

Why not privatize the fire and police departments?

I thought that all School Resource Officers (SRO) were state-sworn law enforcement officers...because, as far as I know, that are all that serve in such a role in Tampa. However, private security can serve as an SRO. The government privatizes correctional facilities, so why not privatize the SRO role? This leads me to ponder why private actors cannot be first responders (such as the fire department and law enforcement). If I had to guess, I figure it would be for liability purposes.

The 11th Amendment allows states to determine if they will allow themselves to be sued under the Sovereign Immunity doctrine. This allows states to set caps on recoveries for when it is sued...and loses. Florida caps recovery at 200,000 per person and 300,000 per incident, and this is nothing considering the normal damages claimed in medical malpractice actions. If private companies were allowed to provide first-responder services, we would then be in the wheel house of private medical malpractice insurance, and you can imagine what private insurers would charge private first responders in premiums. Consider that Americans are sue-happy and there are commercials all day where personal injury attorneys promote their services (I watch Maury and Judge Mathis daily); I measure that a private company would want to avoid providing first responder services for the insurance premiums and potential litigation alone.