

The battle for Incline Village's heart and soul has been brewing for years. Some residents believe that Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) should divest itself of recreational and service venues like the golf courses and Diamond Peak Ski Resort. They argue that private businesses could run these facilities better and cheaper, and that users should have to pay to maintain and improve them. Additionally, they may believe this reduces the demand for government resources and generates additional government revenues by receiving compensation for privatizations.<sup>i</sup> This small but vocal group of residents, whom we'll call the "Perpetually Aggrieved," reject the role of IVGID in promoting the general welfare and serving the public interest. They narrowly interpret the laws related to GIDs ([Nevada NRS Chapter 318](#)), insisting that each IVGID venue operate profitably, without rec fee subsidy. The Perpetually Aggrieved's goal is to minimize their contributions to support venues they don't use, even though they benefit as property owners through the increase in property values that these collectively owned assets bring to all residents. As one of these residents put it: "Those facilities should operate more like businesses and find a way to be self-supporting, either through outsourcing or sale to a private operator."<sup>ii</sup>

Some people may think that GIDs are a socialist conspiracy, but they're really more like a homeowners' association. Just like in a condo project, some residents don't use every amenity, but they certainly don't want these amenities sold to private vendors. Privatization assumes that businesses can perform tasks better and more efficiently than the government<sup>iii</sup>, but this isn't always the case. Privatizing IVGID assets would undermine the creation and improvement of these assets through generous donations in the public interest. Fairly distributing the sale of these assets would be enormously complicated. Privatization would also mean that residents lose the ability to choose how these assets are used and for whom. Private managers might adopt profit-making strategies or corporate practices that make essential services unaffordable or unavailable to many residents<sup>iv v</sup>. They may cut corners to maximize profits, leading to a reduction in the quality of services or desired infrastructure improvements. They would not be subject to the same levels of transparency and oversight as public entities. Even so-called outsourcing would erode our ability to ensure the stability and continuity of our essential public services.<sup>vi</sup>

Having a functional GID in Incline Village offers a way to organize, plan, and maintain a balance in the community between the benefits of private enterprise

and the benefits that come from collectively supporting services and opportunities for owners, renters, and visitors. Instead of tearing down IVGID, we should be supporting it and helping to make it better. The effort to privatize IVGID's assets, and dissolve the GID, is not just some vendetta against the management and staff of IVGID; it is a battle for the heart and soul of the IV/CB community.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.wallstreetmojo.com/public-sector-vs-private-sector/>

<sup>ii</sup> Judith Miller, Facebook Incline Politics, June 29, 2022

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jun/21/privatizing-public-services-trump-democracy>

<sup>iv</sup> <mailto:https://localprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LP-Privatization-Overview-Memo.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.wallstreetmojo.com/public-sector-vs-private-sector/>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://localprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LP-Privatization-Overview-Memo.pdf>