



City of Racine 2026 Budget Address



State of Wisconsin and Local Levy Limits

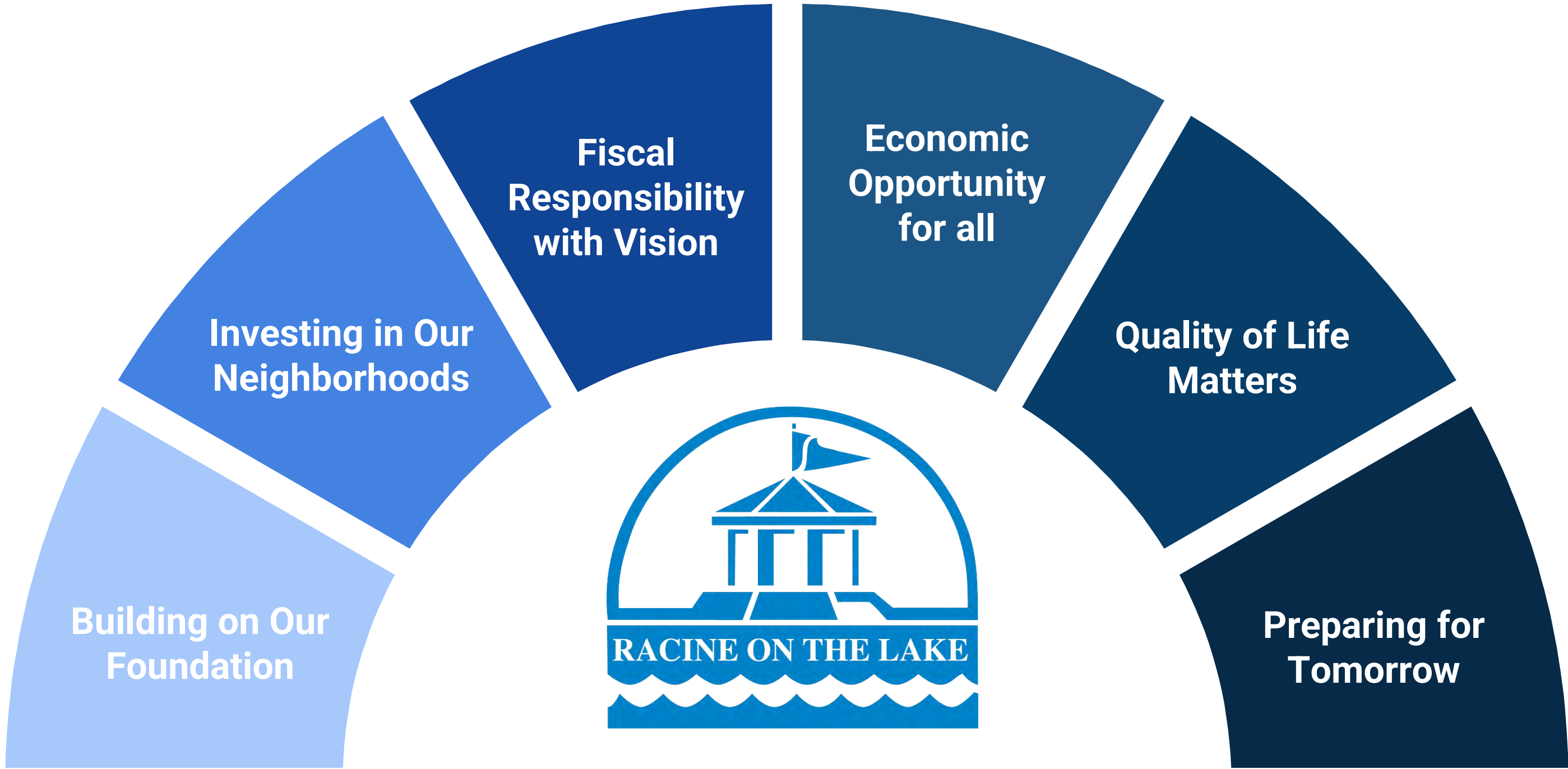


Taxing You Twice

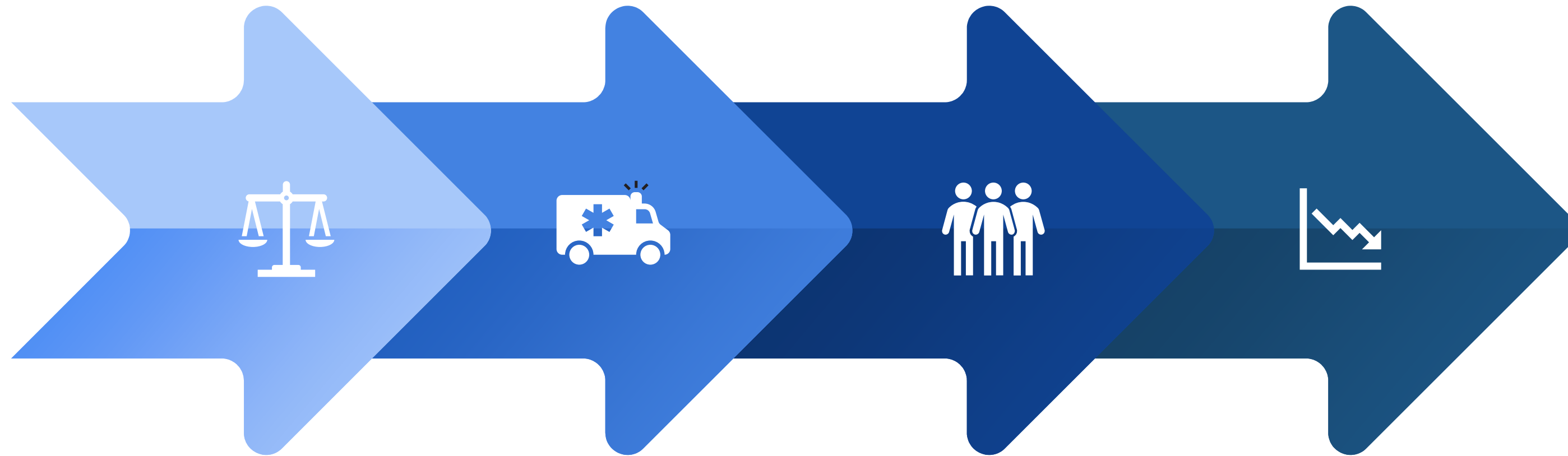


Federal Constraints

Budget Vision



The Big Picture



This is a balanced budget.



No cuts to services or programs.



No elimination of positions.



Reduction of property tax rate.



By the Numbers



All Spending:

\$275,985,736



Operational Budget:

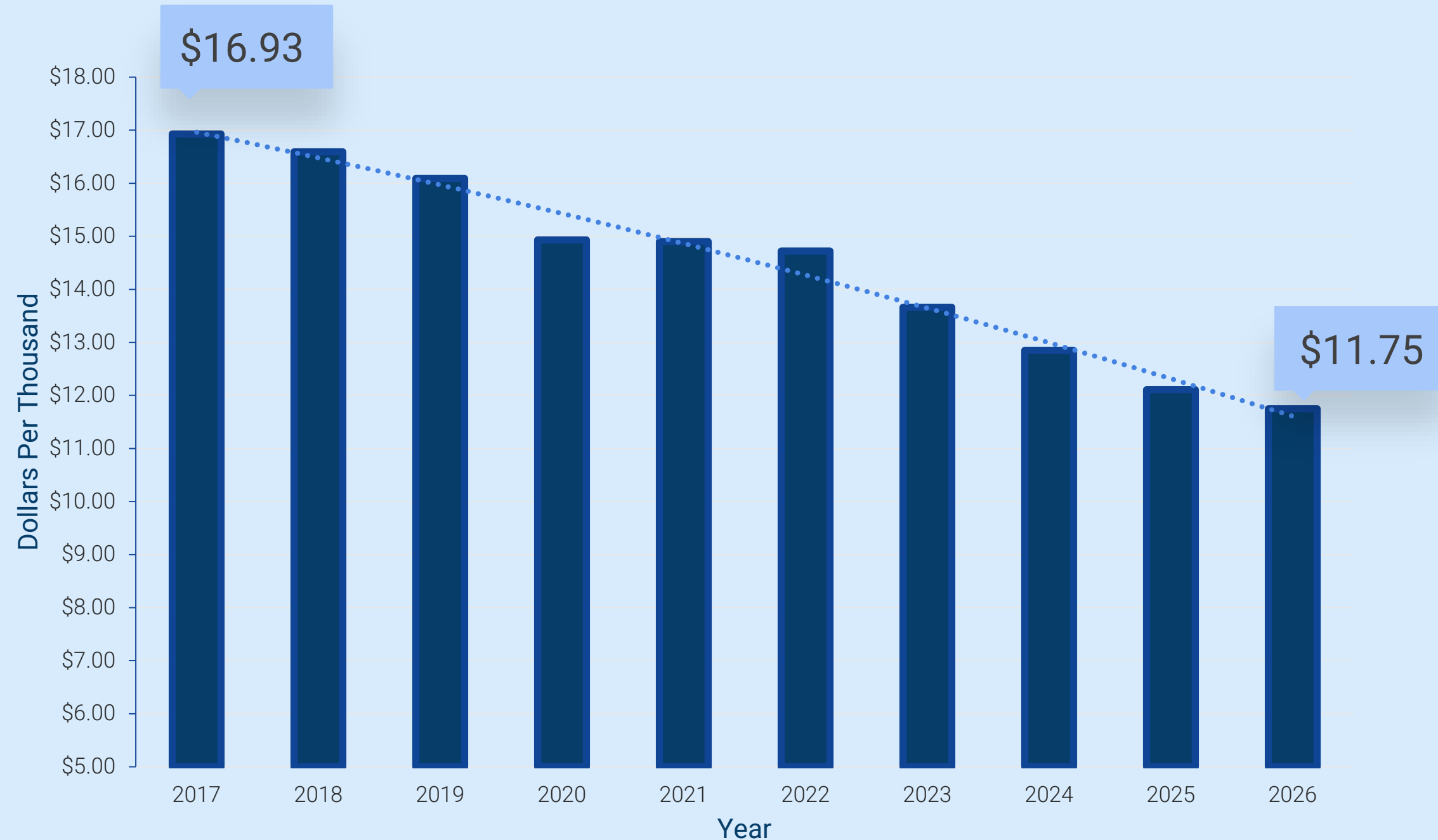
\$108,471,512



Property Tax Levy:

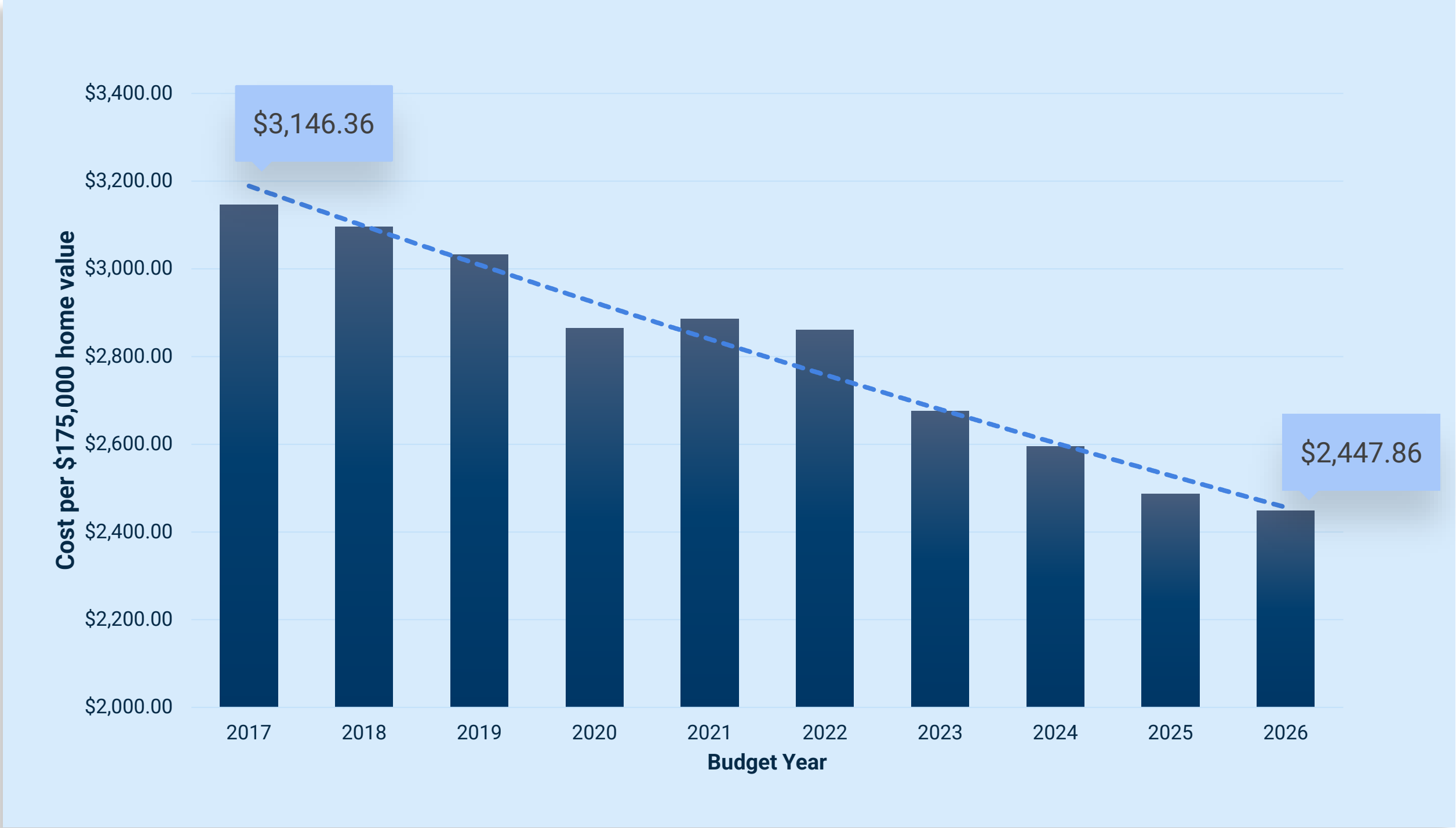
\$62,923,089

Property Tax Rate Lowest in 15 years



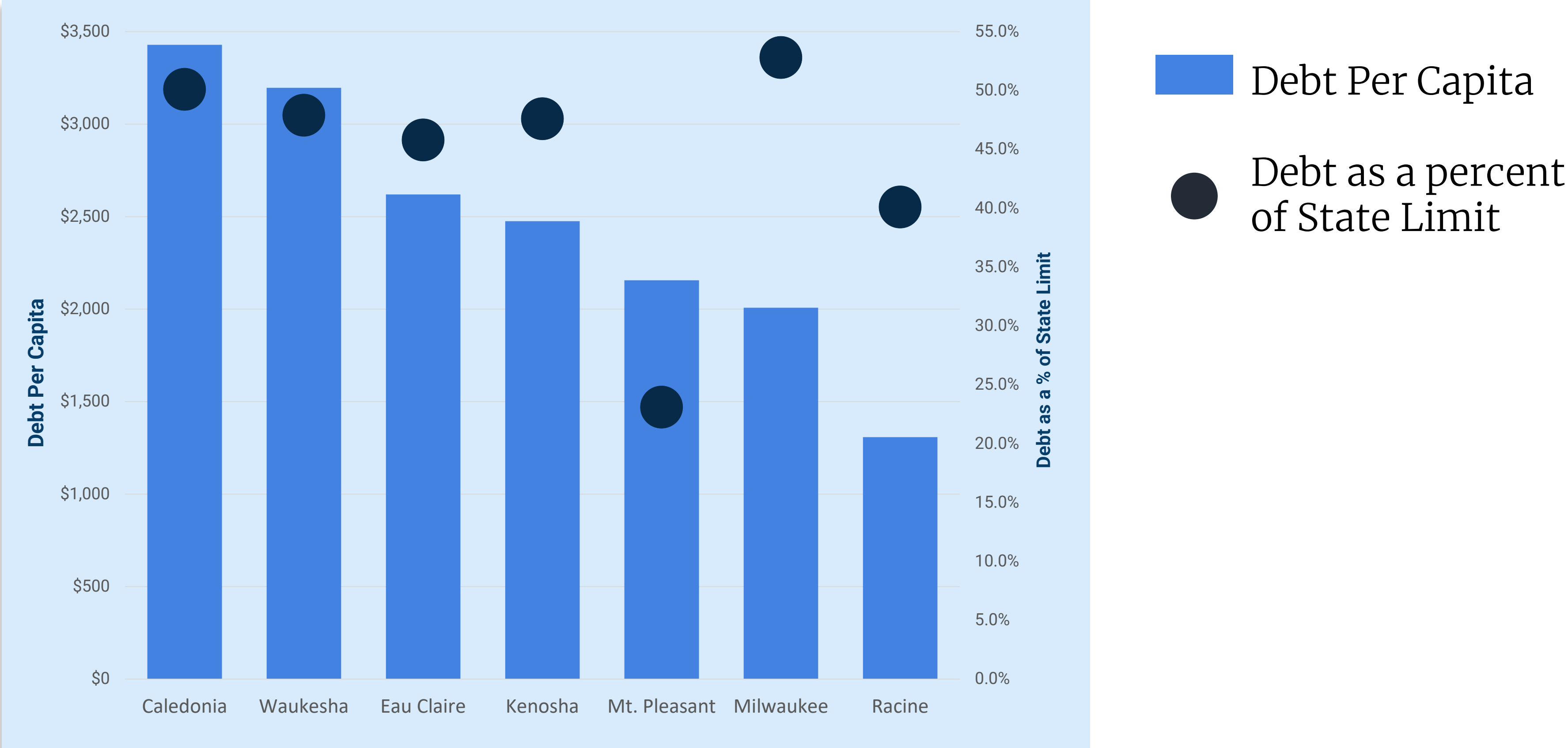
- ★ **Mill Rate:** How much property tax you pay for every \$1,000 of your property's assessed value.
- ★ **30.57% reduction in property tax rate since 2017.**
- ★ **Lowest Property tax rate in 15 years.**

Tax Rate & Fees Down 22% since 2017



- ★ **Tax Rate & Fees:** For an average home value of \$175,000 in Racine.
- ★ **22% reduction in taxes and fees since 2017.**

Debt Per Capita vs. as % of State Limit



Data-Driven Decision Making

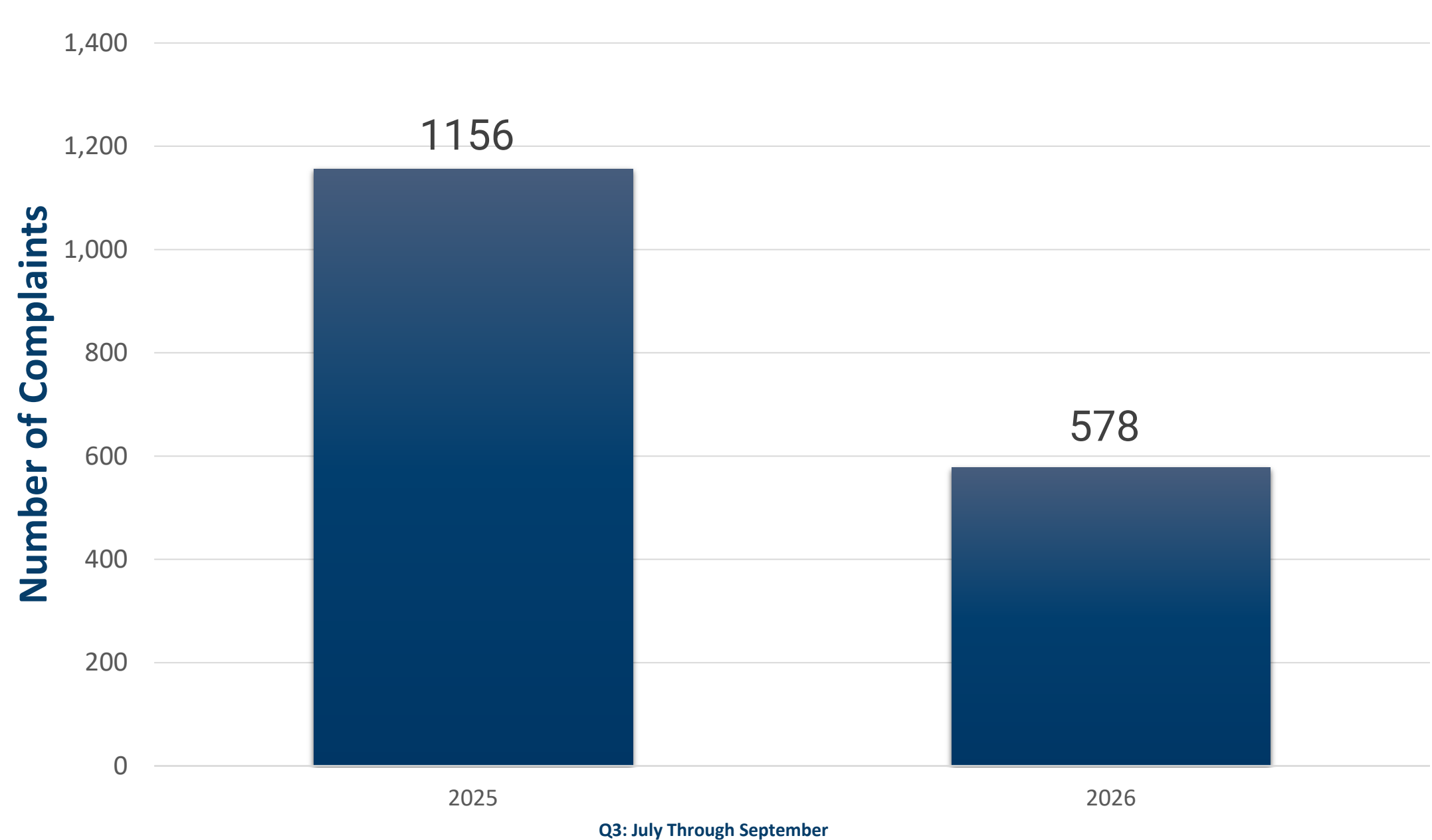
- Efficient Resource Allocation
- Evidence Over Intuition
- Accountability
- Predictive Capability
- Measuring What Works
- Equity



Customer Service Department



Customer Service: Data Collection




- ★ This analysis compares data from **July–September 2025** to the same period in **2024** to identify year-over-year trends.
- ★ 50% reduction in overall complaints.

Complaints Received

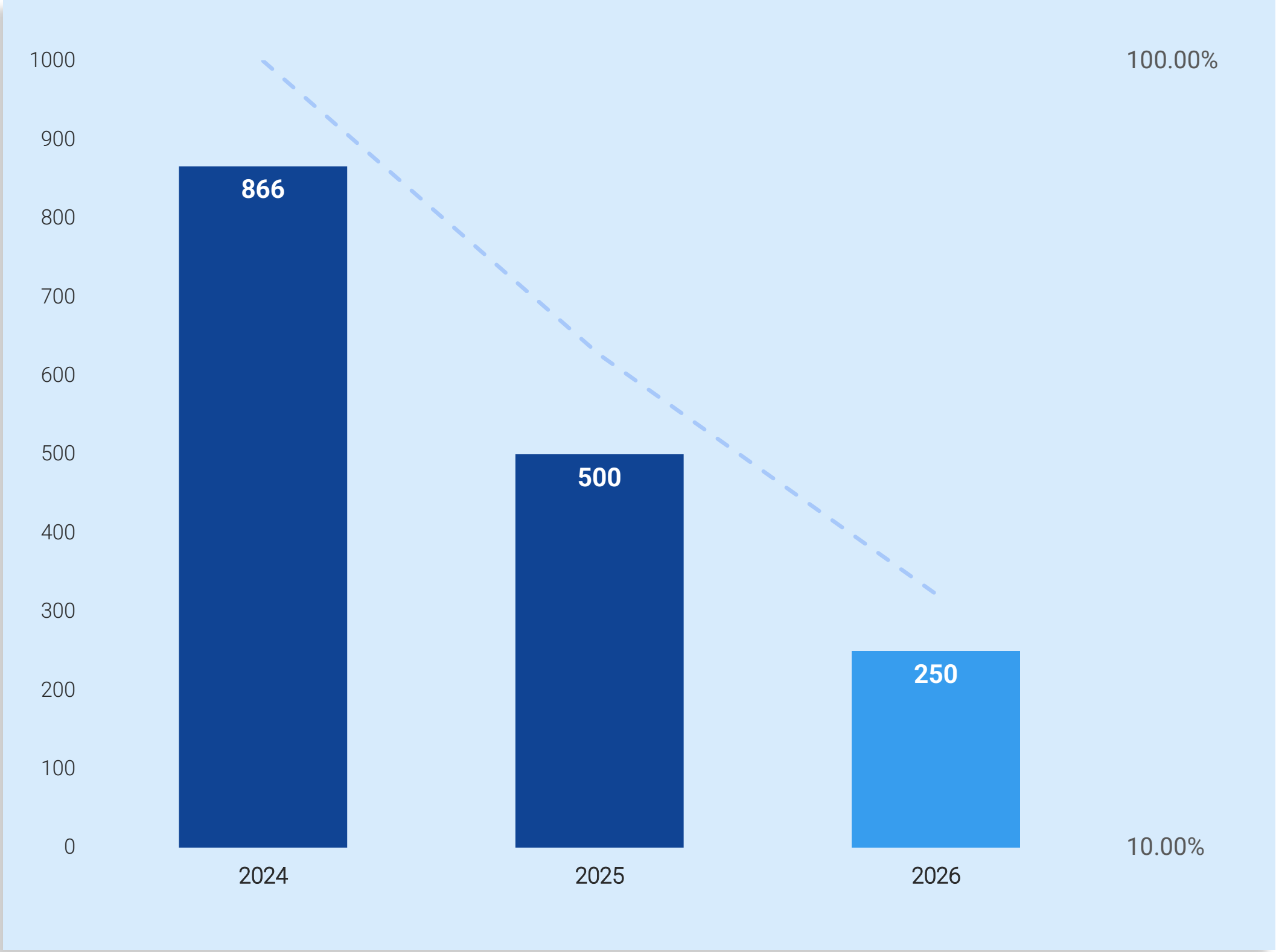
July 2024 –
September 2025



 **Everything Else**
28%

72%
 **Public Works**

Public Works Complaints Received

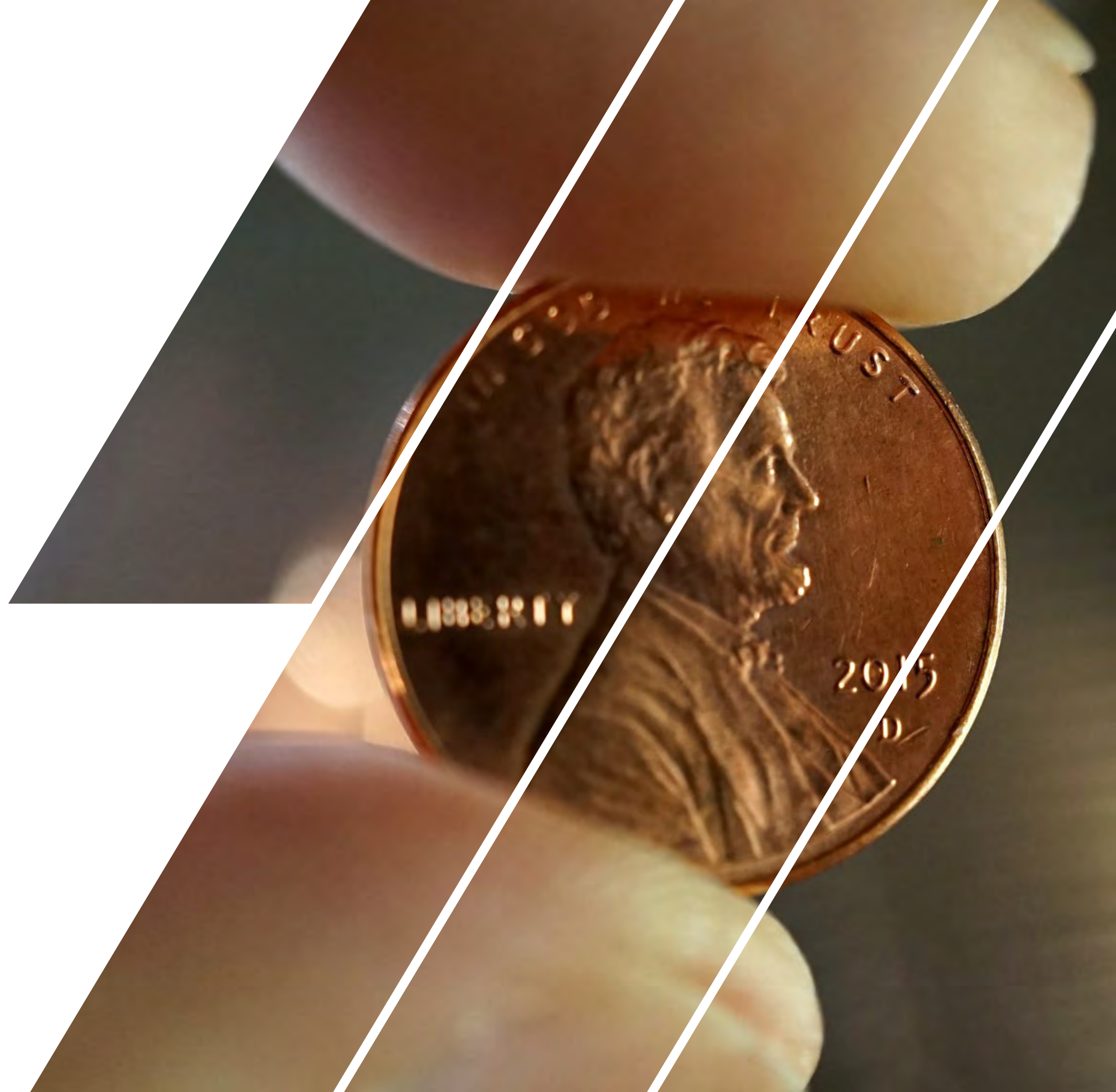


Public Works complaints decreased 42% when comparing July – September 2025 to the same period in 2024.



The goal is to cut this total in half in 2026.

Creating Efficiencies





Lead Service Line Replacement



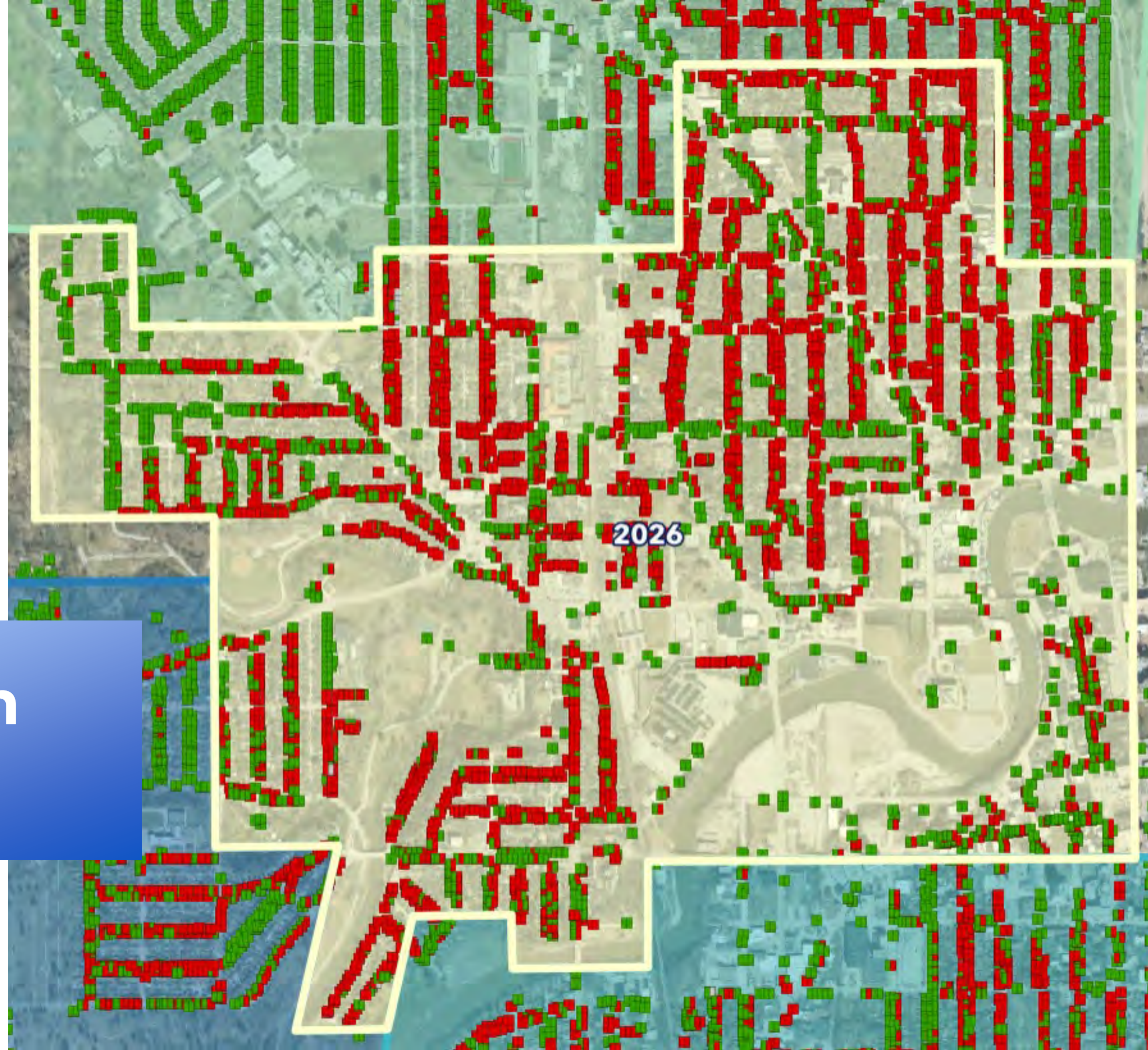
Lead Service Line Replacement Outreach



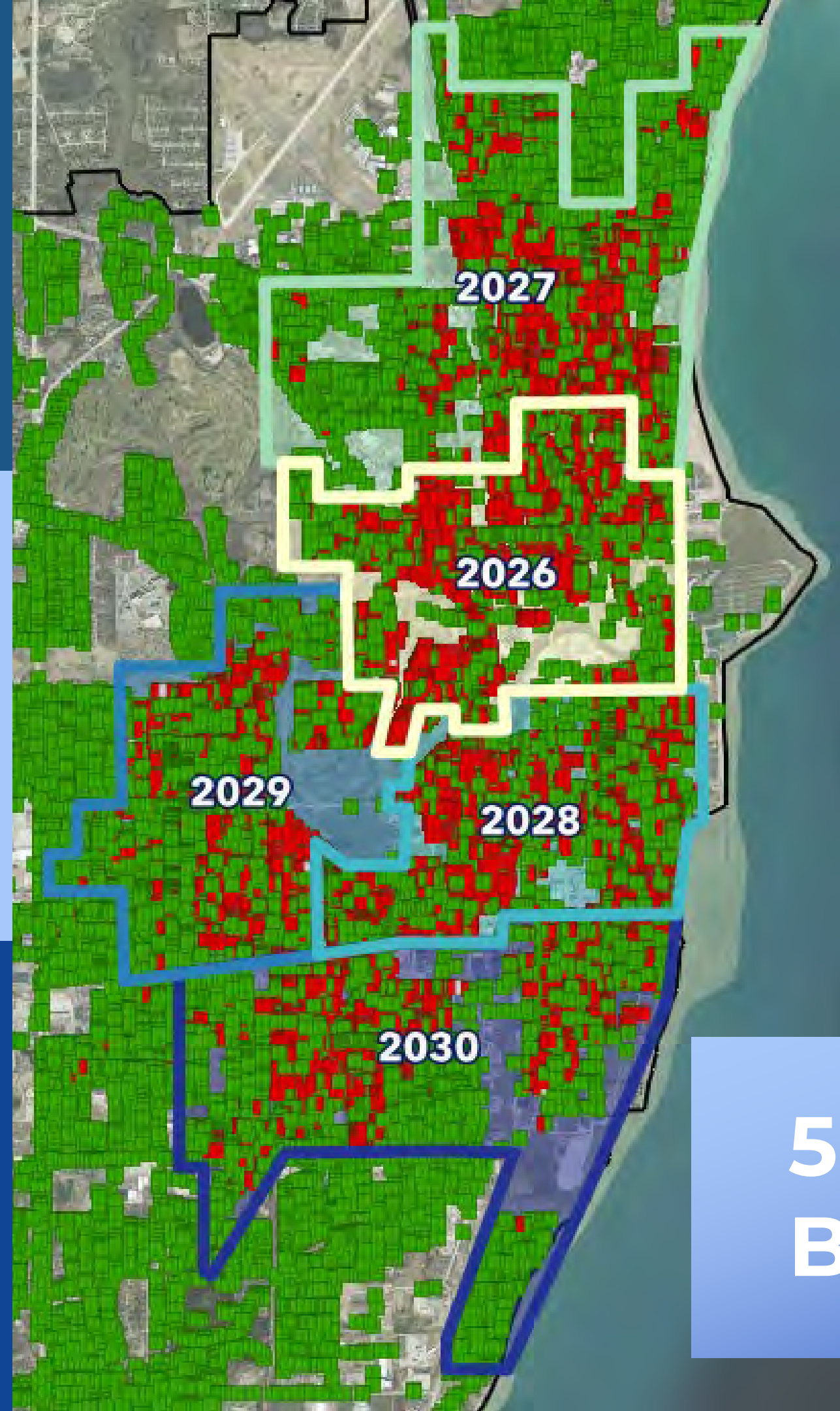
Racine Interfaith
Coalition (RIC)

Lead Service Line Replacement Project

2026 Program
Boundaries



Lead Service Line Replacement Program



**5-Year Program
Boundaries**



MARK Passenger Rail Project



Enhance Regional
Mobility



Reduce Traffic
Congestion

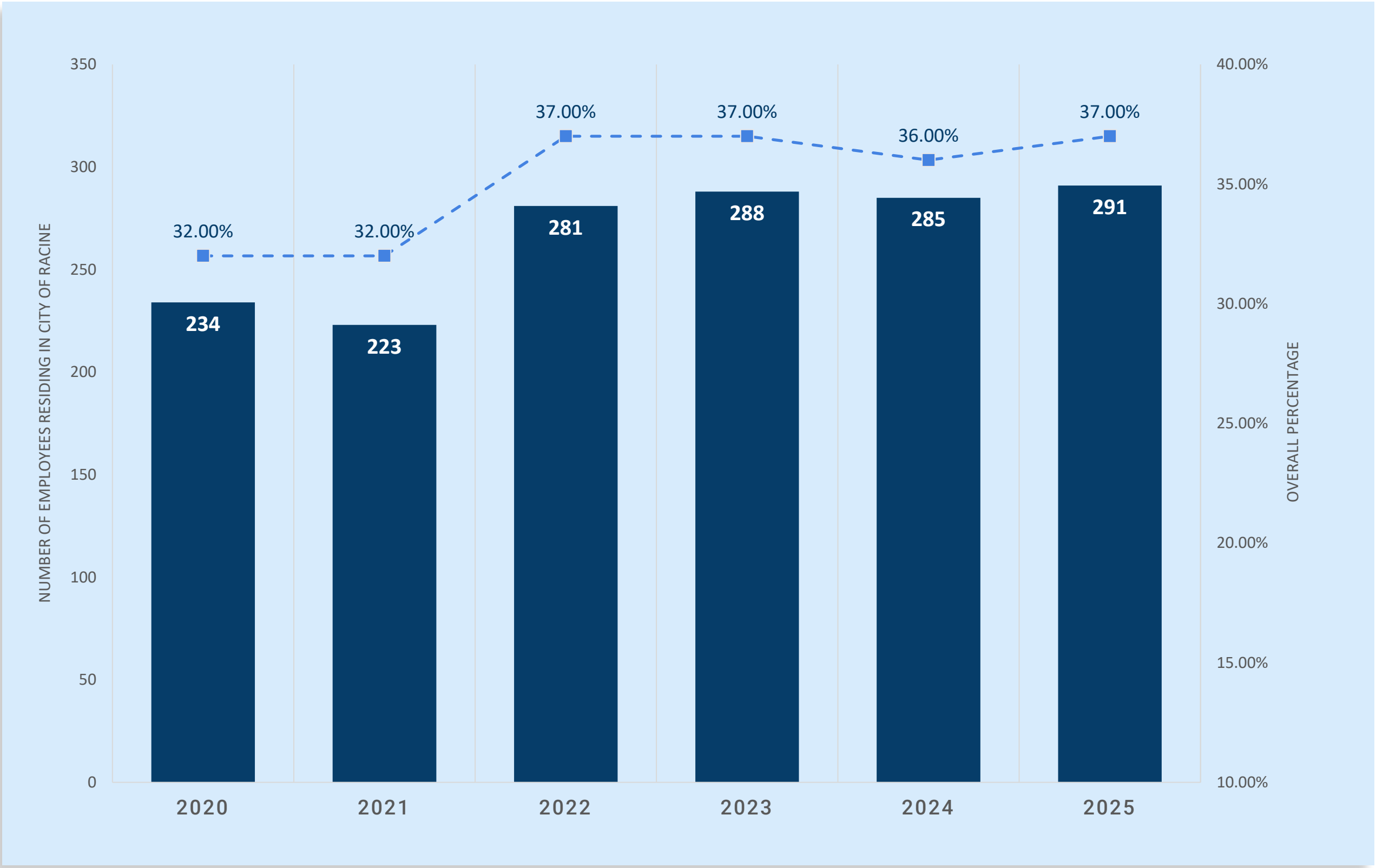


Spur Economic
Development

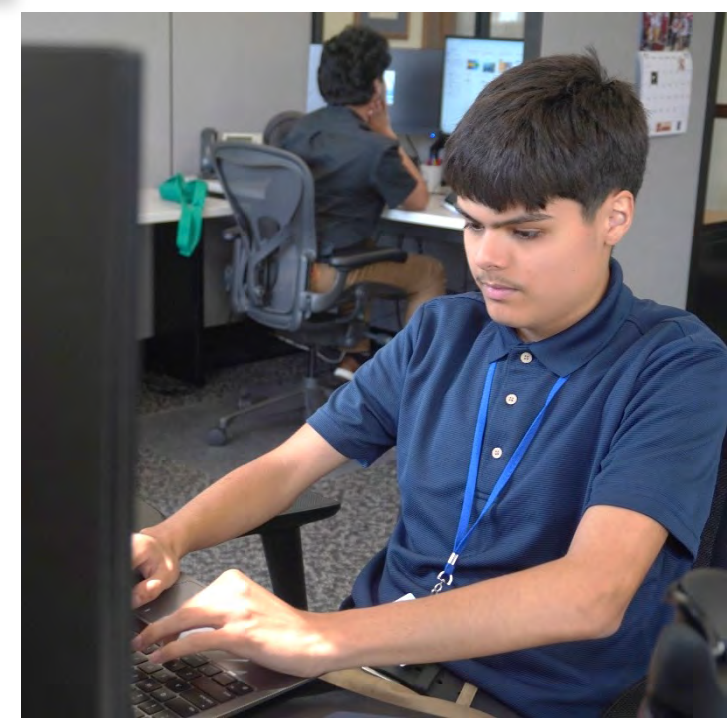
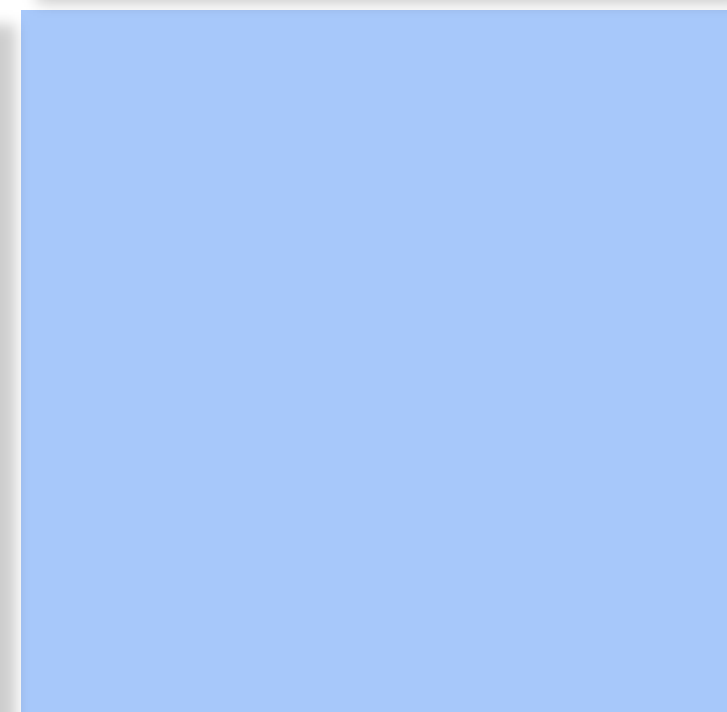
Unemployment



City Employee Residency Statistics



Youth Employment Program



Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant

CDL Training



Fire Cadet Program



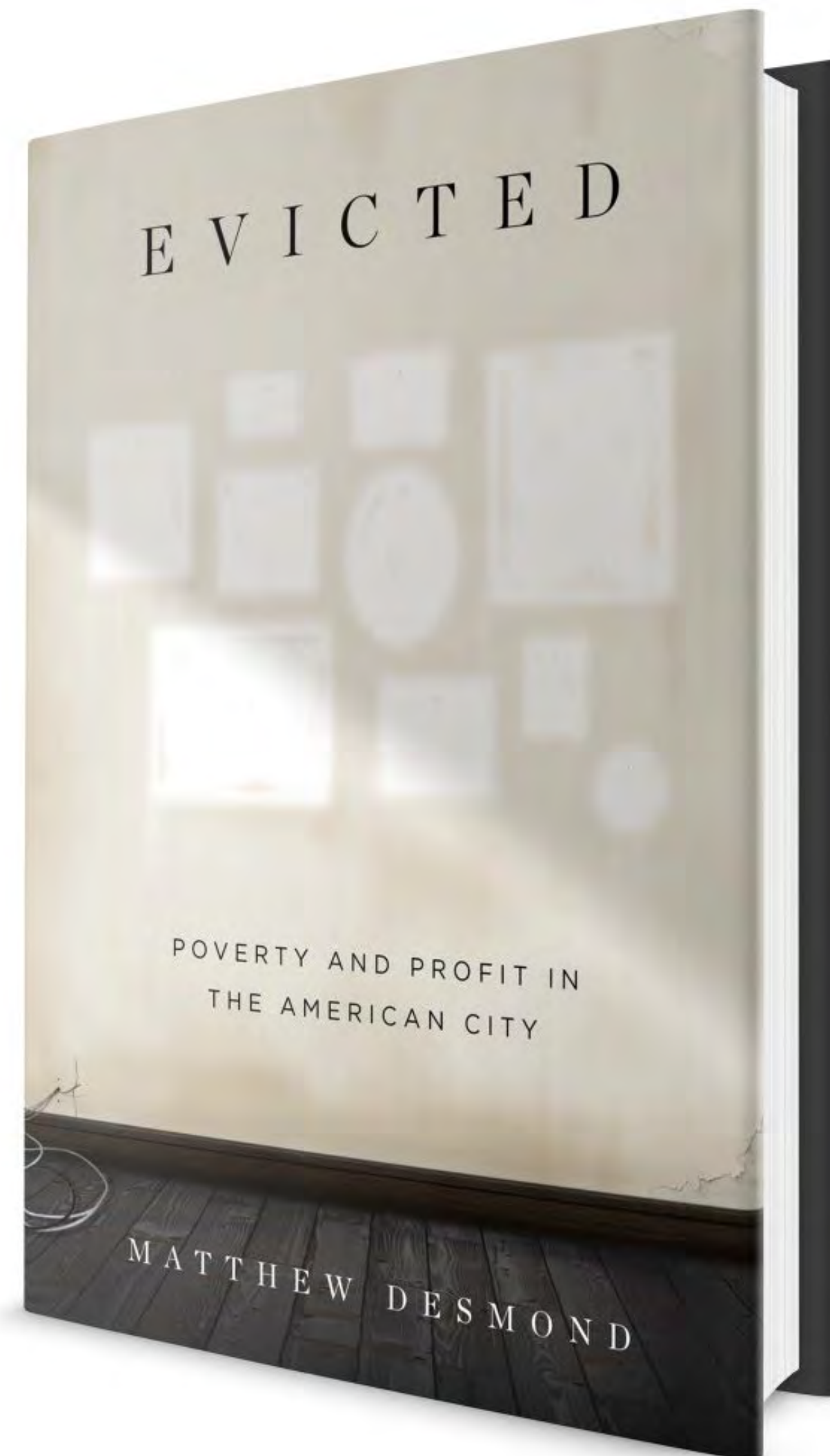
Human Resources Workforce and Recruitment Specialist



Evicted

*“Without stable shelter,
everything else falls apart.”*

— Matthew Desmond, *Evicted*





Building Better Neighborhoods

Urban Blight Creates Significant Challenges:



Financial



Public Health



Moral

Building Better Neighborhoods





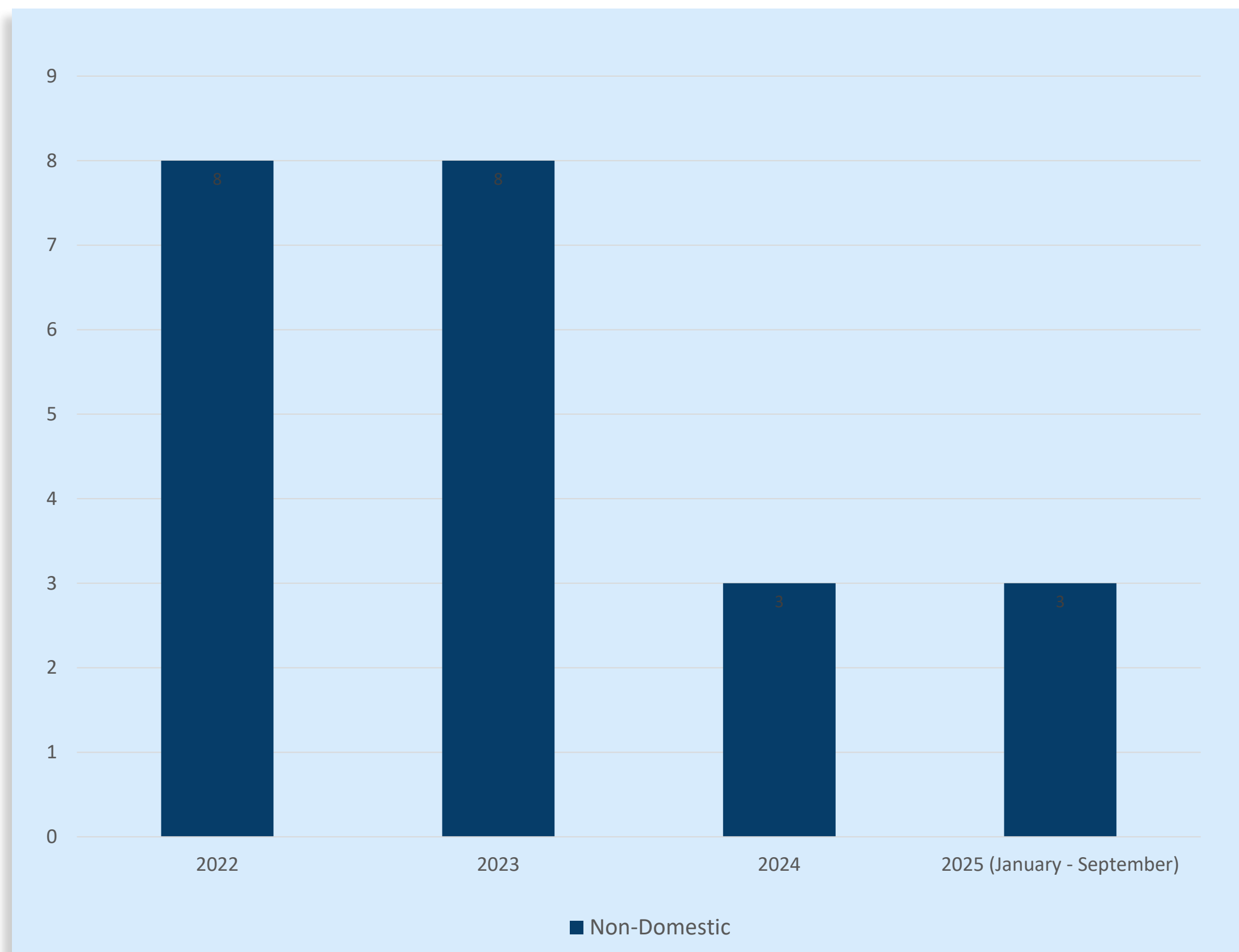
Clean Sweep

“A city is a co-creation, an ongoing act of shared responsibility.”

– Charles Marohn, Strong Towns

Department of Community Safety

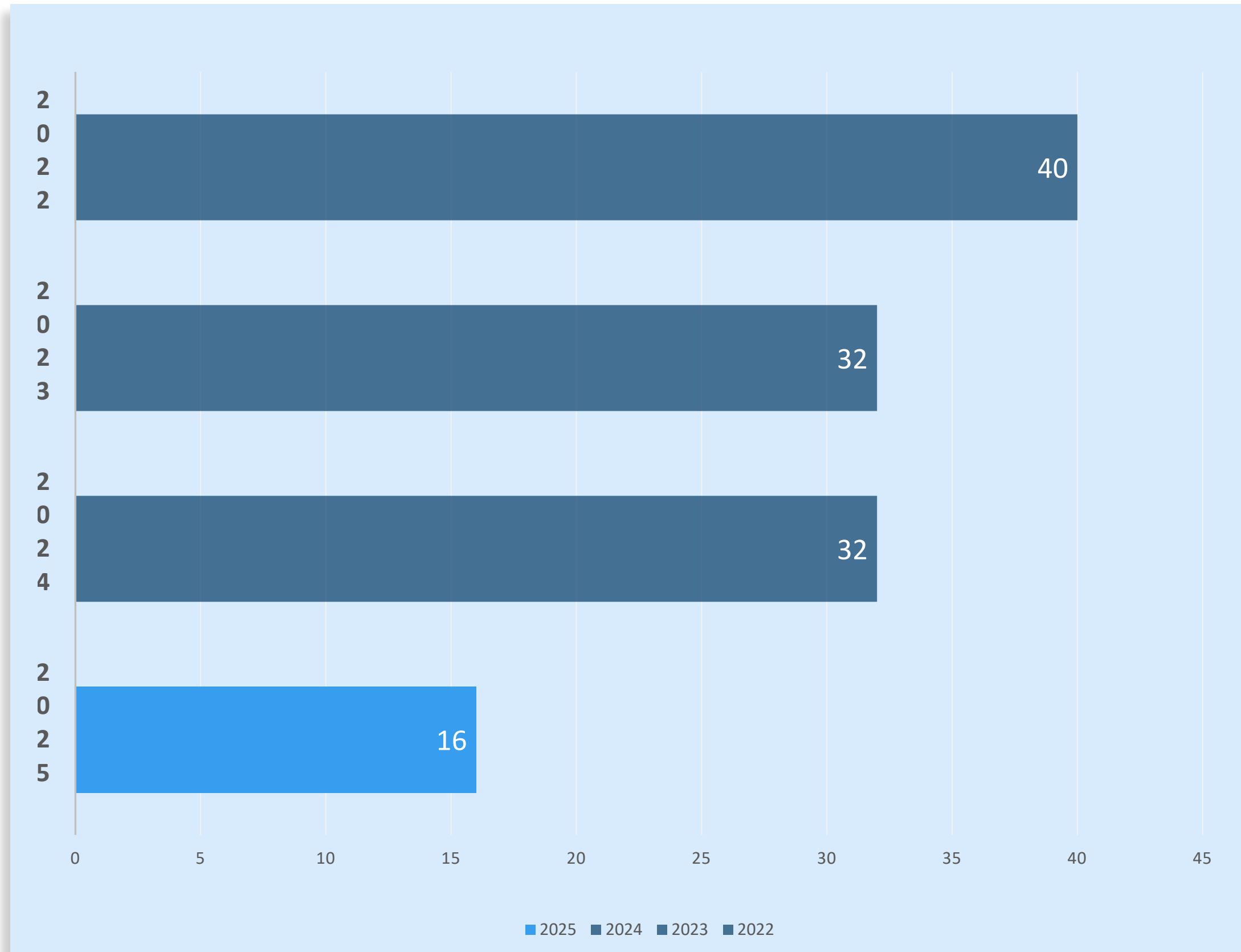




62%
Reduction in
Non-Domestic
Violence
Homicides:
2022 - 2025

Non-Fatal Shootings

January through September
2022 – 2025



60% reduction since 2022

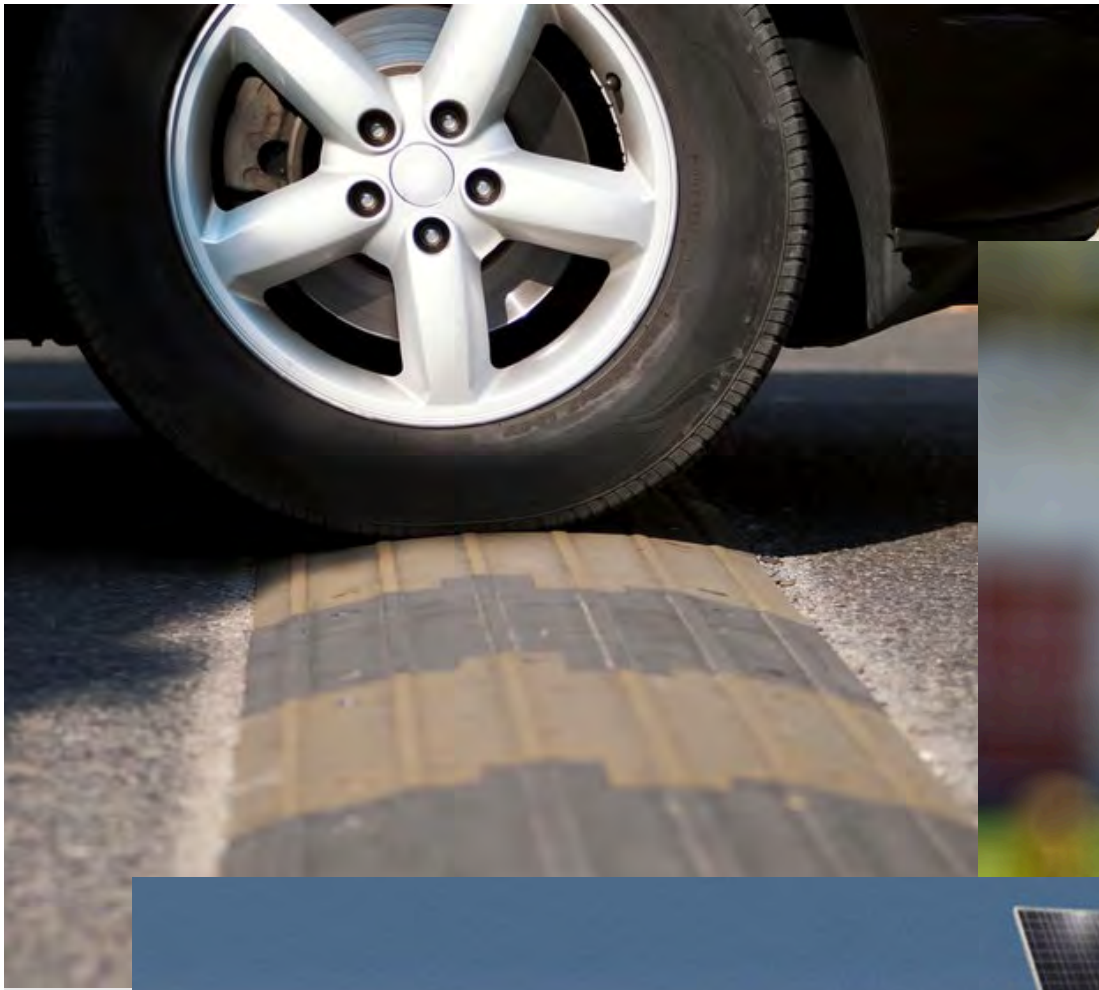
Racine ID



McMynn Ramp



Traffic Calming



Climate Change

Mitigation:
Slowing climate change.

Adaptation:
Living with the change.



King Community Center Project





Lakefront Safety

**Largest Annual
Increase in Net New
Construction
EVER
\$73 million**



Racine Public Library



The Semiquincentennial



Semiquincentennial Lakeview Park



Planting 250 Trees for the Semiquincentennial



*“A society grows great when
people plant trees in whose
shade they will never sit.”*

– Greek proverb

Time Capsule



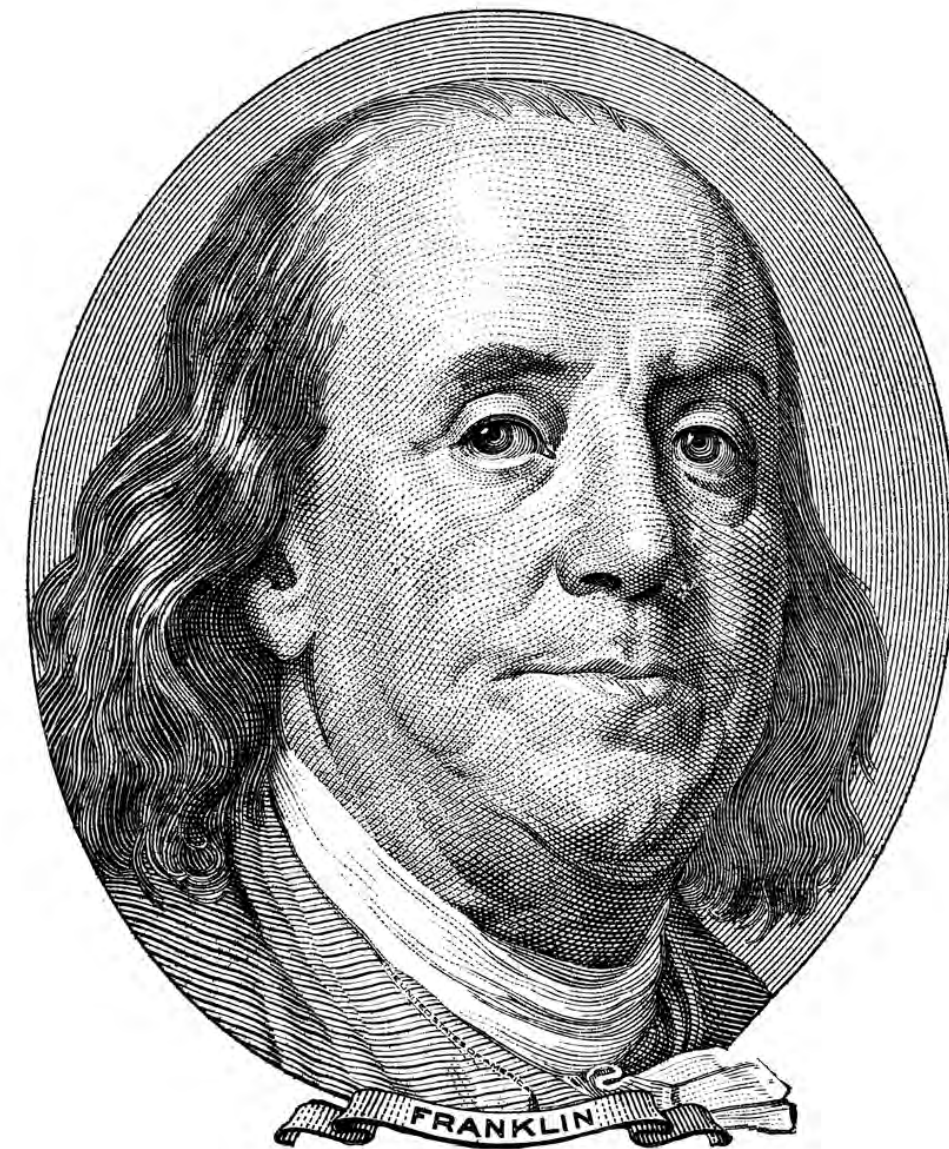
Bury on the 4th of July

- Where to put it
- What to put in it



If You Can Keep It

– Benjamin Franklin



A photograph of the Racine City Hall, a large, light-colored stone building with classical architectural features like columns and arched windows. The building is set back from a street with a sidewalk, trees, and a fountain in the foreground. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Thank You' in white. Below this bar, a horizontal bar with a blue-to-teal gradient is visible. The entire image has a blue color cast.

Thank You