Chula Vista Finances Earn 'C' Grade

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The Financial State of Chula Vista

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Chula Vista has a Taxpayer Burden™ of $3,000, earning it a "C" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Financial decisions made by the city's elected officials have left Chula Vista with a $253 million shortfall, which equates to a $3,000 burden for every taxpayer.

Most of the city's overall debt comes from retirement liabilities that have accumulated over many years. Of the $990 million in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded $332.4 million in pension and $17.3 million in retiree health care benefits.

Here's the truth:

$253 million
Money needed to pay bills

-$3,000
Taxpayer Burden

C
Financial grade

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

FAST FACTS

+ **Chula Vista has $151.2 million available in assets to pay $404.3 million worth of bills.**

+ **The outcome is a $253 million shortfall and a $3,000 Taxpayer Burden.**

+ **The city is hiding $43.8 million of retirement liabilities from its balance sheet.**

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS	
Assets	$1,760,520,000
Minus: Capital assets	-$1,478,595,000
Restricted assets	-$130,708,000
Assets available to pay bills	$151,217,000
Minus: Bills	-$404,254,000
Money needed to pay bills	-$253,037,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-$3,000

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED	
Bonds	$127,471,000
Other liabilities	$42,592,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-$115,493,000
Unfunded pension benefits	$332,415,000
Unfunded retiree health care	$17,269,000
Bills	$404,254,000

GRADE: C

Bottom line: Chula Vista's Taxpayer Burden is less than $5,000, so it has received a "C" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. While better off than many other cities, Chula Vista still owes more than it owns.

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