



SANTA ANA FINANCES IN DECENT SHAPE

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THE FINANCIAL STATE OF SANTA ANA

Truth in Accounting's (TIA) new city report ranks and grades the 75 most populous cities in the United States by their financial health. Santa Ana ranks No. 28, earning it a "C" on TIA's grading scale.

Decisions by city officials have left the city with a debt burden of \$362.6 million, according to TIA's analysis of its 2016 financial filings. That burden equates to \$3,400 for every Santa Ana taxpayer.

Santa Ana's financial problems are largely driven by entitlement obligations in the form of pension benefits. The city has \$468.7 million in unfunded pension promises and \$39.3 million in unfunded retiree healthcare benefits. While Santa Ana has promised these benefits, little money has been set aside to fund them.

In 2015, government officials increased financial transparency by including the city's pension debt on its balance sheet. Unfortunately, only 26 percent of Santa Ana's unfunded retiree healthcare debt is being reported. With additional changes to accounting standards being implemented in fiscal year 2018, hopefully all retirement debt will be reported.

28

Rank

\$362.6
million

Money needed
to pay bills

-\$3,400

Taxpayer
Burden™

C

Financial grade

SANTA ANA FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Santa Ana has \$301.6 million available in assets to pay \$664.2 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$362.6 million shortfall and a \$3,400 Taxpayer Burden™.
- + Despite reporting most of its pension debt, the city hides most of its retiree healthcare debt. The city's total hidden debt amounts to \$29.6 million.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$1,514,474,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$1,053,834,000
Restricted assets	-\$159,062,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$301,578,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$664,203,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$362,625,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$3,400

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$44,889,000
Other liabilities	\$244,650,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$133,295,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$468,671,000
Unfunded retiree healthcare	\$39,288,000
Bills	\$664,203,000

GRADE: C

Bottom line: Santa Ana's Taxpayer Burden™ is less than \$5,000, so it has received a "C" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. While better off than many other cities, Santa Ana still owes more than it owns.

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.