

# The EQUITY CENTER

is proud of its

## *GOLD SPONSORS*

A. Bargas & Associates, LLC

First Southwest Company

Harris County Department of Education

Innovative Transportation Solutions (ITS)

JR<sup>3</sup> Education Associates, WebSmart, ICAP

Moak Casey & Associates

Ray, Wood & Bonilla, LLP

Schwartz & Eichelbaum

Wardell Mehl and Hansen, P.C.

Southwest Securities

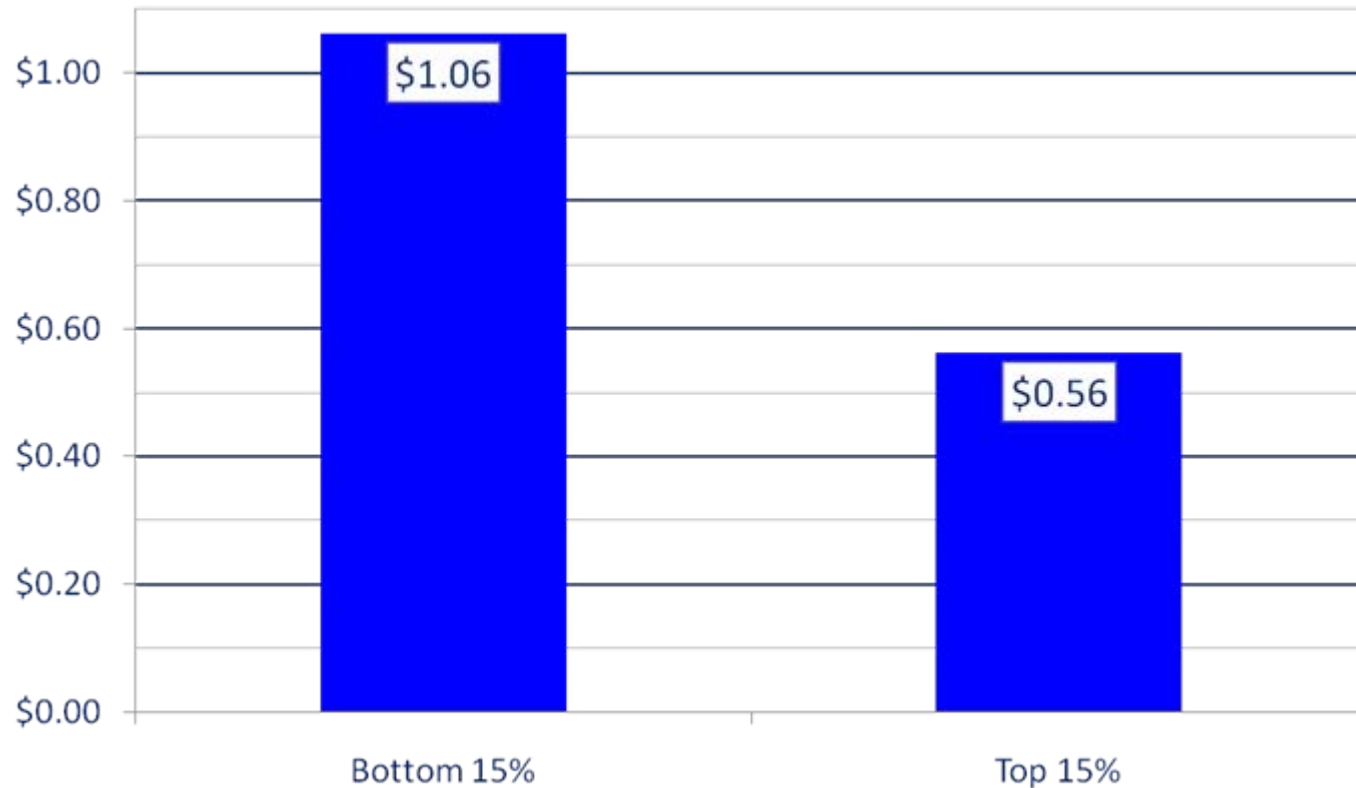
# Four Fields of Battle

1. Legislature
2. Courts
3. Media
4. Community

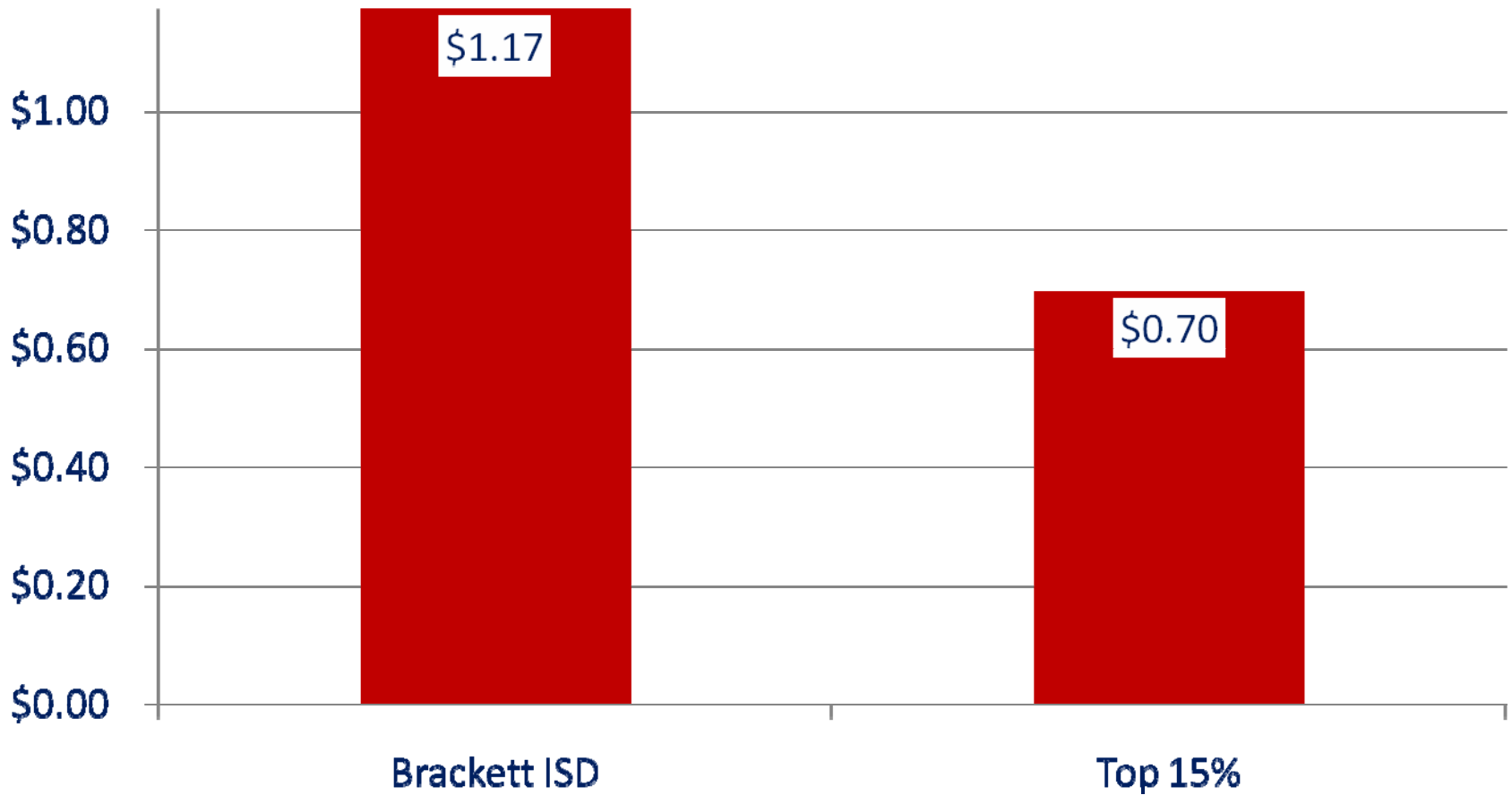
# Causes of Action

- Efficiency
  - Taxpayer Inequity
    - \$0.09 difference between top and bottom 15% does not violate constitutional equity (*Edgewood IV*)

# M&O Tax Rate Required to Raise \$5,277



# M&O Tax Rates to Raise \$5,839

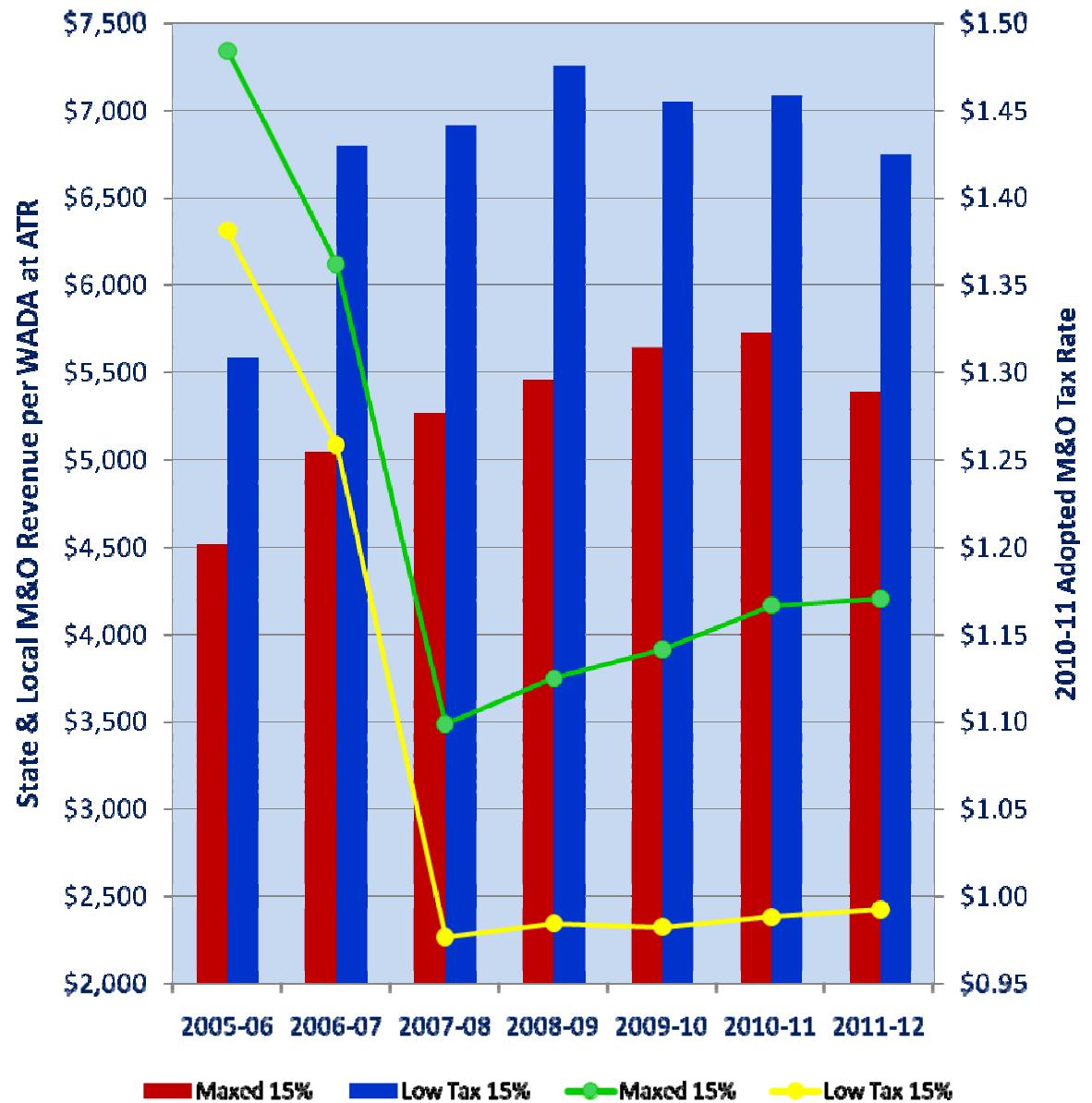


# Causes of Action

- Efficiency
  - Taxpayer Inequity
    - \$0.09 difference between top and bottom 15% does not violate constitutional equity (*Edgewood IV*)
  - Student Funding Inequity

## Top 15% of districts get more with less effort than their high-tax/low-revenue counterparts.

- Districts for which data are available for 2005-06 to 2011-12 were sorted first by 2010-11 M&O property tax rates (proxy for 2011-12 rates), then by estimated state & local revenue per WADA per Penny within each tax rate group.
- Using 15% is significant because the Texas Supreme Court compared top and bottom 15% of districts for its analysis in Edgewood IV.
- In the chart, green lines go with red columns and yellow lines go with blue columns.



# Causes of Action

- Efficiency
  - Taxpayer Inequity
    - \$0.09 difference between top and bottom 15% does not violate constitutional equity (*Edgewood IV*)
  - Student Funding Inequity
  - Arbitrary, Irrational Target Revenue Funding System

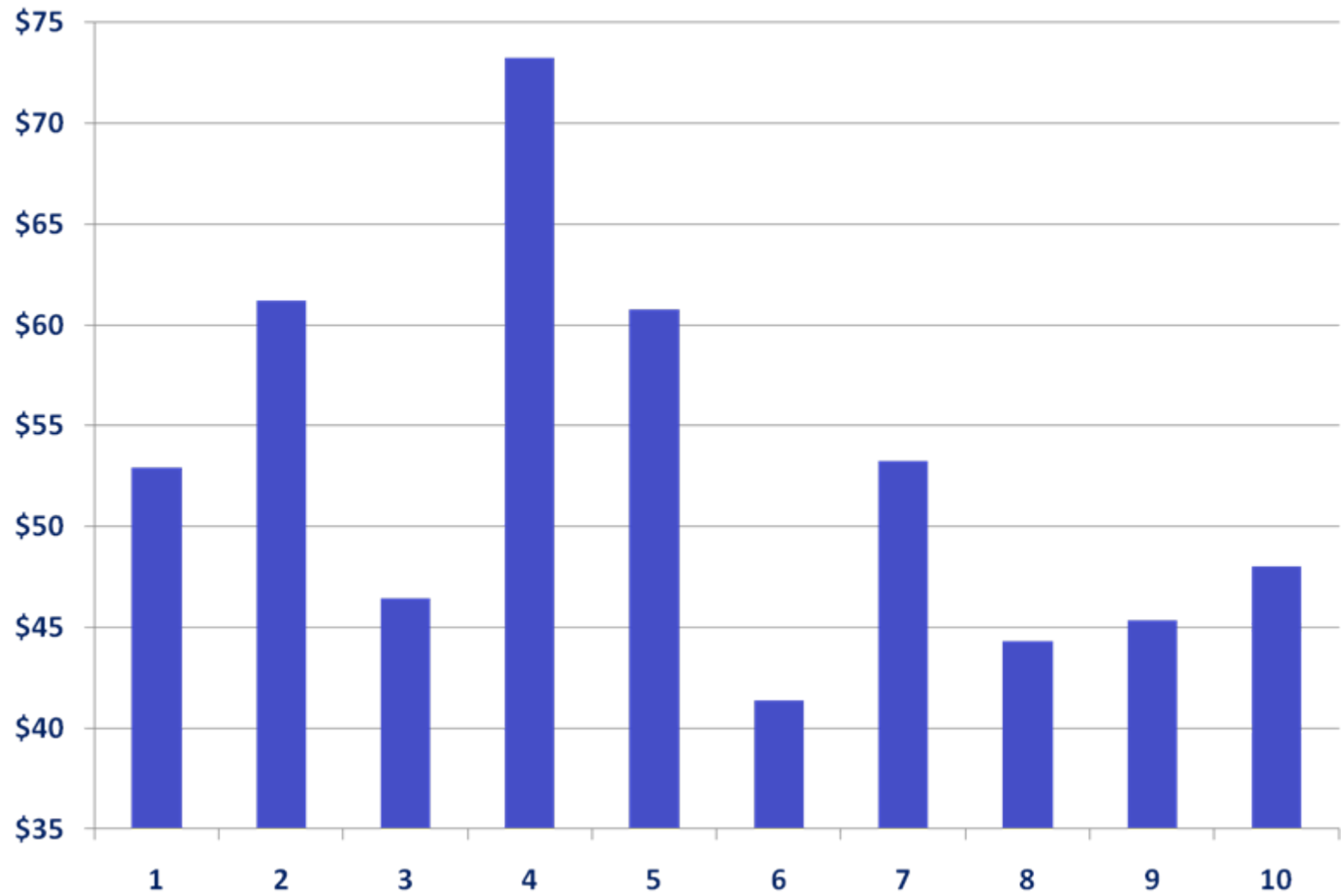


Same...	District	Tax Rate*	Revenue**
Location	Alamo Heights	\$1.04	\$6,243
	San Antonio	\$1.04	\$5,036
Size	Glen Rose	\$0.825	\$8,424
	Diboll	\$1.04	\$4,881
Tax Rate	Austin	\$1.079	\$6,171
	Amarillo	\$1.08	\$5,094
Revenue	Lamar Cons.	\$1.02	\$5,475
	Calallen	\$1.17	\$5,475

# Causes of Action

- Efficiency
  - Taxpayer Inequity
    - \$0.09 difference between top and bottom 15% does not violate constitutional equity (*Edgewood IV*)
  - Student Funding Inequity
  - Arbitrary, Irrational Target Revenue Funding System
- Lack of Meaningful Discretion  
(unconstitutional *de facto* state property tax)

**2011-12 Total State & Local Revenue Yield (M&O + I&S)**



# Causes of Action

- Efficiency
  - Taxpayer Inequity
    - \$0.09 difference between top and bottom 15% does not violate constitutional equity (*Edgewood IV*)
  - Student Funding Inequity
  - Arbitrary, Irrational Target Revenue Funding System
- Lack of Meaningful Discretion (unconstitutional *de facto* state property tax)
- Inadequate Funding
  - General Diffusion of Knowledge
  - Suitability

A School Finance System that is  
**Good Enough for Every Child**