



[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Governance Tools & Resources

- [Council/Commission Advisor](#)
- [MRSC General Government Inquiries](#)
- [MRSC Government Organization Inquiries](#)
- [Links to Other Governance Sites](#)
- [New MRSC Library Acquisitions](#)
- [Selected MRSC Library Holdings - Forms of Government](#)
- [Finance Advisor](#)
- [HR Advisor](#)
- [Local Government Policy Research Organizations and Institutions](#)
- [Robert's Rules of Order](#)
- [2006 City & County Population by County](#)
- [Online Journals and Magazines of Interest to Local Governments](#)
- [Statistical Resources for Washington Local Governments](#)

MRSC Tools & Resources

- [Library Loan Request](#)
- [MRSC Index](#)
- [MRSC Publications List](#)
- [Research Request](#)
- [Sample Local Government Documents](#)

SUBJECTS > GOVERNANCE > Special Purpose Districts in Washington

Special Purpose Districts in Washington

In Washington, special purpose districts are limited purpose local governments separate from a city, town, or county government. Generally they perform a single function, though some perform a limited number of functions. They provide an array of services and facilities including electricity, fire protection, flood control, health, housing, irrigation, parks and recreation, library, water-sewer service and more recently stadiums, convention centers, and entertainment facilities that are not otherwise available from city or county governments. Over the years, the Washington legislature has enabled more than 80 different special purpose districts. The number of special district statutes counted may vary depending on the definition of a special district.

Authority for some districts has been repealed, some special district statutes have been consolidated, and most all have been amended to accommodate changing conditions. Once thought of as existing only in unincorporated portions of counties, many district statutes allow the inclusion of cities and towns. Some districts have provisions for a county-wide district, some are multi-county, while others provide for interlocal cooperation agreements. The multiplicity and variety of special districts within a local area can be confusing. The purpose of these Web pages is to provide an overview of special purpose districts in Washington. This page provides additional supplements to MRSC Report No. 58, [Special Purpose Districts in Washington State](#), August 2003.

Contents

- [What is a Special Purpose District?](#)
- [Introduction to MRSC Web Info for Special Purpose Districts](#)
- [2009 Special Purpose Districts Announcement](#)
- Information About Special Districts
 - [Alphabetical List of Special Purpose Districts in Washington](#)
 - [Brief History of Washington Special Districts](#)
 - [Special Purpose Districts by Date of Enabling Legislation](#)
 - [Special Purpose Districts Overview](#) (📄 478 KB) - Chart
 - [List of Special Districts by Type of District and County](#) (📄 267 KB)
 - [List of Washington Cities and Towns that are within the Boundaries of Special Districts](#) (📄 256 KB) - Separate sheets include cities (cities and towns) in all districts - alphabetically by city, cities in fire districts, cities in hospital districts, cities in library districts, and cities in the various park districts
 - [Special Purpose Districts Listed by County](#)
 - [Number and Types of Special Districts in Washington](#)
 - [Comparative Data - Number of Special Purpose Districts](#) -Table
- [Types of Special Purpose Districts](#)



- [Formation of Special Districts](#)
- [Governance of Special Purpose Districts](#)
- [Elections](#)
- [Revenues of Special Purpose Districts](#)
- [General Provisions that Apply to Special Districts](#)
- [Relationship of Counties to Special Districts - County Services](#)
- [Dissolution of Special Purpose Districts](#)
- [Special District Information Sources](#)

Related Resources

[MRSC Index - Special Purpose Districts - General](#)

[Top of Page](#) | [About Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)