

Creating a Parent Voice Model Creek - Session 1

Presented by Rosemary Agneessens - Community Outreach
Rural AZ Schools Coalition

Disinvestment research compiled by
Arizona Institute for Public Life

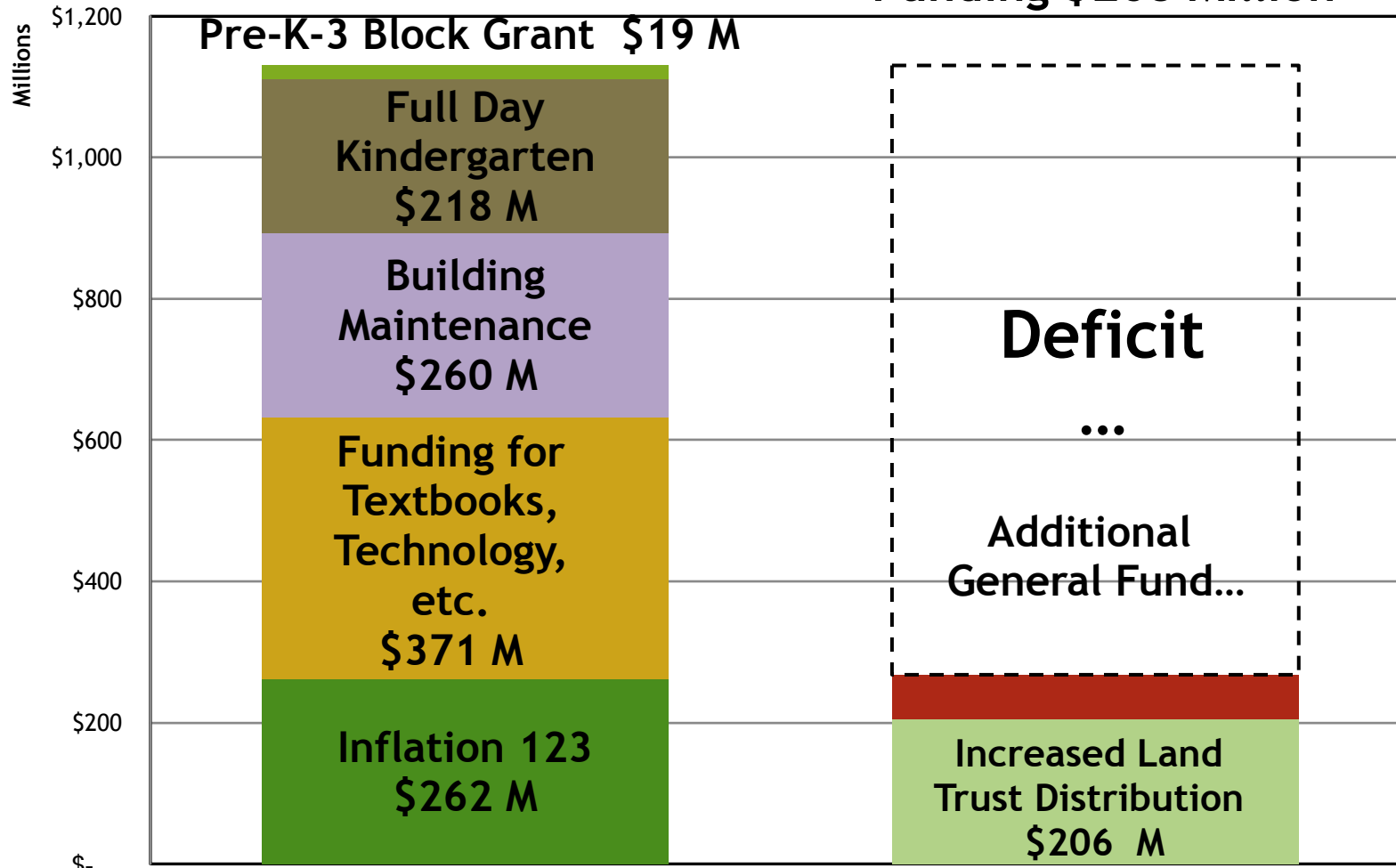
A Starting Point....

- ▶ What is Advocacy?
- ▶ What is Education Advocacy?
- ▶ How do you understand and do Education Advocacy in your Community?
- ▶ Do you have concerns regarding the direction of Education in Arizona?

Annual Cuts to K-12 Education Far Greater than Inflation Agreement

Total \$1.1 Billion

Proposed Average Annual Funding \$268 Million



Arizona Interfaith Network

FY 16 Missing Parts of K-12 Budget



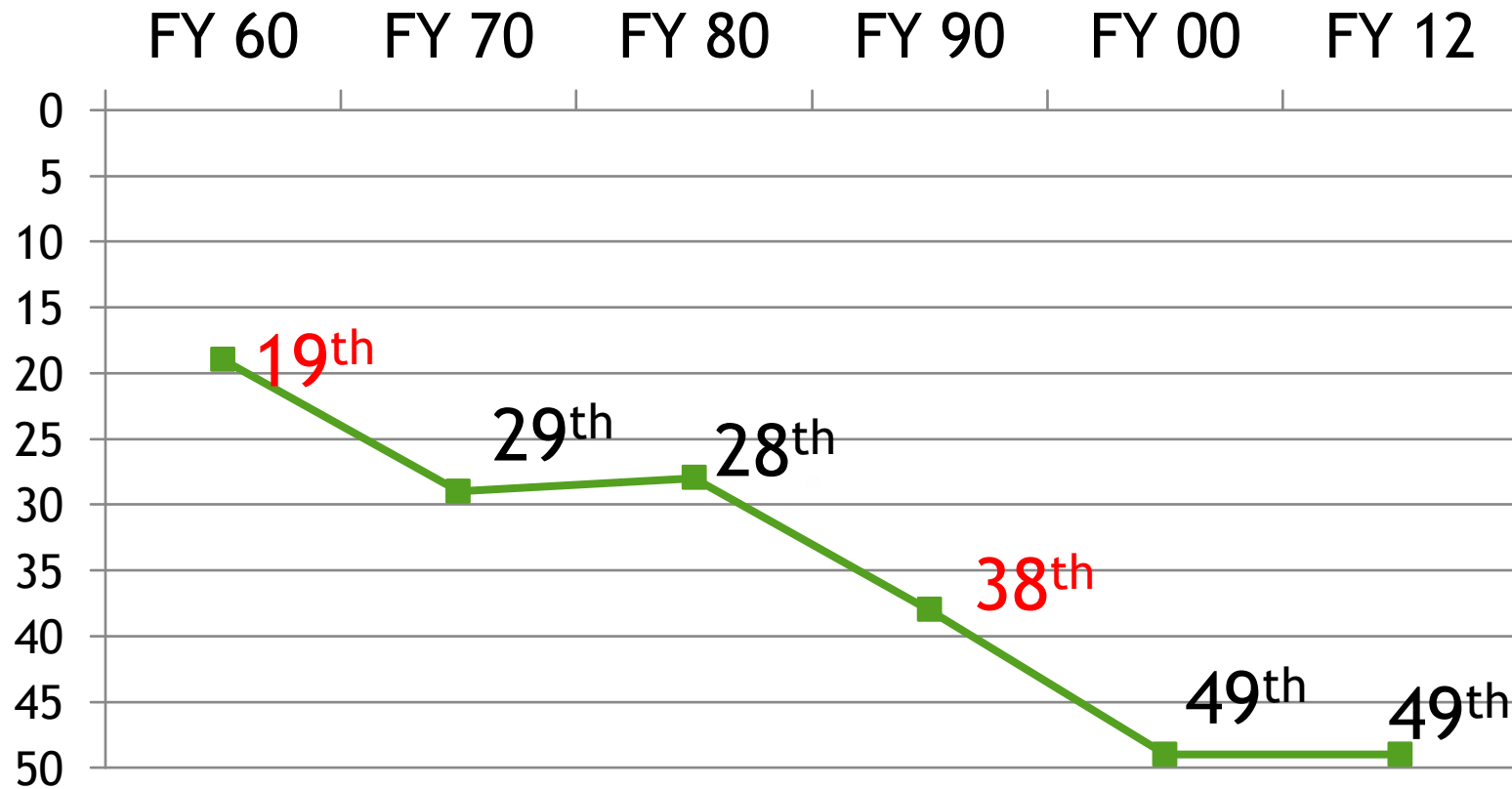
0 Cuts Since 2009

Special Session Proposal to Voters

10/16

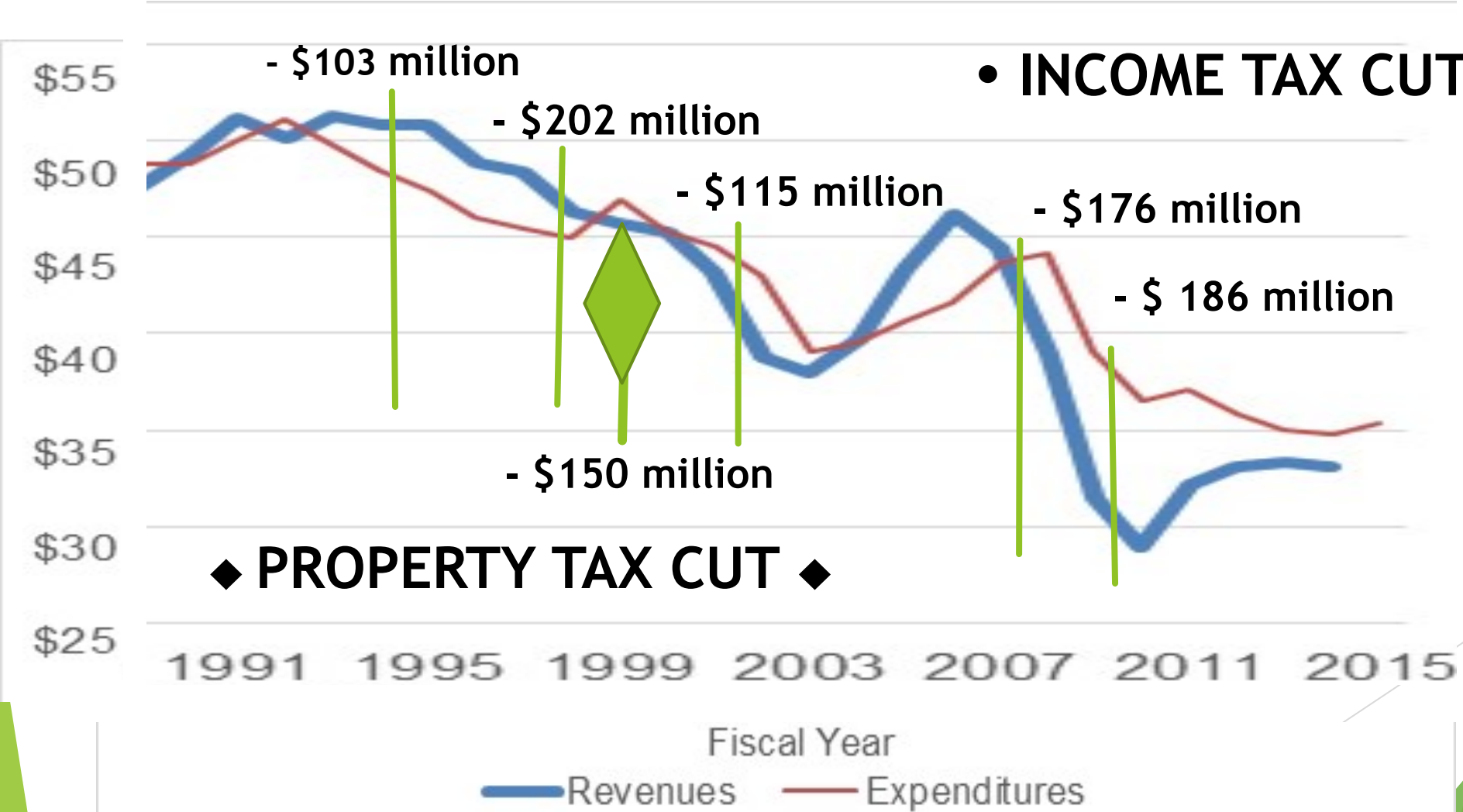
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Per Pupil Spending - Ranked by Fiscal Year



Source: National Center for Ed Statistics (NCES)

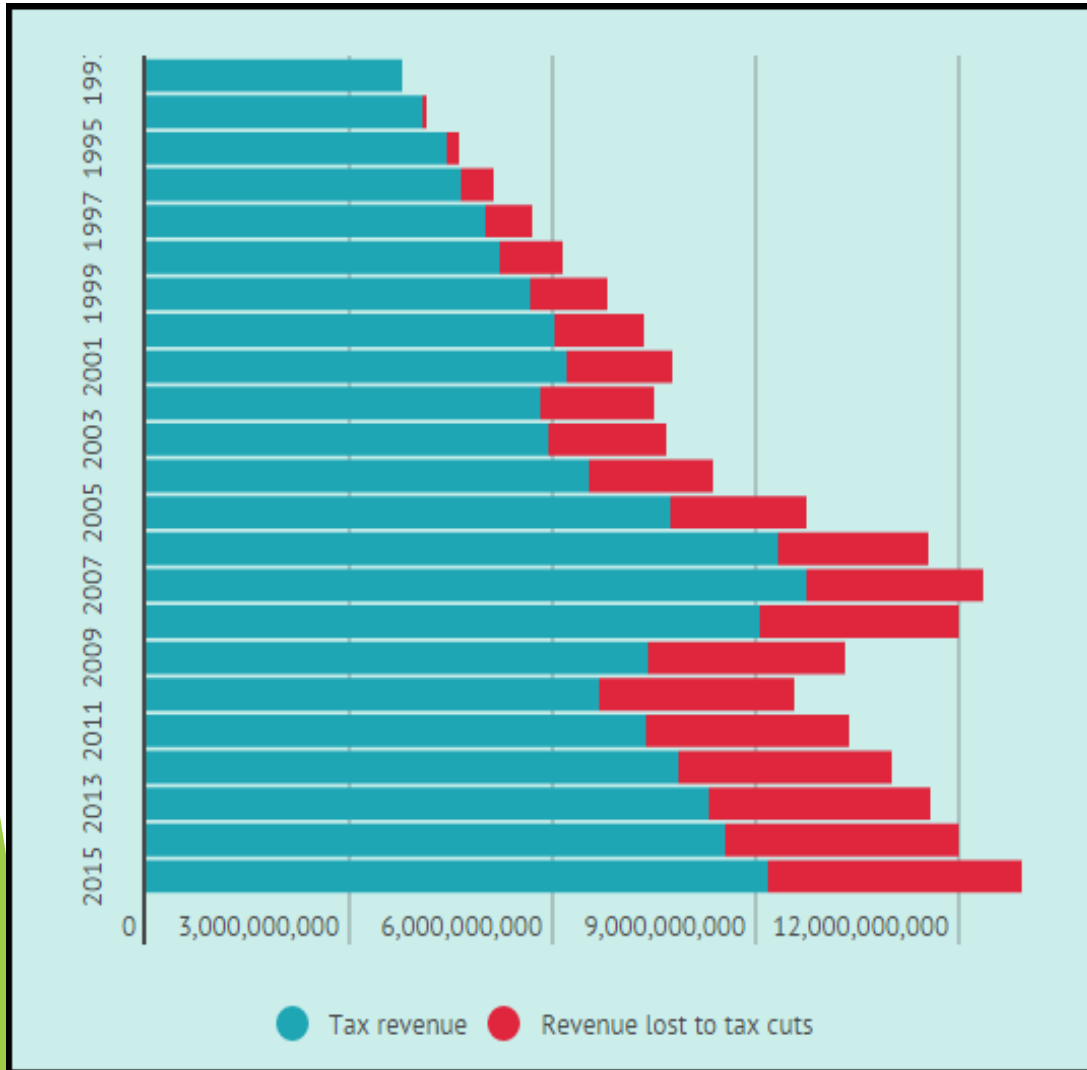
Ongoing Revenues and Expenditures Per \$1,000 of Personal Income



• INCOME TAX CUTS •

◆ PROPERTY TAX CUT ◆

Effect of 20 Years of Arizona Tax Cuts



Note: The revenue lost to tax cuts is cumulative and adjusted to reflect current value and population growth.

Source: Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Arizona State University W.P. Carey School of Business professor Tom Rex.

AZ in fiscal year 2015 had nearly \$4 billion less revenue coming into the general fund.

Concerns

- ▶ **AZ's teacher salary** - Labeled 50th in the country (adjusted for cost of living)
- ▶ **Teacher vacancies 2,000+**
- ▶ **Empowerment Scholarship Account Expansion (SB 1341)**
ESAs / Vouchers
- ▶ **Capital funding issues causing:**
 - ▶ **Dated Curriculum, Dilapidated Public School Buildings.**
 - ▶ **No Funding for all day Kindergarten**
 - ▶ **Cuts to Art, Physical Education, Soft Capital Dollars**

Is Education a State Priority?

- ▶ National average per pupil spending \$13,246
- ▶ Arizona average per pupil is \$8,634

- ▶ Arizona funds our kids at \$4612 less than the national average.
- ▶ Limited options for local rural schools means cuts and policy changes impact them greatly.
- ▶ How do we change that?
- ▶ How do we engage all parents to be a voice for their kids?

**DISINVESTMENT HURTS OUR CHILDREN,
THEIR FUTURE & OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Digging out from the Bottom!

Creating a Parent Voice

Doing Advocacy

So when you think about Model Creek
School and possibilities.....
what could be?

What can you envision for Model Creek.....
Share some ideas with the person
sitting next to you....

Needs at Model Creek:

- ▶ Another **Full Time Teacher** to assist with the many duties
- ▶ **Special Education Funding** that is based on the number of children who need those funds - the formula needs to be fixed
- ▶ Model Creek has **capital issues** - buildings need repair: Parking lot improvements, a leak in the gym roof
- ▶ Much money is spent on **AZMerit** - an end of the year test for all students. Model Creek does formative assessments all year long. Why aren't we using the **growth results and achievement of these tests versus one summative test**

Advocacy: “To change what is, into what should be”

- ▶ **Advocacy in Arizona** is more important now than it has ever been.
- ▶ **Vigilant, educated and engaged public school supporters** can change public school policy.
- ▶ **Stay informed and vote!**
- ▶ **Let legislators know your opinion.**

Parent Advocacy

Become a learning community who will:

- (1) **Understand** the educational funding crisis, its origins, and the consequences of continuing on this course,
- (2) **Learn** the skills of building relationships and advocacy, and
- (3) **Build** a non-partisan constituency of voters in each school district.

As a parent, what is your plan for advocacy?

- ▶ **How can you engage** your fellow parents, educators and community members to support responsible public school policy?
- ▶ **Who can assist you in this?**
- ▶ **Who in your school community could lead or help lead this effort?**
- ▶ **What issues relate to your community?**
- ▶ **What concerns do you have?**

Resources -- Who can help you develop voice?

- ▶ Your School Leader
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Your County Outreach Person
- ▶ Local Organizations
- ▶ State Organizations

Build your plan for advocacy

**Working with a partner discuss
how you could create a voice for
Model Creek – who else needs to
be in this discussion?**

The Arizona Constitution

“... the legislature shall make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement.”

(Article 11, Section 10)

Model Creek - Session 2:

Looking at the issues impacting our district public schools and learning how to respond.

Date/Time TBD / 2018

If interested in participating, contact
Mrs. Lori Bomar