

COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

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

Libertyville

2019 Grade: D

In 2003, Libertyville’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of **\$15.1 million**. That meant every Libertyville household, on average, was on the hook for **\$2,071** in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

Libertyville 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	\$1.34 million	\$4.30 million	Up 3.2X
Share of city general budget for pensions	7.5%	13.9%	Up 1.9X

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Libertyville’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 3.4 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in Libertyville’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled **\$51.6 million**. That means each Libertyville household, on average, is now on the hook for **\$6,939** in debt.

Everyone loses under Libertyville’s pension crisis:



Taxpayers are tapped out

Libertyville residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 3.2 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 3.4 times larger.



Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget

Libertyville pension contributions have grown to consume 13.9% of the city’s budget, up from 7.5% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.



Libertyville worker retirement security is collapsing

The health of Libertyville’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 70.5% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 61.6%.



Libertyville’s crisis will only get worse

Libertyville has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 2.18 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 1.11 active workers per pensioner.

2019 GRADE

D

2003 GRADE

C

Libertyville 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).*

Libertyville received a "D" grade in 2019. The city's total score dropped from 77 in 2003 to 62 in 2019, a decline of 15 points.

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

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

Libertyville Key Facts		
City demographics	2000	2019
Population	20,742	20,382
Households	7,273	7,435
Median household income	\$88,828	\$134,110
City budget	2003	2019
General revenues	\$17,916,204	\$30,990,197
Total revenues	\$34,571,480	\$61,841,219
Total property taxes	\$5,399,960	\$12,395,930
Pension health (police, fire & IMRF)	2003	2019
Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)	\$50,997,746	\$134,241,022
Total pension assets	\$35,932,169	\$82,648,135
Funded ratio	70.5%	61.6%
Total pension shortfall	\$15,065,577	\$51,592,887
Per household	\$2,071	\$6,939
Active public safety workers	72	82
Public safety pension beneficiaries	33	74
City pension contributions	2003	2019
City contributions	\$1,342,194	\$4,303,960
Per household	\$185	\$579
Percentage of city's general budget	7.5%	13.9%
Employees' contributions	\$706,655	\$1,124,372

Libertyville Score

Metric	2003	2019	2003	2019
1. Police pension funded ratio	55.0%	54.8%	5	5
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio	71.2%	65.4%	7	6
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio	96.1%	71.2%	9	7
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income	2.3%	5.2%	8	7
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income	0.21%	0.43%	8	8
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget	3.9%	7.0%	8	4
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions	1.90	3.83	8	5
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)	-23.7%	-5.5%	5	8
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)	20.7	14.9	9	7
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)	2.18	1.11	10	5
Total score			77	62
Grade			C	D

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

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