

**Newport**  
**Bond Ratings (as of February 2003)**

**Moody's: Aa3**

**Fitch: -**

**Standard & Poor's: -**

In order to assess a community's financial condition, credit rating agencies focus on measuring a community's available resources to meet existing and projected obligations. The following indicators were developed to gauge these factors in order to provide an overview of a community's relative fiscal health. Taxpayers should not focus on any singular measure. Rather, they should evaluate their community's overall fiscal health using a range of the indicators discussed below.

The **General Fund balance as a percentage of the General Fund operating revenues** grew from 7.5% by the beginning of FY 2001 to 13.6% by the end of the year. One should note that some municipalities include school revenues and expenditures in a Special Revenue Fund and not in the General Fund. Therefore, this indicator doesn't include these revenues and expenditures for those communities. Hence, this indicator should not be used as a comparison among communities.

Newport has an **unfunded private municipal pension liability** in the amount of \$58,339,848 as of 2000. The city also participates in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island and has a pension funding surplus of \$1,871,974 in FY 2000.

The **estimated effective tax rate**, which is a tool to compare the overall property tax burden in each community is \$20.46 as of December 31, 1999. The state median is \$22.27. The tax levy as a percentage of the estimated full value is 2.1%. The state median is 2.2%.

The **outstanding long-term debt** per capita is \$1,306 and \$51 per \$1,000 of Personal Income. The statewide average is \$1,912 per capita and \$88 per \$1,000 of Personal Income. The outstanding debt as a percentage of estimated full value is 1.6%, while the statewide average is 3.3% (see also notes on the following page).

Newport's bond rating of Aa3 by Moody's is considered high quality and high grade. The General Fund balance as a percentage of the General Fund operating revenues grew during FY 2001. The city has an unfunded private municipal pension liability of \$58,339,848 as of 2000. The outstanding long-term debt per capita is 31.7% below the statewide average, ranking the city 19th within the state.

All municipal audits are required to be completed no later than six months after the close of the fiscal year. The Office of the Auditor General has discretion to grant extensions of up to three months after the legal deadline. Newport's audit report for FY 2000 was submitted seven months after the extension period and the audit report for FY 2001 was submitted nine months after the extension period.

**General Information**

Form of Government	Council-Manager
Population 2000	26,475
Personal Income Per Capita CY 2000	\$25,441

**Property Tax Data FY 2001 (Assessment as of 12/31/1999)**

Estimated Full Value	\$2,221,123,682
Property tax collection rate	96.0%
Tax Rates by Class:	
Residential RE Tax Rate	\$24.29
Homestead Provision	NA
Commercial RE Tax Rate	24.29
Inventory Tax Rate	18.95
Motor Vehicle Tax Rate	23.45
Personal Property Tax Rate	24.29
Estimated Effective Tax Rate	20.46
State Median	22.27
Tax Levy as Percentage of Full Value	2.1%
State Median	2.2%

