

# The Financial State of Bridgeport

As of June 30, 2012

## CITY LIABILITIES EXCEED ASSETS

Assets	\$1,287,474,000
Less: Capital Assets	\$1,024,495,000
Restricted Assets	\$3,160,000
<b>Assets Available to Pay Bills</b>	<b>\$259,819,000</b>
Less: Bills	\$1,776,355,000
<b>Money Needed to Pay Bills</b>	<b>\$1,516,536,000</b>
<b>Each Taxpayer's* Burden</b>	<b>\$29,600</b>

The city of Bridgeport has \$1.3 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay City bills.

The \$1 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of \$3.2 million of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

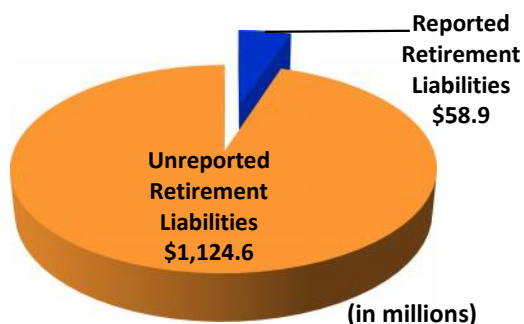
That leaves \$259.8 million of City's assets available to pay \$1.8 billion of bills as they come due.

The \$1.5 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs incurred in prior years that should have been paid in those prior years. Instead these costs have been shifted to future taxpayers.

**Today Each Taxpayer Owes \$29,600**

Truth in Accounting's detailed analysis discovered retirement benefits totaling \$1.2 billion have been promised. However, because of the current way the City does its accounting only \$58.9 million is reported on Bridgeport's balance sheet.

**95% OF RETIREMENT LIABILITIES ARE NOT CLEARLY DISCLOSED**



To knowledgeably interact with—and cast informed votes for—their leaders, citizens need transparency and accurate financial information. The antiquated ways the City budget and financial report are calculated do not provide citizens with the financial information needed to determine government accountability.

This is especially true in relation to employee compensation costs, which include retirement benefits. Because pension and other retirement benefits are not immediately payable in cash, most of these compensation costs were ignored when calculating balanced budgets. Furthermore, the City has set aside only 35 cents to pay for each dollar of retirement benefits promised.

**Truthful budgetary accounting** would include the portion of retirement benefits employees earn in current compensation costs every year they work.

**Accurate accounting requires all real and certain** expenses be reported in the City budget and financial statements when incurred, not when paid.

## THE BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

City Bonds	\$707,528,000
Other Liabilities	\$276,757,000
Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets	\$391,514,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$267,777,000
Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	\$915,807,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$1,776,355,000</b>

Despite the balanced budget requirement, the City has accumulated bonds of \$707.5 million and other liabilities of \$276.8 million. The calculation of assets available to pay bills does not include capital assets, so \$391.5 million of related debt is removed from the calculation of City bills.

Unfunded employees' retirement benefits represent 67% of City bills. This unfunded liability has accumulated because City employees have been promised \$267.8 million of pension benefits and \$915.8 million of retirees' health care benefits, but the City has not adequately funded them.

Unless these pension and retirees' health care benefits are renegotiated, future taxpayers will be burdened with paying for these benefits without receiving any corresponding government services or benefits.

*Data is derived from the city of Bridgeport's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.*

*\*Based on the number of Bridgeport federal tax filers with a tax liability.*