



## LOS ANGELES RANKS NO. 35 FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

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### THE FINANCIAL STATE OF LOS ANGELES

A new analysis of the audited financial reports found Los Angeles has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$4,000, earning it a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting. Los Angeles is one of 27 cities to receive a “C” grade for its financial condition.

Los Angeles’ elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$5.3 billion. That burden equates to \$4,000 for every city taxpayer. Los Angeles’ financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. Of the \$64.3 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$7.9 billion in pension and \$2.8 billion in retiree health care benefits.

Los Angeles and other cities 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:

Ranking:

**35**

out of 75

**-\$5.3**

**billion**

Money needed to  
pay bills

**-\$4,000**

Taxpayer  
Burden

**C**

Financial  
grade

## LOS ANGELES FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- Los Angeles has \$14.3 billion available to pay \$19.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$5.3 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$4,000 per taxpayer.
- Los Angeles’ financial condition improved from the previous fiscal year because of the city’s reported \$2 billion net income and the shifting of \$979 million of restricted assets to unrestricted assets.

#### THE CITY’S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Total assets	\$64,788,389,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$45,795,437,000
Restricted assets	-\$4,687,948,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$14,305,004,000
Minus: Total bills	-\$19,612,751,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	-\$5,307,747,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this debt	-\$4,000

#### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$28,114,840,000
Other liabilities	\$6,895,985,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$26,063,228,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$7,874,084,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$2,791,070,000
Total bills	\$19,612,751,000

### GRADE: C

Bottom line: Los Angeles would need \$4,000 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills. According to Truth in Accounting’s grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between \$0 and \$4,900 receives a “C” grade.

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