



No. 26

# Saint Paul Earns 'C' Grade for its Finances

January 2019  
truthinaccounting.org



## The Financial State of Saint Paul

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Saint Paul has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,900, earning it a "C" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Financial decisions made by the city's elected officials have left Saint Paul with a \$334.3 million shortfall, which equates to a \$2,900 burden for every taxpayer.

Most of the city's overall debt comes from retirement liabilities that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$1.5 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$236.6 million in pension and \$229.9 million in retiree health care benefits.

### Here's the truth:



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

# SAINT PAUL

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

### FAST FACTS

- + Saint Paul has \$546.7 million available in assets to pay \$881 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$334.3 million shortfall and a \$2,900 Taxpayer Burden.
- + The city is hiding \$165.7 million of retiree health care debt from its balance sheet.

### THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$2,812,786,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$2,080,986,000
Restricted assets	-\$185,120,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$546,680,000
Minus: Bills	-\$880,967,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$334,287,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$2,900

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$641,449,000
Other liabilities	\$360,536,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$587,524,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$236,561,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$229,945,000
Bills	\$880,967,000

### GRADE: C

Bottom line: Saint Paul'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, Saint Paul still owes more than it owns.