

QUICK FACTS ON U.S. WATER PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Public-Private Partnerships have been in use in the United States for over 200 years
 - There are more than 2,000 North American water facilities served by a public-private partnership arrangement.
 - Studies show close to 93 percent of water partnerships are renewed annually, pointing to a high degree of satisfaction according to an industry survey.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors is working with private-sector providers to make partnerships more effective.
 - Both parties agree that public-private water partnerships are most successful when both sides cooperate to make the projects work. Water partnerships that unduly favor either the city or the private partner may ultimately doom a project that potentially benefits all parties, including the public.
- In most public-private partnership arrangements, a municipality retains ownership of the water utility and/or wastewater treatment facility, but a private company is brought in to run all or part of the operation.
- The municipality and its local leaders retain responsibility for setting local water rates and making necessary capital investments.
- Benefits of these partnerships include more efficient operations, guaranteed performance, strict environmental and safety compliance, increased training opportunities for employees and shared risk liability.
 - Annual operating cost savings of 10 percent to 40 percent have been reported.
- Clean, safe water is achieved through public-private partnerships. Public-private partnerships have enabled the construction of state-of-the-art water management facilities, while using efficient operations to hold down costs to ratepayers and provide a way of meeting mandates from the federal government.
- Private water service providers are extremely responsive to customers and their concerns.
 - Contracts typically mandate continual community oversight, and have termination clauses if strict performance criteria for cost, quality and customer service are not met.
- In many partnerships created today, public employees are retained and usually at equal or improved pay.
 - One of the greatest areas of improvement for employees is with opportunities for career growth - private companies spend two to three times more on training and personnel development than their public-sector counterparts, as a way of gaining the maximum efficiency out of every person, and the maximum amount of job satisfaction.

For questions and additional information please contact Erika Berlinghof at the National Association of Water Companies: erika@nawc.com or 202-466-0013



- Read what three Mayors from New York, New Jersey and Florida have to say about their decision to enter a PPP.
 - "Since entering into our partnership with a water service partner in 1991, the relationship has been nothing but positive. Their global expertise helps identify capital needs within the City's system and helps us address the things most vital to the operation and safety of the facilities." -- Mayor Brian Stratton, City of Schenectady and Co-Chair of the Mayors Water Council
 - "Faced with increasingly stringent standards and aging infrastructure, our public-private partnership provides taxpayers with the best of both worlds. Most importantly, services provided by our water service partner are delivered with the understanding they comply with all environmental and regulatory requirements." -- Mayor James Kennedy, City of Rahway
 - "When I assembled a public, public, private partnership, I wanted one company to be responsible for the design-build-operation of the project so that one party is accountable and responsible for its success. I'm now confident I can hold my partners accountable to the public interest in strict budget and ambitious timeframes." -- Mayor Julio Robaina, City of Hialeah

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