

Privatization resources

Resource Guide • In the Public Interest • Updated March 2020

How privatization increases inequality

A report examining the ways in which the insertion of private interests into the provision of public goods and services hurts poor individuals and families, and people of color.

Ask the Right Questions Before Privatizing

Ten questions public officials, advocates, and the media should ask—and get answered—before any final privatization decision.

Insourcing often leads to better service and cost-savings

A research brief compiling national research and the experiences of numerous local and state governments that have brought critical functions back under public, democratic control.

Cutting Corners: How Government Contractors Harm the Public in Pursuit of Profit

A report detailing the negative impacts on the public of cost-cutting by contractors across public goods and services and at every level of government.

Best Practices in Municipal Waste Contracting

A guide providing best practices for municipalities aiming to protect their interests when contracting with private companies that provide waste management services.

Unmasking the Hidden Power of Cities

A report finding that cities hold the levers of power that can build an equitable economy and sustainable environment, thereby driving national policy advancements.

Closing the Books: How Government Contractors Hide Public Records

Case studies that illustrate how private contractors hide three key types of information: the fees they charge the public, how they spend public funds, and details on the quality of public services.

Standing Guard: How Unaccountable Contracting Fails Governments and Taxpayers

A report discussing common problems and the real world consequences of lax oversight in government contracting, with policy recommendations to help cities and states improve their oversight.

Dismantling Democracy: The forty year attack on government and the long game for the common good

A 2018 book by In the Public interest Executive Director Donald Cohen that analyzes shifting fundamental attitudes toward government and describes ten strategies to build a movement and a nation rooted in protecting and advancing the common good.

For more resources, visit inthepublicinterest.org. For hard copies, contact Jeremy Mohler, In the Public Interest's Communications Director, at jmohler@inthepublicinterest.org.