



RALEIGH FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

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THE FINANCIAL STATE OF RALEIGH

Truth in Accounting's (TIA) new city report ranks and grades the 75 most populous cities in the United States by their financial health. Raleigh ranks No. 11, earning it a "B" on TIA's grading scale.

Unlike most cities, Raleigh's elected officials have only promised the amount of benefits they can afford to pay. Because of this, Raleigh has enough money to pay all of its bills. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$700 for each Raleigh taxpayer.

Although Raleigh has enough money to pay all of its bills, it is still not completely transparent with taxpayers. New accounting rules issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board require state and local governments to disclose all pension debt on their balance sheets. However, since government officials use outdated pension data, Raleigh is still hiding 88 percent of its pension debt. Furthermore, 98 percent of its retiree healthcare debt is also hidden.

11

Rank

**\$88.3
million**

Money available
to pay future
bills

\$700

Taxpayer
Surplus™

B

Financial grade

RALEIGH FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Raleigh has \$787.2 million available in assets to pay \$699 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$88.3 million surplus, which breaks down to \$700 per taxpayer.
- + Raleigh excludes most of its retirement liabilities from its balance sheet. The city's total hidden debt amounts to \$269.8 million.

THE CITY'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Assets	\$4,070,431,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$2,936,253,000
Restricted assets	-\$346,933,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$787,245,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$698,978,000
Money available to pay bills	\$88,267,000
Each taxpayer's share of surplus	\$700

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$1,016,356,000
Other liabilities	\$935,773,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$1,539,545,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$119,619,000
Unfunded retiree healthcare	\$166,775,000
Bills	\$698,978,000

GRADE: B

Bottom line: Raleigh has enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "B" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "B" grade is given to cities with a Taxpayer Surplus™ between \$100 and \$10,000.

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.