

Special Purpose Districts (SPDs) are independent governmental entities that exist locally and provide infrastructure and deliver specific services, like firefighting, road construction, and water treatment. These districts are primary tools for community development, allowing for the financing of infrastructure in rapidly growing areas where cities and counties may not yet have reached.

Texas currently has roughly 1,400–1,500 municipal utility districts (MUDs) statewide, making them the most common type of special district. Municipal utility districts are local government entities that provide essential services like water, wastewater, and drainage, especially in developing areas. These districts account for a significant share of Texas's thousands of special-purpose governments, particularly in rapidly growing suburban areas.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 Census of Governments, there are nearly 3,000 special purpose districts in Texas.



Scan here to visit the Texas Special Districts Coalition (TSDC) for more information on what TSDC is doing for local, state, and federal advocacy.



2,980+

Special District
Governments



24.5%

All Local Government
Revenue

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Sewage & Water	914
Housing & Community Development	384
Fire Protection	264
Hospitals	120
Other Natural Resources	107