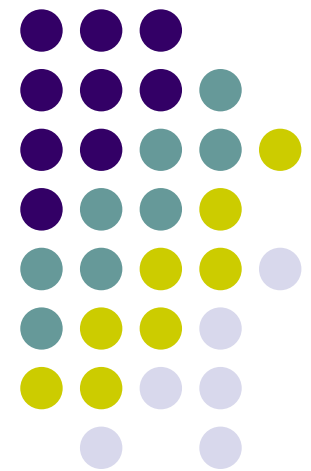


Parents United for Public Schools

The Value of Parents as
Advocates

www.parentsunited.org





Parents United is..

- A statewide, grass-roots organization of concerned and informed Minnesota parents and citizens committed to Minnesota's leadership in quality E-16 public education.
- United in our commitment to quality public schools for all children and will not be divided by geography, race, economic status, generation or the special needs of our children.



Since 1990

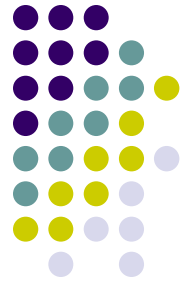


Increase in students
Increase in expectations
Increase in costs



Income tax reductions
Property tax reductions
Business tax rate reductions

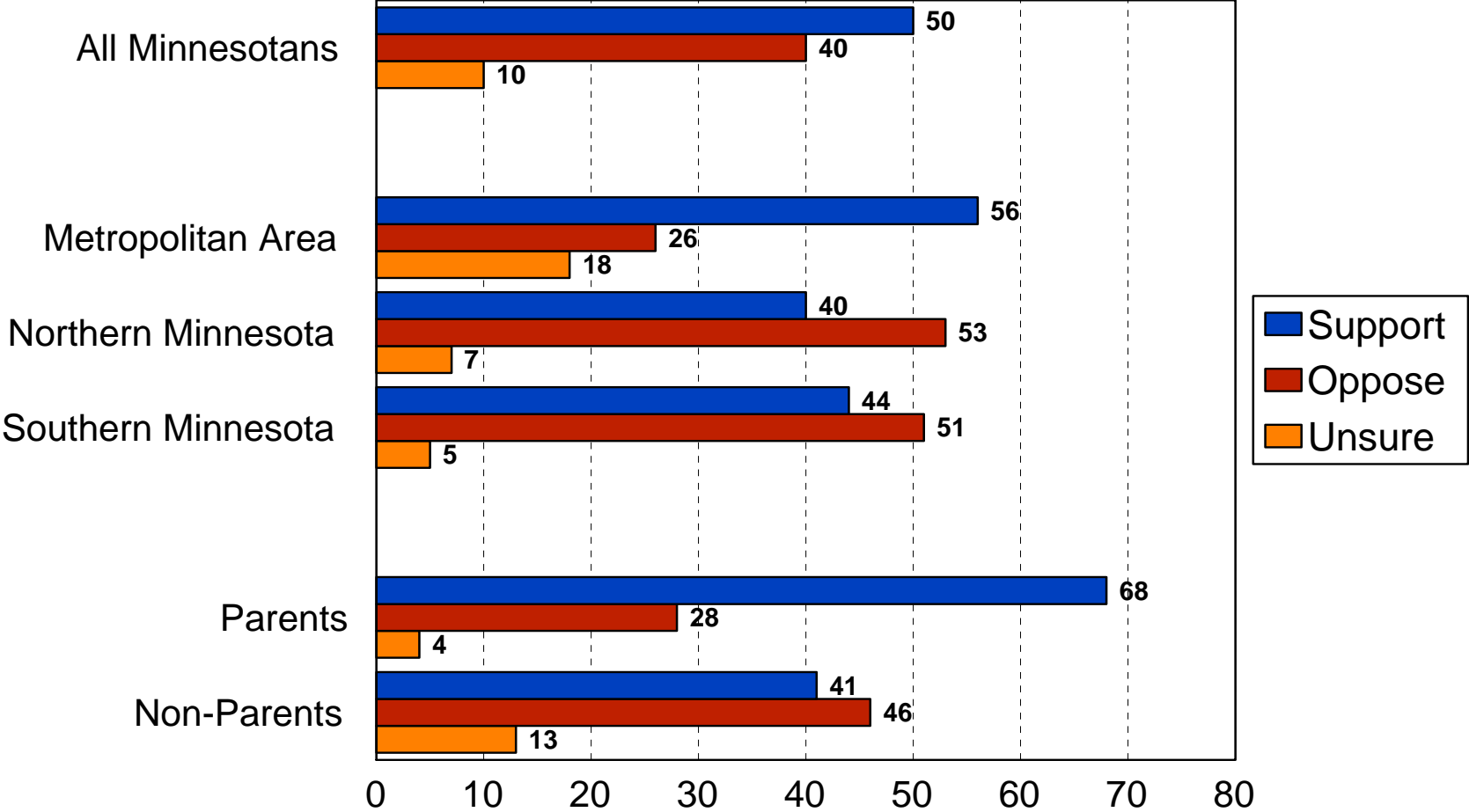
Why is this significant?



- Many of these cuts happened while the state of Minnesota and the federal government experienced the largest surpluses ever recorded
- Many of these cuts happened while Minnesota rose to rank 7th in per capita income of the fifty states
- Since the late 90's, 43 states have enacted tax cuts and even in the face of extreme need have yet to restore those cuts
- The national trend is to continue decreasing taxes and either decrease services or use other “revenue generators” to fund public services.

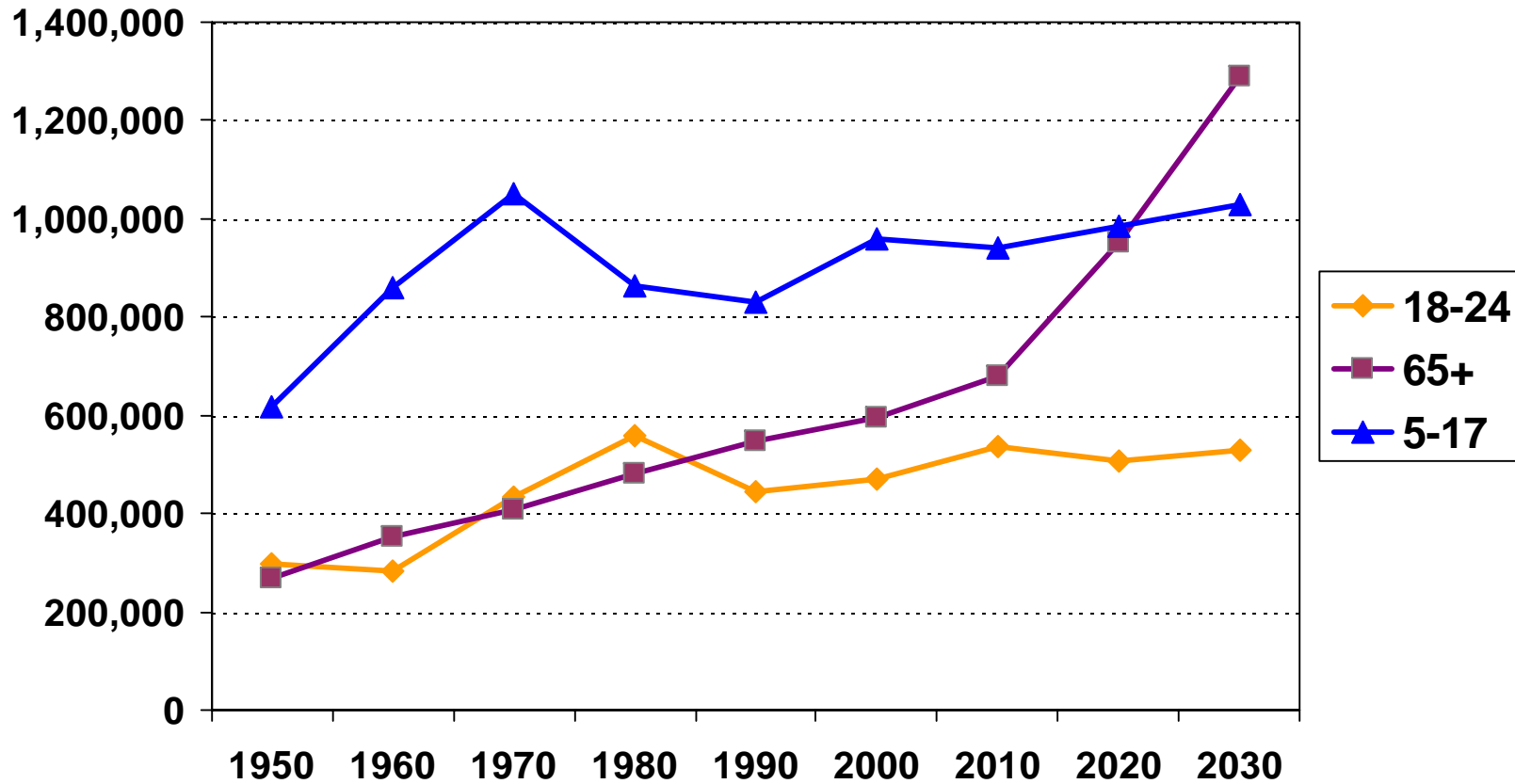
Increase Taxes \$100 for Schools

2005 Alliance for Public Education



The Boom Generation

2020 More 65+ Than School Age —Tom Gillaspay





Parent Advocates

- Have a relationship with their school district
- Know how schools in their district are funded
- Know how disinvesting has hurt their schools
- Know who makes public policy and how it affects their local school
- Are connected to others in their community
- Vote

Parents United



- Provides **presentations** to communities on school funding and policy surrounding public schools
- Provides **session updates** to our Elist in “parentese”
- Shares the **ABC’s of advocacy** to communities
- Encourages a **relationship with district leadership**
- **Networks** parents from district to district around the state
- Offers opportunities for **legislators to interact with parents**



Parents United Goals

- To improve public perception of and support for public schools
- To build a large and powerful coalition of parents from across the state
- To provide credible, first-hand information for them to disseminate to their communities
- To provide a state perspective to the local and a local perspective to the state

Funded for this work through the Minneapolis Foundation, The Bremer Foundation, The Pump Foundation and individual contributions.

Parents United for Public Schools



Working to encourage parent advocacy and to engage concerned citizens in the conversation around public policy and its effect on our public schools

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