

COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

More than half of Illinois cities get “F” grades for local pensions

Maywood

2019 Grade: F

In 2003, Maywood’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of **\$28.1 million**. That meant every Maywood household, on average, was on the hook for **\$3,536** in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

Maywood began contributing more money – taxpayer dollars – to pensions in an attempt to make the plans healthier. Over the next 16 years, city contributions increasingly crowded out spending for public safety, roads and other core services.

	2003	2019	Change
City (taxpayer) contributions to pensions	\$0.38 million	\$6.51 million	Up 17.1X
Share of city general budget for pensions	2.3%	21.5%	Up 9.2X

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Maywood’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 2.7 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in Maywood’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled **\$74.8 million**. That means each Maywood household, on average, is now on the hook for **\$9,595** in debt.

Everyone loses under Maywood’s pension crisis:



Taxpayers are tapped out

Maywood residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 17.1 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 2.7 times larger.



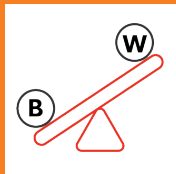
Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget

Maywood pension contributions have grown to consume 21.5% of the city’s budget, up from 2.3% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.



Maywood worker retirement security is collapsing

The health of Maywood’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 52.3% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 45.2%.



Maywood’s crisis will only get worse

Maywood has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 1.02 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 0.72 active workers per pensioner.

2019 GRADE



2003 GRADE



Maywood receives an "F" grade for its local pension crisis

Local officials handcuffed by state pension mandates.

Wirepoints quantified the negative impact of local pensions by examining the finances of Illinois' 175 largest cities from 2003 to 2019. The analysis was based on ten equally-weighted metrics. Cities were given an A through F grade based on a 100-point scale (10 points per metric).*

Maywood received an "F" grade in 2019. The city's total score dropped from 63 in 2003 to 38 in 2019, a decline of 25 points.

Maywood was one of 102 cities to receive an "F" grade in 2019.

Maywood Key Facts		
City demographics	2000	2019
Population	26,987	23,578
Households	7,934	7,795
Median household income	\$41,942	\$50,176
City budget	2003	2019
General revenues	\$16,500,590	\$30,354,579
Total revenues	\$28,025,998	\$58,824,660
Total property taxes	\$12,229,633	\$24,035,014
Pension health (police, fire & IMRF)	2003	2019
Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)	\$58,823,002	\$136,575,757
Total pension assets	\$30,770,914	\$61,782,060
Funded ratio	52.3%	45.2%
Total pension shortfall	\$28,052,088	\$74,793,697
Per household	\$3,536	\$9,595
Active public safety workers	93	86
Public safety pension beneficiaries	91	119
City pension contributions	2003	2019
City contributions	\$384,873	\$6,511,191
Per household	\$49	\$835
Percentage of city's general budget	2.3%	21.5%
Employees' contributions	\$571,747	\$918,956

175 Cities - Summary Scores			
Grade	Score	Number of cities	
		2003	2019
A	≥90	4	0
B	80-89	35	1
C	70-79	81	8
D	60-69	48	64
F	≤59	7	102

Maywood Score				
Metric	2003	2019	2003	2019
1. Police pension funded ratio	35.9%	36.8%	3	3
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio	49.0%	39.3%	4	3
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio	180.7%	125.6%	10	10
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income	8.4%	19.1%	6	1
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income	0.12%	1.66%	9	1
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget	1.4%	11.1%	10	1
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions	0.67	7.09	10	1
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)	-83.5%	15.9%	1	10
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)	9.6	8.1	5	5
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)	1.02	0.72	5	3
Total score			63	38
Grade			D	F

*Wirepoints analyzed 175 of Illinois' largest cities, excluding Chicago, that have a local police, firefighter and municipal (IMRF) pension fund.

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