

Washington special purpose districts are limited purpose local governments separate from city or county governments. These districts provide specialized services not offered by cities or counties, including fire protection, utilities (electricity, water, sewer), irrigation, flood control, health, housing, libraries, ports, and parks.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 Census of Governments, more than 1,275 special purpose districts provide services across Washington, each varying in size and structure. The most common special purpose districts are fire protection; water; cemeteries; health and hospital; and parks and recreation.

According to the State Auditor's Office, however, there are over 1,800 special purpose districts in Washington.



Scan here to learn more about special purpose districts in Washington.



1,275+
Special District
Governments



44.5%
All Local Government
Revenue

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Fire Protection	359
Water	172
Cemeteries	103
Health & Hospitals	96
Parks and Recreation	90