

WYOMING RANKS NO. 3 FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

September 2019 truthinaccounting.org

32

THE FINANCIAL STATE OF WYOMING

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial reports found Wyoming has a Taxpayer Surplus[™] of \$20,800, earning it an "A" grade from Truth in Accounting. Wyoming is one of three states to receive an "A" grade for its financial condition.

Unlike most states, Wyoming's state government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees' retirement benefits. This means that Wyoming's elected officials have truly balanced their budgets. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$20,800 for each Wyoming taxpayer.

Wyoming and other states 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.

WYOMING FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- Wyoming has \$12.3 billion available to pay \$8.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$4 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$20,800 per taxpayer.
- Wyoming has maintained a Taxpayer Surplus for the last 10 years.

THE STATE'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Total assets	\$35,269,058,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$8,027,835,000
Restricted assets	-\$14,946,550,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$12,294,673,000
Minus: Total bills	-\$8,251,523,000
Money available (needed) to pay future bills	\$4,043,150,000
Each taxpayer's share of surplus	\$20,800

BILLS THE STATE HAS ACCUMULATED

\$853,843,000
\$6,089,135,000
-\$168,139,000
\$687,191,000
\$789,493,000
\$8,251,523,000

THE TRUTH: 3 Rank \$4 billion Money available to pay future bills \$20,800 Taxpayer Surplus \$20,800 Taxpayer \$20,800 Taxpayer Surplus \$20,800 Taxp

Data included in this report is derived from the state of Wyoming's 2018 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' reports.

GRADE: A

Bottom line: Wyoming has substantially more than enough money to pay its bills, so it has received an "A" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. An "A" grade is given to states with a Taxpayer Surplus greater than \$10,000.

Truth in Accounting is a 501(c)(3) committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.