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San Francisco Finances Still Struggling

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The Financial State of San Francisco

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found San Francisco has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$22,600, earning it an "F" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

San Francisco's elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$6.3 billion, according to the analysis. That equates to a \$22,600 burden for every city taxpayer.

San Francisco's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$31.4 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$5.1 billion in pension and \$4.2 billion in retiree health care benefits.

Here's the truth:

\$6.3
billion
Money needed to
pay bills

-\$22,600
Taxpayer
Burden

F
Financial grade

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

SAN FRANCISCO

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + San Francisco has \$7.9 billion available in assets to pay \$14.2 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$6.3 billion shortfall and a \$22,600 Taxpayer Burden.
- + San Francisco's reported net position is overstated by \$2.3 billion, largely because the city delays recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$32,094,363,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$22,089,959,000
Restricted assets	-\$2,081,491,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$7,922,913,000
Minus: Bills	-\$14,247,500,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$6,324,587,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$22,600

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$14,563,403,000
Other liabilities	\$4,152,078,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$13,747,779,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$5,059,493,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$4,220,305,000
Bills	\$14,247,500,000

GRADE: F

Bottom line: San Francisco would need more than \$20,000 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received an "F" for its finances from Truth in Accounting.