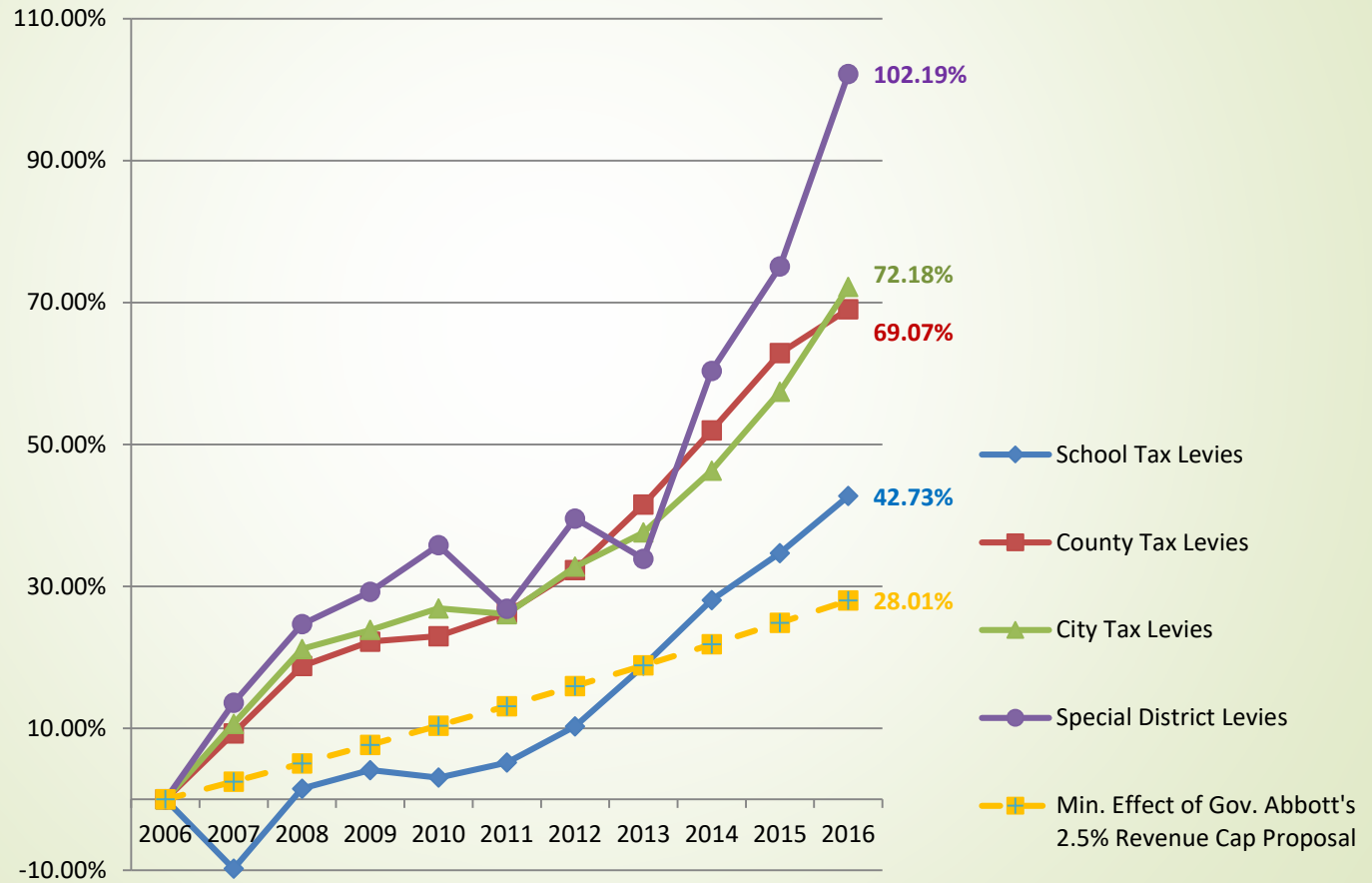




Opening Comments to Texas Commission on Public School Finance

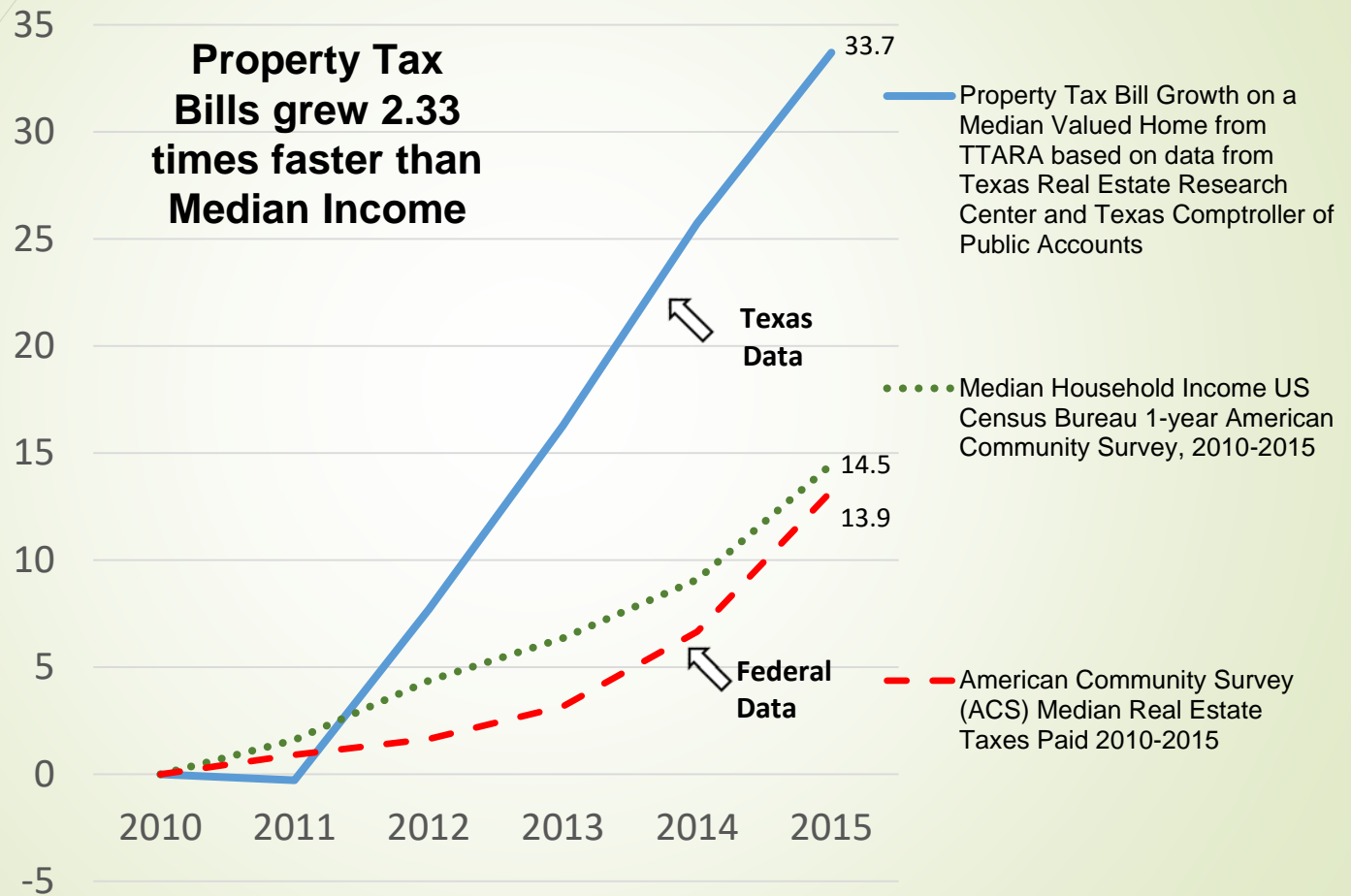
By Senator Paul Bettencourt, District 7

2006-2016 Property Tax Levy Growth



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; 2016 data is subject to revision

Taxpayer's Ability to Pay





Takeaways:

- ▶ The goal of Senate Bill 1 was to bring the Property Tax levy growth rate of cities, counties and special districts closer to that of ISD's.
- ▶ Governor Abbott has proposed a 2.5% yearly revenue cap. If that cap had been in place for the previous 10 years, the Property Tax levy growth rate would have been a minimum 28%, not counting new growth or voter approved increases.
- ▶ The Taxpayer's ability to pay needs to be a priority. It is bad public policy for tax bills to be increasing twice as fast as Texans' paychecks. Property taxpayers are paying 100% of the local property tax bill, regardless of any funding splits.
- ▶ During the course of these hearings, important items for discussion include: Best Practices from around the Nation, Classroom Pay versus Administrative Expenses, Performance Based Pay and Alternative Funding Scenarios other than just a Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) models.