



# OAK PARK FINANCES RECEIVE 'D' GRADE

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## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF OAK PARK

A new analysis of the latest available comprehensive annual financial report found Oak Park had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$8,500, earning it a "D" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Financial decisions made by the village's elected officials over the years have left Oak Park with a \$146.6 million shortfall, which equates to \$8,500 for every taxpayer. Most of the village's overall debt comes from constitutionally protected pension benefits and retiree health care costs. Of the \$392.6 million of retirement benefits promised, the village has not funded \$175.3 million of pension benefits and \$10.4 million of retiree health care benefits.

Oak Park's financial condition is not only concerning, but also misleading as government officials have failed to disclose significant amounts of retirement debt on the village's balance sheet. As a result, residents and taxpayers have been presented with an inaccurate and untruthful accounting of the village's finances.

### Here's the truth:

**\$146.6**  
million

Money needed to  
pay bills

**-\$8,500**

Taxpayer  
Burden

**D**

Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the village of Oak Park's 2016 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

# OAK PARK

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- + Oak Park has \$91 million available in assets to pay \$237.7 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome: A \$146.6 million shortfall and a \$8,500 Taxpayer Burden.
- + Despite reporting all of its pension debt, the village continues to hide \$9.3 million of its retiree health care debt.
- + Oak Park's reported net position is inflated by \$39 million, largely because it has delayed recognizing changes to its net pension liability.

#### THE VILLAGE'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$298,574,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$196,217,000
Restricted assets	-\$11,310,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$91,047,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$237,667,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$146,620,000
<b>Each taxpayer's share of this debt</b>	<b>-\$8,500</b>

#### BILLS THE VILLAGE HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$106,606,000
Other liabilities	\$50,728,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$105,409,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$175,297,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$10,445,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$237,667,000</b>

### GRADE: D

Bottom line: Oak Park 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 villages with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.