Financial State of Minnesota

As of June 30, 2010

Minnesota.StateBudgetWatch.org

Institute for Truth in Accounting
truthinaccounting.org

MINNESOTA

The State Does Not Have the Money to Pay Bills

Minnesota has $42.7 billion worth of assets, but most of these assets are not available to meet their obligations.

Almost $19 billion of these assets is infrastructure like roads, bridges and parks, which cannot realistically be used to pay bills. The use of more than $8.4 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

Minnesota is in Financial Jeopardy

Only $15.3 billion of the state's assets are available to pay $25.5 billion of bills as they come due.

Almost $10.3 billion of state employees' retirement and other costs have been pushed into the future, and thus onto our children's and grandchildren's backs.

Each taxpayer's share of the financial burden is $5,600.

MINNESOTA The State Does Not Have the Money to Pay Bills	
Assets	$42,711,914,000
Less: Capital Assets	$18,976,080,000
Restricted Assets	$8,447,614,000
Available Assets to Pay Bills	**$15,288,220,000**
Bills	$25,559,601,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	**$10,271,381,000**
Each Taxpayer's Financial Burden	**$5,600**

Data is derived from the State of Minnesota's June 30, 2010
Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
and retirement plans' actuarial reports

So-Called "Balanced" Budgets Ignore True Costs

The state of Minnesota only reported liabilities of $22.8 billion. IFTA's detailed analysis discovered more than $2.7 billion of retirement systems' liabilities were unreported by the state. When these liabilities are included, the state's bills total more than $25.5 billion.

So-Called "Balanced" Budgets Ignore True Costs	
Reported Liabilities	$22,815,782,000
Unreported Retirement Liabilities	$2,743,819,000
Total	**$25,559,601,000**

Minnesota's statutes require the legislature to pass a balanced budget. One of the reasons Minnesota is in this precarious financial position is state officials use antiquated budgeting and accounting rules to determine payroll costs.

Since retirement benefits are not immediately payable in cash, Minnesota's politicians ignore most of these payroll costs when calculating "balanced" budgets. As a result, the state set aside only 78 cents to pay for each dollar of these promised benefits.

Truthful accounting would include the portion of retirement benefits employees earn every year they work in payroll costs.

Accurate accounting requires all real and certain expenses be reported in the state's budget and financial statements when earned, not when paid.

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About

The Institute for Truth in Accounting (IFTA) was created by distinguished financial and public policy experts concerned with the quality of public and private organizations' financial reporting.

The mission of IFTA is to encourage private and public entities to produce financial reports that are understandable, reliable and transparent, and to inform the public of the importance of truthful budgeting and accounting.

IFTA actively seeks association with other public interest groups and individuals that recognize the need to improve financial reporting, or want to better understand the true consequences of financial decisions.

The Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that does not advocate public policy beyond that of truthful accounting.

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