

STATE

Pa. Treasury to hold online auction of unclaimed property

By Paul Vigna

[pennlive.com](https://www.pennlive.com)

COATESVILLE >> Treasurer Stacy Garrity on Monday announced that the upcoming online auction of unclaimed property will take place Wednesday and Thursday.

It will include fine jewelry, coins, currency, and many other items that have been safeguarded in Treasury's vault, a press release said. The majority of Treasury's items will be featured on Wednesday.

Treasury partners with Pook & Pook, Inc., in Downingtown, Chester County, for appraisal and auctioneer services. Items up for auction can be previewed at [pookandpook.com](https://www.pookandpook.com). Interested bidders can also register on Pook & Pook's website. The auction will feature 4,250 items from Treasury's vault, including:

All Treasury items listed in the auction are subject to change at any time before the sale. In this case, Treasury is made aware of changes that might be made due to new information regarding an item's authenticity, change in value, quality or other determining factor.

"There are some remarkable items available to bid on in this auction," Garrity said. "Any proceeds will be carefully tracked — and will always be available for the rightful owner to claim any time, even years or decades from now."

Unclaimed property comes to Treasury in accordance with state law. Tangible property, like the items being auctioned, most often comes from abandoned safe deposit boxes, with other items coming from college dorms, nursing homes or police evidence rooms. Unclaimed property also includes balances of forgotten bank accounts, uncashed checks, stocks, insurance policies and more.

The online auctions will also include items from other consignors. Treasury items may be combined into lots but will never be co-mingled with non-

Treasury items.

Treasury employees and immediate family members are prohibited from bidding.

Property is safeguarded in the vault for at least three years before being auctioned. Treasury updates its unclaimed property records to reflect the proceeds from an item's sale, so if a rightful owner comes forward the proceeds are available to claim.

About one in 10 Pennsylvanians is owed some of the more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property. The average value of a claim is \$1,600, according to Treasury.

To search for unclaimed property, visit patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property.