

Special service districts in Louisiana are created by local governments to provide specific public services such as fire protection, drainage, utilities, libraries, recreation, and community/economic development. They may be established by one or more governing authorities to address needs outside the scope of traditional local government services. Louisiana law, including Article 6, Sections 15–19 of the 1974 Constitution and relevant Revised Statutes, authorizes their creation.

These districts are funded through property taxes, user fees, and state or federal aid, depending on their services. As public entities, they must comply with state requirements for budgeting, transparency, and financial reporting and may be subject to audit by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Parish governing authorities commonly establish them to support service delivery.

There are approximately 950 special districts in Louisiana, providing services such as fire protection, water management and drainage, hospitals, and ports.



950+
Special District
Governments



20%
All Local Government
Revenue

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Fire Protection	300
Drainage	300
Water and Sewer	150
Recreation	100
Hospital and Health	35

Note: The five most common types of districts make up approximately 85% of all special districts in Louisiana.