

# COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

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

**Glenwood**

**2019 Grade: D**

In 2003, Glenwood's police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of **\$3.1 million**. That meant every Glenwood household, on average, was on the hook for **\$909** in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

*Glenwood 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	\$0.28 million	\$1.27 million	Up 4.5X
Share of city general budget for pensions	6.4%	13.1%	Up 2.1X

*Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Glenwood's pension debts didn't decrease. Instead, they jumped by 3.5 times!*

By 2019, the shortfall in Glenwood's police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled **\$11.0 million**. That means each Glenwood household, on average, is now on the hook for **\$3,865** in debt.

## Everyone loses under Glenwood's pension crisis:



### Taxpayers are tapped out

Glenwood residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 4.5 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 3.5 times larger.



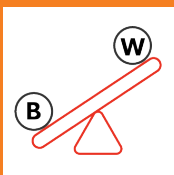
### Pension costs are devouring the city's budget

Glenwood pension contributions have grown to consume 13.1% of the city's budget, up from 6.4% in 2003. That's crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.



### Glenwood worker retirement security is collapsing

The health of Glenwood's local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 70.8% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 62.1%.



### Glenwood's crisis will only get worse

Glenwood has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 2.08 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 1.39 active workers per pensioner.

2019 GRADE



2003 GRADE



# Glenwood receives a "D" 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).\*

Glenwood received a "D" grade in 2019. The city's total score dropped from 79 in 2003 to 67 in 2019, a decline of 12 points.

Glenwood was one of 64 cities to receive a "D" grade in 2019.

Glenwood Key Facts		
<b>City demographics</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2019</b>
Population	9,000	8,657
Households	3,435	2,848
Median household income	\$53,894	\$67,554
<b>City budget</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
General revenues	\$4,404,492	\$9,715,842
Total revenues	\$9,508,385	\$21,797,330
Total property taxes	\$2,907,232	\$7,763,333
<b>Pension health (police, fire &amp; IMRF)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)	\$10,695,815	\$29,080,707
Total pension assets	\$7,574,232	\$18,072,109
Funded ratio	70.8%	62.1%
Total pension shortfall	\$3,121,583	\$11,008,598
Per household	\$909	\$3,865
Active public safety workers	25	25
Public safety pension beneficiaries	12	18
<b>City pension contributions</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2019</b>
City contributions	\$279,876	\$1,273,905
Per household	\$81	\$447
Percentage of city's general budget	6.4%	13.1%
Employees' contributions	\$155,114	\$301,975

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

Glenwood Score				
Metric	2003	2019	2003	2019
1. Police pension funded ratio	61.8%	56.1%	6	5
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio	72.9%	51.4%	7	5
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio	104.1%	97.3%	10	9
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income	1.7%	5.7%	9	7
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income	0.15%	0.66%	9	7
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget	2.9%	5.8%	9	6
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions	1.80	4.22	8	4
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)	-34.9%	4.4%	3	10
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)	18.8	15.9	8	8
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)	2.08	1.39	10	6
<b>Total score</b>			<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Grade</b>			<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>

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

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