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# Jackpot Winners Suing Illinois Lottery As State Budget Impasse Blocks Payments

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**Steve Miller**  
Steve Miller is an investigative reporter and has been with Newsradio... [Read More](#)

(CBS) — Big jackpot winners are suing the Illinois Lottery – because they haven’t seen a penny of their prize money since there is no state [budget](#) yet.

It’s the big winners who haven’t been paid, the ones who won more than \$25,000 since July 1.



“You can imagine the joy that they had at that time, only to later find out that the state is refusing to pay out the money – money that is sitting in a bank [account](#) earning interest for the state,” said attorney Tom Zimmerman.

Zimmerman is the attorney representing lottery jackpot winners in a federal [class](#) action suit.

“The lottery winners are counting on that [money](#),” he said. “Some folks have taken out loans and are paying interest on loans with the anticipation that they will be receiving the lottery money.”

Zimmerman says his [clients](#) want their money with interest.

The Illinois Lottery spokesman says the Lottery has not yet received the lawsuit and cannot comment.