



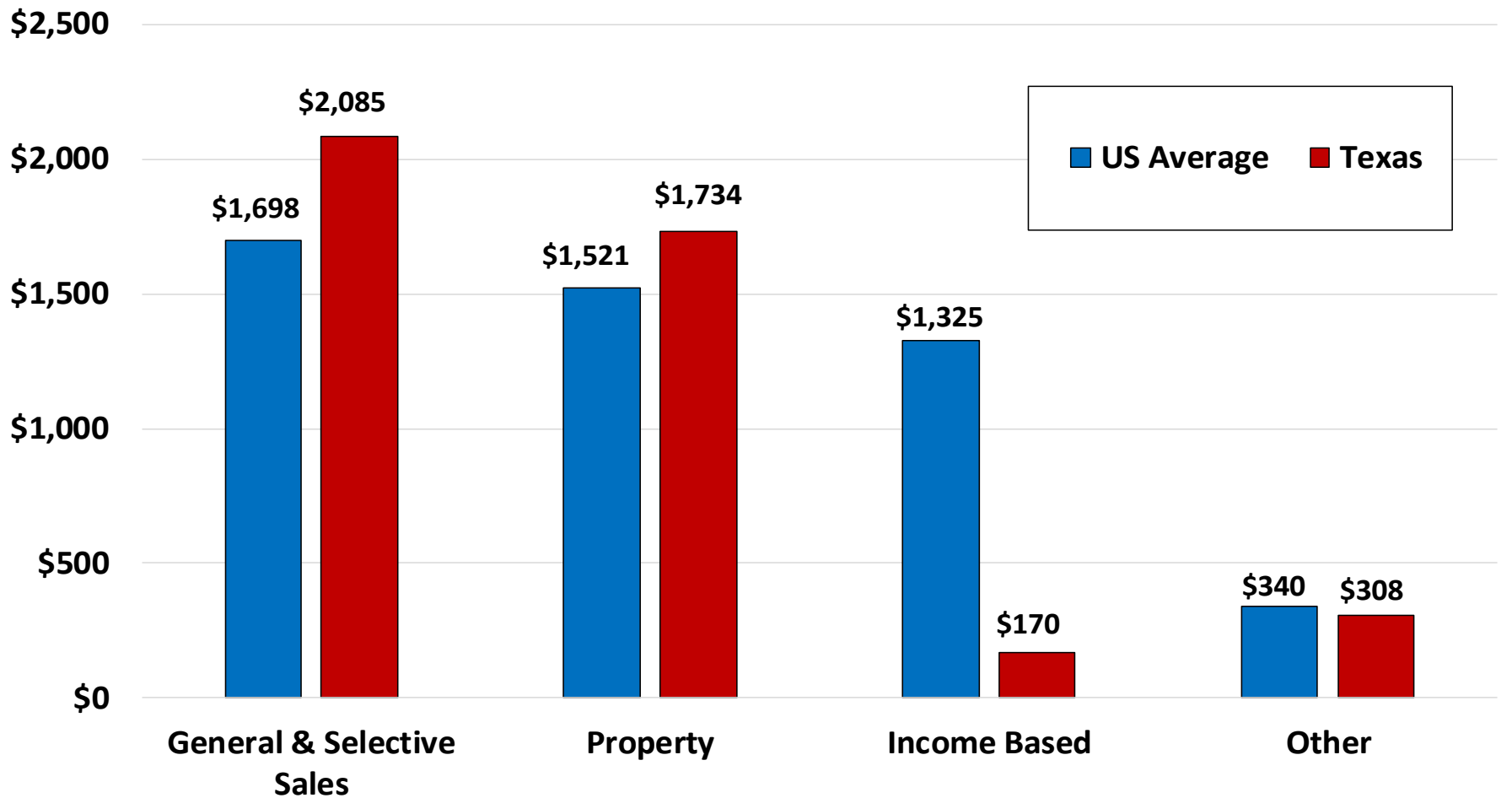
Understanding Chapter 312: Property Tax Abatements

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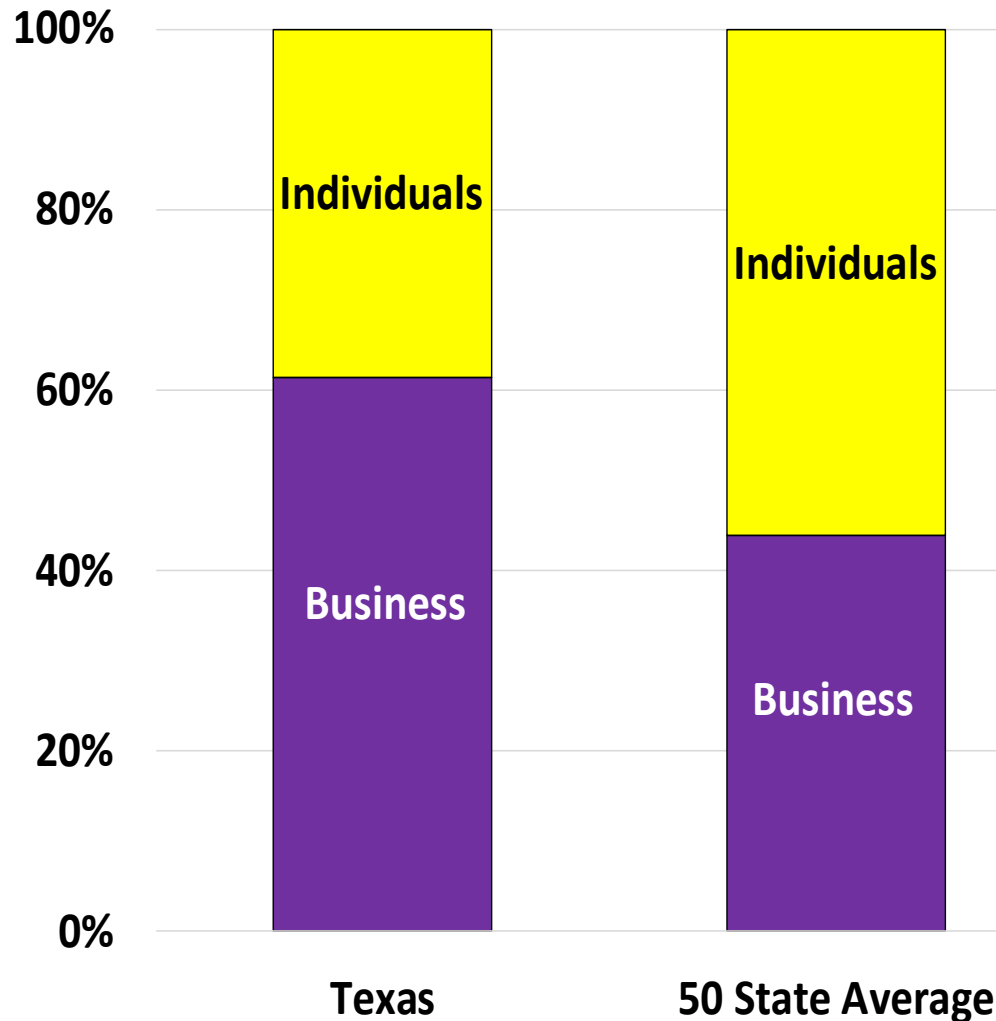
How Do Texas Taxes Compare?

Per Capita State and Local Taxes by Type of Tax, 2015



Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2015 State and Local Taxes.

Texas Tax Incidence Compared



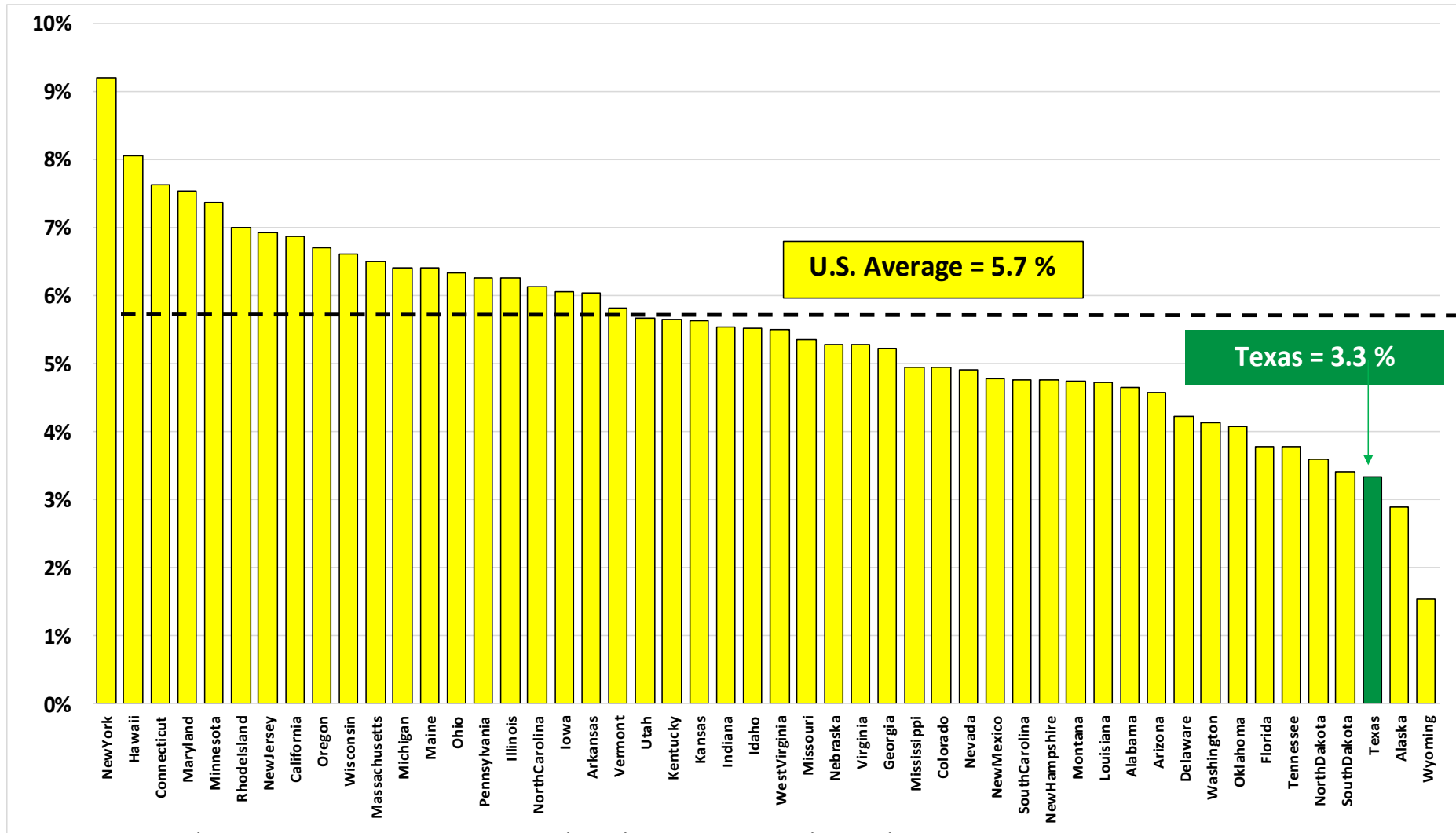
Texas' reliance on sales & property taxes means:

- 61 % of our state & local taxes are paid by business; compared to 44 % for the average state; and
- 39% of our state & local taxes are paid by individuals, versus 56% for the average state.

Source: Council on State Taxation, FY16 State and Local Business Tax Burden Study.

State & Local Taxes on Individuals

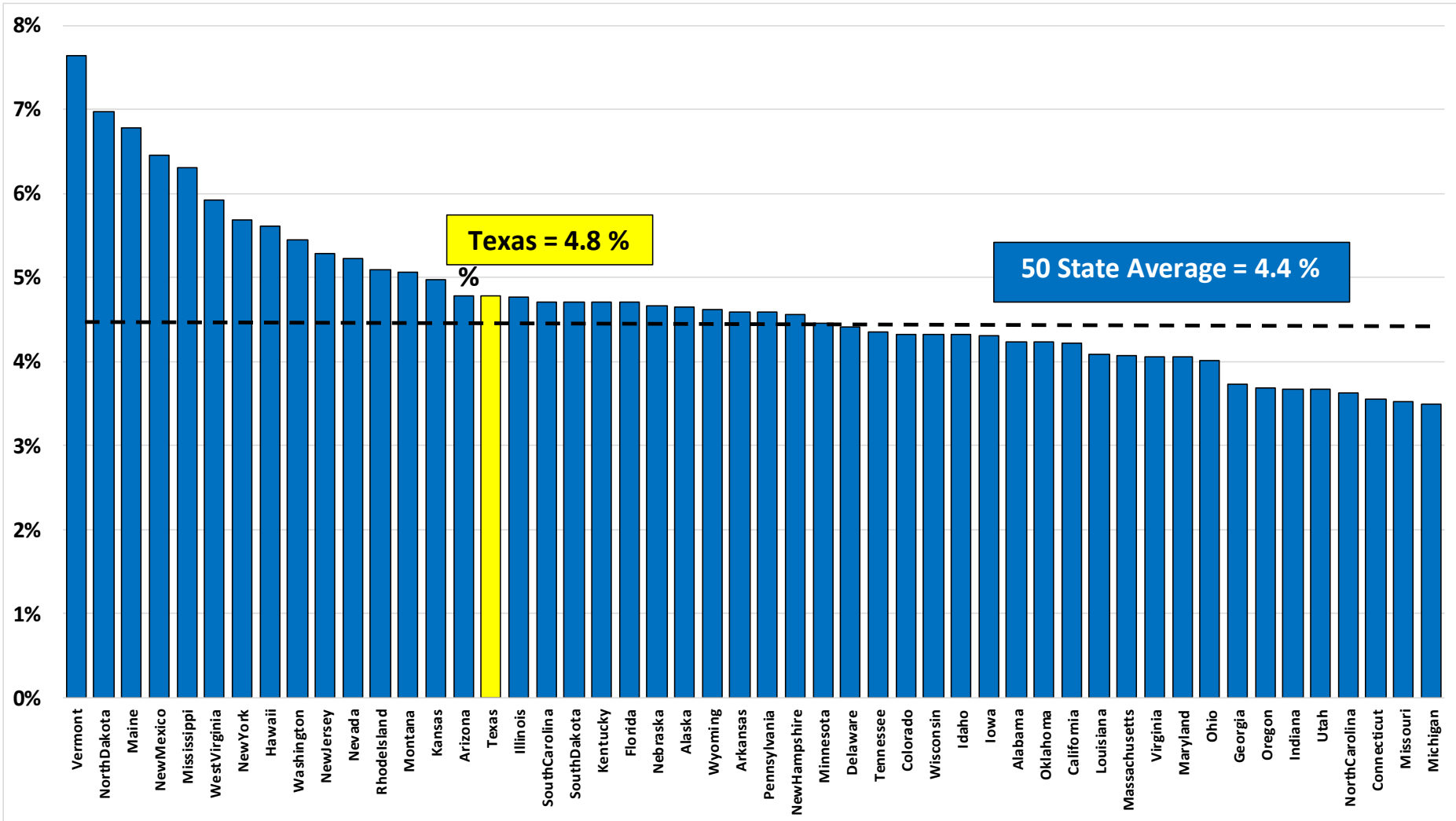
State & Local Tax Burden as a Percent of Personal Income, 2016



Source: Council on State Taxation, FY2016 State and Local Business Tax Burden Study.

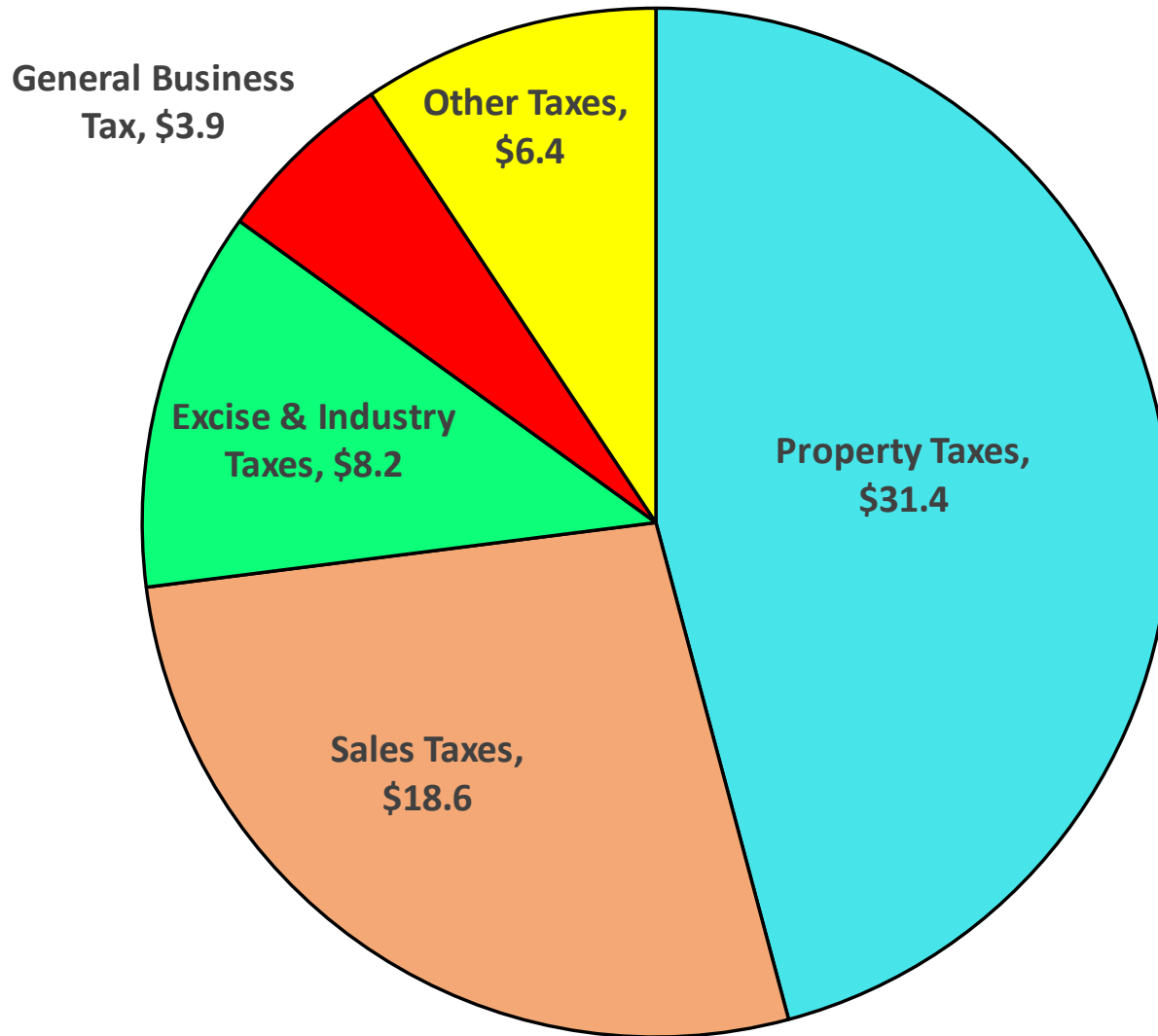
State & Local Taxes on Businesses

State & Local Tax Burden as a Percent of Gross State Product, 2016



Source: Council on State Taxation, FY2016 State and Local Business Tax Burden Study.

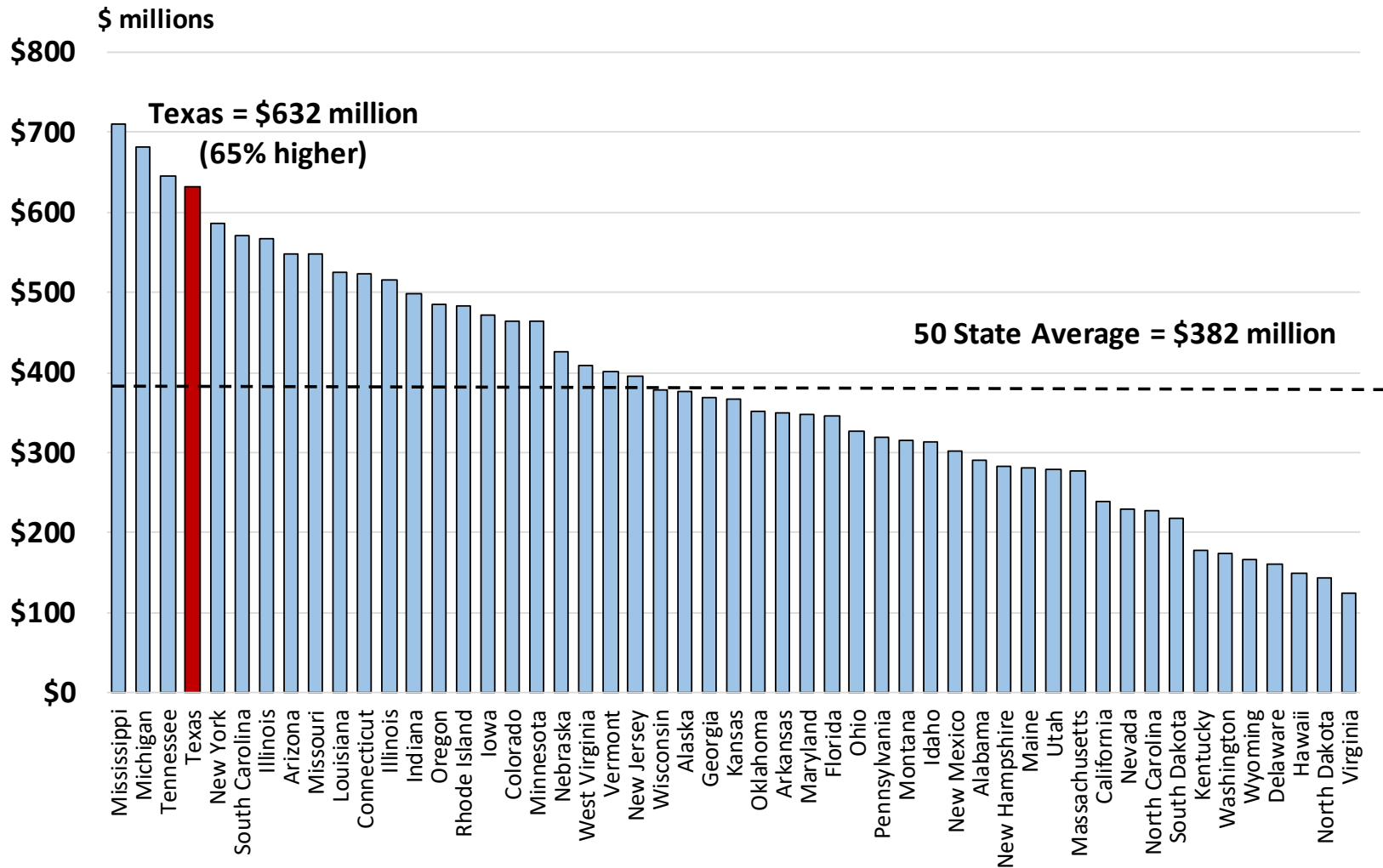
The Taxes Texas Business Pays



- Texas businesses in 2016 paid \$68.5 billion in state and local taxes
- The single largest tax business paid was property tax
- 54 percent of all property taxes on average are paid to schools
- 46 % of all property taxes on average are paid to cities, counties, and special districts

The Property Tax Barrier

25 Year Property Tax Burden on an Industrial Facility



Based on 50 State Property Tax Comparison Study by the Lincoln Land Institute,

Texas Property Tax Programs

	Chapter 312	Chapter 313
Taxing Units	Counties, Cities, and Special Districts	School Districts
Taxpayer Benefit	100% exemption up to 10 years	Partial exemption up to 10 years
State Fiscal Impact	None	State does not reduce funding to districts based on non-taxed value
Expires	September 1, 2019	December 31, 2022

What is Chapter 312?

Chapter 312 of the Tax Code is the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act, which authorizes local taxing units, other than school districts, at their discretion to offer **temporary property tax benefits for improvements to existing property.**

History of Chapter 312

- Enacted in 1987 as SB 888 and applicable to all local taxing units (prior law was V.A.C.S. 1066f)
- Re-authorized and amended in 1991, 2001, and 2009
- School districts effectively excluded in 1993 and statutorily prohibited in 2001
- Chapter 313 enacted in 2001 as HB 1200 (Texas Economic Development Act) to allow school districts to offer appraised value limitations for certain projects

Constitutional Authorization

- Article VIII, Section 1-g

(a) The Legislature by general law may authorize cities, towns, and other taxing units to grant exemptions or other relief from ad valorem taxes on property located in a reinvestment zone for the purpose of encouraging development or redevelopment and improvement of the property.

(b) The Legislature by general law may authorize an incorporated city or town to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area within the city or town and to pledge for repayment of those bonds or notes increases in ad valorem tax revenues imposed on property in the area by the city or town and other political subdivisions.

Fiscal Impact of Chapter 312

- No State impact
- No school district impact
- Local option for other local taxing units

A Project Must Provide:

- Specific improvements or repairs to real property, including residential, commercial, industrial, and outdoor advertising property;
- New facilities or expansion or modernization of existing facilities; and
- A benefit to existing property that would contribute to the economic development of the area

Chapter 312 Basic Steps

1. Designation of reinvestment zones by cities or counties
2. Adoption of guidelines and criteria for abatement eligibility by participating taxing units
3. Agreement in writing between any taxing unit, except for a school district, and property owner to exempt from property taxation all or part of the value of real or personal property for a period not to exceed 10 years, if specific improvements or repairs are made to the property
4. Application for exemption submitted to and approved by the appraisal district

Step 1:

REINVESTMENT ZONE DESIGNATION

Reinvestment Zone Creation

- By city ordinance or county order only
- Must be created before other steps are taken
- Specific boundaries described
- Notice published 7 days before required public hearing and delivered to presiding officer of governing body of each taxing unit in the zone
- Must include a finding that improvements sought in the zone are feasible and practical and would benefit the land and the city or county after the expiration of an abatement agreement

Step 2:

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Guideline Requirements

- Created and approved by each participating taxing unit before entering abatement agreements, but after reinvestment zone designation by a city or county
- Generally, must allow new facilities and structures and expansion or modernization of existing facilities and structures
- Effective for 2 years from adoption
- May only be amended or repealed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the members of the taxing unit governing body

Step 3:

ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS

Agreement Requirements

- Must be in writing with the owner of taxable real property or leasehold located in the reinvestment zone and approved by a majority vote of governing body of any taxing unit, except a school district
- May not be an improvement project financed by tax increment bonds
- May include tangible personal property, other than inventory and supplies, located on the property; inventory and supplies allowed to be abated if located on tax-exempt real property and owned by a lessee
- Term of no more than 10 years

Agreement Requirements

- Specify improvements or repairs
- Must conform to comprehensive zoning ordinances
- Have identical terms for the amount of value and duration of the exemption for participating taxing units
- May include property located in a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction
- Prohibition against agreements with owners who are members of governing body of a municipality, zoning/planning board, or county (with exception for existing agreements)

Modification or Termination of Agreement

- May be modified to include other provisions or delete provisions that were not necessary to the agreement
- Same procedure as approval and execution of the original agreement required
- May not be modified to extend beyond 10 years from the date of the original agreement
- Termination by mutual consent of the parties in the same manner of the agreement's approval and execution

Notice of Abatement Agreement to Other Taxing Units

- Not later than 7 days before the date on which a city or county enters an agreement
- Delivery to presiding officer of other taxing units in the reinvestment zone
- Notice of intent to enter an agreement
- Copy of agreement attached
- Failure to deliver notice does not affect the validity of the agreement.

Step 4:

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION

Exemption Application

- Exemption authorization (Tax Code Section 11.28)
- Annual application with appraisal district (Tax Code Section 11.43(a) and (c))
- Application required before May 1 each year (Tax Code Section 11.43(d))
- Model Comptroller Form 50-116 application
- Appraisal district approval of application each year required for agreement to be effective

Application Provisions

- Property description
- List of each taxing unit granting the abatement
- Duration of agreement
- Amount of exemption provided in agreement
- Copies of abatement agreements required
- Statement describing exemption amount if not a lump sum or percentage
- Explanation of noncompliance with agreement, if applicable

Reporting

- Information provided to appraisal district by property owner in annual exemption application prescribed by Comptroller
- Chief appraiser reporting to Comptroller before July 1 of each year concerning reinvestment zones created, copies of abatement agreements, and other information required by the Comptroller
- Comptroller submission of report to Legislature by December 31 of even-numbered years summarizing information provided by chief appraisers

Any Questions?

Thanks for Joining Us!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact TTARA staff.

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