Jacksonville, FL
No. 55 for Fiscal Health

Truth in Accounting

The Truth

Money Needed to Pay Bills **$2.6 billion**

Taxpayer Burden™ **$8,400**

Financial Grade **D**

Ranking **55 out of 75**

Financial State of Jacksonville

After the Covid-pandemic, in large part due to unrealized gains in stock market valuation of its pension investments and federal government stimulus money, Jacksonville's financial condition appeared to improve. Despite apparent improvements, Jacksonville had a Taxpayer Burden™ of $8,400, earning it a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting.

The city's pension liability is calculated by subtracting earned and promised benefits from the market value of pension assets. Based on an exceptionally good year in the markets in 2021, the pension assets' values were high. The result was a dramatic decrease in Jacksonville's pension liability and a corresponding decrease in its money needed to pay bills. Even with inflated pension asset values, the city had set aside only 61 cents for every dollar of promised pension benefits and eight cents for every dollar of promised retiree health care benefits.

Jacksonville's elected officials have repeatedly made financial decisions that left the city with a debt burden of $2.6 billion. That burden came to $8,400 for every city taxpayer. Jacksonville's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. In 2022, markets produced negative market returns and federal COVID relief waned. These conditions may increase the per taxpayer Tax Burden. Jacksonville could struggle to maintain current levels of government services and benefits without further negative impact on its financial health.

The data included in this report is derived from Jacksonville's 2021 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans' reports. To compare prior years and other cities' financial, demographic, and economic information, go to Data-Z.org.

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Jacksonville's Financial Breakdown

Fast Facts

- Jacksonville needed $2.6 billion to pay its bills, which was $432.8 million less than it needed in 2020.
- Pension debt decreased by $333.2 million mostly as the result of short-lived gains in pension investments.
- This will likely reverse in 2022 as some pension plan values decreased significantly.

The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	$14,903,748,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-$10,072,237,000
Restricted Assets	-$671,459,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	$4,160,052,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-$6,723,936,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	$2,563,884,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Burden	$8,400

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	$5,610,050,000
Other Liabilities	$2,237,137,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-$5,100,589,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	$3,555,178,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	$422,160,000
Total Bills	$6,723,936,000

Grade: D

Bottom line: Jacksonville would need $8,400 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between $5,000 and $20,000 receives a "D" grade.