



Judge asked to block outside money for Illinois Lottery

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(AP Photo/Paul Beaty, File)

In this Oct. 23, 2015 file photo, Vera Washington of Chicago, buys lotto tickets at the K&D Marathon station in Hammond, Ind. Illinois Lottery ticket sales have plummeted since lottery officials announced delaying payouts over \$600 because of the state budget impasse. Data obtained by The Associated Press through an information request show gross sales in October _ including for instant tickets and Mega Millions _ were the lowest in 2015. In mid-October, the lottery announced anyone winning over \$600 wouldn't get their money right away because money in the account used to pay those winnings was running out, sending regular players across state borders to buy tickets.

An attorney representing Illinois Lottery winners who haven't been paid their winnings has asked a federal judge to prevent 38 other state lotteries from sending money to the agency.

The winners represented by attorney Thomas Zimmerman Jr. in a lawsuit haven't been paid because of [Illinois' lack of a budget](#).

Zimmerman filed a motion for a temporary restraining order late Tuesday asking the judge to bar the other lotteries and the association overseeing Mega Millions and Powerball from giving the Illinois Lottery the money owed to Illinois winners of those games.

Zimmerman asked that the money instead be held in an interest-bearing account. The [Chicago Tribune](#) reports a court hearing was scheduled Thursday.

IL Lotto winner's cash trapped by the budget impasse

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