In 2003, Springfield’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of $148.7 million. That meant every Springfield household, on average, was on the hook for $3,050 in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

Springfield 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City (taxpayer) contributions to pensions</td>
<td>$6.95 million</td>
<td>$32.09 million</td>
<td>Up 4.6X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of city general budget for pensions</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>Up 3.0X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Springfield’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 2.9 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in Springfield’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled $429.5 million. That means each Springfield household, on average, is now on the hook for $8,430 in debt.

Everyone loses under Springfield’s pension crisis:

**Taxpayers are tapped out**
Springfield residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 4.6 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 2.9 times larger.

**Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget**
Springfield pension contributions have grown to consume 27.6% of the city’s budget, up from 9.2% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.

**Springfield worker retirement security is collapsing**
The health of Springfield’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 64.9% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 51.5%.

**Springfield’s crisis will only get worse**
Springfield has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 1.39 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 0.90 active workers per pensioner.
Springfield received an “F” 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).*

Springfield received an “F” grade in 2019. The city’s total score dropped from 67 in 2003 to 48 in 2019, a decline of 19 points.

Springfield was one of 102 cities to receive an “F” grade in 2019.

### Springfield Key Facts

#### City demographics
- **Population**: 111,454 to 115,888
- **Households**: 48,753 to 50,952
- **Median household income**: $39,388 to $54,648

#### City budget
- **General revenues**: $75,607,972 to $116,283,468
- **Total revenues**: $289,189,759 to $504,892,348
- **Total property taxes**: $20,149,235 to $28,478,202

#### Pension health (police, fire & IMRF)
- **Total accrued liabilities**: $424,025,164 to $885,204,840
- **Total pension assets**: $275,318,551 to $455,663,926
- **Funded ratio**: 64.9% to 51.5%
- **Total pension shortfall**: $148,706,613 to $429,540,914
- **Per household**: $3,050 to $8,430
- **Active public safety workers**: 485 to 461
- **Public safety pension beneficiaries**: 350 to 512

#### City pension contributions
- **City contributions**: $6,950,555 to $32,092,811
- **Per household**: $143 to $630
- **Percentage of city’s general budget**: 9.2% to 27.6%

#### Springfield Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Police pension funded ratio</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Firefighter pension funded ratio</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>-28.8%</td>
<td>-8.6%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Communities in crisis: More than half of Illinois cities get “F” grades for local pensions