



Risk Analysis for Long-Term Debt (Bonding Capacity) Report

Budget and Finance Policy Committee
14 September 2023

OVERVIEW

- Council received report on 4/26/22: “Risk-Based Analysis and Stress Test of Long-Term Debt Affordability”
- Report produced by GFOA based on research and development of a risk-modeling tool to address issuing long-term debt related to City of Berkeley Vision 2050
- Report referred to Budget and Finance Policy Committee

STATUS UPDATE

Recommended Item	Status
Consideration of reserves policies for operational funds other than the General Fund	Ongoing. CMO working with GFOA on a risk-based probability model to assess General Fund reserves. The outcome of this model will be used to help establish reserve policies for other citywide funds. Draft policies will be presented to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee and then Council for adoption once completed.
Potential reduction of the maximum indebtedness rate from 15% of assessed property value down to 4-8% range	Completed. Council adoption of revisions to Debt Management and Disclosure Policy on 6/27/23 changed debt capacity from 15% to 6%. Revised language: “The City is subject to debt capacity limit for its general obligation bonds: 6% of assessed value”.

STATUS UPDATE

Recommended Item	Status
A new policy to not incur indebtedness when interest rates go above 5% or a different specific threshold	Ongoing. This scope is under review, especially with the current interest rate of the Federal Reserve Board and markets.
Tools for increased transparency for taxpayers	Ongoing. CMO researching cloud-based budgeting software and other tools to increase transparency.
Updated report and discussion of pension and healthcare costs	Completed. Council received Unfunded Liability Obligations and Unfunded Infrastructure Needs report; held a special meeting on 5/23/23 on pension and retiree healthcare costs.
Refer the full Report to the Budget & Finance Committee for consideration	Discussion of item on 9/14/23.