



No. 2

# Charlotte Ranks No. 2 for Fiscal Health

January 2019

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## The Financial State of Charlotte

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Charlotte has a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$3,400, earning it a "B" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Unlike most cities, Charlotte's city government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees' retirement benefits. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$3,400 for each Charlotte taxpayer.

### Here's the truth:

**\$861.8**  
million  
Money available  
to pay future  
bills

**\$3,400**  
Taxpayer  
Surplus

**B**  
Financial grade

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

# CHARLOTTE

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- + Charlotte has \$2.6 billion available in assets to pay \$1.8 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$861.8 million surplus, which breaks down to \$3,400 per taxpayer.
- + Charlotte's reported net position is overstated by \$426.1 million, largely because the city delays recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

### THE CITY'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Assets	\$16,221,939,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$12,940,270,000
Restricted assets	-\$669,569,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$2,612,100,000
Minus: Bills	-\$1,750,318,000
Money available to pay bills	\$861,782,000
Each taxpayer's share of surplus	\$3,400

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$3,272,993,000
Other liabilities	\$1,850,322,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$4,324,899,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$413,620,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$538,282,000
Bills	\$1,750,318,000

### GRADE: B

Bottom line: Charlotte 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.