

McMinn County Libertarian Party
Position Paper
Countywide Trash Collection Program

Summary: The McMinn County Libertarian Party is for the continued use of the free enterprise system as the sole trash collection system.

Without question McMinn County suffers from a litter problem. There are those who are encouraging County Government to adopt a countywide program for trash collection similar to the system in place in the City of Athens. We are fortunate in that by looking at the shortcomings of the City of Athens' program we can anticipate deficiencies in a County program.

1. Athens continues to have a litter problem in spite of its trash collection program. Athens does have less litter than the county, but this is do in large part because the county is less populated and litterbugs feel more secure in throwing out trash because they know there is less chance of being observed than in the city.

2. Citizens using the City of Athens trash collection pay more than what they would if private firms were collecting the trash. In 1995 the City of Athens turned down the opportunity to privatize trash pickup. A private company told the City it would charge residents \$4.18/month compared to \$5.50 per month the City was charging at that time.¹ The reason the City gave for this poor decision was it did not won't to loose 6 employees with total of 24 years experience. While this is generous on the part of the City, it was hardly fair to the citizens. It demonstrates the inefficiencies of government operations.

3. Along with paying too much for service, the citizens of Athens are forced to endure government regulations as the City attempts to correct the systems shortcomings. It is illegal in the City of Athens for persons to haul their own trash if that trash was generated in the city unless they receive a special permit, and even then they must pay the city for trash collection.²

Endnotes

1. Daily Post Athenian July 11, 1995

2 City of Athens Municipal Code 17-109;17-110

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2. City of Athens Municipal Code 17-109, 17-110 (july 11, 1995 dpa