

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Marco Office Supply



What is the ILSR?

In case you haven't heard, the **ILST** stands for the **Institute for Local Self-Reliance**. It is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization founded way back in 1974 that empowers communities to build local economic power, fight corporate control (like Amazon) and promote sustainable solutions in areas like broadband, energy and waste management. It has three main focal points:

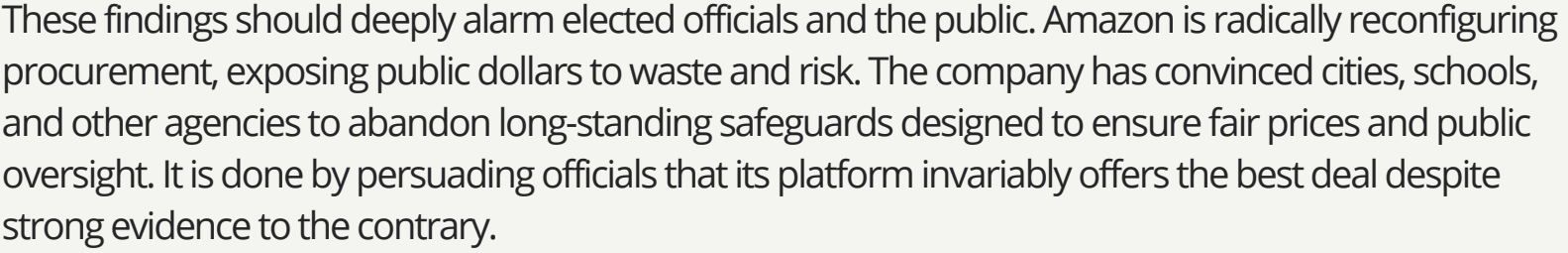
3 MAIN POINTS

- To build an American Economy driven by local priorities, supporting people and the planet through policy research, technical assistance and advocacy.
- Its focus is independent business, community-owned broadband, local renewable energy, composting and fighting monopolies.
- The goal is to keep economic and political power close to the people for more equitable and resilient communities.



The ILSR has been conducting a sweeping investigation that reveals Amazon has quietly become a major force in how cities, counties, and school districts purchase basic supplies – and that's it tightening grip on driving up cost, eroding competition, and harming local economies.

ILST has exposed from purchasing records from city, county, and school districts serving 51 million Americans, in a report called *"Turning Public Money into Amazon Profits: The Hidden Cost of Ceding Government Procurement to a Monopoly Gatekeeper."* You can pull the detailed report on Google. In a nutshell, they found that Amazon has driven up cost for government, eliminated transparency, and eroded competition by pushing out better performing, more accountable, independent suppliers (by the way – that is us). The disappearance of small and mid-size businesses weakens the local economy and tax base. Forcing out locals paves the way for governments to become increasingly dependent on Amazon paving the way for the kind of monopoly control that ensures higher prices, poorer services and less innovation.



- First and foremost, shop **local!!**
Many local companies have websites to shop and click.
- Second, become educated in the findings provided by the ILST.
- Third, send letters to your local government, county government and school boards to support their communities by shopping local! Feel free to send them a copy of the report as mentioned in the article.
- Begin a Buy Local Campaigns and Shift Culture and spending. I'm happy to send you a copy of the "Come in We're Local" printed through **Amiba.**

The image shows the front cover of a guide titled "Come in We're LOCAL! SM". The title is prominently displayed in white text on a red rectangular background. "Come in" is in a script font, while "We're LOCAL!" is in a bold, sans-serif font. A small "SM" trademark symbol is to the right of "LOCAL!". Below the red box, the subtitle "Building 'Buy Local' Campaigns that Shift Culture and Spending:" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath the subtitle, the text "A Guide to Helping Your Independent Businesses and Community Thrive" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is a logo for "amiba" with a green circular arrow around the text. At the bottom right, there is a logo for "OPEN" in white text on a blue rectangular background. The entire cover is set against a light blue background with a faint green hill at the very bottom.