

Privatizing Most Government Functions

Privatization of government could be the most powerful and effective way to ensure that the servant *does not* become the master. And nearly every aspect of government can be privatized including the judiciary, police, and defense. The immediate fear that often comes to mind regarding this position is: “what is to control the people who are employed through private enterprise—the people who will function in place of government officials and employees?” But the same question could be asked about the present system: “how can we control government officials and employees?” And the answer to that question has become very clear; not only can we *not* control them very well, but it is now they who control us.

Like so many other areas of contemporary thinking, we often perceive things to be set in a certain rigid, unalterable state because they have simply always been that way. But the truth of the matter is that new and better methods can always be achieved.

The Story of Sandy Springs Georgia

IF your image of a city hall involves a venerable building, some Roman pillars and lots of public employees, the version offered by this Atlanta suburb of 94,000 residents is a bit of a shocker.

The entire operation is housed in a generic, one-story industrial park, along with a restaurant and a gym. And though the place has a large staff, none are on the public payroll. O.K., seven are, including the city manager. But unless you chance into one of them, the people you meet here work for private companies through a variety of contracts.

Applying for a business license? Speak to a woman with Severn Trent, a multinational company based in Coventry, England. Want to build a new deck on your house? Chat with an employee of Collaborative Consulting, based in Burlington, Mass. Need a word with people who oversee trash collection? That would be the URS Corporation, based in San Francisco.

Even the city’s court, which is in session on this May afternoon, next to the revenue division, is handled by a private company, the Jacobs Engineering Group of Pasadena, Calif. The company’s staff is in charge of all administrative work, though the judge, Lawrence Young, is essentially a legal temp, paid a flat rate of \$100 an hour.

Cities have dabbled for years with privatization, but few have taken the idea as far as Sandy Springs. Since the day it incorporated, Dec. 1, 2005, it has handed off to private enterprise just about every service that can be evaluated through metrics and inked into a contract.

To grasp how unusual this is, consider what Sandy Springs does not have. It does not have a fleet of vehicles for road repair, or a yard where the fleet is parked. It does not have long-term debt. It has no pension obligations. It does not have a city hall, for that matter, if your idea of a city hall is a building owned by the city. Sandy Springs rents.

The town does have a conventional police force and fire department, in part because the insurance premiums for a private company providing those services were deemed prohibitively high. But its 911 dispatch center is operated by a private company, iXP, with headquarters in Cranbury, N.J.

“When it comes to public safety, outsourcing has always been viewed with a kind of suspicion,” says Joseph Estey, who manages the Sandy Springs 911 service in a hushed gray room a few miles from city hall. “What I think really tipped the balance here is that they were outsourcing just about everything else.”

Initially, and for the first five and a half years of its life, Sandy Springs used just one company, CH2M Hill, based in Englewood, Colo., to handle every service it delivered. Mr. McDonough says CH2M saved the town millions compared with the cost of hiring a conventional public work force, but last year Sandy Springs sliced the work into pieces and solicited competitive bids.

When the competition was over, the town had spread duties to a handful of corporations and total annual outlays dropped by \$7 million. (Representatives of CH2M, which still has a call-center contract, said at the time that they were “deeply disappointed” by the results, but wished the city well, according to a local news report.)

To dissuade companies from raising prices or reducing the quality of service, the town awarded contracts to a couple of losing bidders for every winner it hired. The contracts do not come with any pay or any work — unless the winning bidder that prevailed fails to deliver. It’s a bit like the Miss America pageant anointing the runner-up as the one who will fulfill the winner’s duties if, for some reason, Miss America cannot. “In most cases, Miss America serves her whole term,” Mr. McDonough says, warming to the analogy. But every once in a while, something happens, and they don’t have to run a whole new competition.”

Sandy Springs is an excellent example of what privatization of government can achieve. Unfortunately, for most American citizens, what happened in Sandy Springs is not likely to happen in their cities or states and certainly not in the U.S. federal government. Part One, Chapter One of this book covers many of the crucial reasons for this. Our main point regarding Sandy Springs is that new and better ways of providing the functions that are necessary for a society to operate properly can be experimented with and by a multiplicity of small, free city-states of the near future. And when something works well in one place, others will take notice. The flexibility to experiment in Libertarian-style micronations will be fantastically increased because Libertarian philosophy and thinking is based upon principles such as the smallest and most efficient is best. If there are dozens of Libertarian-style micronations all experimenting and, in essence competing, the process is enhanced greatly, and the best possible outcome developed by one city-state is likely to be adopted by other city-states.

Another concern about privatization is the fear that private contractors will unionize. But the simple fact of the matter is that unions have already taken over enormous swaths of the United States government—local, state, and federal. This happened in the U.S. with most citizens being completely unaware of what was taking place. The Internal Revenue Service is a perfect example.

The IRS scrutinizes the finances of all American citizens often intimidating, hounding, and calling people in for questioning. Virtually all of the Constitutional rights regarding search and seizure, due process, and jury trial simply do not apply to the IRS. None of this

is Constitutional. No amendment was ever brought about, no appeal to the voters. Congress simply acted as it so often does—illegally and by feat. Few American citizens may realize that the IRS is unionized and that government employees in that department of government are protected by a wealthy, powerful union organization ([NTEU](#)). That union organization is simultaneously in league with another very shady arm of the American government: The United States Congress.

Here is a rudimentary overview of how it works:

IRS employees along with other federal government employees created a government union. Most Americans never even realized what had happened. The Union officials fill the re-election war chests of the federal politicians who help them. Hordes of these politicians are re-elected. The re-election rate of incumbent federal politicians is 98%. The union then negotiates with congress (essentially bribing politicians) to strengthen the pay, benefits, and protection of its IRS workers. It is now nearly impossible to fire an IRS employee. The entire incestuous racket has been bankrolled by the United States taxpayers and mostly without their knowledge. The irony verges on surreal. And the cycle continues.

What is described above is the exact same model used in governments all across America from federal, State, and local.

As we will see in the segment that follows this one, a guiding legal covenant or Constitution for micronations (city-states) can be agreed upon and worked out in advance of the actual building of a country. The people who design that covenant can create it in any way that they deem it to be proper. This compact (if the framers of that document wish it to be so) could privatize nearly every civic function that is necessary for a city-state to operate smoothly and private contractors can be hired for those functions. If there are problems with unions or malfeasance of any kind, the contractors in question can be fired. This may sound to some people to be harsh, draconian, or unjust. But what is truly harsh and unjust is a gargantuan, bloated, and corrupt government operating in clandestine, deceitful, and parasitic ways that bring greater power and protection to that government while transferring the cost onto the backs of citizens who literally produce every tax dollar that makes that system function. And all the while the government is using force and coercion on citizens, circumventing their Constitution on a daily basis, scrutinizing their personal lives, and often living lavish lifestyles at the taxpayers' expense.

Sandy Springs has zero long-term debt. The U.S. government has 28 trillion in visible debt and about 120 trillion in unfunded liability debt according to USA Today. We have clearly documented much of the unbelievable debt and the heartbreaking corruption and malfeasance in many places within this manuscript. So the differences in privatization and non-privatization have, no doubt, become quite clear.

We've taken a look at Sandy Springs in contrast to how much of the rest of government in the United States operates. It is like the tale of two cities. As micronations form and multiply, the people of those city-states will decide for themselves what is best. Above all else, it is extremely important to always remember two of the most crucial principles of micronations; that it is far easier for free citizens to manage and oversee their small city-state than it ever could be for the citizens of the old, highly centralized, corrupt and behemoth Countries of today; and that if a micronation ever gets to the point of being ruined by sloth, malfeasance and stupidity, the people of that micronation can simply move to a better one. The people who are left behind will have to figure out where to go from there.