

Red Ink Rising: Local Debt in the Lone Star State

The Status Quo

- Elevated Debt Levels
- Punishing Property Taxes – 14th highest in the nation
- A Threat to the Texas Model

Moving Beyond Business As Usual

- Create Public Awareness
- Ballot Box Transparency
- Financial Transparency – the Power to Tax Should Mean a Duty to Report Info. Online
- Local Govt. Debt Limits

You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means, but only for a limited period of time. Why, then, should we think that collectively, as a nation, we are not bound by that same limitation?

– Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address

Ensuring to Debt

Ensuring to Debt is a critical component of the Texas Model. It is the foundation of the Texas Model and is essential for the success of the Texas Model. It is the foundation of the Texas Model and is essential for the success of the Texas Model.

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More Debt?

More Debt? This is a critical question that needs to be addressed. It is the foundation of the Texas Model and is essential for the success of the Texas Model.

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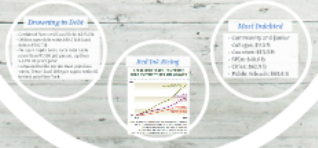
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Drowning in Debt

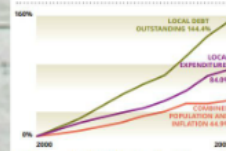
- Combined State and Local Debt: \$233.2 B
- Of that, state debt totals \$40.5 B & local debt is \$192.7 B
- On a per capita basis, local debt totals more than \$7,500 per person, up from \$4,359 10 years prior
- Compared to the top ten most populous states, Texas' local debt per capita ranks #2, behind only New York

Most Indebted

- Community and Junior Colleges: \$4.3 B
- Counties: \$13.3 B
- SPDs: \$48.6 B
- Cities: \$62.9 B
- Public Schools: \$63.6 B

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LOCAL DEBT SOARS: COMPARING DEBT, EXPENDITURES AND GROWTH



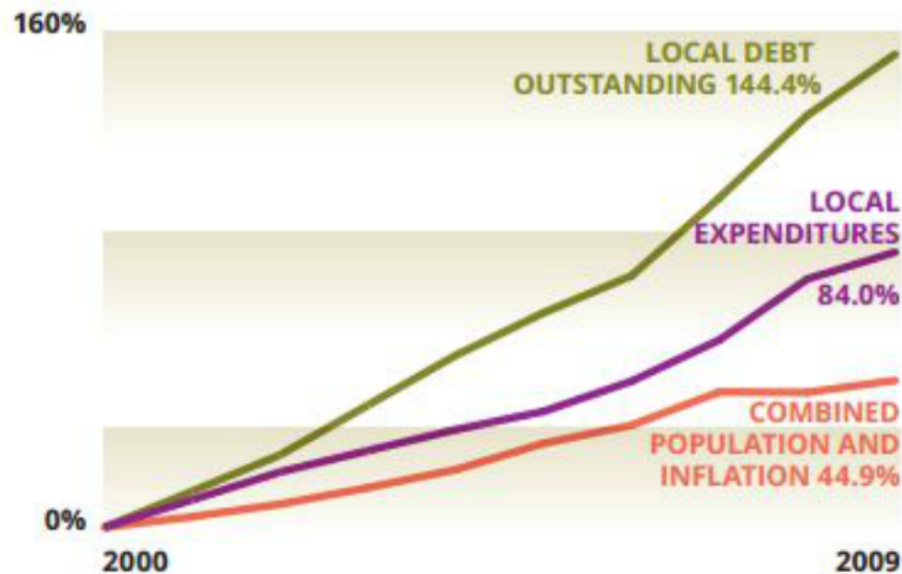
Note: Between 2000 and 2009, the amount of outstanding Texas local government debt grew more quickly than local government spending. Data on debt and expenditures was unavailable for 2001 and 2002.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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