

# COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

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

**Bradley**

**2019 Grade: C**

In 2003, Bradley’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of **\$2.3 million**. That meant every Bradley household, on average, was on the hook for **\$469** in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

*Bradley 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	\$0.23 million	\$1.56 million	Up 6.8X
Share of city general budget for pensions	2.7%	11.8%	Up 4.4X

*Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Bradley’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 6.3 times!*

By 2019, the shortfall in Bradley’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled **\$14.8 million**. That means each Bradley household, on average, is now on the hook for **\$2,631** in debt.

## Everyone loses under Bradley’s pension crisis:



### Taxpayers are tapped out

Bradley residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 6.8 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 6.3 times larger.



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

Bradley pension contributions have grown to consume 11.8% of the city’s budget, up from 2.7% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.



### Bradley worker retirement security is collapsing

The health of Bradley’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 81.5% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 64.3%.



### Bradley’s crisis will only get worse

Bradley has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 3.40 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 1.90 active workers per pensioner.

2019 GRADE



2003 GRADE



# Bradley receives a "C" 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).\*

Bradley received a "C" grade in 2019. The city's total score dropped from 82 in 2003 to 71 in 2019, a decline of 11 points.

Bradley was one of 8 cities to receive a "C" grade in 2019.

Bradley Key Facts		
<b>City demographics</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2019</b>
Population	12,784	15,368
Households	5,004	5,607
Median household income	\$41,757	\$60,012
<b>City budget</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
General revenues	\$8,581,535	\$13,194,741
Total revenues	\$10,825,759	\$21,307,626
Total property taxes	\$1,642,399	\$3,981,500
<b>Pension health (police, fire &amp; IMRF)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)	\$12,663,219	\$41,322,652
Total pension assets	\$10,314,513	\$26,570,597
Funded ratio	81.5%	64.3%
Total pension shortfall	\$2,348,706	\$14,752,055
Per household	\$469	\$2,631
Active public safety workers	34	40
Public safety pension beneficiaries	10	21
<b>City pension contributions</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
City contributions	\$230,181	\$1,559,739
Per household	\$46	\$278
Percentage of city's general budget	2.7%	11.8%
Employees' contributions	\$218,002	\$446,594

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

Bradley Score				
Metric	2003	2019	2003	2019
1. Police pension funded ratio	74.7%	61.4%	7	6
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio	100.0%	63.1%	10	6
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio	94.8%	76.1%	9	7
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income	1.1%	4.4%	9	8
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income	0.11%	0.46%	9	8
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget	2.1%	7.3%	9	4
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions	1.06	3.49	9	5
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)	-41.8%	1.6%	1	10
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)	23.8	18.8	9	8
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)	3.40	1.90	10	9
<b>Total score</b>			82	71
<b>Grade</b>			B	C

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

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