

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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## Westly Takes Campaign to Reunite \$4.8 Billion with Owners to Central Valley

*Unveils Spanish-Language Web Site: [www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp\\_spanish/](http://www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp_spanish/)*

### EDS: PHOTOS AND B-ROLL ARE AVAILABLE

**FRESNO** – California State Controller Steve Westly today continued his statewide campaign to return \$4.8 billion to the 7.6 million Californians it belongs to by urging Central Valley residents to log on to his new Web address – [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com) – to see if some of the billions are theirs.

Westly also unveiled a Spanish language version of the Web site – [www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp\\_spanish/](http://www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp_spanish/) – in an effort to reach more Californians.

“With 7.6 million accounts in our vault, the chances are good that you or someone you know can find money by visiting [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com),” Westly said. “My goal is to find the owners of every single penny of the \$4.8 billion in unclaimed property we are holding for safekeeping.”

Westly took his campaign to the Manchester Center mall in Fresno, where he delivered checks totaling nearly \$8,000 to five Californians who had lost track of their money.

When a bank account or safe deposit box is not accessed for more than 3 years and the bank cannot find the owner, the account balance or box contents are turned over to the Controller's Office for safekeeping. The Controller's Office holds the property in perpetuity, so a property owner or heir can make a claim at any time. The Controller's Office also receives the value of uncashed cashiers checks and money orders; stocks and bonds; paychecks that were never picked up; overpaid utility bills and insurance premiums; and brokerage, escrow and other account balances.

Controller Westly displayed some of the items his office is looking to reunite with their owners, including silver bars, rare coins, diamond jewelry and more. Photos are available.

Controller's Office staff will be available to help people find their money at the Manchester Center mall today from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Manchester Center  
1901 E. Shields Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93726  
(Corner of Blackstone and Shields at the Red Robin entrance)  
Event held at the Carousel Court

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