

SPRING 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

 inthepublicinterest.org

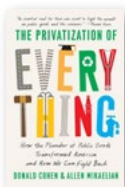
QUESTIONS? EMAIL:

 info@inthepublicinterest.org

In the Public Interest is the go-to utility for background on the privatization of public goods—including schools, water and sewer systems, parks, prisons, workforces—as well as the democratization of public goods—keeping or putting public goods where they belong: in public hands. In addition to serving as a resource for organizations, government, and media, we produce research reports, briefs, guides, and other publications, including those listed here.

What are public goods? Public goods are things we all need to survive and thrive; things we need everyone to have access to whether we need them or not; things we can only accomplish together; things we can only make available for all if we do them together.

PRIVATIZATION OVERVIEW



The Privatization of Everything: How the Plunder of Public Goods Transformed America and How We Can Fight Back

This book by In the Public Interest executive director Donald Cohen and Allen Mikaelian, first published in 2021, presents the arguments and ideas in one place. Media copies available; bulk copies available for discounted purchase.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/the-return-of-the-privatization-of-everything/>



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.

https://inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/InThePublicInterest_InequalityReport_Sept2016.pdf



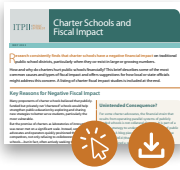
Ask the Right Questions Before Privatizing

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

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/guide-10-questions-to-ask-before-any-privatization-deal/>

Article on inthepublicinterest.org

Downloadable resource



Charter Schools and Fiscal Impact

This brief describes some of the most common causes and types of fiscal impact and offers suggestions for how local or state officials might address this concern.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/charter-schools-and-fiscal-impact/>



Real Estate and Charter Schools: A Growing Industrial Complex

This brief introduces the basics of how real estate development has become a major force behind the expansion of charter schooling. Following an overview of the issue, this brief focus on the proliferation of “related entities” transactions, which make up some of the most egregious examples of real estate profiteering.

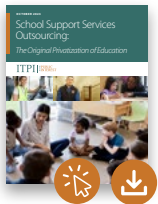
<https://inthepublicinterest.org/real-estate-and-charter-schools-a-growing-industrial-complex/>



Public-Private Partnerships for K-12 Public School Facilities

A guide to understanding and analyzing public school facility P3 proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/guide-public-private-partnerships-for-k-12-public-school-facilities/>



School Support Services Outsourcing: The Original Privatization of Education

This report explores why support services are critical to the success of students and the school, the risks and impacts of privatization of support services, why corporations are targeting support services, and efforts to push back against and prevent privatization in schools.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/esp-and-privatization/>



How Community Schools are Transforming Public Education

In the Public Interest, the Network for Public Education, and the Partnership for the Future of Learning have produced a report on the community school approach.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/new-report-how-community-schools-are-transforming-public-education-now-available/>



The Fiscal Consequences of Private School Vouchers

The report from In the Public Interest partners Public Funds Public Schools examines the growth in voucher programs and spending in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin in the decade following the Great Recession.

https://pfps.org/assets/uploads/SPLC_ELC_PFPS_2023Report_Final.pdf



Opposing Private School Vouchers: A Toolkit for Legislators and Advocates

Published by the National Coalition for Public Education, of which In the Public Interest is a member, the toolkit is designed as a resource to help legislators and pro-public school advocates oppose attempts to create or expand existing private school voucher programs.

<https://www.ncpecoalition.org/toolkit>

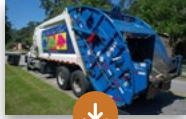


Article on inthepublicinterest.org



Downloadable resource

PUBLIC SERVICES



Understanding and Evaluating Contracts for Public Services

This guide will help you understand and evaluate contracts for public services.

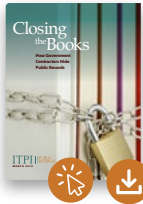
<https://inthepublicinterest.org/guide-understanding-and-evaluating-contracts-for-public-services/>



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.

https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI_CuttingCorners_April2016.pdf



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.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/closing-the-books-how-government-contractors-hide-public-records-2/>



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.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/research-brief-insourcing-often-leads-to-better-service-and-cost-savings/>



A Guide to Evaluating Pay for Success Programs and Social Impact Bonds

As local and state governments rush to pass enabling legislation and strike deals with investors for Pay for Success programs, a closer examination of these alternatives to public financing is warranted.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/a-guide-to-evaluating-pay-for-success-programs-and-social-impact-bonds/>

INFRASTRUCTURE



Understanding and Evaluating Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

A guide to help advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders better understand and analyze infrastructure public-private partnership (P3) proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/guide-understanding-and-evaluating-infrastructure-public-private-partnerships-p3s/>



Issues and Considerations for Value for Money Analyses

A memo discussing important issues and considerations when designing, understanding, and evaluating VfM analyses.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/issues-and-considerations-for-value-for-money-analyses/>



The Perils of Privatizing Parking Assets

A look at Chicago's disastrous privatization of the city's parking meters...

https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI_PerilsofParkingPrivatization_Apr2019.pdf



Article on inthepublicinterest.org



Downloadable resource



A Guide to Understanding and Evaluating the Use of Public-Private Partnerships for Public Buildings

A guide for better understanding and analyzing public building (schools, etc.) public-private partnership (P3) proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/a-guide-to-understanding-and-evaluating-the-use-of-public-private-partnerships-for-public-buildings/>



Understanding and Evaluating Privatization in the Power Sector

A guide to help public power advocates, policy makers, and other stakeholders better understand and analyze privatization proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/guide-understand-and-evaluating-privatization-in-the-power-sector/>



Understanding and Evaluating Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships in the Water Sector

This guide aims to help advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders better understand and analyze water infrastructure project proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/understanding-and-evaluating-infrastructure-public-private-partnerships-in-the-water-sector/>



Water Wars in Pennsylvania: How Corporations Play the Long Game

A Report on Water Privatization in Pennsylvania—and the Efforts to Fight Back

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/water-wars-in-pennsylvania-how-corporations-play-the-long-game/>



The Risks Posed by Water Privatization

This memo outlines a few of the serious risks posed by water privatization deals and provides examples of communities that have dealt with the harmful consequences of water privatization.

https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI_WaterPrivatization_July2020_final.pdf

DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNMENT



Harnessing the Power of Procurement: Issues, Considerations, and Best Practices to Advance Equity in the Contracting of Public Goods and Services

Report from September 2023

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/harnessing-the-power-of-procurement-issues-considerations-and-best-practices-to-advance-equity-in-the-contracting-of-public-goods-and-services/>



Procurement Cost Analyses and the Decision to Contract

September 2024

Issue Brief on Cost Analyses provides important tool for local governments—and local advocates.

<https://inthepublicinterest.org/procurement-cost-analyses-and-the-decision-to-contract/>



Article on inthepublicinterest.org



Downloadable resource



In the Public Interest is a nonprofit research and policy center committed to the democratic control of public goods and services. We help citizens, public officials, advocacy groups, and researchers better understand the impacts of government contracts and public-private agreements on service quality, democratic decision-making, and public budgets. For more information, please visit www.inthepublicinterest.org.