Washington, D.C. Ranks No. 3 for Fiscal Health

The Financial State of Washington, D.C.

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Washington, D.C. has a Taxpayer Surplus™ of $3,300, earning it a "B" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Unlike most cities, Washington, D.C.'s 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 $3,300 for each Washington, D.C. taxpayer.

The district's pension and retiree healthcare plans are extremely well-funded. Washington, D.C. endeavors to have enough assets to pay benefits to bolster the plans against downturns in the market.

Here's the truth:

$872 million
Money available to pay future bills

$3,300
Taxpayer Surplus

B
Financial grade

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

FAST FACTS

+ Washington, D.C. has $5 billion available in assets to pay $4.1 billion worth of bills.

+ The outcome is a $872 million surplus, which breaks down to $3,300 per taxpayer.

+ Washington, D.C.'s reported net position is understated by $353 million, largely because the city delays recognizing gains resulting from decreases in the net pension liability.

THE DISTRICT'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS	
Assets	$21,100,774,000
Minus: Capital assets	-$13,918,672,000
Restricted assets	-$2,167,650,000
Assets available to pay bills	$5,014,452,000
Minus: Bills	-$4,142,477,000
Money available to pay bills	$871,975,000
Each taxpayer's share of surplus	$3,300

BILLS THE DISTRICT HAS ACCUMULATED	
Bonds	$11,945,878,000
Other liabilities	$3,117,017,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-$10,189,310,000
Overfunded pension benefits	-$589,426,000
Overfunded retiree health care	-$141,682,000
Bills	$4,142,477,000

GRADE: B

Bottom line: Washington, D.C. 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.

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