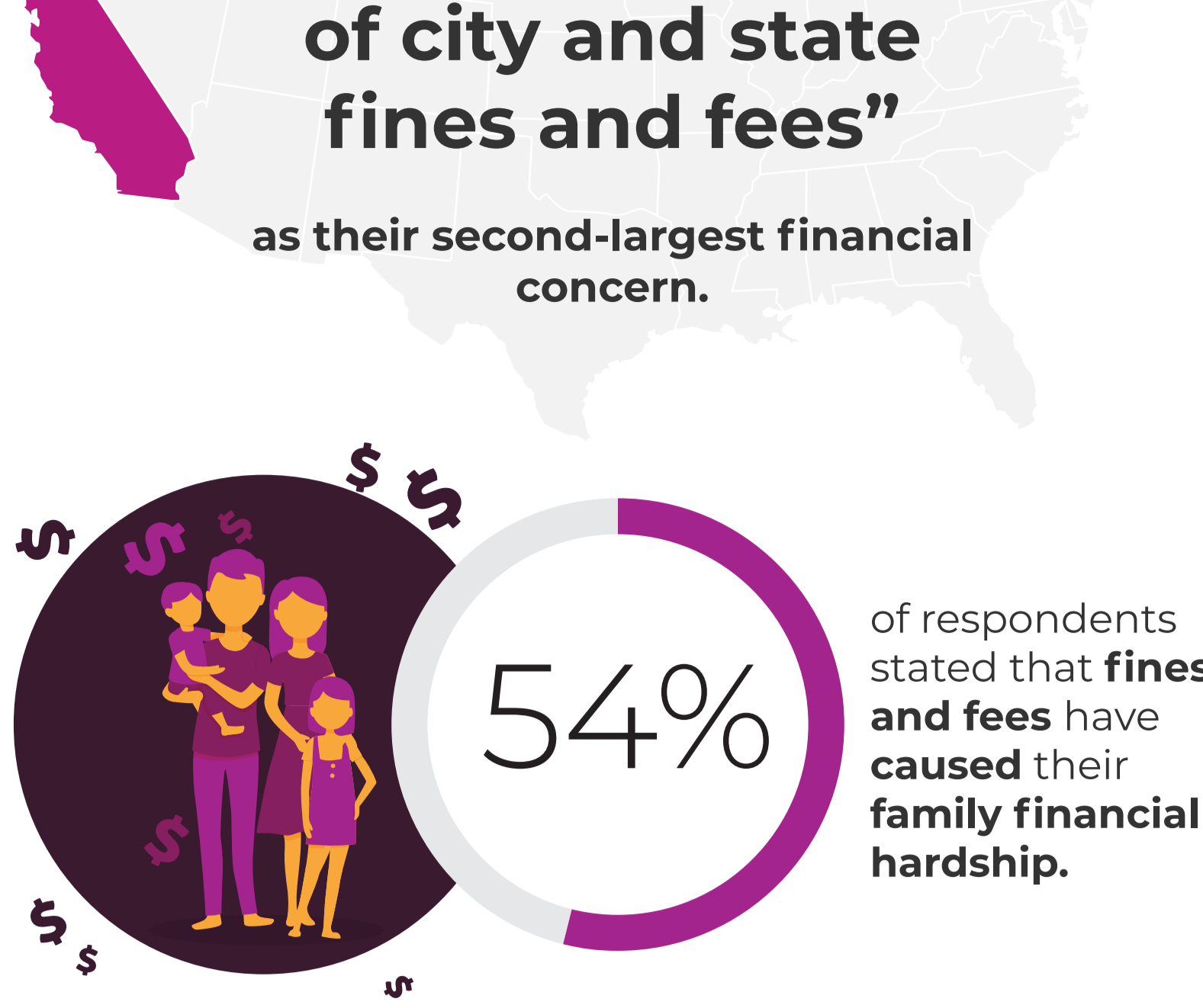


How Fines and Fees Impact Low-Income Californians



Why people struggle to pay California fines and fees



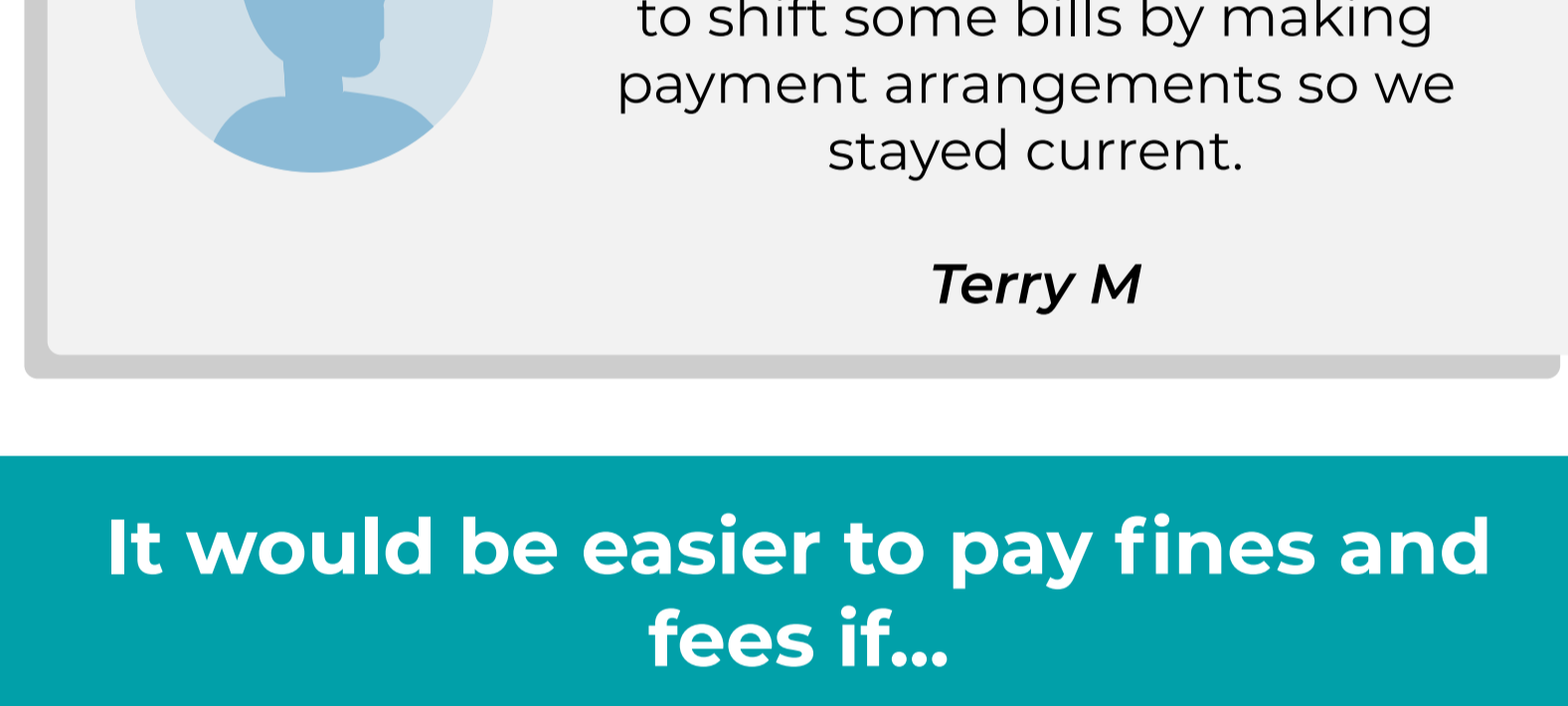
I think people feel that the system is working against them instead of trying to provide financial stability among one another.

Elmer S

The Downstream Impact of Fines and Fees Can Be Damaging*



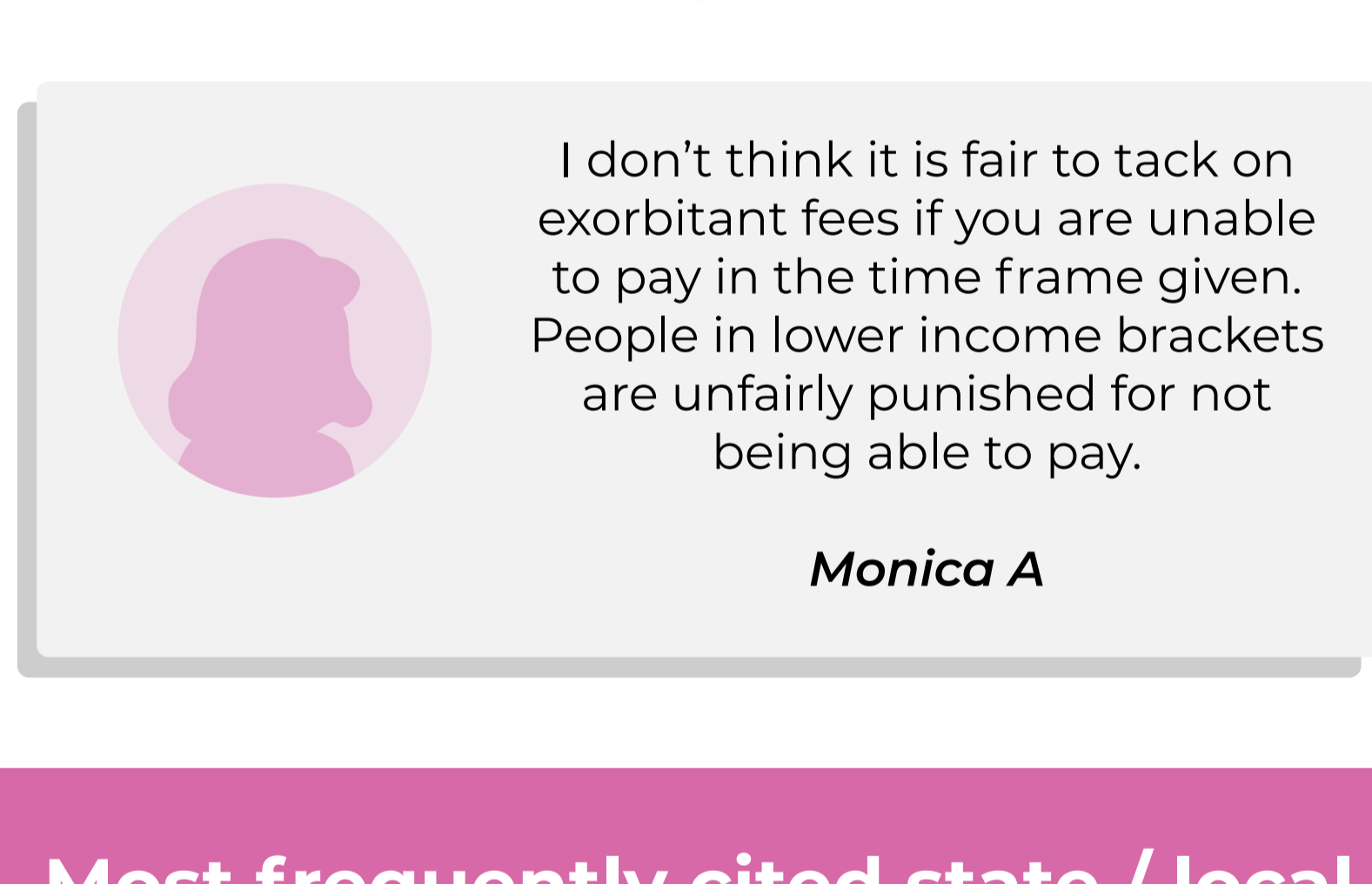
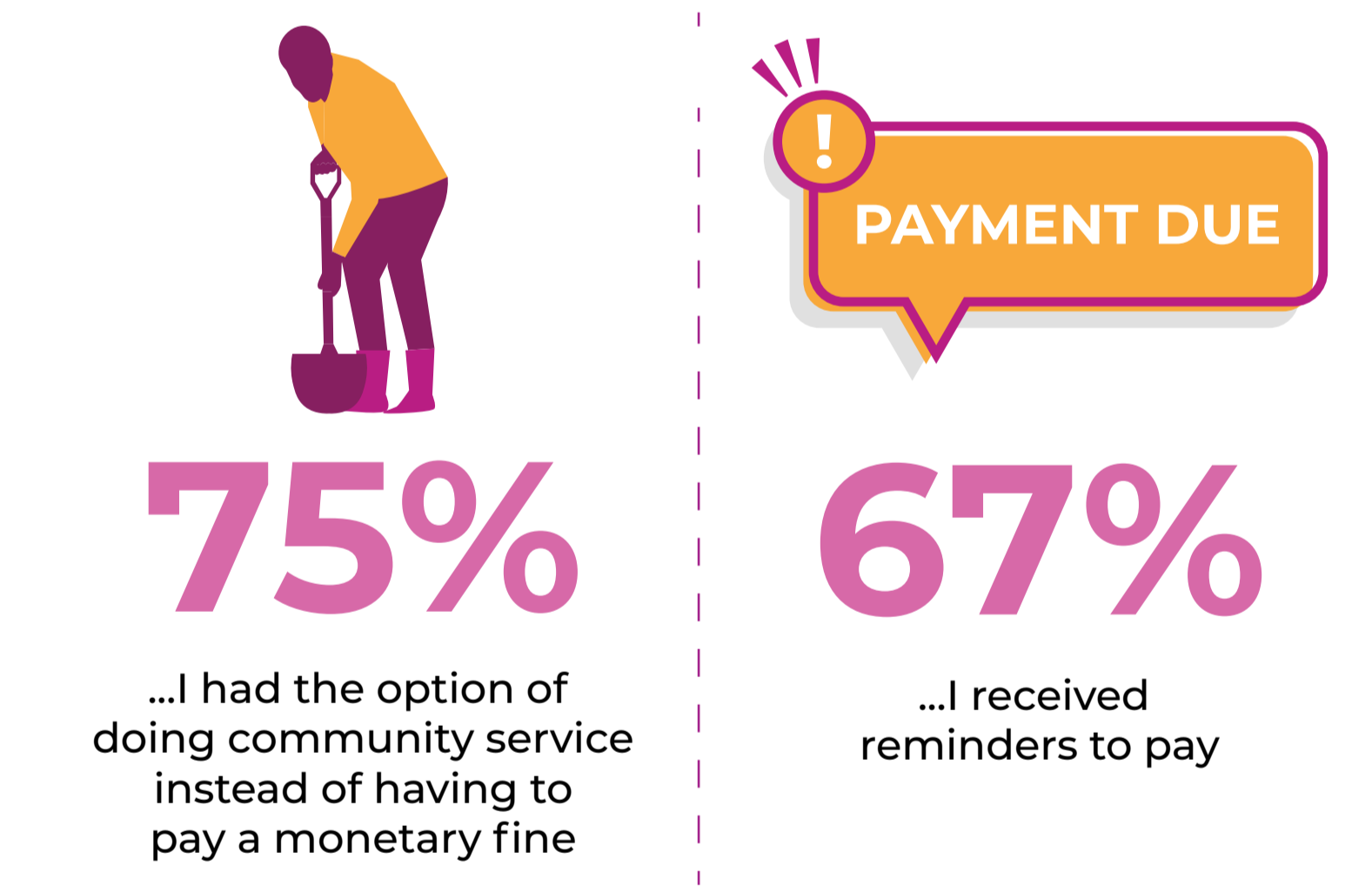
*Based on the 54% of people who stated that fines and fees caused financial hardship



[Fines and fees] are an unexpected cost that takes months to recover from. We had to shift some bills by making payment arrangements so we stayed current.

Terry M

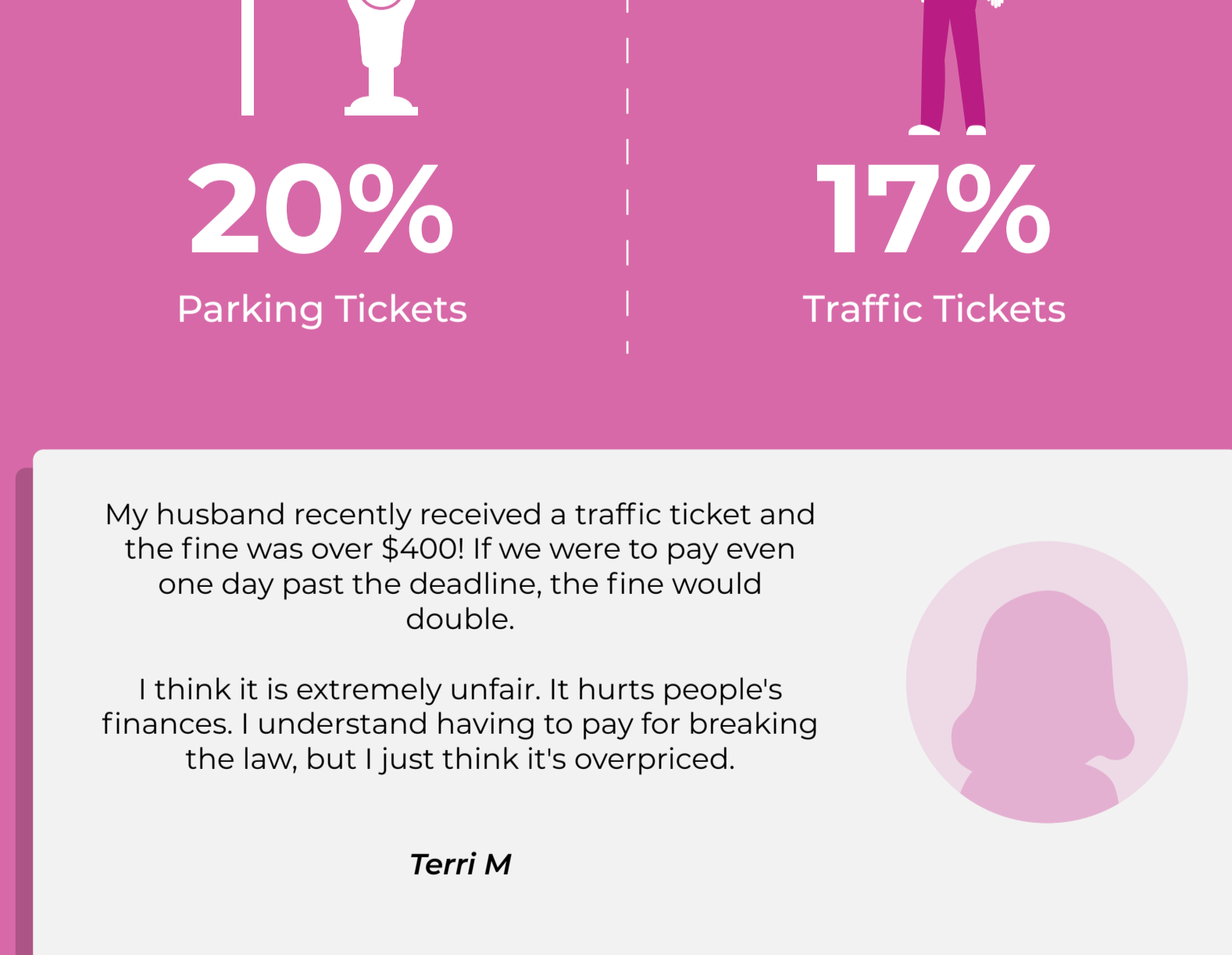
It would be easier to pay fines and fees if...



I don't think it is fair to tack on exorbitant fees if you are unable to pay in the time frame given. People in lower income brackets are unfairly punished for not being able to pay.

Monica A

Most frequently cited state / local fines and fees



My husband recently received a traffic ticket and the fine was over \$400! If we were to pay even one day past the deadline, the fine would double.

I think it is extremely unfair. It hurts people's finances. I understand having to pay for breaking the law, but I just think it's overpriced.

Terri M

Other Stories About the Impacts of Fines and Fees

When it comes to fees and fines, my story is not unusual. I paid various family court fees for divorce, child custody and support, and other related fees. Of course, I pay vehicle registration and CA Real ID fees.

It set me back significantly. It impacted my ability to save and invest. Only recently have I been able to save for an emergency, retirement, college savings for my daughters, etc. I had to borrow money from a close friend and pick up side hustles to pay for the fees in addition to attorney and private mediator fees.

Tamir S.

[Fines and fees] have a great impact on me right now because my rent has gone up and I'm a single mom of two boys, I'm paying a court case payment from years ago and just started paying it four months ago. I want to have my record cleared.

The payments are semi-flexible, I mean I would like to pay a little more each month, but I can't right now my financial situation is really hard.

Katya D.