

06

RANKING OF
10 LARGEST
CITIES

HOUSTON

WHAT IS HOUSTON HIDING?

\$3.4 BILLION IN HIDDEN
RETIREMENT DEBT



\$6 BILLION
NEEDED
TO PAY BILLS

\$10,000
TAXPAYER
BURDEN

THE FINANCIAL STATE OF HOUSTON

The City's Bills Exceed Its Assets

Assets	\$21,175,602,000
<i>Minus: Capital Assets</i>	\$16,561,400,000
<i>Restricted Assets</i>	\$1,511,443,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,102,759,000
<i>Minus: Bills</i>	\$9,104,853,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	-\$6,002,094,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of This Debt	-\$10,000

Houston has \$21.2 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay city bills.

The \$16.6 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of \$1.5 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves \$3.1 billion of city's assets available to pay \$9.1 billion of bills as they come due.

The -\$6 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs incurred in prior years that should have been paid in those prior years. Instead these costs have been shifted to future taxpayers.

Each Taxpayer's Share of Houston's Debt:
-\$10,000



Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information.

We call on governments to truthfully balance their budgets by including all real and certain expenses when incurred not when paid.

To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need to be provided with truthful and transparent financial information.

www.TruthInAccounting.org

www.StateDataLab.org

The Bills Houston Has Accumulated

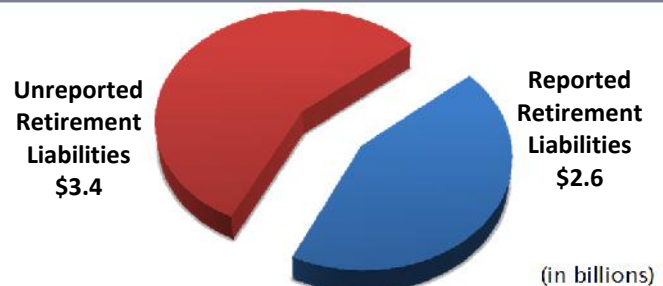
Bonds	\$12,176,927,000
Other Liabilities	\$3,028,156,000
<i>Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets</i>	\$12,086,190,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$3,895,960,000
Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	\$2,090,000,000
Bills	\$9,104,853,000

Despite the balanced budget requirement, the city has accumulated bonds of \$12.2 billion and other liabilities of \$3 billion. The calculation of assets available to pay bills does not include capital assets, so \$12.1 billion of related debt is removed from the calculation of city bills.

Unfunded employees' retirement benefits represent 66% of city bills. These unfunded liabilities have accumulated because city employees have been promised \$3.9 billion of pension benefits and \$2.1 billion of retirees' health care benefits, but the city has not adequately funded them.

Unless these pension and retirees' health care benefits are renegotiated, future taxpayers will be burdened with paying for these benefits without receiving any corresponding government services or benefits.

Not All Retirement Liabilities Are Clearly Disclosed



A detailed study of Houston's actuaries' schedules found retirement benefits totaling \$6 billion have been promised, but not funded. A review of the city's balance sheet determined only \$2.6 billion of these liabilities are reported. This means the city does not report \$3.4 billion of retirement liabilities on its balance sheet.

Data is derived from the city of Houston's June 30, 2014 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

Number of taxpayers is based on an estimation of the city's population with a federal tax liability.