

# COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

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

**Midlothian**

**2019 Grade: F**

In 2003, Midlothian’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of **\$3.0 million**. That meant every Midlothian household, on average, was on the hook for **\$579** in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

*Midlothian 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	\$0.39 million	\$1.47 million	Up 3.8X
Share of city general budget for pensions	6.4%	10.6%	Up 1.7X

*Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Midlothian’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 7.4 times!*

By 2019, the shortfall in Midlothian’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled **\$22.1 million**. That means each Midlothian household, on average, is now on the hook for **\$4,089** in debt.

## Everyone loses under Midlothian’s pension crisis:



### Taxpayers are tapped out

Midlothian residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 3.8 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 7.4 times larger.



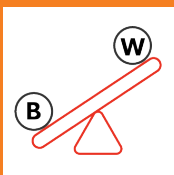
### Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget

Midlothian pension contributions have grown to consume 10.6% of the city’s budget, up from 6.4% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.



### Midlothian worker retirement security is collapsing

The health of Midlothian’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 86.0% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 56.0%.



### Midlothian’s crisis will only get worse

Midlothian has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 2.05 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 1.10 active workers per pensioner.

2019 GRADE



2003 GRADE



# Midlothian 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).\*

Midlothian received an "F" grade in 2019. The city's total score dropped from 81 in 2003 to 57 in 2019, a decline of 24 points.

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

Midlothian Key Facts		
<b>City demographics</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2019</b>
Population	14,315	14,595
Households	5,144	5,403
Median household income	\$50,000	\$60,160
<b>City budget</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
General revenues	\$6,075,039	\$13,893,984
Total revenues	\$10,071,001	\$23,183,210
Total property taxes	\$1,119,074	\$6,104,321
<b>Pension health (police, fire &amp; IMRF)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)	\$21,297,443	\$50,240,435
Total pension assets	\$18,320,513	\$28,149,999
Funded ratio	86.0%	56.0%
Total pension shortfall	\$2,976,930	\$22,090,436
Per household	\$579	\$4,089
Active public safety workers	39	44
Public safety pension beneficiaries	19	40
<b>City pension contributions</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
City contributions	\$387,866	\$1,473,071
Per household	\$75	\$273
Percentage of city's general budget	6.4%	10.6%
Employees' contributions	\$265,459	\$444,652

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

Midlothian Score				
Metric	2003	2019	2003	2019
1. Police pension funded ratio	85.2%	65.0%	8	6
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio	83.9%	40.1%	8	4
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio	91.7%	70.2%	9	7
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income	1.2%	6.8%	9	7
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income	0.15%	0.45%	9	8
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget	3.9%	6.4%	8	5
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions	1.46	3.31	9	5
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)	-53.0%	-25.4%	1	4
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)	26.3	10.2	10	6
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)	2.05	1.10	10	5
<b>Total score</b>			81	57
<b>Grade</b>			B	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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