

Explanation of Fund Balance

Governmental funds report the difference between their assets and liabilities as fund balance. In February 2009, The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. This latest GASB standard will not affect the calculation of fund balance, but will fundamentally alter the various components used to report it. Fund balance will now be divided as follows:

1. Non-spendable
2. Restricted
3. Committed
4. Assigned
5. Unassigned

Non-spendable funds are not in a spendable form or must be maintained intact. Examples of these are inventories, prepaid expenses, and loans to various agencies.

Restricted funds can only be used for the specific purposes as stipulated by (1) external creditors, grantors, or laws of other governments (2) constitutionally, or through enabling legislation.

Committed funds are those constrained by limitations that the government imposes on itself at the highest level of decision-making authority. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the same formal action that imposed the original constraint.

Assigned funds are intended to be used by the government for a specific purpose. This intention can be expressed by the governing body, an official, or a body to which the governing body delegates the authority.

Unassigned funds are technically available for any purpose. Carroll's consists of anticipated current year unassigned funds.

Governments were required to implement GASB Statement No. 54 starting with the fiscal period that ended June 30, 2011.