

YOUR ANTI-PRIVATIZATION TOOLBOX

Successfully fighting privatization requires organization and hard work. The following list outlines some of the most vital techniques for us to use to gather information and prevent privatization from affecting the employees we represent.

Monitor actions by our city government that may deal with privatization:

If we hope to influence the decisions of our government, we must constantly monitor for warning signs of privatization. Keep our ears and eyes open for *requests for proposals* (RFPs) from the city for any services. Even if we do not take special interest in the specific service being privatized, the privatization could indirectly affect our interests and we need to investigate. Request of copies of the RFPs and any bids from companies needs to be made, and then they need to be read carefully.

Review department information carefully:

The subject of privatization may come up in meetings that we or our co-workers have not attended. To catch any mention of privatization, we need to request and review all agends of any items on Council agendas, request backup information and determine what our stance is before the item is voted on..

Attend any budget review meetings:

Make sure we or someone representing our interests attends any such meeting as either a participant or observer. If privatization is discussed, act early to inform other members of the dangers of privatization.

Track candidate positions on privatization:

When interviewing or surveying candidates, ask about their positions on contracting out; also review their literature and any news stories on the candidates.

Monitor any consultant activities such as performance

audits or reviews: Consulting firms frequently audit and recommend privatization. Companies such as Electronic Data Systems, Maximus and Wackenhut may offer to perform non-cost audits of city services, usually with the intent of winning business by promising savings to the agency. Keep an eye on such activity. Get copies of any reports and analyze them well.

Hold periodic work site meetings with Representatives: Follow up on rumors or concerns at work sites that management is considering privatizing services. Check to see if consultants have been at work sites. Train representatives to recognize the signs of privatization, and keep the Association informed.