continues to improve

Florida's unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to 4.1 percent in June. This represents a large improvement over the previous year, when the rate was at 4.9 percent. An additional 238,000 jobs have been created in the state during that one year period.

Source: **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

Florida's economic growth prospects ranked highly

In its annual ranking of the "Best States for Business," Forbes magazine has rated Florida the number one state in the country for its economic growth prospects. The state also came in eighth for its economic climate, and 12th overall.

Source: **Forbes**