



No. **66**

# New Orleans Ranks No. 66 for Fiscal Health

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## The Financial State of New Orleans

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found New Orleans has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$17,100, earning it a "D" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

New Orleans' elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$1.8 billion, according to the analysis. That equates to a \$17,100 burden for every city taxpayer.

New Orleans' financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$2.4 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$1 billion in pension and \$235.5 million in retiree health care benefits.

### Here's the truth:

**\$1.8**  
billion  
Money needed  
to pay bills

**-\$17,100**  
Taxpayer  
Burden

**D**  
Financial grade

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

# NEW ORLEANS

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- + New Orleans has \$1.3 billion available in assets to pay \$3.1 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$1.8 billion shortfall and a \$17,100 Taxpayer Burden.
- + The city is hiding \$68 million of retiree health care debt from its balance sheet.

### THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$7,841,291,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$6,096,165,000
Restricted assets	-\$447,032,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$1,298,094,000
Minus: Bills	-\$3,083,945,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$1,785,851,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$17,100

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$2,579,287,000
Other liabilities	\$1,353,327,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,097,811,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$1,013,686,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$235,456,000
Bills	\$3,083,945,000

### GRADE: D

Bottom line: New Orleans does not have enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "D" grade is given to cities with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000.