

Privatization of Government Services

The LWV of Seattle studied privatization of government services in 2009 and came to the following position. If you wish to read the study in its entirety, it is available on the Seattle LWV website: [click here](#)

Privatization

- The following core services, functions and assets critical to the well-being of the people, should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector: Courts, police, public health, public schools, prisons, voter services, taxation, parks, lakes, water and mineral rights, beaches, streams, and forests.
- The following criteria should be the basis for decisions regarding whether core government services, functions and assets not listed in the preceding section should be transferred to the private for-profit sector:

Does the proposed transfer:

1. serve the public interest today as well as for future generations?
 2. align with public health and safety concerns?
 3. assure quality of life for residents in the region?
 4. ensure adequate government control and oversight including performance audits?
 5. include provisions for transparency, public involvement and competitive bidding? And
 6. protect individuals from abuse?
- Public agencies are required to make a documented finding of adequate return on investment for the public for any government contribution of funds or assets to the private sector. Periodic performance audits should be required and made public regarding whether stated public benefits were met.
 - Government employees and elected officials after leaving government service should be prohibited for two years from working for any private company for which they had oversight responsibilities or authority over awarding contracts.