



No. **68**

# Portland Ranks No. 68 for Fiscal Health

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## The Financial State of Portland

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Portland has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$20,300, earning it an "F" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Portland's elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$4.4 billion, according to the analysis. That equates to a \$20,300 burden for every city taxpayer.

Portland's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$6.7 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$3.9 billion in pension and \$103.6 million in retiree health care benefits.

### Here's the truth:

**\$4.4**  
billion  
Money needed  
to pay bills

**-\$20,300**  
Taxpayer  
Burden

**F**  
Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the city of Portland 2017 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' reports.

# PORTLAND

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- + Portland has \$1.1 billion available in assets to pay \$5.5 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$4.4 billion shortfall and a \$20,300 Taxpayer Burden.
- + Portland's reported net position is overstated by \$535.8 million, largely because the city delays recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

### THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$8,667,916,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$6,620,606,000
Restricted assets	-\$912,863,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$1,134,447,000
Minus: Bills	-\$5,525,685,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$4,391,238,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$20,300

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$3,353,632,000
Other liabilities	\$544,878,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,365,309,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$3,888,884,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$103,600,000
Bills	\$5,525,685,000

### GRADE: F

Bottom line: Portland would need more than \$20,000 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received an "F" for its finances from Truth in Accounting.