In 2003, East Peoria’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of $12.5 million. That meant every East Peoria household, on average, was on the hook for $1,303 in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

East Peoria 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>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City (taxpayer) contributions to pensions</td>
<td>$1.45 million</td>
<td>$4.77 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of city general budget for pensions</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, East Peoria’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 4.0 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in East Peoria’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled $49.4 million. That means each East Peoria household, on average, is now on the hook for $4,988 in debt.

Everyone loses under East Peoria’s pension crisis:

**Taxpayers are tapped out**
East Peoria residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 3.3 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 4.0 times larger.

**Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget**
East Peoria pension contributions have grown to consume 19.1% of the city’s budget, up from 13.4% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.

**East Peoria worker retirement security is collapsing**
The health of East Peoria’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 74.0% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 57.6%.

**East Peoria’s crisis will only get worse**
East Peoria has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 1.68 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 1.18 active workers per pensioner.
East Peoria received 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).*

East Peoria received a “D” grade in 2019. The city’s total score dropped from 75 in 2003 to 60 in 2019, a decline of 15 points.

East Peoria was one of 64 cities to receive a “D” grade in 2019.

### East Peoria Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City demographics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>22,638</td>
<td>22,851</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>9,584</td>
<td>9,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$41,538</td>
<td>$58,984</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City budget</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General revenues</td>
<td>$10,840,699</td>
<td>$25,004,434</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>$37,958,394</td>
<td>$72,491,544</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total property taxes</td>
<td>$4,892,497</td>
<td>$11,459,342</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension health (police, fire &amp; IMRF)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total accrued liabilities (benefits owed)</td>
<td>$48,136,896</td>
<td>$116,460,587</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pension assets</td>
<td>$35,645,278</td>
<td>$67,081,012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded ratio</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pension shortfall</td>
<td>$12,491,618</td>
<td>$49,379,575</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per household</td>
<td>$1,303</td>
<td>$4,988</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active public safety workers</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety pension beneficiaries</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City pension contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City contributions</td>
<td>$1,447,608</td>
<td>$4,767,772</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per household</td>
<td>$151</td>
<td>$482</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of city’s general budget</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees’ contributions</td>
<td>$569,945</td>
<td>$1,006,102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### East Peoria Score

1. Police pension funded ratio
   - 2003: 69.9%
   - 2019: 54.4%
   - Grade: D
2. Firefighter pension funded ratio
   - 2003: 59.1%
   - 2019: 55.7%
   - Grade: D
3. Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio
   - 2003: 100.4%
   - 2019: 77.0%
   - Grade: D
4. City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income
   - 2003: 3.1%
   - 2019: 8.5%
   - Grade: D
5. City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income
   - 2003: 0.36%
   - 2019: 0.82%
   - Grade: D
6. City contributions as a percentage of total budget
   - 2003: 3.8%
   - 2019: 6.6%
   - Grade: D
7. Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions
   - 2003: 2.54
   - 2019: 4.74
   - Grade: D
8. Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police & Fire only)
   - 2003: -8.8%
   - 2019: 15.4%
   - Grade: D
9. Asset-to-payout ratio (Police & Fire only)
   - 2003: 16.6
   - 2019: 13.7
   - Grade: D
10. Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police & Fire only)
    - 2003: 1.68
    - 2019: 1.18
    - Grade: D

**Total score** 75
**Grade** C

*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