



IOWA'S FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

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THE FINANCIAL STATE OF IOWA

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial reports found Iowa has a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$700, earning it a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting. Iowa has reported a Taxpayer Surplus since 2012.

Unlike most states, Iowa’s state government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees’ retirement benefits. This means that Iowa’s elected officials have truly balanced their budgets. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$700 for each Iowa taxpayer.

Iowa and other states have become more transparent over the last few years, thanks to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which now require governments to disclose pension (GASB 68) and other post-employment (GASB 75) benefits on their balance sheets.

THE TRUTH:



Data included in this report is derived from the state of Iowa’s 2018 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports.

IOWA FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- Iowa has \$9.3 billion available to pay \$8.5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$776.8 million surplus, which breaks down to \$700 per taxpayer.
- Iowa has maintained a Taxpayer Surplus for the last seven years.

THE STATE’S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Total assets	\$32,177,116,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$16,005,059,000
Restricted assets	-\$6,876,412,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$9,295,645,000
<i>Minus:</i> Total bills	-\$8,518,851,000
Money available to pay bills	\$776,794,000
Each taxpayer’s share of surplus	\$700

BILLS THE STATE HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$5,227,674,000
Other liabilities	\$3,764,040,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,157,391,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$1,250,182,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$434,346,000
Total bills	\$8,518,851,000

GRADE: B

Bottom line: Iowa has more than 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 states with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$100 and \$10,000.

Truth in Accounting is a 501(c)(3) committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.