

Special districts are local government units created by communities to provide specific services that cities and counties may be unable to fully support due to limited funding and competing demands. All special districts are created by laws passed by the State Legislature, which also define the services they provide and how they are governed. Each special district focuses on a specific set of services. There are currently 34 different types of special districts in Oregon.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 Census of Governments, more than 1,025 special purpose districts provide services across Oregon, each varying in size and structure. The most common special purpose districts are fire protection, water, roads, natural resources, and cemeteries.



Scan here to learn more about Oregon's special districts from the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).



1,025+
Special District
Governments



15%
All Local Government
Revenue

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Fire Protection	265
Water	132
Highways	111
Cemeteries	65
Soil and Water Conservation	45