



# NEW ORLEANS RECEIVES 'D' GRADE FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

January 2020  
truthinaccounting.org

## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF NEW ORLEANS

A new analysis of the audited financial reports found New Orleans has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$18,800, earning it a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting. New Orleans is one of 32 cities to receive a “D” grade for its financial condition.

New Orleans’ elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$2 billion. That burden equates to \$18,800 for every city taxpayer. New Orleans’ financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. Of the \$2.5 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$1.1 billion in pension and \$282.3 million in retiree health care benefits.

New Orleans 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:



Data included in this report is derived from the city of New Orleans’ 2018 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports.

# NEW ORLEANS FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- New Orleans has \$979.7 million available to pay \$3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$18,800 per taxpayer.
- If retirement benefits or other costs are not reduced, then taxpayers could have to pay \$18,800 in future taxes without receiving any related services or benefits.

### THE CITY’S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Total assets	\$8,286,710,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$6,819,906,000
Restricted assets	-\$487,142,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$979,662,000
<i>Minus:</i> Total bills	-\$2,983,405,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	-\$2,003,743,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this debt	-\$18,800

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$2,555,500,000
Other liabilities	\$1,518,391,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,495,079,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$1,122,259,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$282,334,000
Total bills	\$2,983,405,000

## GRADE: D

Bottom line: New Orleans would need \$18,800 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 \$5,000 and \$20,000 receives a “D” grade.

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