

FORT BEND COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE 2017

County Judge Bob Hebert

INFRASTRUCTURE

➤ **THE BASIC LEVELS OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WITHIN A COMPLEX BODY OR SYSTEM THAT PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR PROPER FUNCTION**

INFRASTRUCTURE

Costs Money to:

**Build
Operate
Maintain**

Counties Cover the Cost Through –

A Property Tax !!!



How Do We Fund Local Infrastructure?

- **65¢ OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT BY COUNTY IS MANDATED BY THE STATE**
- **ONLY 35¢ REMAINS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, ROADS AND BRIDGES, PARKS, LIBRARIES, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES**

Mandates

- **Courts – District and County**
- **Maintenance of County Records**
- **Social Services**
- **Collection of State Fees**
- **Jails**
- **Indigent Health Services**
- **Indigent Defense Services**
- **Numerous Others.....**

Mandate Budget Impacts

	State Funding	County Funding
District Court (7)	\$145,000	\$1,106,000
County Court at Law (5)	40,000	1,600,000
Indigent Health*	0	2,196,000
Indigent Defense	0	1,516,620

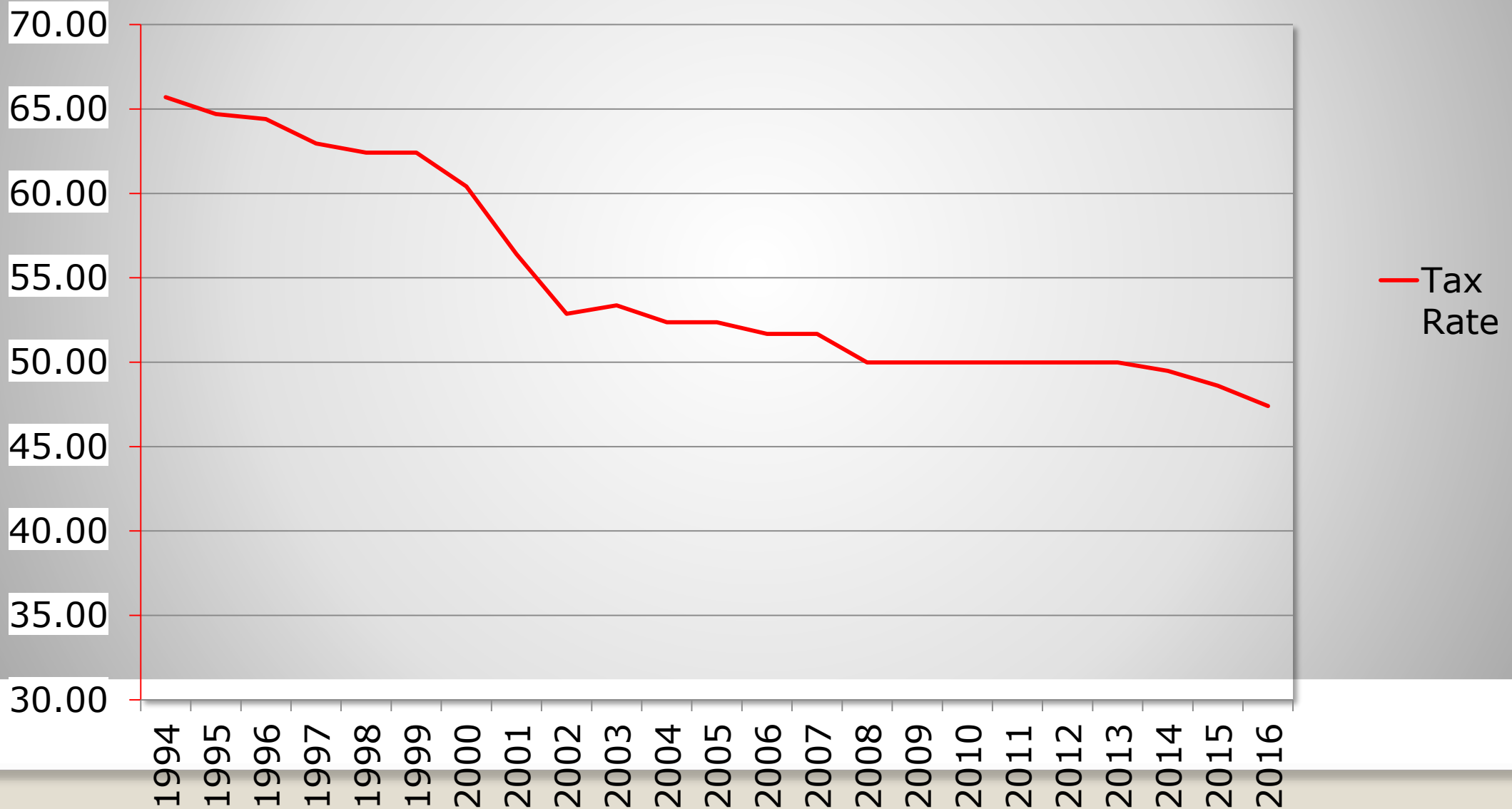
*State 8% of Budget Threshold

Local Services

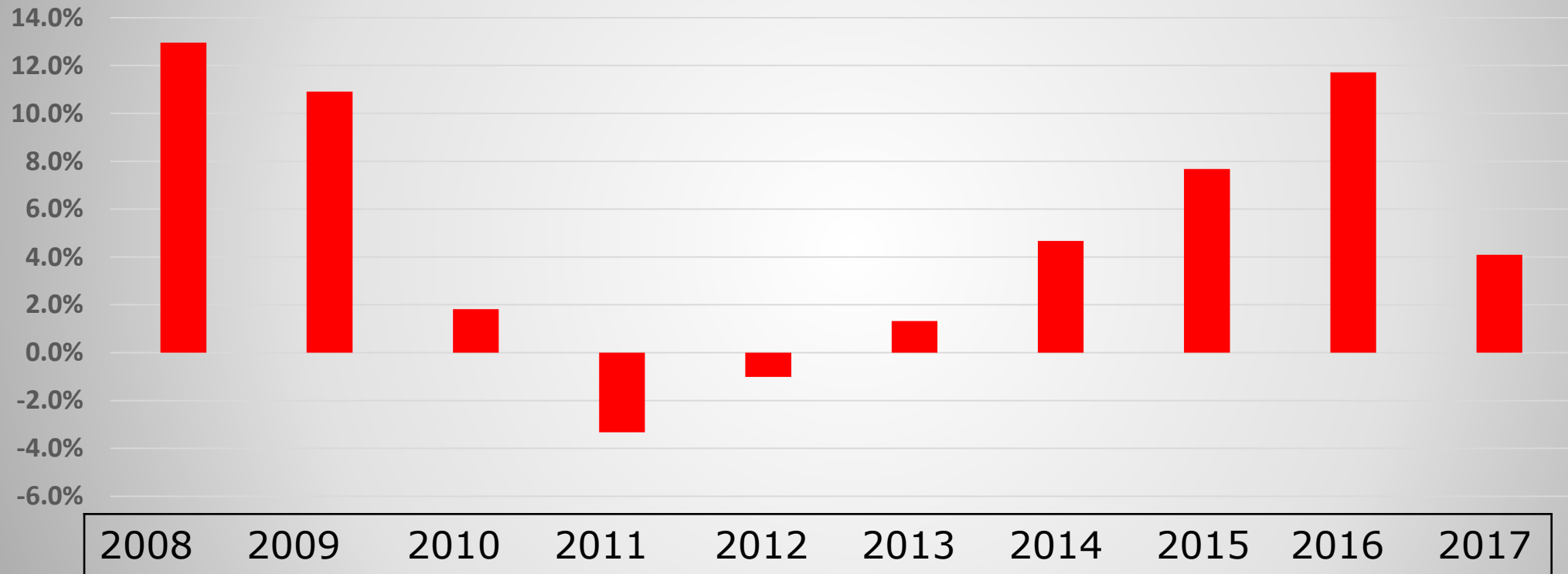
- **Sheriff's Office**
- **Roads and Bridges**
- **Drainage District**
- **Libraries**
- **Parks**
- **Emergency Management**
- **Emergency Medical Services**
- **Engineering Services**
- **Fire Marshal Services**
- **Enhanced Animal Services**
- **Medical Examiner Services**
- **Recycling Services**
- **Public Transportation**
- **Elections Administration**

**Infrastructure Funding
is Threatened in the
2017 Special Session**

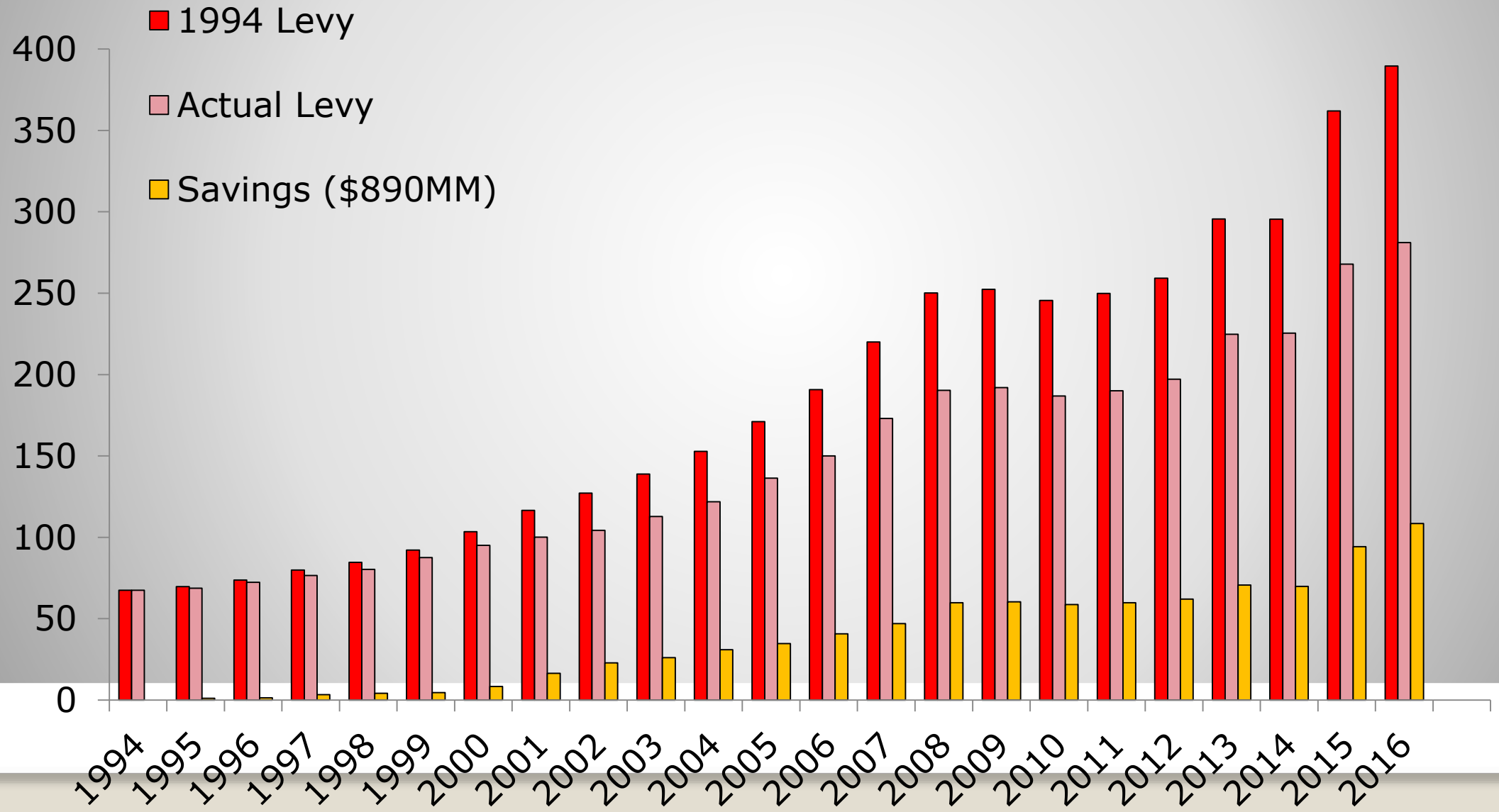
Tax Rate, 1994 – 2016 (In Cents/\$100)



Annual Revenue Changes (Adjusted to CPI)



1994 Tax Levy vs. Actual Tax Levy (In Millions)



Bond Elections (The Voters Report Card)

Court Complex 2008 \$74MM	Justice Center and Parking Garage	66% Yes
Mobility Bond Election 2013 \$184.9MM	60 Road Segments including several state roads; 2 bridge segments; traffic signals; transportation bus facility	73% Yes
Facilities 2015 \$98.6MM	County-wide Parks Acquisition and Improvement \$8,000; 5th Street Community Center Expansion \$1,900,000	69% Yes
	Fairgrounds - New Livestock Building \$6,000,000	61% Yes
	North-End New Branch Library \$13,400,000; Missouri City Branch Expansion and Renovation \$6,400,000	70% Yes
	Justice Center Expansion \$29,200,000; Structured Parking \$4,700,000; Medical Examiner Office \$3,400,000; Sheriff's Admin Building \$11,300,000; Sheriff's Katy Substation \$4,300,000; HCC Sienna Building \$8,000,000; EMS Facilities \$2,000,000	60% Yes

Property Tax Reform

**Revenue Caps do not
lower taxes, they only
cap the rate of revenue
increase!!!**

Revenue Caps - A Recurring Issue

- **Every session since 2003, property tax reform bills have been introduced, usually proposing some form of revenue cap.**
- **This session, Lt. Governor Patrick pushed for "Tax Reform" in the form of revenue caps on cities and counties.**
- **The House stood firm and revenue caps failed, but a fight is looming in the special session, a fight that needs to be won!**

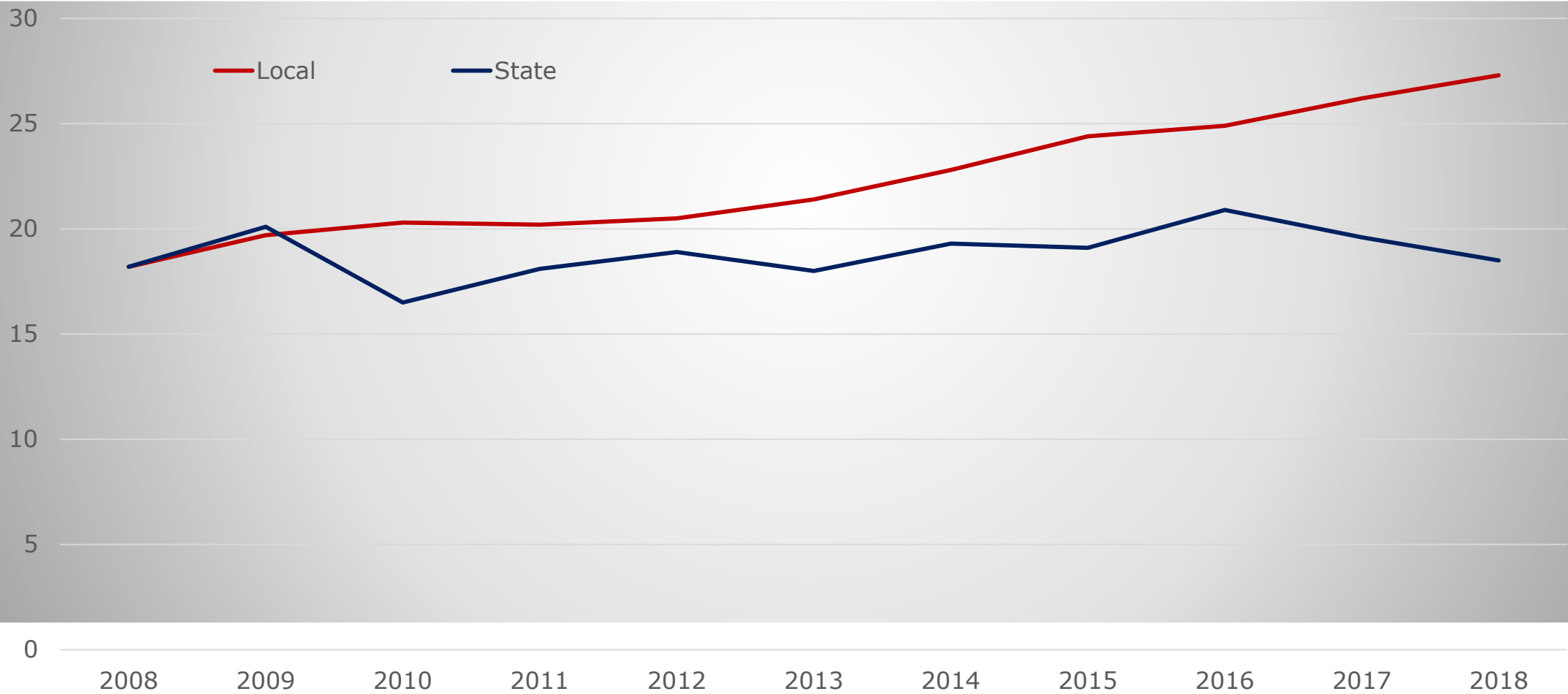
The Concern

- **Capping revenue to local government will not correct deficiencies in the property tax system**
- **Capping revenue will take local control from local officials and pass it to the state legislature (The California model)**

Property Taxes Do Need Reform –

But That Reform Needs To Be Effective !!!

K – 12 Education – The Real Issue (In Billions)



Three Suggested Reforms

Seek Effective Reform of Property Taxes by:

- **Granting Significant Relief Across ALL Taxing Jurisdictions to our Senior Home Owners and Disabled Persons, and/or**
- **Reforming the Appraisal Review Process to Remove Concerns About Objectivity, and/or**
- **Finding Additional Revenues to Support K – 12 Education While Lowering Property Taxes by Some Percentage of the New Revenue.**

Bottom Line

- **Property Taxes do Need Reform**
- **Local Governments are NOT the Problem**
- **If the Governor and Both Houses Work Together, Effective Reform can be Achieved**

Questions???