

# Direct Bailouts Risk the Greater Good

Why Nashville's tourism board must avoid picking winners

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## THE DATA

# tens of millions of dollars

### Excess Revenue in TDZ

The Joint Capital Tourism Board oversees funds from Nashville's Tourism Development Zone, estimated to be in the tens of millions.

This revenue, generated by elevated property valuations in downtown Nashville, is intended to support broader tourism and infrastructure projects. However, the prospect of direct grants to individual businesses—especially bars—raises concerns about equity and administrative complexity.

Source: Tennessee Lookout · Published October 12, 2026

<https://tennesseelookout.com/2026/10/12/while-nashvilles-downtown-bar-owners-seek-bailout-from-new-tourism-board-haslam-voices-concerns/>



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# 01

## The Unintended Equity Crisis

When government allocates funds based on individual business status, it shifts from public stewardship to favoritism, even if well-intentioned. This could erode confidence in future public investment programs.

# 02

## Infrastructure Wins Over Bailouts

A shared infrastructure foundation benefits all, including bar owners, by increasing foot traffic and reducing congestion.



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