HOW TO VOTE EVERY DAY

WHO AM I?

Lived Experience

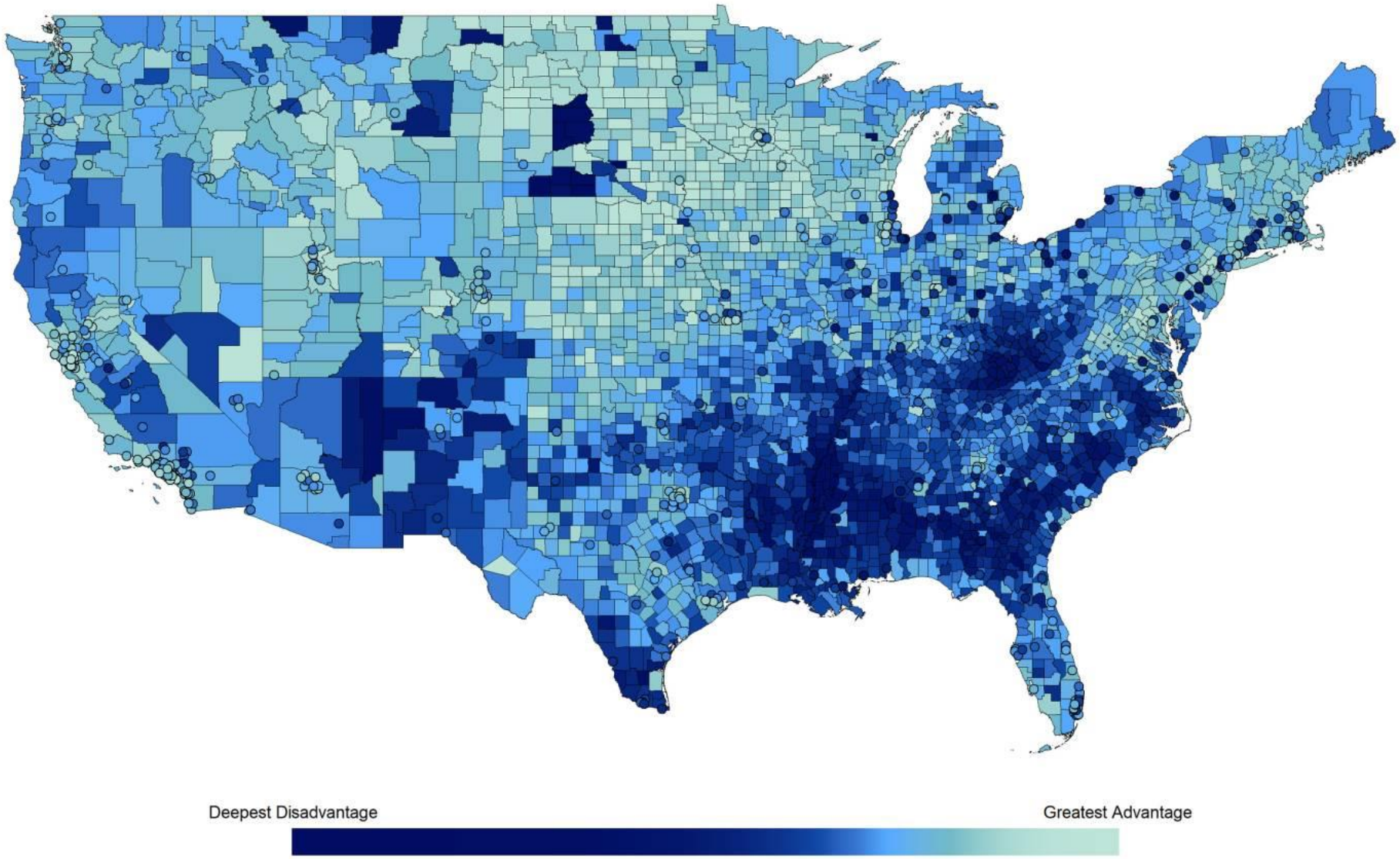
Master's Degree

New Years Resolution – 2021

RWHC

Cooperatives!

Disclaimer: Disposable Income



Source: Kathryn Edin, Injustice of Place


One
Good
Thing

WHY THIS TOPIC?

- A recent Pew survey found that only 4% of Americans believe the political system is working extremely or very well, while nearly three-quarters (72%) say it is not working well.
- 80% of Americans are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country
- Americans view economic conditions negatively and rank inflation (prices for food, consumer goods, housing + energy) and poverty as top concerns

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?

What's within our control?

VOTING IS IMPORTANT

2024 + 2020 Presidential Elections:

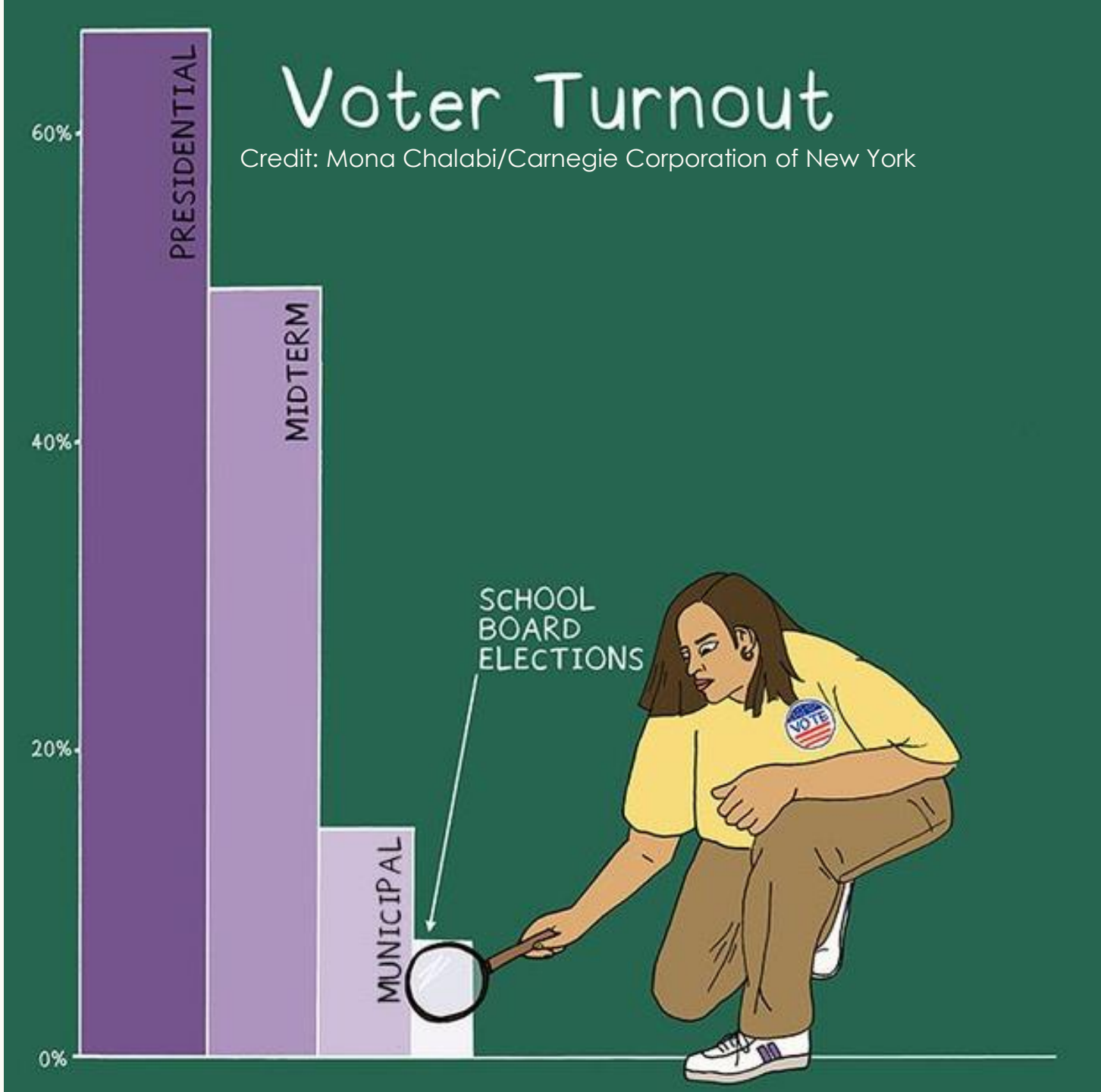
65% of eligible citizens voted

2022 Midterms:

52% of eligible citizens votes

Municipal: <15%

School Boards: 5-10%

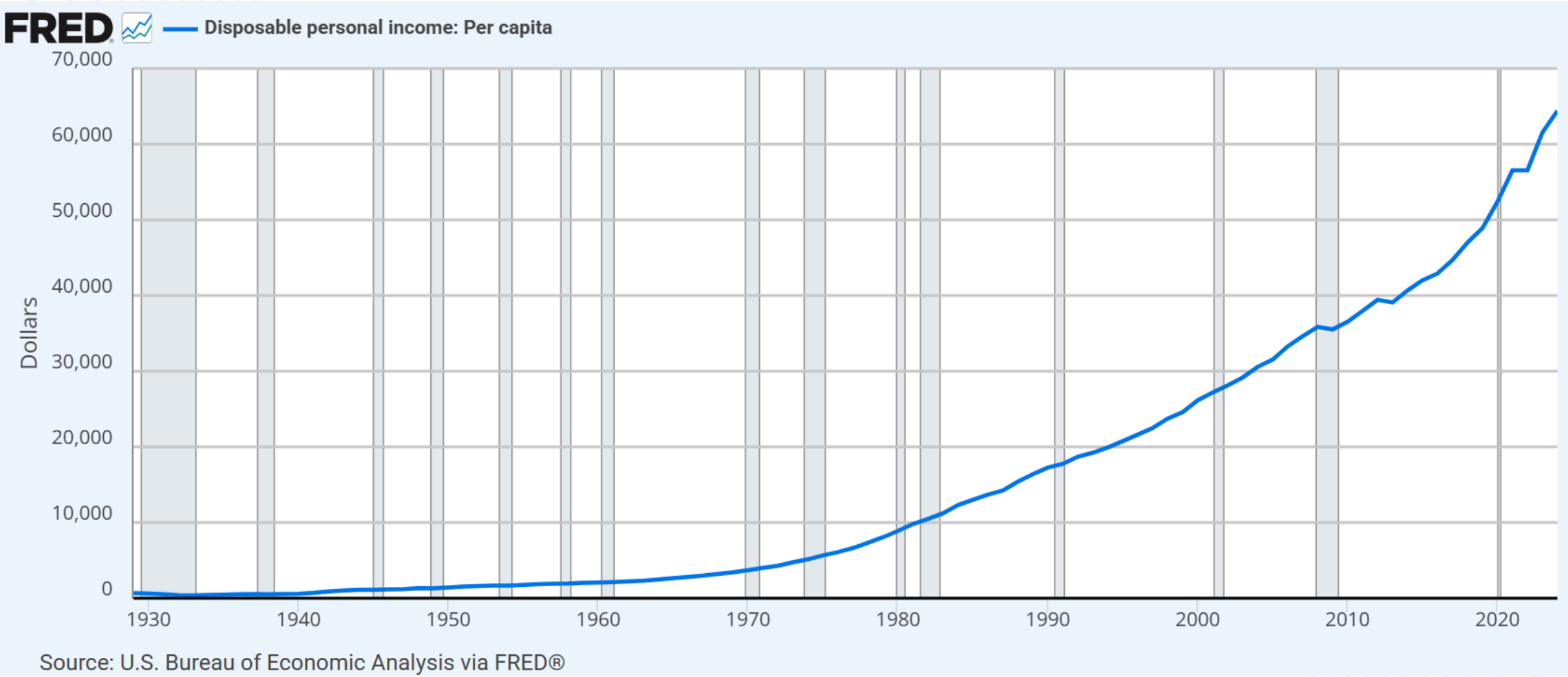


WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?

What's within our control?

SPEND OUR MONEY DIFFERENTLY

- Improve sentiments about “the way things are going”
- Impact economic conditions
- LESSEN POVERTY


FRED
Disposable personal income: Per capita
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
Dollars
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis via FRED®

Daily Spending *by Age*

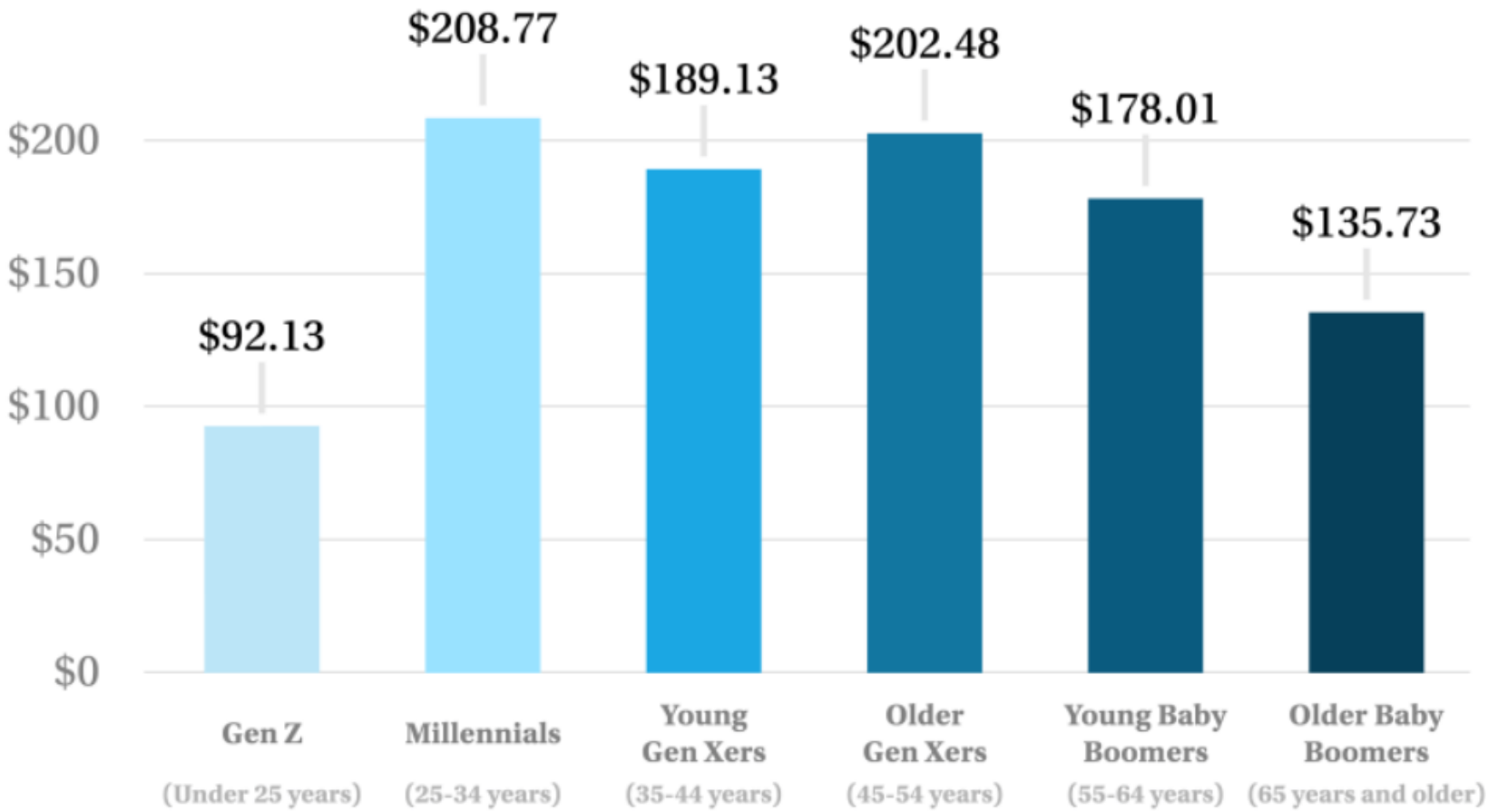


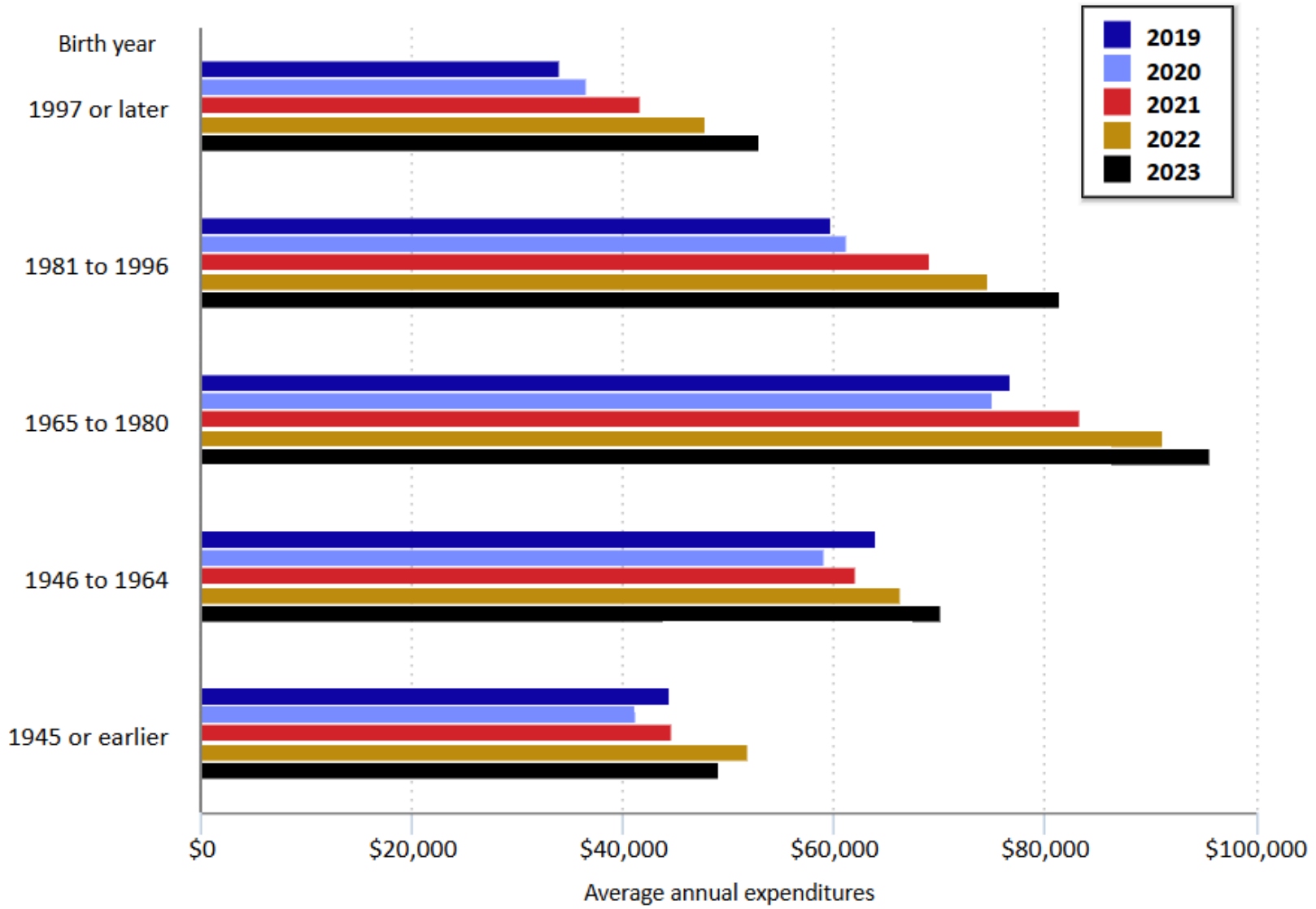
Table: Average monthly spending by category

American Households Average Monthly Expenses

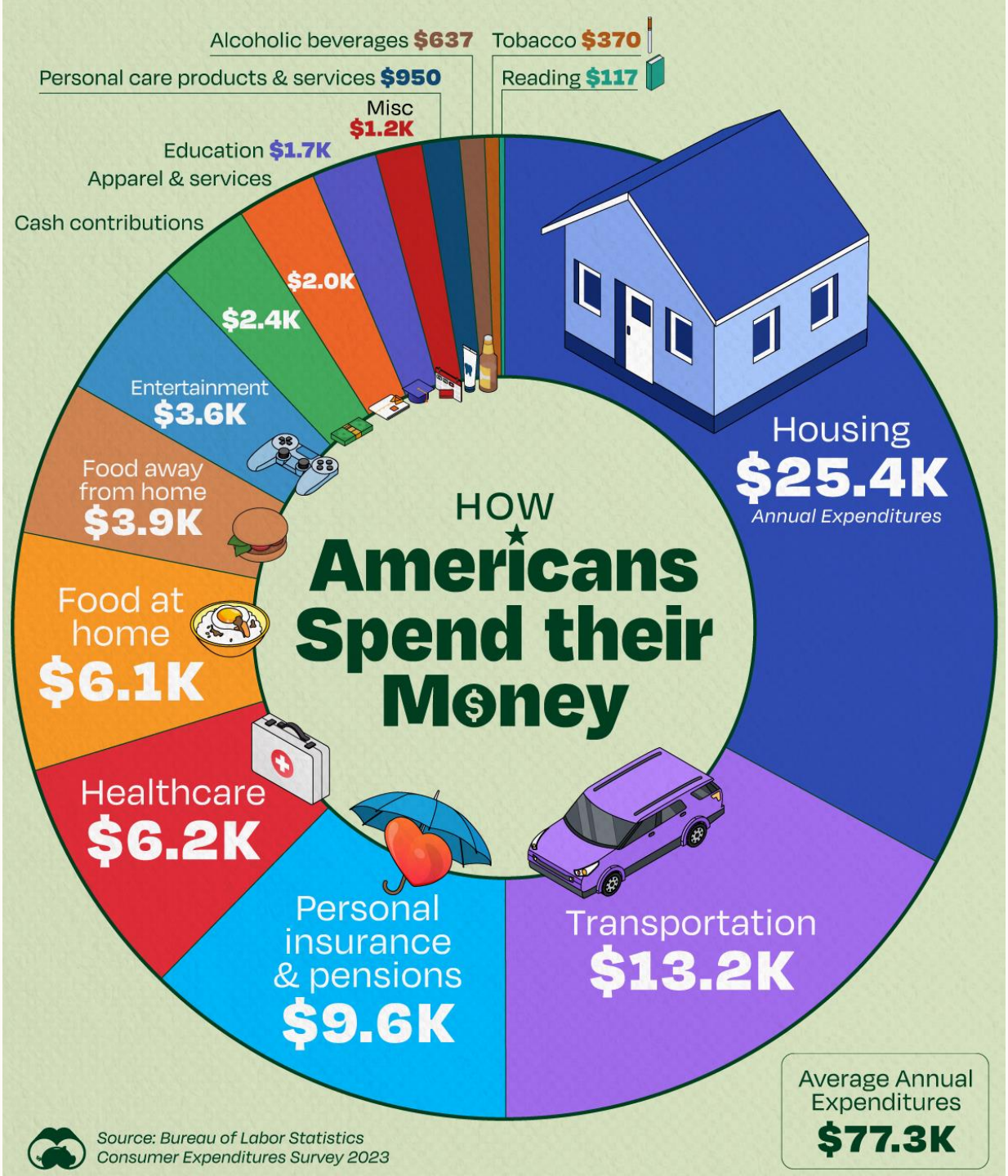
Category	Average Monthly Expenditure, 2023	Average Annual Expenditure, 2023	Percent of Overall Spending	Percent of Income (After Tax)
Housing	$2,120	$25,436	33%	29%
Transportation	$1,098	$13,174	17%	15%
Food	$832	$9,985	13%	11%
Personal insurance and pensions	$796	$9,556	12%	11%
Healthcare	$513	$6,159	8%	7%
Entertainment	$303	$3,635	5%	4%
Cash contributions	$198	$2,378	3%	3%
Apparel and services	$170	$2,041	3%	2%
Education	$138	$1,656	2%	2%
Miscellaneous	$110	$1,326	2%	2%
Personal care products and services	$79	$950	1%	1%
Alcoholic beverages	$53	$637	1%	1%

Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (2024).

Total average annual expenditures ($) by generation of birth



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.


Alcoholic beverages $637
Tobacco $370
Personal care products & services $950
Reading $117
Misc $1.2K
Education $1.7K
Apparel & services
Cash contributions
$2.0K
$2.4K
Entertainment $3.6K
Food away from home $3.9K
Food at home $6.1K
Healthcare $6.2K
Personal insurance & pensions $9.6K
Transportation $13.2K
Housing $25.4K
Annual Expenditures
HOW Americans Spend their M$ney
Average Annual Expenditures $77.3K
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Expenditures Survey 2023

COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC ACTION

- Shared strategies for mutual benefit
- Our choices affect others + systems
- Similar, coordinated choices multiply impact
- Coordinated mobilization of shared resources to change systems and outcomes

DISCUSSION

How have you engaged previously in collective economic action? What has been successful or challenging?

HOUSING

Owners:

- Local Bank
- Credit Union
- Local Insurance Broker
- Local Insurance Company
- Short Term Rentals

Renters:

- Housing Co-ops
- Tenant Organizing

Developers:

- Deed Restrictions
- Community Land Trusts

TRANSPORTATION

Owners:

- Local Car Dealership
- Local Bank
- Credit Union
- Local Insurance Broker
- Local Insurance Company

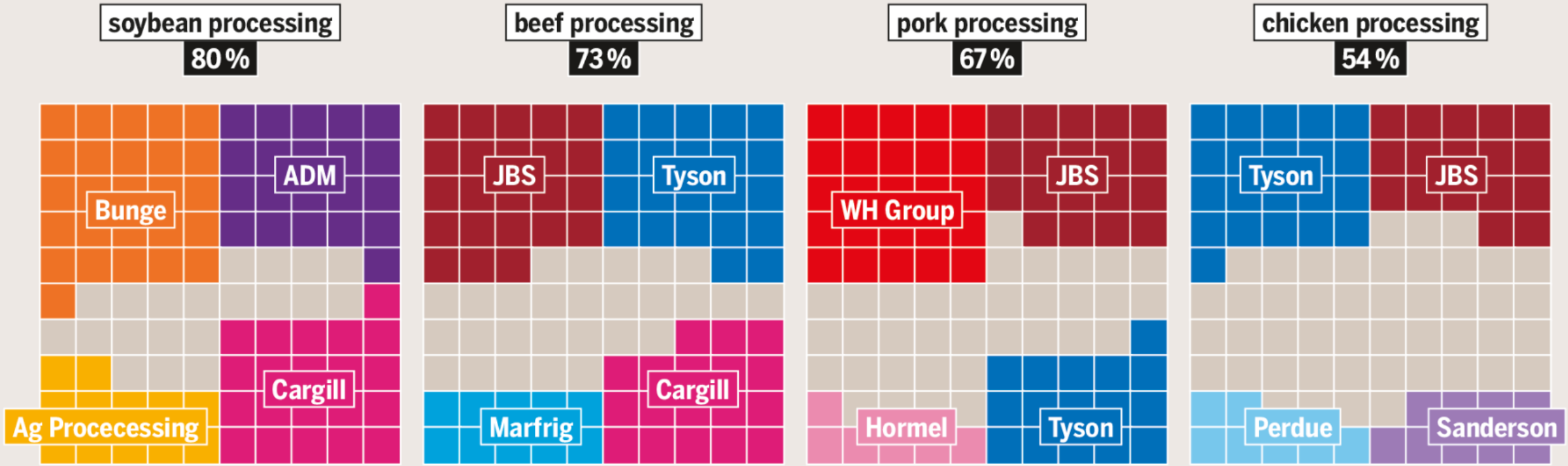
Public Transit:

- Worker Co-ops, not Uber
- Municipal Transit

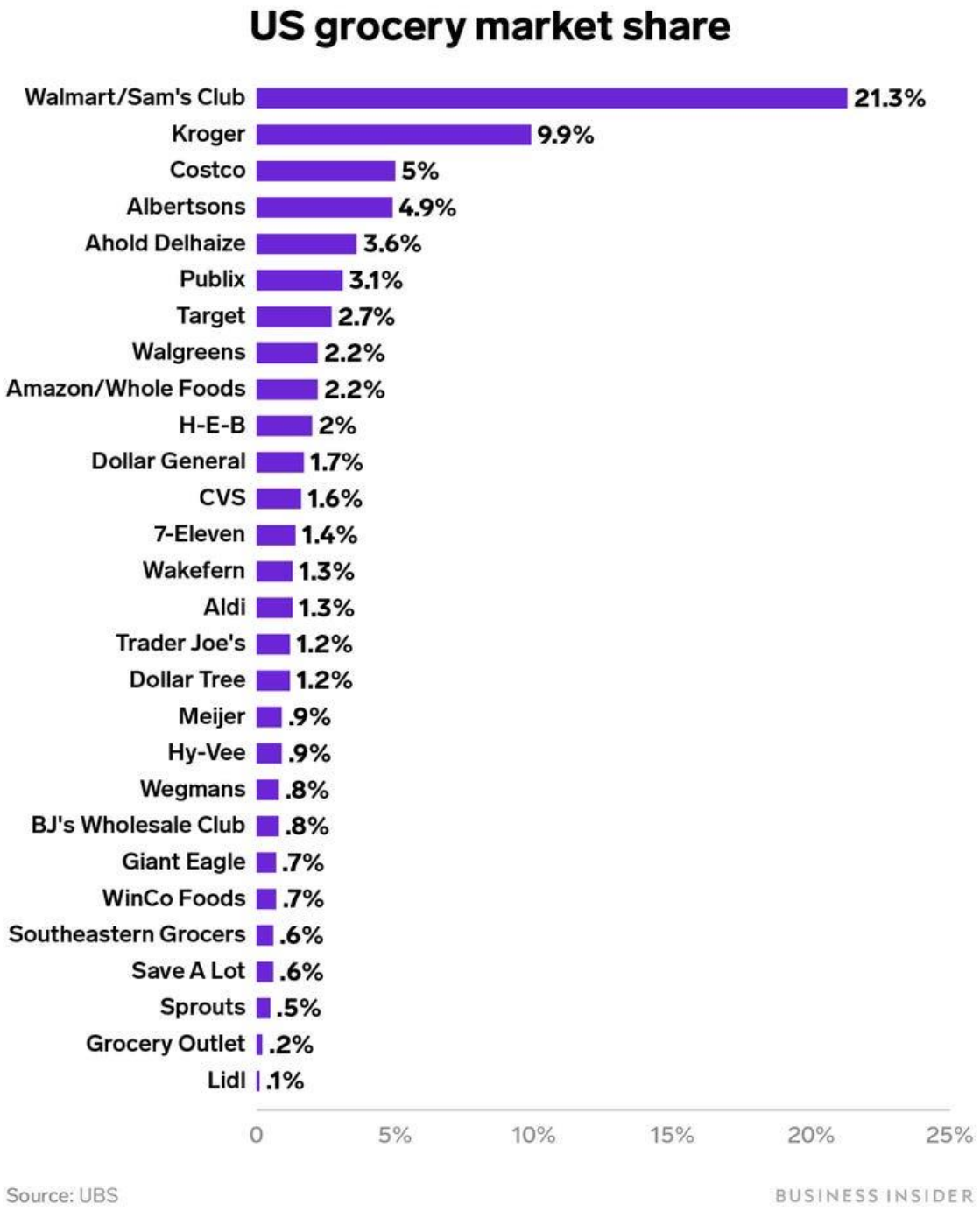
US FOOD SYSTEM

WHALES AND MINNOWS

Combined share of sales for the top four firms in selected US feed and meat industry sectors, 2020*



*survey undated; publication year


US grocery market share
Walmart/Sam's Club 21.3%
Kroger 9.9%
Costco 5%
Albertsons 4.9%
Ahold Delhaize 3.6%
Publix 3.1%
Target 2.7%
Walgreens 2.2%
Amazon/Whole Foods 2.2%
H-E-B 2%
Dollar General 1.7%
CVS 1.6%
7-Eleven 1.4%
Wakefern 1.3%
Aldi 1.3%
Trader Joe's 1.2%
Dollar Tree 1.2%
Meijer .9%
Hy-Vee .9%
Wegmans .8%
BJ's Wholesale Club .8%
Giant Eagle .7%
WinCo Foods .7%
Southeastern Grocers .6%
Save A Lot .6%
Sprouts .5%
Grocery Outlet .2%
Lidl .1%
0
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
Source: UBS
BUSINESS INSIDER

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Grocery stores generate significant economic stimulus by serving as anchors for further commercial development and revitalization – creating jobs, generating tax revenues, and capturing local dollars.

- It is estimated that 24 new jobs are created for every 10,000 square feet of retail grocery space (Bell et al., 2013).
- Even in times of economic downturn and national pandemics, grocery stores are resilient and even more important for neighborhoods and communities.
- Opening a grocery store increases nearby house values. In low-income communities, the opening of a supermarket also appears to largely mitigate any previously downward trend in local property values (Reinvestment Fund, 2007).
- Grocery stores provide both direct and indirect economic benefits. Grocery stores generate direct economic benefits through the grocery operation, distribution, and packaging. Indirect economic benefits occur when ancillary businesses work in support of the grocery operation, i.e. outside plumbers, electricians, carpenters, etc.

ROLES OF GROCERY STORES

- Anchor tenants
- Community hub
- Healthy food
- Local food system driver → food security!
- Economic driver
- Charitable giving

FOOD

Local!!!!

- Garden
- Farmers Market
- Roadside Stands
- CSA
- Grocery Co-op
- Local Grocery Stores
- Veggie Swap!
- Local Restaurants
- Half/Whole Animal

FAIRSHARE CSA COALITION

USU EXTENSION RESEARCH

• When farmers sell directly to you, they retain a greater portion of the value-added costs typically captured by large firms (“middlemen”) further down the supply chain? This minor fact helps preserve small farms and sustain rural communities (Gale, 1997).

• On average, it is estimated that buying local keeps approximately 65% of your dollar within the community, whereas shopping at large chain stores keeps only 40%.

• Nationally, small businesses are the largest employer, so voting with your dollar provides more jobs in your hometown.

• Buying local increases our nation’s food security in the event of international conflict.

•Environmental + Social Benefits

DISCUSSION

Where have you had success or challenges supporting local food systems?

DRINK LOCAL!

- Local job creation
- Increased commercial property values
- Downtown revitalization
- Tourism draw
- WI: $2.3B economic impact of breweries
- Who funds these projects?

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR LIFE IS

BANK Locally

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION · 1934 ·

LOCAL BANKS / CREDIT UNIONS

- Small Business Lending
- Community Development
- Financial Education
- Charitable Giving

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Banks face challenges in lending to small businesses, including greater risk of the business failing, higher loan costs and difficulties assessing creditworthiness.
- Community banks are well positioned to meet such challenges because of their insights into local economic conditions and business opportunities.
- Community banks' higher ratios of small-business loans and microloans to total assets point to a focus on providing access to credit for small firms.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- ESG Investing
- Impact Depositing + Impact Investing
- Investment Cooperatives

DISCUSSION

Where have you had success or challenges engaging with local financial services?

IF YOU LEAD A BUSINESS...

- Procurement Policies
- Impact Investing
- Employee Incentives
- Company Merch / Swag
- Hiring Practices

CONSUMER SERVICES

- Impact of Private Equity
  - Healthcare / Dental
  - Veterinary Care
- Employment Practices
  - Ex: Cleaner, Masseuse, Coffee
- Cultural Impact
- Wealth Extraction

CONSUMER GOODS

- Often most “flexibility” in consumer spending
- Ideas of convenience, efficiency
- Environmental + geopolitical impact

DISCUSSION

Do you have a self-imposed “ethic” around consumer goods or services that guides your spending thoughts or habits?

ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

amazon

DOLLAR GENERAL®

Walmart

WELLS FARGO

DOLLAR STORES

- Threaten existing local businesses, particularly groceries
- Create / exacerbate food deserts
- Fewer jobs / lower wages than a traditional grocery store
- Poor labor practices
- Extract community wealth
- Provide poor value / quality to consumers

> *They need to do better by their employees, they need to do better by their customers and they need to do better for the communities they build their stores in," said Trina Tribolet, the former store manager.*

Dollar General employees quit at Mineral Point, Wisconsin store

Mar 13, 2024 — Dollar General employees at Wisconsin store make statement by walking o…

USA Today

Source: ILSR

AMAZON

- Captures ½ of all online sales
- High fess + predatory practices on small biz
- Reduce local tax base (property + payroll)
    - One study found that the entrance of an Amazon warehouse into a community drops retail worker pay by 2.4%, lowering retail workers' pay up to 100 miles away from the warehouse. The local retail sector also loses jobs, which aren't offset by job creation from within the warehouse itself.
- Environmental impact
- Monopoly, anti-trust concerns

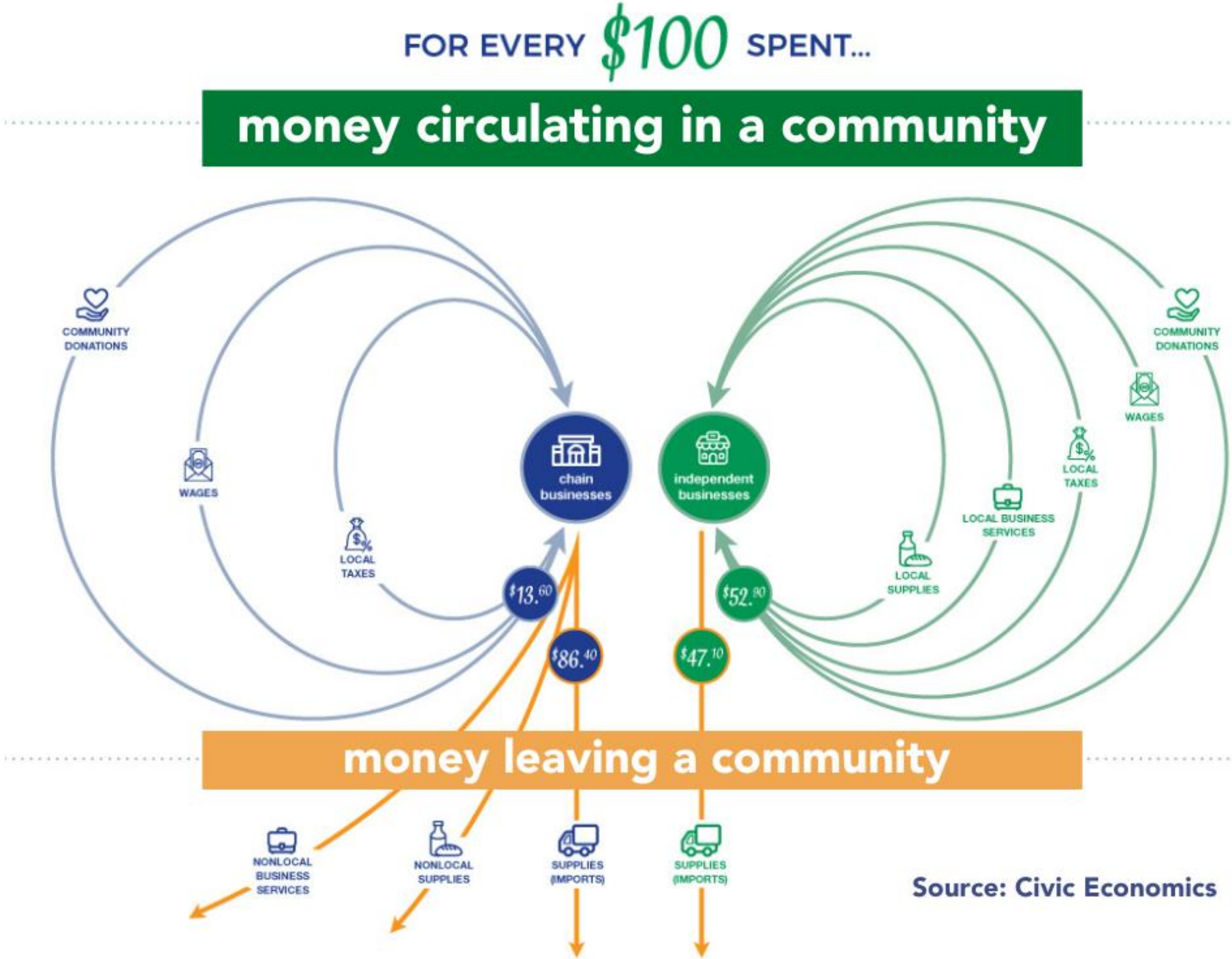
WALMART

- Pressure on suppliers
- “In the 10 years after a Walmart Supercenter opened in a given community, the average household in that community experienced a 6 percent decline in yearly income—equivalent to about $5,000 a year in 2024 dollars—compared with households that didn’t have a Walmart open near them. Low-income, young, and less-educated workers suffered the largest losses.”
- “Poverty increases by about 8 percent in places where a Walmart opens relative to places without one even when factoring in the most optimistic cost-savings scenarios”
- “The company has historically sourced 60 to 80 percent of its goods from China alone. As a result, Wiltshire finds, five years after Walmart enters a given county, total employment falls by about 3 percent, with most of the decline concentrated in “goods-producing establishments.”

WELLS FARGO

- Fake, "Phantom" Accounts → Fees
- Racial discrimination in lending rates
- Predatory sales tactics with Native communities
- "Reverse Redlining"
- "Downsizing Physical Footprint"


STOP


FOR EVERY $100 SPENT...
money circulating in a community
COMMUNITY DONATIONS
WAGES
LOCAL TAXES
chain businesses
independent businesses
LOCAL SUPPLIES
LOCAL BUSINESS SERVICES
LOCAL TAXES
WAGES
COMMUNITY DONATIONS
$13.60
$52.80
$86.40
$47.10
money leaving a community
NONLOCAL BUSINESS SERVICES
NONLOCAL SUPPLIES
SUPPLIES (IMPORTS)
SUPPLIES (IMPORTS)
Source: Civic Economics

FROM NFIB

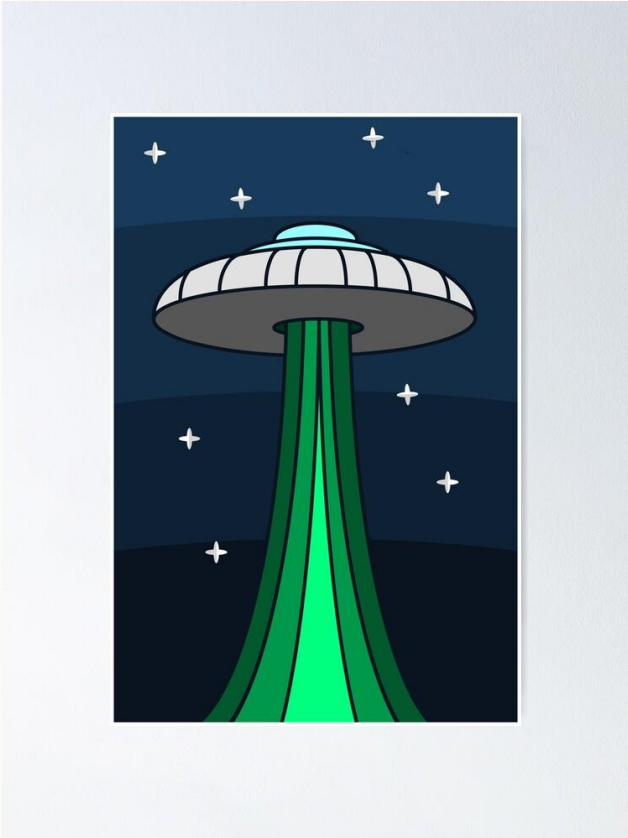
•About 76% of small business owners volunteered their time for civic groups, charities, youth sports programs, schools, religious organizations, or similar activities in the past year.

•Financial support was the most common way small businesses helped their communities. Ninety percent of small business owners donated money to local groups, charities, youth sports, schools, or religious organizations in the past year.

•Sixty-three percent of small business owners made in-kind contributions, such as donating meeting spaces, excess inventory, or auction items to raise money for causes

INTANGIBLE BENEFITS

- Stronger Social Capital
- Stronger Sense of Place
  - Character
  - Pride
- Greater Resilience
- Wealth + Health



WHAT WORKS FOR HEALTH

Microfinance & microenterprise

Support programs that provide small loans, usually to individuals with lower incomes, to start or expand a small business, often with business development training and other technical assistance

Evidence Rating: Expert Opinion

Sector-based workforce initiatives

Provide industry-focused education and job training based on the needs of regional employers within specific sectors

Evidence Rating: Some Evidence

CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

- ~$6500 in credit card debt
- ~60% live “paycheck to paycheck”
- We spend a lot of money!
  - 71 Amazon orders for $2700
- Don’t simply replace where you spend money – change how you think about your interactions with the economy!

DISCUSSION

How do you think you could change your consumption patterns in order to have a more positive economic impact?

MONEYLESS ECONOMIES

- Barter
- Trade
- Resource Sharing
- Self-Production
- Lending Libraries

CIRCULAR ECONOMIES

Thrift!

Repair!

- Reduced environmental impact

Reuse!

- Lower cost

Recycle!

- Profit is often mission-driven

DISCUSSION

Share a success you've had in engaging in moneyless or circular economies!

WHAT'S THE POINT?

- Wealth
- Health
- Resources / Choices
- Self Determination / Agency
- PEOPLE!

LOOK FOR THE HUMAN IMPACT

LOOK FOR THE HUMAN IMPACT

DISCUSSION

Where have you seen the “human impact” of spending in your community – be it positive or negative?

FINAL TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

- Don’t let perfect be the enemy of good
- Start small
- Optimism!

DISCUSSION

What is one next step you feel you can commit to after today's session?

THANK YOU

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