The state of Pennsylvania is sinking in debt. The State’s $62 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs that have been pushed into the future.

Each Taxpayer's Share of This Financial Burden is $14,500

Pennsylvania statutes require the legislature to pass a balanced budget. One of the reasons Pennsylvania is in this precarious financial position is state officials use antiquated budgeting and accounting rules to report Pennsylvania’s financial condition. Since employee retirement benefits are not immediately payable in cash, the related compensation costs have been ignored when calculating balanced budgets.

Number of taxpayers is based on the number of Pennsylvania federal tax filers with a tax liability.

Data is derived from the state of Pennsylvania’s June 30, 2013 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ actuarial reports.

Truth in Accounting’s detailed analysis discovered a total of $53.8 billion of retirement benefits have been promised but not funded. Because of the confusing way the State does its accounting, only $3.2 billion of these liabilities are reported on Pennsylvania’s balance sheet.

Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information.

We call on governments to truthfully balance their budgets by including all real and certain expenses when incurred not when paid.

To be knowledgeable participants in their State government and its budget process, citizens need to be provided with truthful and transparent financial information.
The state of Pennsylvania has $89.7 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay State bills.

The $41.9 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of $8.9 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves $38.9 billion of State’s assets available to pay $100.9 billion of bills as they come due.

The $62 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs incurred in prior years that should have been paid in those prior years. Instead these costs have been shifted to future taxpayers.

**Today Each Taxpayer Owes $14,500**

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A detailed study of Pennsylvania’s actuaries’ schedules found retirement benefits totaling $53.8 billion have been promised, but not funded. A review of the State’s balance sheet determined only $3.2 billion of these liabilities are reported. This means the State does not report $50.5 billion of retirement liabilities on its balance sheet.