#1 of 7: Ratio of Highest to Lowest County Home Value in the Market

Birmingham's Counties Differ by 2.40x in Home Value

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 26, 2026

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THE DATA

2.40x

Ratio of Highest to Lowest County Home Value in the Market (2024)

Shelby County leads the market with $326,100, while Walker County trails at $135,900.

This 2.40x disparity reflects deep structural divides within the Birmingham metro. The gap is not merely economic — it's spatial, rooted in historical investment patterns, infrastructure access, and land-use policy. Such variation challenges the notion of a unified housing market, even within a single metropolitan area.

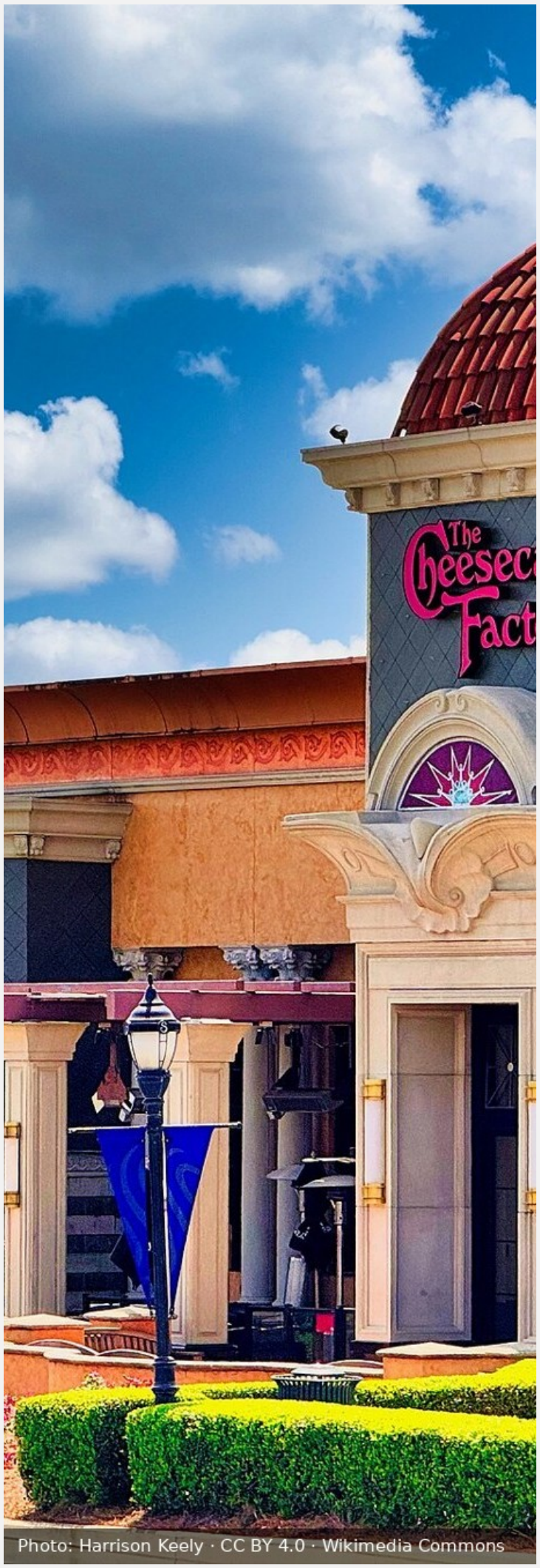

Photo: Harrison Keely · CC BY 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-26-birmingham-within-county-home-value

01

Value is not distributed — it’s concentrated

The data reveals that the highest home values are clustered in just one county — Shelby County — while the lowest are in Walker County. This concentration suggests that wealth and capital are not evenly dispersed across the region, but instead are anchored in specific, historically advantaged jurisdictions. The implications for equity, mobility, and public investment are profound.

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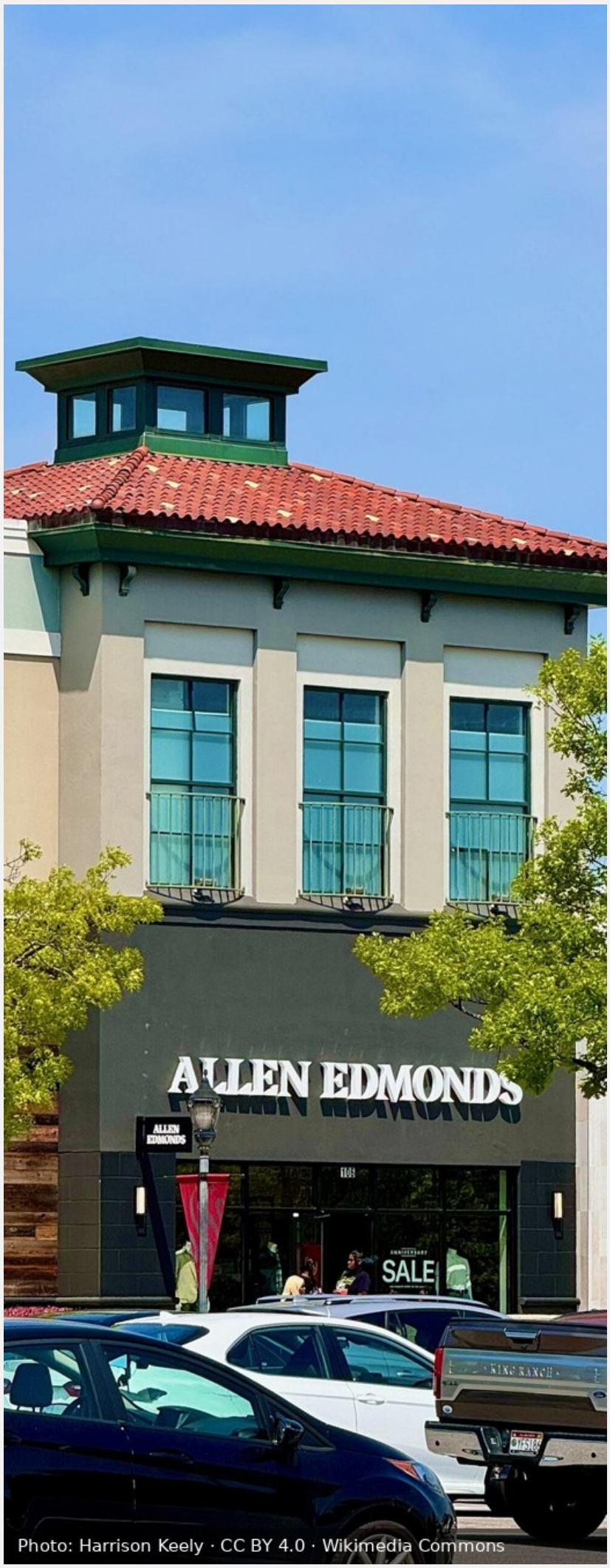

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02

The market’s strength hides its fracture

While the Birmingham metro as a whole may appear resilient — with steady demand and stabilized inventory — the internal disparities suggest a fragile equilibrium. Areas with lower home values, like Walker County, are more vulnerable to economic shocks, declining property tax bases, and underinvestment in public services. The market’s aggregate health masks the risk of disinvestment in its most disadvantaged counties.

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