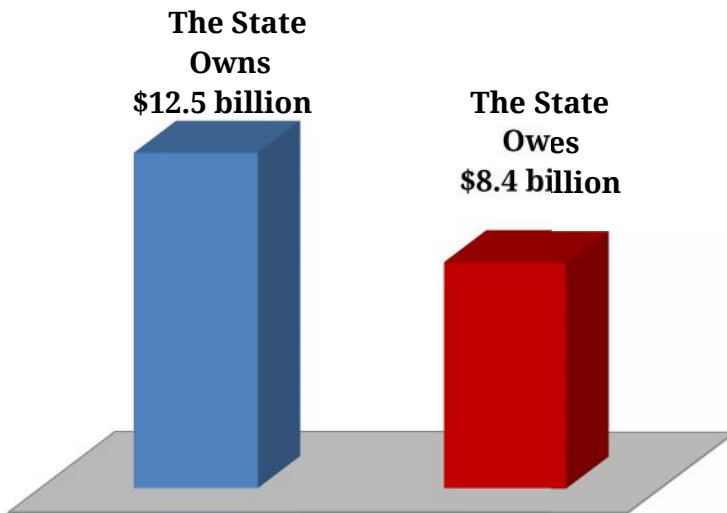


THE 3rd BEST STATE

NORTH DAKOTA IS A SUNSHINE STATE



THE STATE'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

The state of North Dakota is a sunshine state because its has assets above its outstanding bills. The State has a \$4.1 billion financial surplus.

Each Taxpayer's Share of This Financial Surplus is \$16,100

Unlike most states, North Dakota has the money need to fund State employees' retirement benefits and other outstanding bills. North Dakota is in good financial shape because the legislators and governors have only promised citizens and employees what they can afford to deliver.

Number of taxpayers based on the number of North Dakota federal tax filers with a tax liability.

THE STATE REPORTS RETIREMENT PLAN ASSET, INSTEAD OF ITS RETIREMENT PLANS' LIABILITIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Reported Retirement Plan Asset | \$602,000 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Actual Retirement Plans' Liabilities | \$479,767,000 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|

Truth in Accounting's detailed analysis discovered a total of \$479.8 million of retirement benefits have been promised but not funded. Because of the confusing way the State does its accounting, a net retirement asset of \$602,000 is reported on 's balance sheet.



The Institute for Truth in Accounting is committed to compelling governments to provide citizens with truthful and transparent financial information.



We call on governments to truthfully balance their budgets by including all real and certain expenses when incurred not when paid.



A transparent budget process would provide citizens with the information they need to be knowledgeable participants in their state government.

To be knowledgeable participants in their State government, citizens need to be provided with truthful and transparent financial information.

Data is derived from the state of North Dakota's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

The Financial State of North Dakota
As of June 30, 2012

The State's Assets Exceed Its Bills

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Less: Capital Assets | \$3,126,703,000 |
| Restricted Assets | \$4,010,458,000 |
| Assets Available to Pay Bills | \$12,488,079,000 |
| Less: Bills | \$8,414,994,000 |
| Money Available to Pay Bills | \$4,073,085,000 |
| Each Taxpayer's Surplus | \$16,100 |

The state of North Dakota has \$19.6 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay State bills.

The \$3.1 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of \$4 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves \$12.5 billion of State's assets available to pay \$8.4 billion of bills as they come due.

North Dakota's elected officials seem to promise only the amount of benefits they can afford to pay.

Each Taxpayer's Share of the Financial Surplus is \$16,100

Number of taxpayers is based on the number of North Dakota federal tax filers with a tax liability.

Data is derived from the state of North Dakota's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.



The Bills the State Has Accumulated

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| State Bonds | \$1,577,652,000 |
| Other Liabilities | \$6,719,892,000 |
| Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets | \$431,119,000 |
| Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits | \$68,802,000 |
| Bills | \$8,414,994,000 |

The State has accumulated bonds of \$1.6 billion and other liabilities of \$6.7 billion. The calculation of assets available to pay bills does not include capital assets, so \$431.1 million of related debt is removed from the calculation of State Bills.

Unfunded employees' retirement benefits represent 7% of State bills. These unfunded liabilities have accumulated because State employees have been promised \$479.8 million of pension benefits and \$68.8 million of retirees' health care benefits. Unlike most states, North Dakota has the assets needed to pay these liabilities.

North Dakota elected officials seem to promise only what they can afford.

The State Reports A Retirement Plan Asset Instead of the True Liability

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Reported Retirement Plan Asset | \$602,000 |
| Unfunded Pension Benefits | \$479,767,000 |
| Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits | \$68,802,000 |
| Retirement Plans' Liabilities | \$548,569,000 |

A detailed study of North Dakota's actuaries' schedules found retirement benefits totaling \$548.6 million have been promised, but not funded. But a review of the State's balance sheet determined a net asset related to the State's retirement plans of \$602,000 is reported.