The state of Rhode Island is sinking in debt. The State's $5 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs that have been pushed into the future.

Each Taxpayer’s Share of This Financial Burden is $14,000

Rhode Island statutes require the legislature to pass a balanced budget. One of the reasons Rhode Island is in this precarious financial position is state officials use antiquated budgeting and accounting rules to report Rhode Island’s financial condition. Since employee retirement benefits are not immediately payable in cash, the related compensation costs have been ignored when calculating balanced budgets.

Truth in Accounting’s detailed analysis discovered a total of $3.9 billion of retirement benefits have been promised but not funded. Because of the confusing way the State does its accounting, only $53.5 million of these liabilities are reported on Rhode Island’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.

Number of taxpayers based on the number of Rhode Island federal tax filers with a tax liability.

Data is derived from the state of Rhode Island’s June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ actuarial reports.

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The Financial State of Rhode Island
As of June 30, 2012

The State's Bills Exceed Its Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Bonds</td>
<td>$6,348,057,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$3,127,668,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets</td>
<td>$2,401,608,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfunded Pension Benefits</td>
<td>$2,934,405,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits</td>
<td>$989,217,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>$10,997,739,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The state of Rhode Island has $13.5 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay State bills.

The $6 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of $1.6 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves $6 billion of State's assets available to pay $11 billion of bills as they come due.

The $5 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs incurred in prior years that should have been paid in those prior years. Instead these costs have been shifted to future taxpayers.

### Today Each Taxpayer Owes $14,000

Number of taxpayers is based on the number of Rhode Island federal tax filers with a tax liability.

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