



SAN FRANCISCO RANKS NO. 67 FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

January 2020
truthinaccounting.org

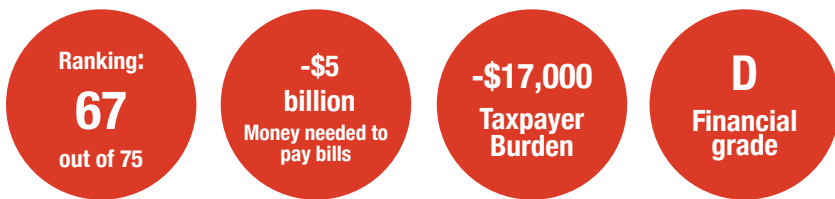
THE FINANCIAL STATE OF SAN FRANCISCO

A new analysis of the audited financial reports found San Francisco has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$17,000, earning it a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting. San Francisco is one of 32 cities to receive a “D” grade for its financial condition.

San Francisco’s elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$5 billion. That burden equates to \$17,000 for every city taxpayer. San Francisco’s financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. Of the \$32.5 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$4.4 billion in pension and \$3.7 billion in retiree health care benefits.

San Francisco 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:



SAN FRANCISCO FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- San Francisco has \$10.3 billion available to pay \$15.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$5 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$17,000 per taxpayer.
- San Francisco’s financial condition improved by \$1.4 billion because the employees’ retirement system earned investment income.

THE CITY’S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Total assets	\$37,174,001,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$24,336,182,000
Restricted assets	-\$2,492,619,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$10,345,200,000
<i>Minus:</i> Total bills	-\$15,305,805,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	-\$4,960,605,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this debt	-\$17,000

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$17,633,335,000
Other liabilities	\$4,633,117,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$15,115,936,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$4,431,498,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$3,723,791,000
Total bills	\$15,305,805,000

GRADE: D

Bottom line: San Francisco would need \$17,000 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.