

Privatization Study Response for LWV of Mason County

Recorded Response:

1. **As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is**

Answer: Much too much

2. **Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector**

Answer: Strongly agree

3. **As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector?**

- a. **Transparency and Accountability:** All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control.

Answer: High priority

- b. **Public Well-being:** Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being, especially to vulnerable populations.

Answer: High priority

- c. **Cost and Quality:** Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public.

Answer: High priority

- d. **Environmental and Natural Resources:** Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.

Answer: High priority

- e. **Contracts and Sales of Public Assets:** All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.

Answer: High priority

- f. **Economic Impact:** Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.

Answer: High priority

- g. **Government Recovery of Services and Assets:** Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.

Answer: High priority

4. **Privatization is not appropriate:**

- a. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto.

Answer: Agree

- b. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term.

Answer: Agree

- c. When it poses a potential threat to national security.

Answer: Agree

- d. When it poses a risk to personal or security data.

Answer: Agree

- e. When there has been evidence of potential corruption.

Answer: Agree

- f. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.

Answer: Agree

- g. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits

Answer: Agree

- h. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services.

Answer: Agree

5. **Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions.**

As a general matter, should privatization be regulated?

Answer: a. Yes, all privatization efforts should be regulated.

6. **Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions?**

- a. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public.

Answer: Strongly agree

- b. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract.

Answer: Strongly agree

- c. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits.

Answer: Strongly agree

- d. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts.

Answer: Strongly agree

- e. Transition plans for displaced employees.

Answer: No consensus

- f. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts.

Answer: Strongly agree

- g. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment.

Answer: Strongly agree

- h. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance.

Answer: Strongly agree

- i. Adequate resources for enforcement.

Answer: Strongly agree

