

THE OBSCENE GRAPH

Wealth in America, to scale. 17 pages of A4 paper. Assembled, it stands 14 feet tall. Every bar is 1% of American households. 1 inch = \$250,000. The median household is 0.8 inches tall.

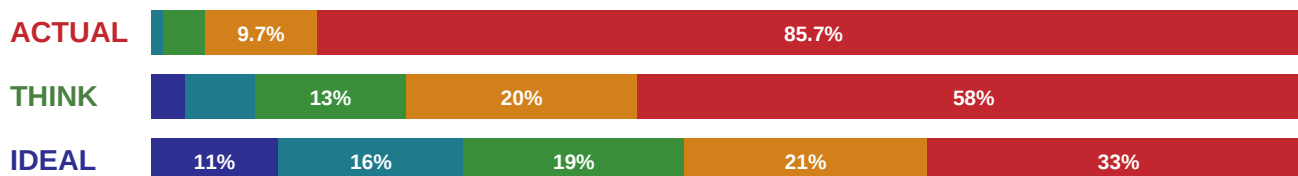
DRAFT DATA - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

How to hang it

1. Print every page at 100% / "Actual size". Do not use "Fit to page" or the pages will not line up.
2. Trim each page along the dashed CUT line at its bottom edge. (Leave page 1 untrimmed.)
3. Put page 1 at floor level. It has \$0, the debt line, and everyone up to the median.
4. Lay page 2 over the top margin of page 1 so its cut edge sits exactly on page 1's ALIGN line. Tape. Repeat, counting upward.
5. Keep going. You will run out of wall before you run out of graph. That is the point.
6. Take a photo and share it with #ObsceneGraph.

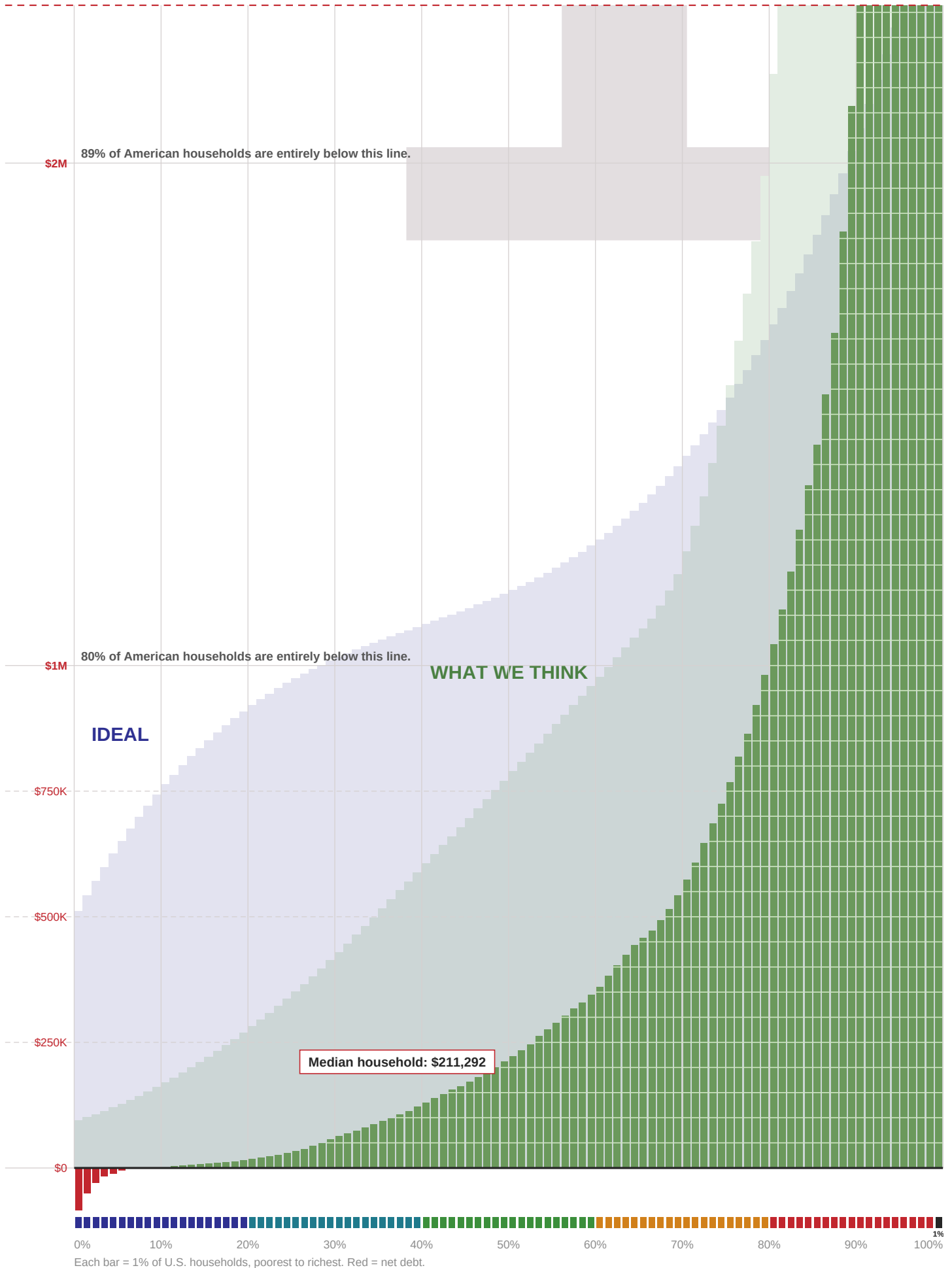
Who owns America?

Share of all wealth held by each fifth of households, bottom 20% to top 20%.

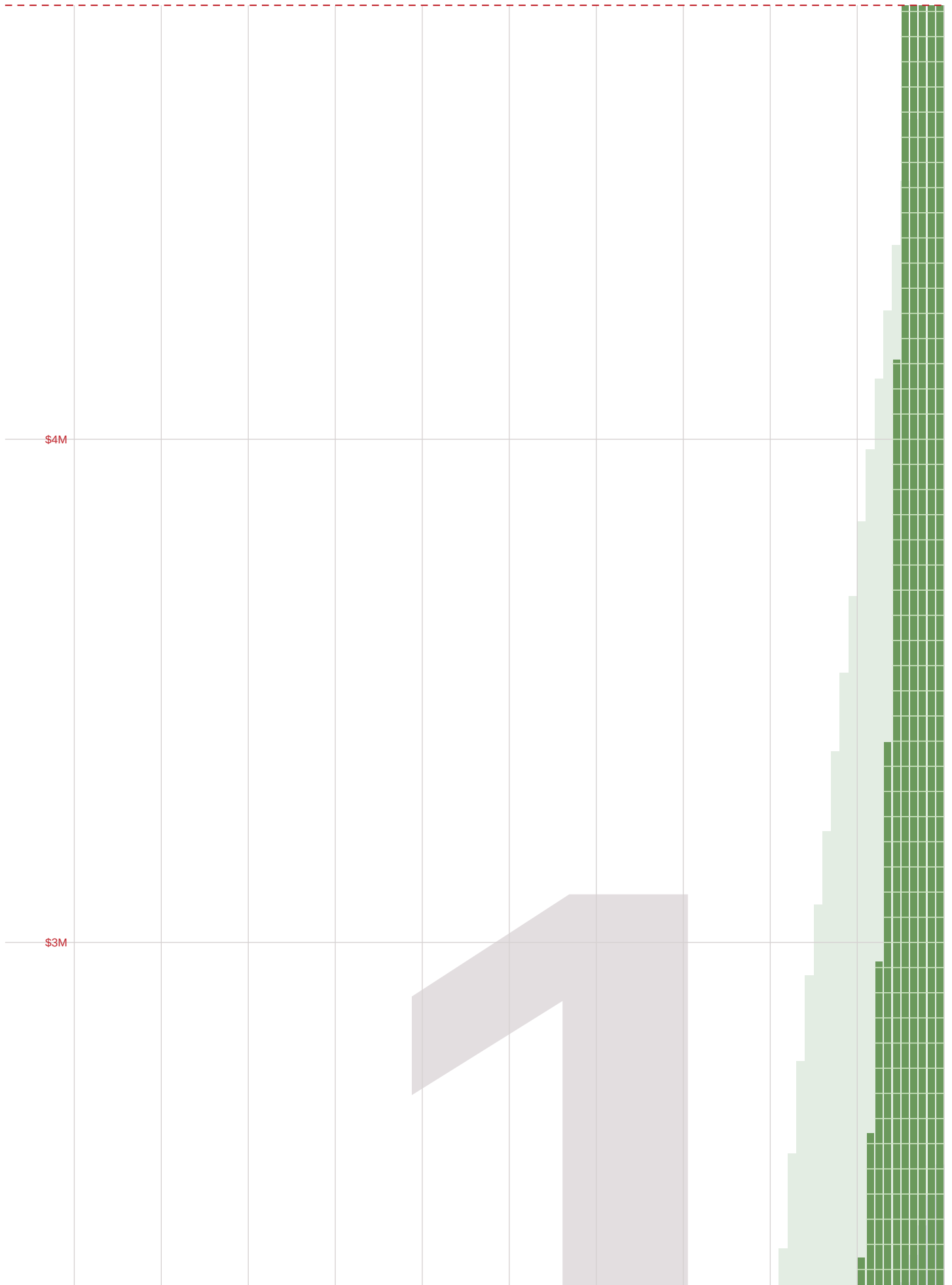


Bars 1-99: estimated net worth at each percentile, 2023 Survey of Consumer Finances, adjusted to 2026 dollars (x1.1); the poorest 8% are shown with their reported debt. Top 1%: average, Federal Reserve Distributional Financial Accounts, Q1 2026. "Think" and "Ideal": Norton & Ariely (2011), spread across percentiles for illustration. Shares are rounded. Sources and method: dreamagainusa.org/method

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 2 on this line

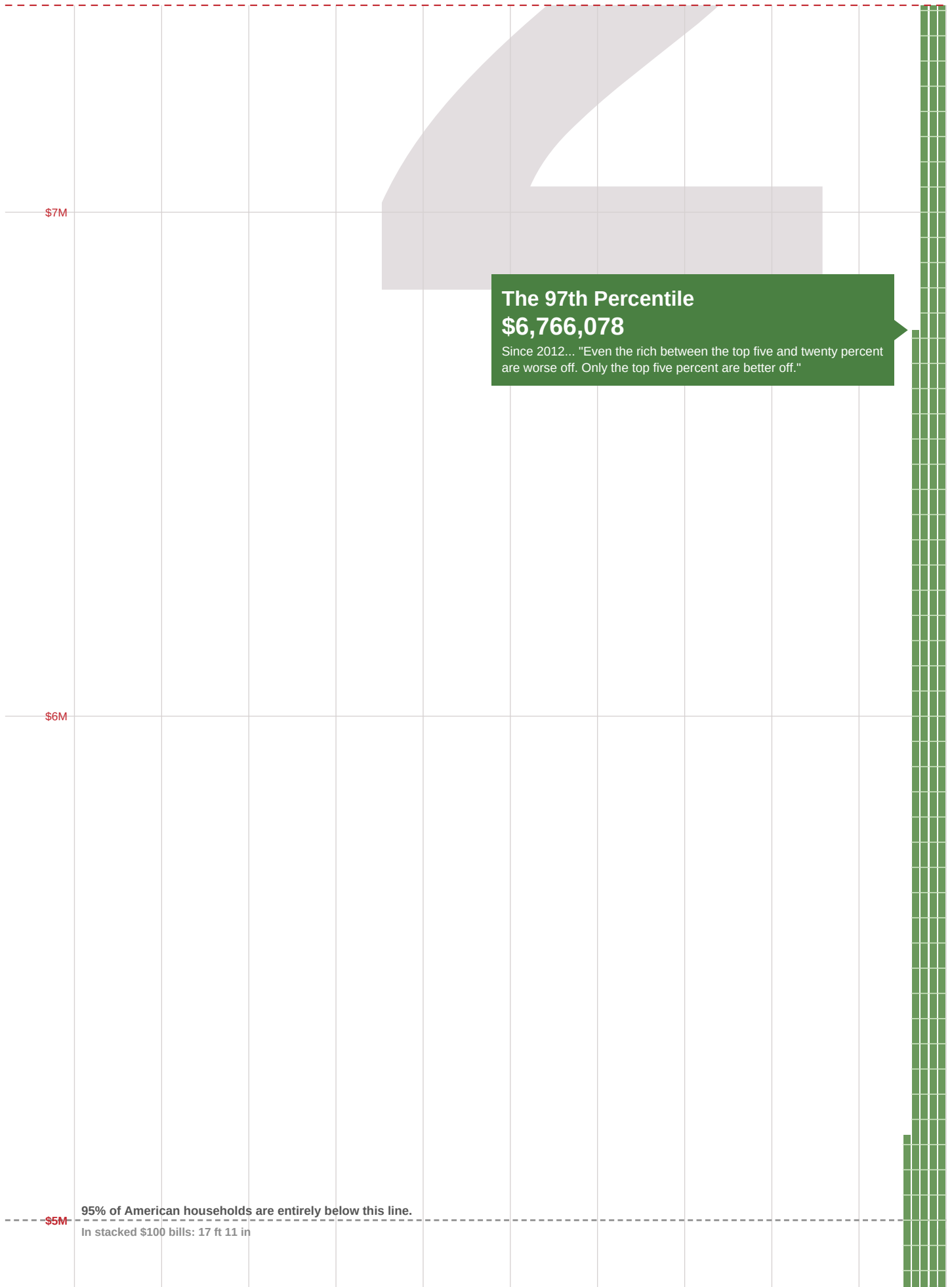


ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 3 on this line



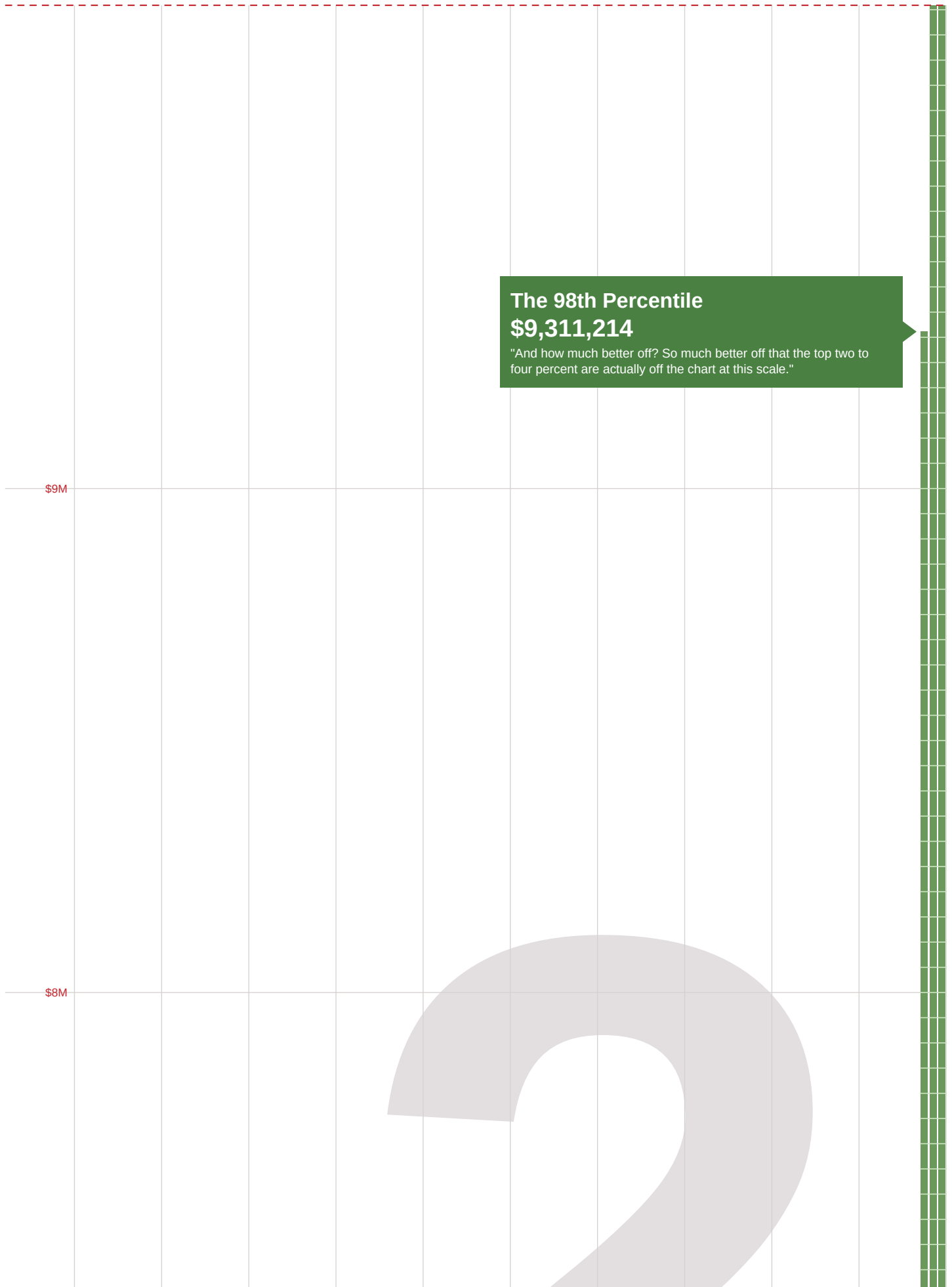
CUT along this line, then tape onto page 1

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 4 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 2

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 5 on this line

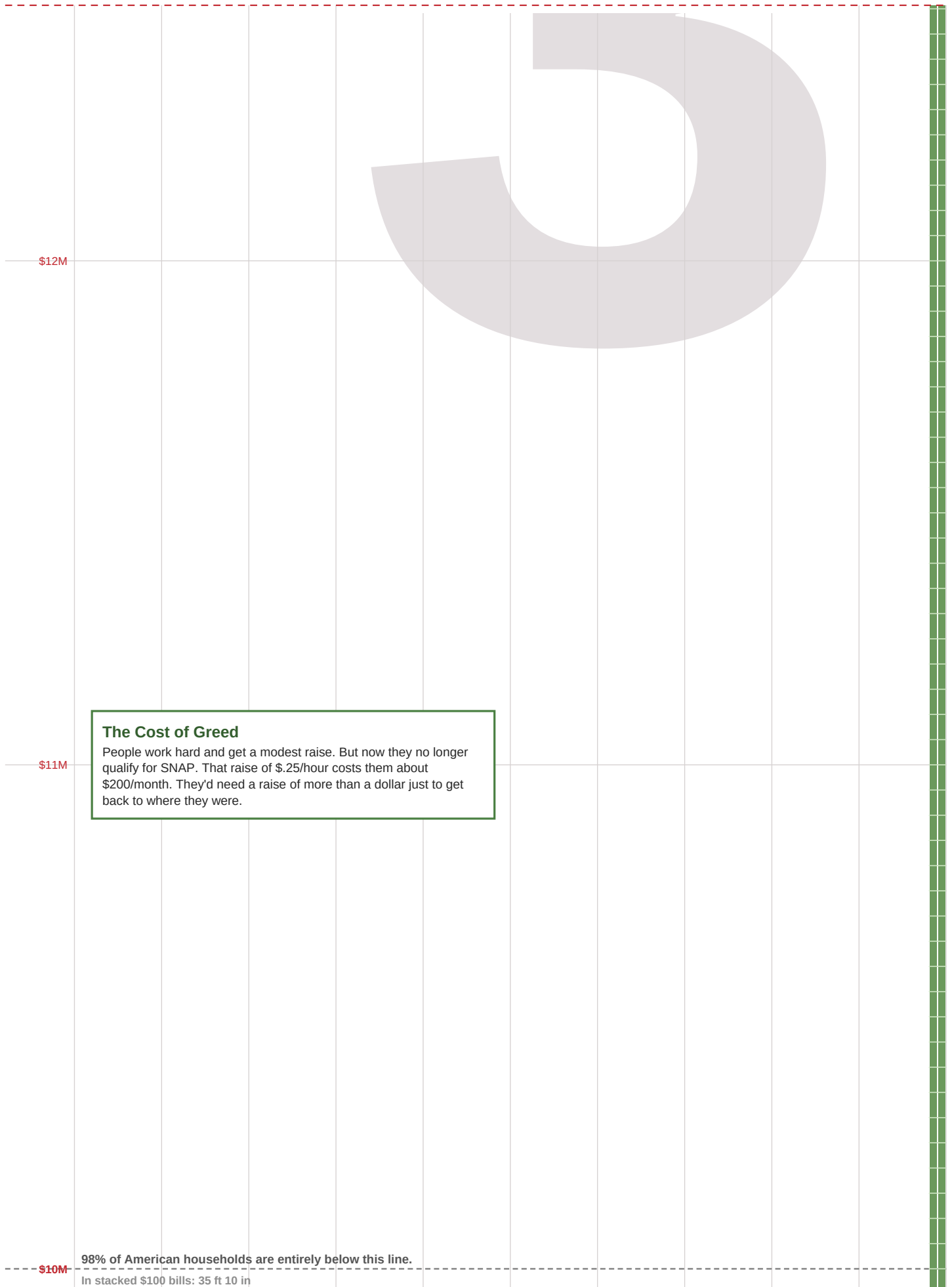


\$9M

\$8M

CUT along this line, then tape onto page 3

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 6 on this line



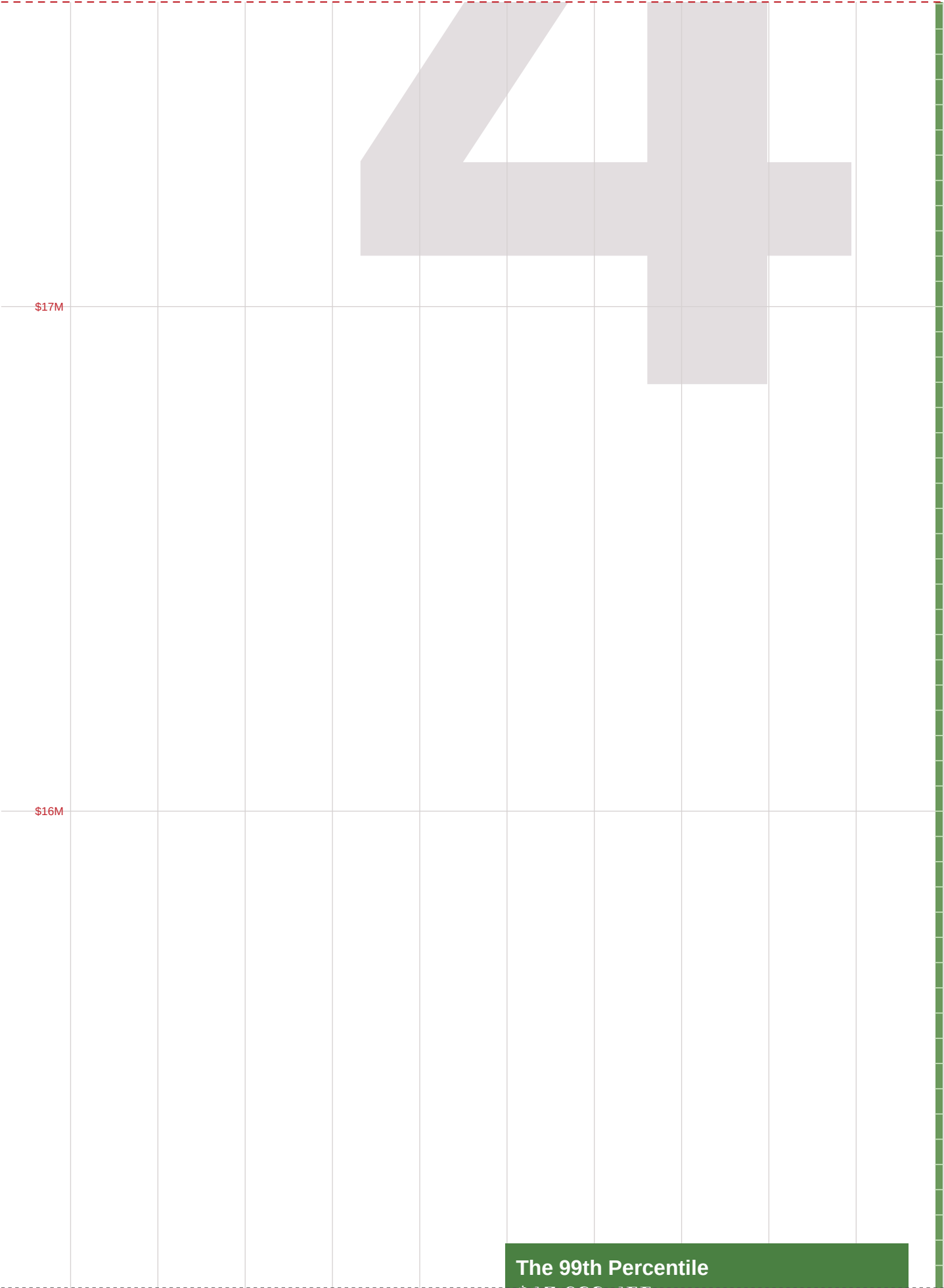
CUT along this line, then tape onto page 4

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 7 on this line



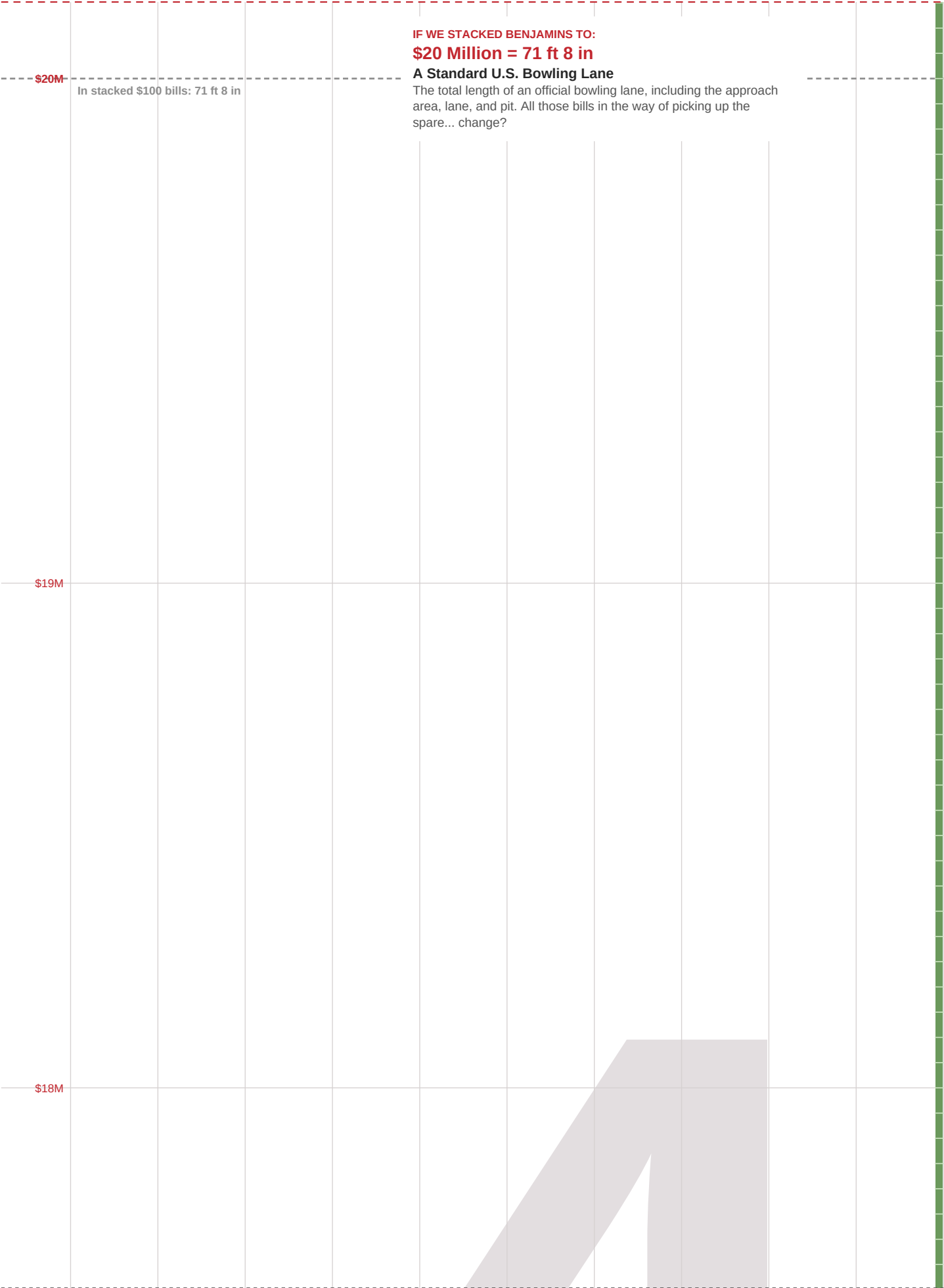
CUT along this line, then tape onto page 5

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 8 on this line



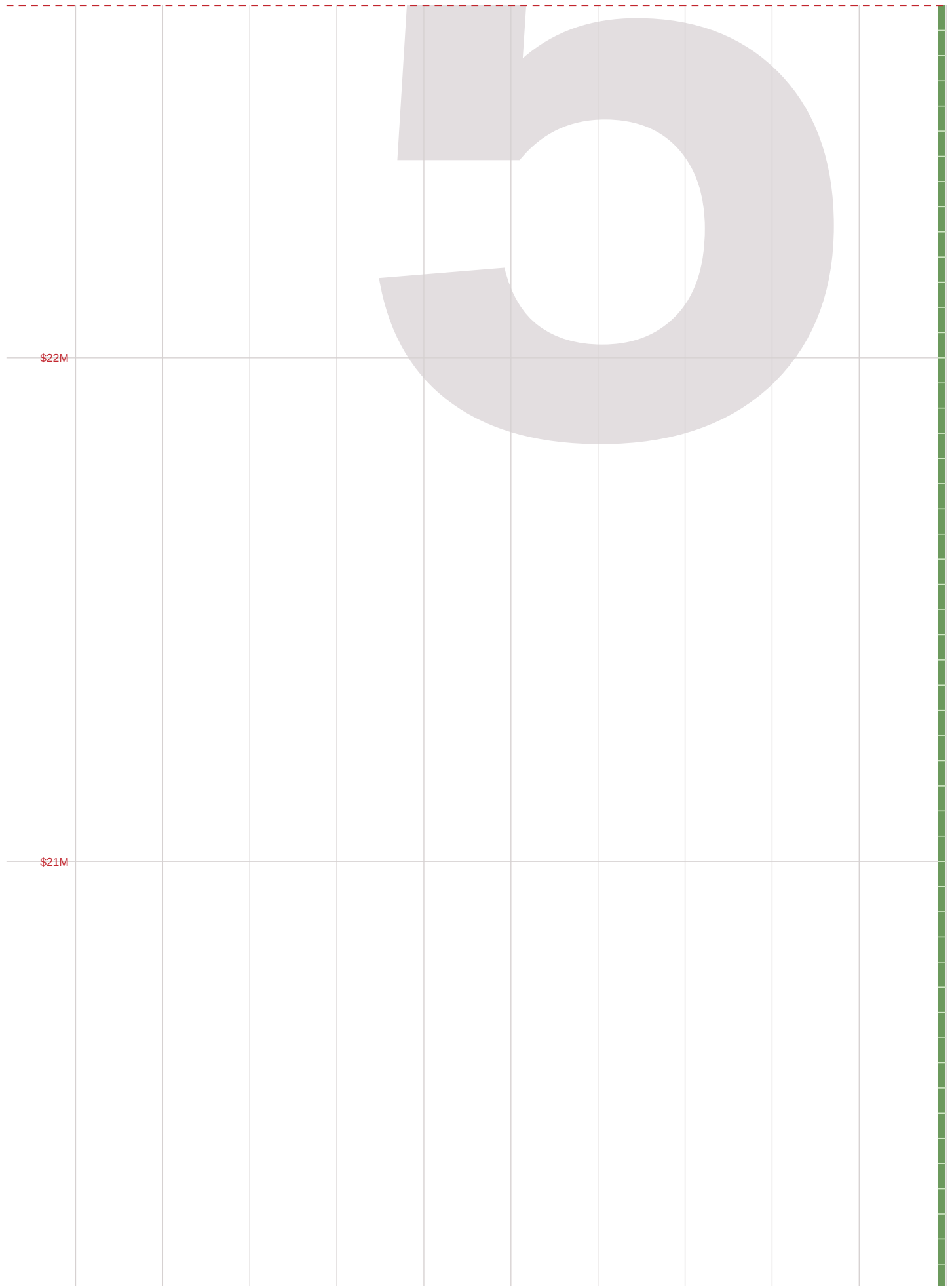
CUT along this line, then tape onto page 6

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 9 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 7

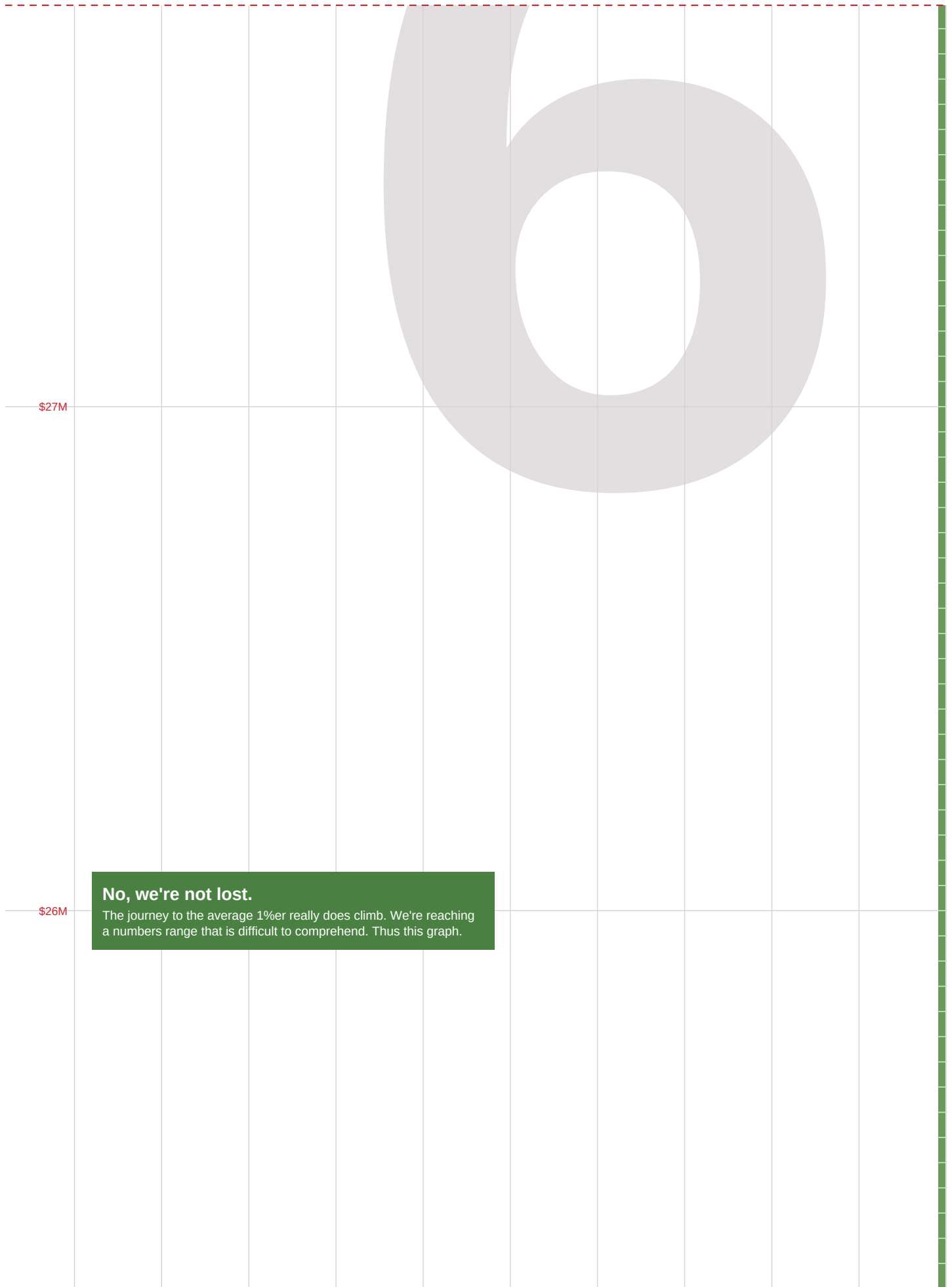
ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 10 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 8

dreamagainusa.org

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 12 on this line

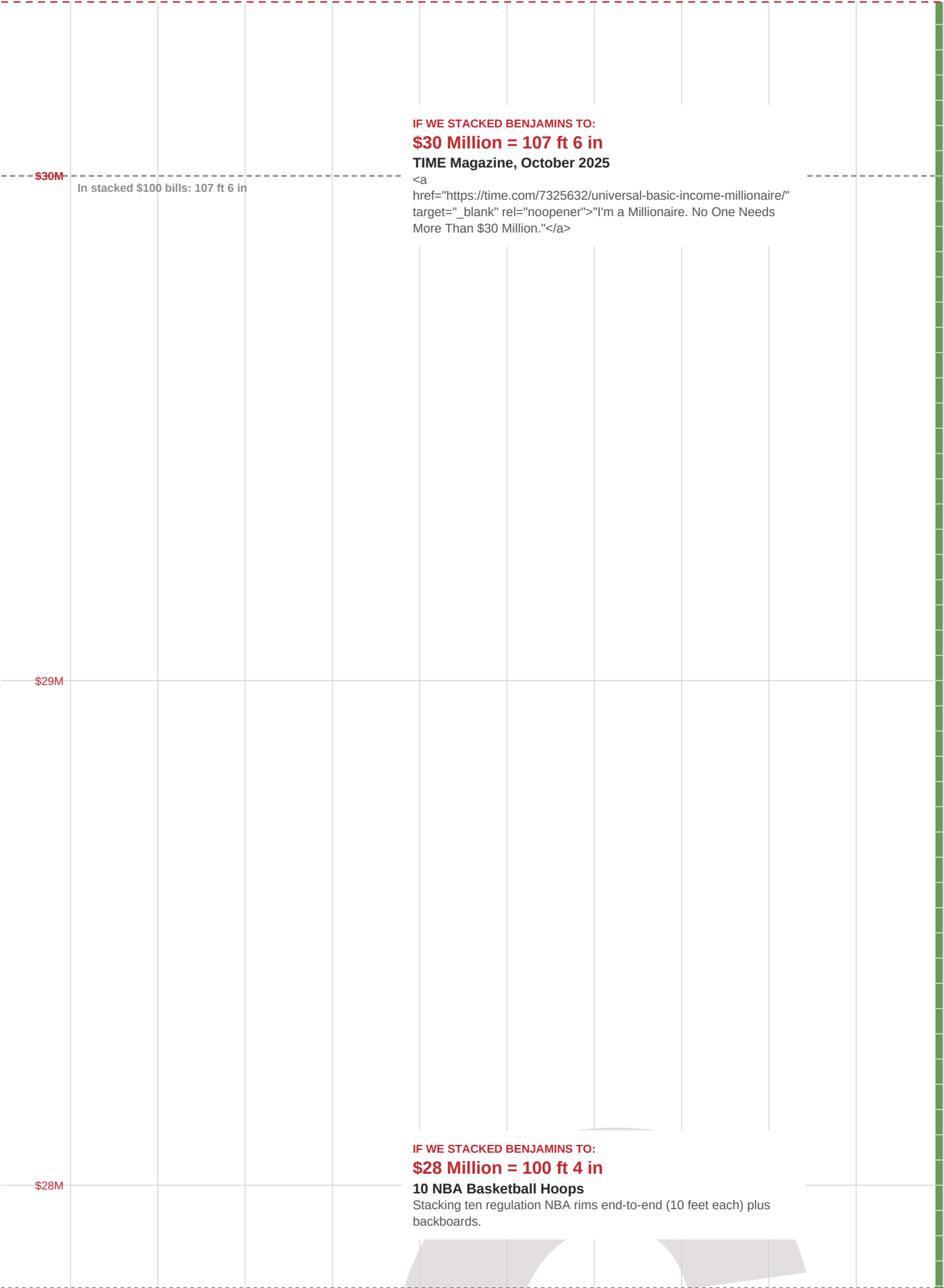


No, we're not lost.

The journey to the average 1%er really does climb. We're reaching a numbers range that is difficult to comprehend. Thus this graph.

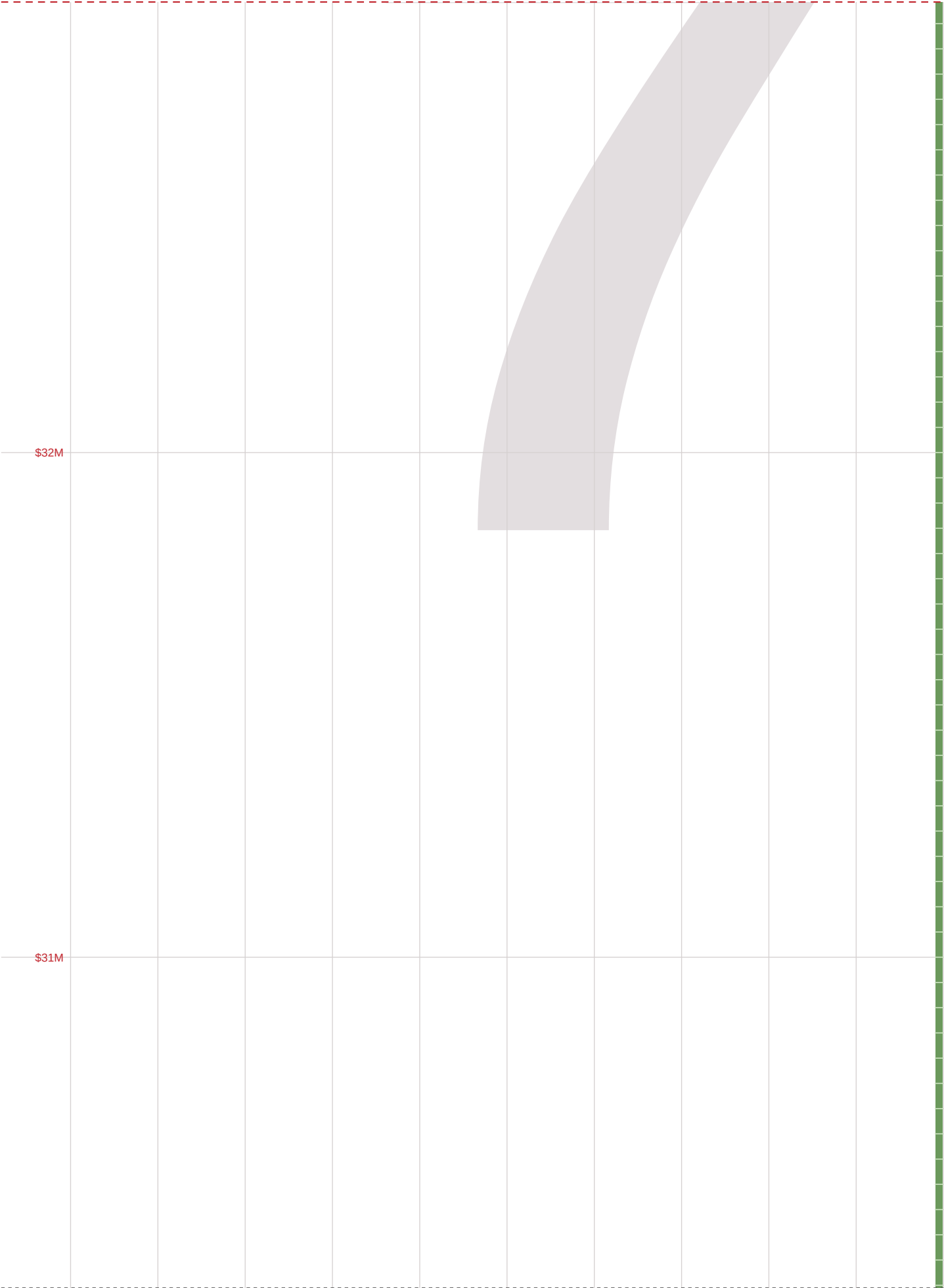
CUT along this line, then tape onto page 10

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 13 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 11

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 14 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 12

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 15 on this line



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 13

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 16 on this line

CUT along this line, then tape onto page 14

ALIGN: lay the cut edge of page 17 on this line

Average top-1% household: \$40,434,990

9

Everyone except the top 1% is below this line.
In stacked \$100 bills: 143 ft 4 in

\$39M

\$38M

CUT along this line, then tape onto page 15



CUT along this line, then tape onto page 16