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Albuquerque's Finances Earn 'D' Grade

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The Financial State of Albuquerque

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Albuquerque has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,200, earning it a "D" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Albuquerque's elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$815.1 million, according to the analysis. That equates to a \$5,200 burden for every city taxpayer.

Albuquerque's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$2.6 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$618.3 million in pension and \$196.7 million in retiree health care benefits.

Here's the truth:



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

ALBUQUERQUE

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Albuquerque has \$492.1 million available in assets to pay \$1.3 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$815.1 million shortfall and a \$5,200 Taxpayer Burden.
- + The city is hiding nearly all of its retiree health care debt from its balance sheet.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$5,013,355,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$4,108,366,000
Restricted assets	-\$412,880,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$492,109,000
Minus: Bills	-\$1,307,251,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$815,142,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$5,200

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$732,377,000
Other liabilities	\$254,600,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$494,682,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$618,296,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$196,660,000
Bills	\$1,307,251,000

GRADE: D

Bottom line: Albuquerque does not have enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "D" grade is given to cities with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000.