

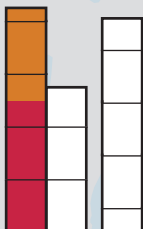
# PUBLIC FUNDING FOR RUST BELT STADIUMS

## SOCIALISM FOR WEALTHY SPORTS TEAM OWNERS, AUSTERITY FOR EVERYONE ELSE

W I S C O N S I N

### FISERV FORUM MILWAUKEE (NBA, BUILT 2018)

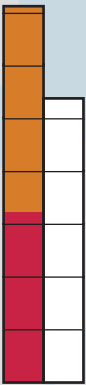
A \$250 MILLION BUDGET CUT TO WISCONSIN'S STATE UNIVERSITIES MYSTERIOUSLY OCCURRED RIGHT BEFORE THE BUCKS' OWNERSHIP RECEIVED A LARGE HANDOUT OF MONEY FOR THE ARENA FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT<sup>3</sup>.



M I C H I G A N

### LITTLE CAESARS ARENA DETROIT (NHL & NBA, BUILT 2017)

RED WINGS' OWNERSHIP PROMISED MASSIVE REVITALIZATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SURROUNDING THE ARENA. IT'S CURRENTLY A BIG SWATH OF PARKING LOTS INSTEAD<sup>1</sup>.



### WRIGLEY FIELD CHICAGO (MLB, 2019 RENOVATIONS)

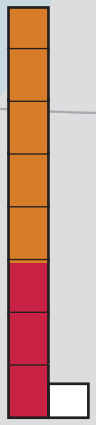
TEAMS LOCATED IN MAJOR MARKETS LIKE CHICAGO LACK THE LEVERAGE OF A SERIOUS THREAT OF MOVING AWAY TO ANOTHER CITY, SO THE FIVE YEARS OF RENOVATIONS TO THE HISTORIC 'FRIENDLY CONFINES' WAS ENTIRELY FUNDED BY THE CHICAGO CUBS ORGANIZATION.



I L L I N O I S

### BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE INDIANAPOLIS (NBA, 2022 RENOVATIONS)

PACERS' OWNERSHIP HAS GOTTEN ESPECIALLY CREATIVE AT EXTRACTING PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THEIR ARENA BY SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING FOR \$14 MILLION A YEAR TO COVER "OPERATING EXPENSES" AND \$12 MILLION A YEAR FOR "TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES."



O H I O

### ROCKET MORTGAGE FIELDHOUSE CLEVELAND (NBA, 2019 RENOVATIONS)

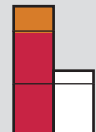
RENOVATION OF EXISTING STADIUMS IS OFTEN A FINANCIALLY MORE PRUDENT SOLUTION COMPARED TO BUILDING A WHOLE NEW STADIUM, BUT THE CITY OF CLEVELAND WENT TO EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS TO AVOID HOLDING A PUBLIC REFERENDUM ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CITY SHOULD CHIP IN TO RENOVATE THE CAVS' ARENA<sup>4</sup>.



P E N N S Y L V A N I A

### PPG PAINTS ARENA PITTSBURGH (NHL, BUILT 2010)

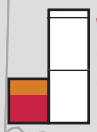
THE PENGUINS' OWNER ADMITTED THAT THE TEAM'S THREATS TO MOVE TO KANSAS CITY WERE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO OBTAIN MORE PUBLIC MONEY FOR A NEW ARENA, AND THAT THE TEAM NEVER INTENDED TO ACTUALLY MOVE AWAY FROM PITTSBURGH<sup>6</sup>.



I N D I A N A

### WEST END STADIUM CINCINNATI (MLS, UNDER CONSTRUCTION- 2021)

CINCINNATI'S NFL STADIUM WAS BUILT USING "THE WORST STADIUM FINANCING DEAL EVER"<sup>5</sup>, SO THE LOCAL POPULATION WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HANDING OUT ANOTHER BIG CHECK FOR A NEW SOCCER-ONLY STADIUM.



### HOW CAN WE CHANGE THIS?

- At a minimum, citizens should demand that any future public spending for private arenas be subject to a public referendum. The damage is already done when the only recourse is voting out politicians who already shoveled out the cash.
- One possible solution is the creation of a compact of cities and states agreeing not to contribute over a certain percentage towards any future stadium construction. The compact would only go into effect when a critical mass of cities and states are signed on, so that the cities and states who lead the way on making a change aren't penalized by having their local teams move elsewhere.



USA Contiguous Lambert Conformal Conic. Central meridian: 83.0W, Standard parallels: 40.0N, 42.0N. Scale: 1/5,500,000. Shapefiles from Natural Earth. Map by Adam Tupitza. Sources for funding information: [www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2019/04/12/indiana-pacers-25-year-deal-team-indy-agree-295-m-deal-over-25-years/3427430002](http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2019/04/12/indiana-pacers-25-year-deal-team-indy-agree-295-m-deal-over-25-years/3427430002), [archive.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/assembly-today-is-expected-to-pass-arena-deal-b9954594221-318870361.html](http://archive.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/assembly-today-is-expected-to-pass-arena-deal-b9954594221-318870361.html), [bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2016/04/22/documents-show-bucks-524m-arena-cost-goes-beyond.html](http://bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2016/04/22/documents-show-bucks-524m-arena-cost-goes-beyond.html), [cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/04/11/citys-fc-cincinnati-stadium-deal-includes-paying-750-additional-parking-spaces/508174002](http://cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/04/11/citys-fc-cincinnati-stadium-deal-includes-paying-750-additional-parking-spaces/508174002), [cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/05/21/fc-cincinnati-stadium-gets-33-9-m-city-taxpayers-pay-more/619883002](http://cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/05/21/fc-cincinnati-stadium-gets-33-9-m-city-taxpayers-pay-more/619883002), [crainsdetroit.com/article/20170523/news/629041/latest-little-caesars-arena-construction-cost-8629-million](http://crainsdetroit.com/article/20170523/news/629041/latest-little-caesars-arena-construction-cost-8629-million), [freep.com/story/money/business/2017/09/06/little-caesars-arena-detroit-cost/616890001](http://freep.com/story/money/business/2017/09/06/little-caesars-arena-detroit-cost/616890001), [cleveland19.com/2018/09/18/quicken-loans-arena-renovation-is-time-m-over-budget-new-photos](http://cleveland19.com/2018/09/18/quicken-loans-arena-renovation-is-time-m-over-budget-new-photos), [www.venuesnow.com/classic-finish](http://www.venuesnow.com/classic-finish), [old.post-gazette.com/pg/08318/927520-455.stm](http://old.post-gazette.com/pg/08318/927520-455.stm), [post-gazette.com/business/2014/07/15/Taxpayers-paying-more-of-costs-for-Consol-Energy-Center-than-expected/stories/201407150069](http://post-gazette.com/business/2014/07/15/Taxpayers-paying-more-of-costs-for-Consol-Energy-Center-than-expected/stories/201407150069), [cleveland.com/cavs/2016/12/quicken\\_loans\\_arena\\_home\\_of\\_lehtml](http://cleveland.com/cavs/2016/12/quicken_loans_arena_home_of_lehtml). In line annotations: 1- [detroit.curbed.com/2019/4/24/18514894/litch-district-detroit-little-caesars-arena-hbo](http://detroit.curbed.com/2019/4/24/18514894/litch-district-detroit-little-caesars-arena-hbo), 2- [research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017-05-01/the-economics-of-subsidizing-sports-stadiums](http://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017-05-01/the-economics-of-subsidizing-sports-stadiums), 3- [slate.com/business/2015/08/scott-walker-s-basketball-stadium-finance-bill-the-wisconsin-governor-just-blew-250-million-on-the-milwaukee-bucks.html](http://slate.com/business/2015/08/scott-walker-s-basketball-stadium-finance-bill-the-wisconsin-governor-just-blew-250-million-on-the-milwaukee-bucks.html), 4- [www.vocativ.com/436216/cleveland-sues-itself-stadium-scand/index.html](http://www.vocativ.com/436216/cleveland-sues-itself-stadium-scand/index.html), 5- [www.businessinsider.com/worst-stadium-deal-cincinnati-2011-7](http://www.businessinsider.com/worst-stadium-deal-cincinnati-2011-7), 6- [archive.triblive.com/news/mario-we-never-planned-to-leave-pittsburgh](http://archive.triblive.com/news/mario-we-never-planned-to-leave-pittsburgh)

