

# Everyone Loves the Underdog

Everyone loves to cheer for the underdog. It's the stuff on which most tear-jerking dramas are based. The qualifier is, however, that the underdog must be perceived to have at least a chance of winning.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy story is truly a "David and Goliath" tale. How can a modest research institute based in Midland, Michigan, challenge all of the powerful, entrenched, and well-heeled proponents of statism? It does so by

promoting principles even stronger than statism: free enterprise, limited and accountable government, and respect for private property.

There are countless individuals and organizations with a vested interest in keeping the machinery of government not just pumping and



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churning, but growing. In 1992, for the first time in U. S. history, the number of federal, state, and local government employees (18.2 million not counting military) exceeded the number of manufacturing employees (18 million).

Government employees may understand basic economics principles such as incentive and competition—and even agree theoretically with their benefits—but still resist applying those principles to their workplaces. Those employees fear the possible

negative impact on their personal interests—their jobs. They often consider privatization a threat not because they don't think it will work, but because they're afraid that it will.

Even Mackinac Center members sometimes feel helpless to eliminate government-erected barriers to initiative in their businesses and personal lives. It is easy to adopt a resigned "you can't fight city hall" attitude.

Mr. and Mrs. America simply want freedom and prosperity and are willing to work hard to get and keep both. That's why the Mackinac Center for Public Policy is so important. The Mackinac Center may

seem like today's underdog, but it is one that has an increasingly good chance of winning. The Mackinac Center takes on tough issues such as education, taxation, regulation, property rights, the environment, and labor and speaks with authority like no one else can. Through scholarly research the Center makes a powerful case for sound policy that elected officials cannot ignore. Your ongoing support—both financially and by helping us to spread the word about the Mackinac Center—will ensure our continued success!

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