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## Rutherford talks I-Cash at Hoopeston Public Library

You might say Illinois treasurer Dan Rutherford is cleaning house.

Rutherford was at Hoopeston Public Library on Thursday, along with staff for his I-Cash (formerly Cash Dash) program.

I-Cash is the state's program that allows residents to reclaim money or assets, like money in old bank accounts, contents of safe deposit boxes, stocks, CDs and even paychecks from long-ago employers.

Currently, Illinois has \$1.7 billion in cash, plus the contents of safe deposit boxes. Rutherford said the names of about 29,000 past and current Vermilion County residents - totaling about \$5.5 million - have property in I-Cash.

Most assets are transferred to the treasurer's office after they have been inactive for at least five years. A vault in the Capitol subbasement holds the loot for another five years. Because of space limitations, the state may, after five years in storage, hold online auctions to sell items. Money from the sale is held for the property owners or their heirs.

One thing that is never sold is service medals. The state has about 170 military service medals, Rutherford said, adding "we will never, ever sell those." Instead, Operation Reunite tries to find rightful owners or heirs.

Online searches may be done at <https://icash.illinois.gov/>, where people may search their names for any unclaimed assets. Women should search by their maiden, as well as their married names, Rutherford said, telling the story of a man who failed to find anything under his name or his wife's, until he searched under his wife's maiden name and found an unclaimed check from an employer during her college years. "I looked at him and said 'see there!,'" Rutherford said.

Property is not released without proper credentials. For example, someone claiming property of a deceased par-



Library director Linda Mitchell, right, greets Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford Thursday at the library. Rutherford spoke about the I-Cash (formerly Cash Dash) program.

ent should be prepared to show a copy of a death certificate and a will noting the person legally eligible.

Although in Hoopeston about I-Cash, Rutherford also learned he has the distinction of being the first Illinois treasurer to visit the library, where he was greeted by some guests as Illinois' next governor.

Rutherford, who represented Hoopeston in the General Assembly, was elected treasurer in 2010, and is considered a top contender for the Republican nod for the 2014 gubernatorial election.

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