

Special districts are local governments created by communities to provide essential, specialized services that cities or counties do not offer. Authorized as political subdivisions under state law — primarily Chapter 189, Florida Statutes (the Uniform Special District Accountability Act) — they support the health, safety, economy, and well-being of residents.

Florida is home to approximately 2,020 special districts that provide essential services such as community development, fire rescue, water management, drainage, hospital, and port operations. These fiscally responsible, community-focused local governments are created to serve specific purposes and meet the unique needs of the communities they support. With strong accountability for taxpayer dollars — often overseen by board members who receive little or no compensation — special districts play a critical role in addressing local priorities and delivering vital infrastructure and services to residents.

Source: Florida Association of Special Districts



2,020

Special District
Governments



20%

All Local Government
Revenue

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Community Development	700
Water	250
Fire Protection	175
Mosquito Control	55
Hospital	52

All figures reported are based on the FL Special District Accountability Program and U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 Census of Governments data.