



# WILMETTE FINANCES RECEIVE 'C' GRADE

May 2018  
[truthinaccounting.org](http://truthinaccounting.org)



## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF WILMETTE

A new analysis of the latest available comprehensive annual financial report found Wilmette had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$4,500, earning it a "C" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Wilmette's elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the village with a debt burden of \$40.2 million, according to the analysis. That burden equates to \$4,500 for every village taxpayer. Wilmette's financial problems stem from unfunded retirement obligations in the form of pension benefits. The village has promised to pay out \$57.6 million in pensions, but hasn't set aside enough money to fully fund them.

Although Wilmette is facing challenges, government officials are being transparent about its financial condition. Unlike many village governments across the country, Wilmette reports all of its retirement liabilities on the balance sheet.

### Here's the truth:

**\$40.2**  
million

Money needed to  
pay bills

**-\$4,500**

Taxpayer  
Burden

**C**

Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the village of Wilmette's 2016 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

# WILMETTE FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- + Wilmette has \$44.7 million available in assets to pay \$84.9 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome: A \$40.2 million shortfall and a \$4,500 Taxpayer Burden.
- + The village reports all of its pension debt on its balance sheet.
- + Wilmette's reported net position is inflated by \$9.8 million, largely because it has delayed recognizing changes to its net pension liability.

### THE VILLAGE'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$191,619,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$146,430,000
Restricted assets	-\$450,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$44,739,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$84,891,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$40,152,000
<b>Each taxpayer's share of this debt</b>	<b>-\$4,500</b>

### BILLS THE VILLAGE HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$77,338,000
Other liabilities	\$29,811,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$79,871,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$57,613,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$0
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$84,891,000</b>

## GRADE: C

Bottom line: Wilmette'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 villages in Illinois, Wilmette 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.