

Santa Ana, CA

Earned 'D' Grade for Fiscal Health

The Truth

Money Needed to Pay Bills **\$565.7 million**

Taxpayer Burden™ **\$5,600**

Financial Grade **D**

Ranking **50 out of 75**



Financial State of Santa Ana

After the Covid-pandemic, in part due to federal government stimulus money, Santa Ana's financial condition appeared to improve. Despite apparent improvements, Santa Ana had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,600, earning it a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting.

Santa Ana's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. Unfortunately, the amounts of unfunded pension and retiree health care benefits used by Santa Ana and in this report were the same as 2020, because newer data could not be found. The outdated numbers used do not reflect the unusual market gains experienced by CALPers in 2021. In 2022, the city had set aside only 68 cents for every dollar of promised pension benefits and had no money set aside for promised retiree health care benefits.

Santa Ana's elected officials have repeatedly made financial decisions that left the city with a debt burden of \$565.7 million. That burden came to \$5,600 for every city taxpayer. In 2022, markets produced negative market returns and federal COVID relief waned. These conditions may increase the per taxpayer Tax Burden. Santa Ana could struggle to maintain current levels of government services and benefits without further negative impact on its financial health.

The data included in this report is derived from Santa Ana's 2021 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans' reports. To compare prior years and other cities' financial, demographic, and economic information, go to Data-Z.org.

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Daniels College of Business
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
School of Accountancy

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Santa Ana's Financial Breakdown

Fast Facts

- Santa Ana needed \$565.7 million to pay its bills.
- This means each taxpayer would have to pay \$5,600 in future taxes for which they would receive no related services or benefits.
- Santa Ana's unfunded pension and retiree health care amounts did not change because new valuations could not be found.

The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Assets | \$1,819,859,000 |
| Minus: Capital Assets | -\$1,150,707,000 |
| Restricted Assets | -\$210,213,000 |
| Assets Available to Pay Bills | \$458,939,000 |
| Minus: Total Bills* | -\$1,024,646,000 |
| Money Needed to Pay Bills | \$565,707,000 |
| Each Taxpayer's Share of this Burden | \$5,600 |

*Breakdown of Total Bills

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bonds | \$73,947,000 |
| Other Liabilities | \$303,780,000 |
| Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets | -\$111,794,000 |
| Unfunded Pension Benefits | \$703,312,000 |
| Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits | \$55,401,000 |
| Total Bills | \$1,024,646,000 |

Grade:

D

Bottom line: Santa Ana would need \$5,600 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000 receives a "D" grade.