



# ARLINGTON FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

January 2018  
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## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF ARLINGTON, TX

Truth in Accounting's (TIA) new city report ranks and grades the 75 most populous cities in the United States by their financial health. Arlington ranks No. 7, earning it a "B" on TIA's grading scale.

Unlike most cities, Arlington's elected officials have only promised the amount of benefits they can afford to pay. Because of this, the city has enough money to pay all of its bills. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$1,600 for each Arlington taxpayer.

Arlington's Taxpayer Surplus™ increased from \$100 to \$1,600 in 2016. The increase was primarily because the city's unrestricted assets increased by \$111.8 million while their unfunded retiree healthcare liability decreased by \$100 million.

A new accounting standard implemented last year requires state and local governments to report all of their pension debt on the balance sheet. And in fiscal year 2018, governments will have to disclose unfunded retiree healthcare debt as well. Arlington should be commended because it isn't hiding any debt from taxpayers in its 2016 annual financial report.

7

Rank

**\$171.4**  
million

Money available  
to pay future  
bills

**\$1,600**

Taxpayer  
Surplus™

**B**

Financial grade

# ARLINGTON FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- + Arlington has \$550.3 million available in assets to pay \$378.8 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$171.4 million surplus, which breaks down to \$1,600 per taxpayer.
- + Unlike most cities, Arlington reports all of its retirement liabilities on its balance sheet.

### THE CITY'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Assets	\$2,992,700,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$2,327,758,000
Restricted assets	-\$114,672,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$550,270,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$378,839,000
Money available to pay bills	\$171,431,000
<b>Each taxpayer's share of surplus</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$719,276,000
Other liabilities	\$103,507,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$632,163,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$166,571,000
Unfunded retiree healthcare	\$21,648,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$378,839,000</b>

## GRADE: B

Bottom line: Arlington has enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "B" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "B" grade is given to cities with a Taxpayer Surplus™ between \$100 and \$10,000.

Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.