**DRAFT** - Revision Date: September 19, 2012

# JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUNIOR TAXING DISTRICTS, MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

## Proposed Work Plan - September 2012 to January 2013

- *September 24*
  - Receive testimony from general purpose local governments
  - Discuss next steps
- *October (mid)*
  - Receive testimony from special purpose local governments
  - Review written comments from organizations representing local governments
- *October (late)*
  - Receive testimony from special purpose local governments
  - Review written comments from organizations representing local governments
- *November 12**
  - Receive testimony from special purpose local governments
  - Discuss potential preliminary recommendations[1] and pathway for completing the recommendations
    - Provide staff directions regarding preliminary recommendations[2]
- *November 28**
  - Refine preliminary recommendations, further directives to staff
- *November 29-30*
  - Committee Assembly Meetings
- *December (early)*
  - Finalize and adopt recommendations
  - Decide topic and date of next meeting
  - Establish tentative meeting dates for January, February, and March
- *January 14*
  - First day of Legislative session

*Tentative Date

[1] The preliminary recommendations are expected to only address consolidation issues.
[2] The preliminary recommendations may include majority and minority recommendations.

# Washington State Legislature

# AGENDA

## Junior Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations & Local Government Finance, Joint Select Committee

**Monday**
**September 24, 2012**
**10:00 – 12:00 a.m. SHR 1**

**Call to order: Representative Springer**

**Work Session:** City and county perspectives on consolidating junior taxing districts and municipal corporations into a general purpose government:

1. Panel discussion with county officials.
   a. Brian Enslow, Senior Policy Director, Washington State Association of Counties
   b. James Misner, Cowlitz County Commissioner
   c. Jim McEntire, Clallam County Commissioner
   d. Shawn Myers, Thurston County Treasurer

2. Panel discussion with city officials.
   a. Dave Williams, Director of State & Federal Relations, Association of Washington Cities
   b. Suzanne Dale Estey, Director of Economic Development, City of Renton (by phone)
   c. Doug Levy, Cities of Renton and Kent

3. Committee discussion on next steps for developing recommendations

**Adjournment**

*Meeting documents can be accessed online at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/JSCJTD*

Representative K. Asay
Senator D. Ericksen
Senator K. Fraser
Senator B. Hatfield
Senator J. Honeyford
Representative E. Orcutt
Representative L. Springer
Representative D. Takko

# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Irrigation Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Agriculture | 1890 | Ch. 87.03 RCW | Provide irrigation of land, develop electrical generating facilities, purchase and sell electricity, provide street lighting, sewer and domestic water system. | Petition - 50 or majority of land owners; investigation by Department of Ecology; hearing; election. | Board of directors, 3 or 5 elected directors. | Merger or consolidation permitted upon petition of owners and subsequent voter approval. RCW 87.03.535; RCW 87.03.845. Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, consolidated drainage improvement, or water-sewer district permitted upon voter approval. RCW 87.03.720. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessments; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; local improvement districts; rates and charges for services and assistance provided by district. RCW 87.03.200; RCW 87.03.240; RCW 87.03.480-.527; 87.03.0175. | No | Yes | Yes | 98* | "Number in operation" includes all irrigation district types. |
| **Irrigation and Rehabilitation Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Agriculture | 1961 | Ch. 87.84 RCW | Conversion of certain irrigation districts to further recreational potential of larger lakes, improve inland lakes and shorelines. | Petition - 50 land owners; hearing; election. | Same as irrigation districts. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessments; special assessments of up to $0.25 per $1,000 unless voters approve excess ; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; local improvement districts; rates and charges for services and assistance provided by district. RCW 87.03.200; RCW 87.84.070; RCW 87.03.240; RCW 87.03.480-.527; 87.03.0175. | No | Yes | Yes | 1 | |
| **Reclamation Districts of one million acres** | Agriculture | 1927 | Ch. 89.30 RCW | Reclamation and improvement of arid and semiarid lands and for the generation and/or sale of hydroelectric energy. | Petition - 50 land owners; commission created to hear petition; election. | Board of directors, number equal to number of counties participating. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy upon voter approval; general and divisional improvement districts; general obligation bonds; special assessments. RCW 89.30.391; RCW 89.30.436; RCW 89.30.484; RCW 89.30.760. | Yes | No | Yes | See Irrigation Districts. | |
| **Boards of Joint Control of Irrigation Districts (Irrigation districts and other entities)** | Agriculture | 1949 | Ch. 87.80 RCW | Water supply administration for two or more irrigation entities. | Petition, county review, hearing, resolution. | Contained in petition, county appoints first board. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Funded by participating irrigation entities. RCW 87.80.160. | No | No | No | 1 | |
| **Weed Districts** | Agriculture | 1921 | Ch. 17.04 RCW | Control, prevent and exterminate weed found detrimental to crops, fruit trees, shrubs, foliage or other agricultural plants or foliage. | Petition owners - 50% of acreage; hearing; resolution. | Board of directors, 3 elected directors. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessment. RCW 17.04.240 | No | No | Yes | 11 | |
| **Inter-County Regular Weed Districts** | Agriculture | 1959 | Ch. 17.06 RCW | Provides for joint program of all or any part of two counties or more to control weeds. | Petition owners - 50% of acreage; hearing; order. | Board of directors, 3 elected directors | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessment. RCW 17.04.240; RCW 17.06.060; RCW 17.06.060 | No | No | Yes | 0 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Agricultural Pest Districts** | Agriculture | 1919 | Ch. 17.12 RCW | Destroy/exterminate animals that destroy/interfere with agricultural plants or products. | Petition - ten or more resident freeholders; hearing. | Supervision by agricultural expert or commissioner of district acting ex officio. *No independent governing board. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Property tax or benefit assessment. RCW 17.12.050; RCW 17.12.080 | Yes | No | Yes | | |
| **Horticultural Pest and Disease Board** | Agriculture | 1969 | Ch. 15.09 RCW | Provide funds for inspecting and disinfecting horticultural or agricultural produces and horticultural premises. | Petition or motion of county commissioners; hearing. | Horticultural pest and disease board, 4 appt by county 1 by Director of Agriculture. | Board may be abolished by county commissioners. RCW 15.09.140. | Contributions from county general fund; horticultural tax; assessment; RCW 15.09.131; RCW 15.08.260 | Yes | No | Yes | | |
| **Diking and Drainage Districts (Powers of a corporation for public purpose) Statute applies to: diking district; drainage district; diking, drainage, and/or sewerage improvement district; intercounty diking and drainage district; consolidated diking district, drainage district, diking improvement district, and/or drainage improvement district; or flood control district.** | Diking and Drainage | 1961 Re-codification | Title 85 RCW, Ch. 85.38 -Creation and Operation | Construct. straighten, widen, deepen, and improve all rivers, watercourses or streams causing overflow damage to land in district. | Resolution or petition -10%; investigation by county engineer; hearing; election. | Governing body composed of 3 elected members. | Consolidation of contiguous districts permitted upon voter approval. Suspension of operations permitted upon a hearing and adoption of a resolution by legislative authority. Dissolution permitted upon resolution of county legislative authority. General dissolution statute applies. Alternative dissolution procedure also available for districts not currently imposing assessments. General disincorporation statute for districts in counties with 210,000 population or more also applies. RCW 85.38.210; RCW 85.38.220; RCW 85.38.225; RCW 36.96.800; Ch. 36.96 RCW; Ch. 57.90 RCW. | Special assessments; special assessment bonds or notes (if the county legislative authority authorizes their issuance); rates and charges payable by owners within the district. RCW 85.38.150; RCW 85.38.230; RCW 85.38.145. | No | No | Yes | 108* | "Number in operation" includes all diking and drainage district types. |
| **Diking & Drainage Districts in Two or More Counties (Intercounty Diking and Drainage Districts)** ***(Powers of a corporation for public purpose)*** | Diking and Drainage | 1909 | Ch.. 85.24 RCW (& Ch. 85.38 RCW - Creation and Operation) | Establish diking and drainage systems or erect flood dames to prevent inundations on land located in two or more counties. | Resolution or petition -10%; investigation by county engineer; hearing; election. | Board of 3 district commissioners, initially appointed; elected per 85.38 RCW. | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | See funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |
| **Diking Districts** | Diking and Drainage | 1895 | Ch. 85.05 RCW (& Title 85 RCW, Ch. 85.38 -Creation and Operation) | Straighten, widen, deepen and improve all rivers, watercourses or streams, construct diking system to protect land from overflow. | Resolution or petition of 10 property owners; feasibility determination by county engineer; hearing; election pursuant to Ch. 85.38 RCW. | Board of 3 elected commissioners. | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | Preliminary assessments. RCW 85.05.490. *See also funding listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW).* | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Diking, Drainage and Irrigation Improvement District; Drainage and Irrigation Improvement district - Improvement Districts - 1933 Act** | Diking and Drainage | 1933 | Ch. 85.22 RCW | Reorganization of certain types of diking districts into a drainage and irrigation improvement district or a diking, drainage and irrigation improvement district. | Petition signed by district commissioners; election. | 3 elected supervisors; commissioners of old district become supervisors of new district. | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (Ch. 85.38 RCW) and diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts (Ch. 85.08 RCW, Ch. 85.15 RCW). | See funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |
| **Diking, Drainage, Sewerage Improvement Districts Funding methods revised by Diking, Drainage, and Sewerage Improvement Districts - 1967 Act** | Diking and Drainage | 1913, 1967 | Ch. 85.08 RCW, Ch. 85.15 RCW | Construct, straighten, widen, deepen, and improve all rivers, watercourses or streams causing overflow damage to land in district. Establish drainage, sewerage, and/or irrigation systems. | Petition, resolution or petition of 10 property owners; feasibility determination by county engineer; hearing; election pursuant to Ch. 85.38 RCW. If less than 500 acres petition of 50% of acreage. | Board of 3 elected supervisors, initially appointed then elected by ch. 85.38.RCW; if less than 500 acres county engineer will be sole supervisor of the district. | Merger with Irrigation districts permitted. RCW 85.08.830. *See also dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW).* | Supplemental assessments. RCW 85.08.520. *See also funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW).* | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |
| **Drainage District** | Diking and Drainage | 1895 | Ch. 85.06 RCW | Establish drainage system. | Resolution or petition of 10 property owners; feasibility determination by county engineer; hearing; election pursuant to Ch. 85.38 RCW. | Board of 3 elected commissioners; consolidated districts could retain 5 member board. | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | See funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |
| **Drainage Improvement District; Diking Improvement District - Improvement Districts - 1917 Act (reorganization of Diking or Drainage Dist)** | Diking and Drainage | 1917 | Ch. 85.20 RCW | Reorganization of certain types of diking or drainage districts into a drainage improvement district or a diking improvement district. | Petition signed by district commissioners; election. | Board of 3 elected commissioners; Board of commissioners becomes board of supervisors. | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (Ch. 85.38 RCW) and diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts (Ch. 85.08 RCW, Ch. 85.15 RCW). | See funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | See Diking and Drainage Districts. | |
| **Community Facilities District (independently governed, special purpose district vested with the corporate authority included under Article VII, section 9 of the state Constitution)** | Economic Development | 2010 | Ch. 36.145 | Facilitate voluntary landowner financing of community facilities and infrastructure. | Petition - 100% of all owners of private property located within the boundaries of proposed district; hearing by legislative authority; approve by resolution. | Board of supervisors if located in one jurisdicition; 3 from legislative body, 2 from petitioners. See RCW 36.145.080 for where not all in one jurisdiction. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Special assessments (which may not exceed the amount in petition, if applicable); revenue bonds, assessment bonds. RCW 36.145.090. | No | No | Yes | 0 | |
| **Cultural Arts, Stadium, and Convention Districts** *(Quasi Municipal Corporation)* | Economic Development | 1982 | Ch. 67.38 RCW | Construction, modification, renovation, and operation of facilities. | Resolution or petition -10%; hearing; election. | Outlined in resolution; statutes specify who should be represented. | Dissolution permitted by voter approval upon (1) resolution of the governing authority; (2) resolution of the county legislative body; (3) petition signed by 25% of the voters. RCW 67.38.160. | Regular levy of up to $0.25 per $1,000 for up to 6 years upon voter approval; excess levy; general obligation bonds. RCW 68.52.290; RCW 68.52.310; RCW 67.38.110. | Yes | No | No | 0 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Port Districts** ***(Municipal Corporation)*** | Economic Development | 1911 | Title 53 RCW | Acquire, construct, maintain, operate, develop and regulate system of harbor improvements, rail and water transfer and terminal facilities; air transfer, or terminal facilities, other storage and handling facilities. Acquire and construct toll bridges and tunnels and beltline railways, industrial development districts. | Initiated by county legislative authority or petition - 10%; hearing; election. | Port commission of 3 or 5 elected members from commissioner districts. | Consolidation permitted upon voter approval. Ch. 53.46 RCW. Dissolution of inactive districts permitted upon superior court approval. Ch. 53.47 RCW. Dissolution of active district also permitted upon superior court approval. Ch. 53.48 RCW. | Regular levy of up to $0.45 per $1,000; regular levy of up to $0.45 per $1,000 for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes, upon voter approval; regular levy of up to $0.45 per $1,000 for industrial development purposes; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; rates and charges for use of docks, wharves, warehouses, quays, and piers. RCW 53.36.020; RCW 53.36.070; RCW 53.36.100; 53.47.040; 53.08.070. | Yes | Yes | No | 75 | |
| **Public Facilities Districts** (***Municipal Corporation***) | Economic Development | 1988 - counties, 1999 - cities & towns | Ch. 36.100 RCW for counties, Ch. 35.57 RCW cities/towns | Acquire, construct, and operate sports facilities, entertainment facilities, convention facilities or regional centers and related parking facilities | Resolution or interlocal agreement. | Appointed board of directors; 5 or 7 members; membership composition set by statute. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Sales tax of .2% upon voter approval; admissions tax of up to $0.01 per $0.20; 20% tax on vehicle parking charges; charges and fees for use of facilities; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; gifts and donations; excess levy (for counties only); lodging excise tax (for counties only). FOR COUNTIES: RCW 36.100.030; RCW 36.100.036; RCW 36.100.040; RCW 36.100.050; RCW 36.100.060; RCW 36.100.210; RCW 36.100.220; RCW 82.14.048. FOR CITIES: RCW 35.57.030; RCW 35.57.020; RCW 35.57.090; RCW 35.57.100; RCW 35.57.110; RCW 82.14.048. | Yes | Yes | No | 24 | |
| **Public Stadium Authority** (***Body corporate, powers of a corporation for public purposes***) | Economic Development | 1997 | Ch. 36.102 RCW | Develop and operate a stadium and exhibition center. | Resolution of county; letter of intent with team affiliate. | Board of appointed directors; composition set by statute | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Charges, fees and rental income; gifts, grants, and donations; fees from naming rights. RCW 36.102.060; RCW 36.102.080; RCW 36.102.090. | No | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **Community Renewal Area** | Economic Development | 2002 | Ch. 35.81 RCW, Ch. 218 Laws of 2002 | Financing to rehabilitate blighted areas | Ordinance or resolution. | Appointed board or local governing body or other board. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Excess levy; excise tax; bonds; local improvement districts (community renewal agency). RCW 35.81.100; 35.81.190. | Yes | No | Yes | | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Industrial Development Districts (Ports) - to develop marginal area properties** | Economic Development | 1939 | Ch. 53.25 RCW | Provide funding for developing or redeveloping marginal area properties | Hearing. | Not specified. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Local improvement districts; bonds; assessments. RCW 53.25.100. | No | No | Yes | | |
| **Air Pollution Control Authorities *(Municipal Corporation)*** | Environment | 1957, 1967 | Ch. 70.94 RCW | State-wide program of air pollution prevention and control | To activate - Petition -100 property owners or motion by county; hearing. | Board of directors, appointed; composition designated by statute. | Mergers into multicounty authorities permitted. Dissolution/deactivation permitted upon adoption of a resolution by the board and approval by the county. RCW 70.94.068; RCW 70.94.260. | Excess levy of up to $0.25 per $1,000; fees collected for operating permits for air contaminant sources (collected if authority delegated by Department of Ecology). RCW 70.94.091; RCW 70.94.162. | Yes | Yes | No | 7 | |
| **Conservation Districts (*Public body corporate and politic)*** | Environment | 1939 | Ch. 89.08 RCW | Conserve soil resources, prevent flood water and sediment damages. | Petition -10% voters; hearing by Conservation Commission; election. | Board of 5 supervisors, 3 elected, 2 appointed by state commission. | Dissolution permitted upon petition, hearing, and approval of voters. RCW 89.08.350. | Special assessment (uniform rate per acre; or flat rate per parcel plus uniform rate per acre amount). Max per acre rate of $0.10 per acre; max per parcel rate of $5 or $10, depending on county size); grants from the state conservation commission. RCW 89.08.400; RCW 89.08.410. | No | No | Yes | 47 | |
| **Aquifer Protection Areas** | Environment | 1985 | Ch. 36.36 RCW | Funds the protection, preservation and rehabilitation of subterranean water. | Hearing; election. | Not specified. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 36.36.050. | Voter approved fees for the withdrawal of subterranean water and on on-site sewage disposal. RCW 36.36.030. | No | Yes | No | | |
| **Lake and Beach Management Districts** | Environment | 1986 | Ch. 36.61 RCW; RCW 35.21.403 | Lake and beach improvement & maintenance. | Resolution or petition -10 land owners or 15% acreage whichever is greater; hearing; election. | Not specified. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Special assessment or rates and charges. RCW 36.61.020. | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| **Shellfish Protection Districts - "Clean Water Districts"** | Environment | 1985 | Ch. 90.72 RCW | Protect shellfish industry from pollution. | Motion of county; election. | County legislative authority. | Dissolution permitted upon resolution of county legislative authority or upon voter approval. RCW 90.72.040. | Contributions from county; inspection fees and service fees; charges or rates specified in protection program; federal, state, or private grants. RCW 90.72.070. | No | Yes | No | | |
| **Flood Control Districts - (*Body corporate, powers of a corporation for public purposes*)** | Flood Control | 1895 | See Ch. 85.38 for Formation and Organization of District | Straighten, widen, deepen and improve all rivers, watercourses or streams, construct diking system to protect land from overflow | Resolution of county legislative authority or by petition, and upon approval of the voters. | Governing body composed of 3 elected members | See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (Ch. 85.38 RCW) and diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts (Ch. 85.08 RCW, Ch. 85.15 RCW). | See funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | 13 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Flood Control by Counties Jointly - 1913 Act (Intercounty)** | Flood Control | 1913 | Ch. 86.13 RCW | To help counties control flooding on a river that is or shall be the boundary line between two counties or its tributaries or outlet flows through parts of two counties and has a history of flooding. | Resolution; interlocal contract. | Boards of county commissioners; interlocal contract. | | Regular levy of up to $0.25 per $1,000 (levied by the county, but directed to pay for the contract with the district for flood control). RCW 86.13.010, 86.13.030. | Yes | No | No | | |
| **Flood Control Districts - 1935 Act** | Flood Control | 1935, Repealed 1965, Existing districts continue | Ch.86.05 RCW | Flood control districts formed under Ch 86.05 RCW are permitted to continue to operate under the statute (even though it was repealed in 1935), with some limitations, or the district can opreate under Ch. 86.09 RCW. See Flood Control Districts - 1937 Act. RCW 86.05.920. | N/A | Board of 3 district commissioners, initially appointed; elected per Ch. 85.38 RCW. | See explanation under purpose. RCW 86.05.920. See dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | Regular levy and excess bond levy, RCW 86.05.920; May be raised to $1.25 with voter approval. Repealed 1970 with Savings Clause (see 1935 c160; 1949 c82; & 1953 c20) | Yes | Yes | Yes | See Flood Control Districts. | |
| **Flood Control Districts - 1937 Act** | Flood Control | 1937 | Ch. 86.09 RCW | Protection of life and property, the preservation of the public health and the conservation and development of the natural resources. | Resolution of county legislative authority or by petition, and upon approval of the voters. | Governing body composed of 3 elected members. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 86.09.622. See also dissolution/consolidation statutes listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | Utility revenue bonds. RCW 86.09.592. See also funding sources listed for diking and drainage districts (ch. 85.38 RCW). | No | Yes | Yes | See Flood Control Districts. | |
| **Flood Control Zone Districts (*Quasi Municipal Corporation*)** | Flood Control | 1961 | Ch. 86.15 RCW | Undertaking, operating, or maintaining flood control projects/storm water control projects for areas of the county. | Action of board or petition - 25% vote cast in proposed zone at last county general election. | Board of county commissioners; option to elect 3 zone supervisors if district over 2000 residents. | Consolidation of flood control zone districts is permitted upon a board resolution. Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 86.15.200. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000; excess levies; assessments; general obligation bonds; service charges pertaining to storm water control and flood control improvements. RCW 36.89.080; RCW 86.15.160; RCW 86.15.176; RCW 84.52.052; RCW 84.52.054. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 9 | |
| **Flood Control by Counties (River Improvement Fund)** | Flood Control | 1907 | Ch. 86.12 RCW | control of waters subject to flood conditions from streams, tidal or other bodies of water. | Authorization of county commissioners. | Not specified. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Annual levy not to exceed $0.25 per $1,000 assessed value. RCW 86.12.010 | Yes | No | No | | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cemetery Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Health | 1947 | Ch. 68.52 RCW | Acquire, establish, maintain, manage, improve and operate cemeteries and conduct businesses of a cemetery. | Petition - 10% voters; hearing; election or County ordinance or resolution providing for ballot measure. | Cemetery board, 3 elected cemetery commissioners | Dissolution permitted upon approval of voters. RCW 68.52.320; RCW 68.52.330. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.1125 per $1,000; general obligation bonds. RCW 68.52.290 RCW 68.52.310. | Yes | No | No | 104 | |
| **Health Districts** | Health | 1945 | Ch. 70.46 RCW | Provide health services within the district. | Resolution or ordinance of county legislative authority. | Board of representatives appointed by county legislative authority. If district is in more than one county, the board must have at least 5 or 7 members (with each county appointed at least 2 members). RCW 70.46.020. | Counties may withdraw from district if providing a health department or providing health services meeting standards set by the state board of health. RCW 70.46.090. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Funds from county and state; License and permit fees. RCW 70.46.085; RCW 70.46.120. | No | Yes | No | 11 | |
| **Mosquito Control Districts** | Health | 1957 | Ch. 17.28 RCW | Abatement or exterminate mosquitoes. | Petition-10% or resolution; hearing; election. | Appointed board of 5 trustees - composition set by statute. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 17.28.420. | Excess levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000 upon voter approval; assessments; general obligation bonds. RCW 17.28.255; RCW 17.28.252. | Yes | No | Yes | 18 | |
| **Public Hospital Capital Facility Areas (Quasi Municipal Corporation)** | Health | 2009 | Ch. 70.265 RCW | Provides funding for public hospital capital facilities or capital health care facilities for counties composed entirely of islands not annexed to hospital district. | For less than county area, petition of not less than ten percent of the voters of the proposed public hospital capital facility area who voted at the last general election. | Three members of the county legislative authority from each county in which the public hospital capital facility area is located. | Dissolution permitted upon majority vote of the governing body. RCW 70.265.080. | Excess levy; general obligation bonds, gifts and donations. RCW 70.265.070. | Yes | No | No | 0 | |
| **Public Hospital Districts** (*Municipal Corporation* ) | Health | 1945 | Ch. 70.44 RCW | Own and operate hospitals and other health care facilities, provide hospital and other health care services. | Resolution or petition -10%; election. | Board of elected commissioners; 3, 5, or 7 commissioner districts. | Consolidation permitted under same procedures for cities and towns. RCW 70.44.190 and Ch 35.10 RCW. Withdrawal from areas permitted upon approval of district and municipality. RCW 70.44.235. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Two regular levies of up to $0.50 per $1,000 each; excess levy; service charges; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; interest-bearing warrants; gifts and donations. RCW 70.44.060; RCW 70.44.130. | Yes | Yes | No | 56 | |
| **Rural Public Hospital District (defined)** | Health | 1992 | RCW 70.44.450-.460 | A public hospital district authorized under chapter 70.44 RCW whose geographic boundaries do not include a city with a population greater than fifty thousand. | See *public hospital districts.* | See *public hospital districts.* | See *public hospital districts.* | See *public hospital districts.* | Yes | Yes | No | | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Public Housing Authorities** (*Public corporations*) | Housing | 1939 | Ch. 35.82 RCW | Provide housing for low income persons. | Resolution or petition - 25%. | 5 commissioners appointed; 7 members if city more than 400,000 pop. | Deactivation of authority permitted upon resolution of city/county legislative authority. RCW 35.82.320. | Bonds; grants; rates, charges and rental income. RCW 35.82.070; RCW 35.82.130; RCW 35.82.200 | No | Yes | No | 41 | |
| **Joint City-county Housing Authorities** | Housing | 1980 | RCW 35.82.300 | Housing authority created by one or more counties and any city or cities within any of those counties or in another county or counties | Ordinance | Determined by ordinance | Dissolution of authority permitted upon resolution of participating cities/counties. RCW 35.82.310. | See *Public Housing Authority*. | No | Yes | No | | |
| **Inter-County Rural Library Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Library | 1947 | RCW 27.12.090 | Municipal corporation organized to provide library service for all areas outside of incorporated cities and towns within two or more counties. | Resolutions or joint session of counties or petition - 10%; election. | Board of trustees; 5 or 7 appointed by county commissioners. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 27.12.320. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000; excess levies; general obligation bonds; community revitalization financing. RCW 27.12.150, 27.12.222; RCW 27.12.212. | Yes | No | No | See note. | 23 total library districts (all types, except capital facility areas). |
| **Island Library District** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Library | 1982 | RCW 27.12.400 - .450 | Provide library service for all areas outside of incorporated cities and towns on a single island only. | Petition - 10%; hearing; election. | Board of 5 trustees appointed by county commissioners. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 27.12.320. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000; excess levies; general obligation bonds. RCW 27.12.420; 27.12.222. | Yes | No | No | See note for Inter-County Rural Library District. | |
| **Library Capital Facility Area** (*Quasi Municipal*) | Library | 1995 | Ch 27.15 RCW | Provides funding for construction of capital library facilities. | Request from library trustees to county commissioners; election. | Three members from each county legislative body or less by agreement. | Dissolved upon resolution of governing body. RCW 27.15.060. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Excess levies; general obligation bonds. RCW 27.15.050. | Yes | No | No | 11 | |
| **Regional Library Districts** | Library | 1935 | RCW 27.12.080 | Free public library maintained by two or more counties or other governmental units. | Interlocal contract - two or more counties. | Board of 5 or 7 trustees appointed by joint action of legislative authorities. | Withdrawal permitted with decision by legislative body of a contracting party. RCW 27.12.080. | Expenses apportioned between or among the contracting parties. RCW 27.12.080. | No | No | No | See note for Inter-County Rural Library District. | |
| **Rural County Library Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Library | 1941 | RCW 27.12.040 - 070 | Library serving all the area of a county not included within the area of incorporated cities and towns. | Petition -10%; hearing; election. | Board of 5 trustees appointed by county commissioners. | Dissolved upon resolution of governing body. RCW 27.15.060. *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000; excess levies; general obligation bonds. RCW 27.12.050; 27.12.222. | Yes | No | No | See note for Inter-County Rural Library District. | |
| **Rural Partial Library District** | Library | 1993 | RCW 27.12.470 | Library district in a portion of the unincorporated area of a county. | Petition -10%; hearing; election. | Board of 5 trustees appointed by county commissioners. | Dissolved upon resolution of governing body. RCW 27.15.060. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000; excess levies; general obligation bonds. RCW 27.12.050, 27.12.222. | Yes | No | No | See note for Inter-County Rural Library District. | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metropolitan Municipal Corporations** ***(Municipal Corporation)*** | Metropolitan Services | 1957 | Ch. 35.58 RCW; Ch.36.56 RCW | Essential services in metropolitan areas not adequately provided by existing agencies: water pollution, water supply, transportation, garbage, parks & rec, comp. planning. | Resolution or petition - 4%; election | Metropolitan council composition outlined by statute. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of $0.25 per $1,000 upon voter approval; excess levy; general obligation and revenue bonds; local improvement districts; rates and charges. RCW 35.58.090, 35.58.116; 35.58.200-.280; RCW 35.58.460; RCW 35.58.500; RCW 35.58.570. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | |
| **Metropolitan Park District** ***(Municipal Corporation)*** | Parks and Recreation | 1907 | Ch. 35.61 RCW | Manage, control, improve, maintain, and acquire parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. | Resolution or petition -15%, election. | One of three forms set by statute. | Dissolution permitted upon agreement with city or upon voter approval. RCW 35.61.310. | Two regular levies of up to $0.50 per $1,000 and up to $0.25 per $1,000; excess levy; general obligation bonds. RCW 35.61.210. | Yes | No | No | 15 | |
| **Park & Recreation Districts** ***(Municipal Corporation)*** | Parks and Recreation | 1957 | Ch. 36.69 RCW | Provide leisure time activities, facilities, and recreational facilities. | Resolution or petition-15%; hearing; election. | Board of 5 elected commissioners. | Dissolution permitted under dissolution statute for ports. Ch. 53.48 RCW. | Regular levy of up to $0.60 per $1,000 upon voter approval; excess levy; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; local improvement districts; fees, rates, and rentals for the use of facilities . RCW 36.69.140; RCW 36.69.145; RCW 36.69.200; RCW 36.69.350; RCW 36.69.130. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 43 | |
| **Joint Park and Recreation District** | Parks and Recreation | 1979 | RCW 36.69.420 - .460 | Enables park and recreation district in two or more counties. | Petition-15%; hearing in each county; election in each county. | Board of 5 elected commissioners. | Dissolution permitted under dissolution statute for ports. Ch. 53.48 RCW. | Regular levy of up to $0.60 per $1,000 upon voter approval; excess levy; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; local improvement districts; fees, rates, and rentals for the use of facilities . RCW 36.69.140; RCW 36.69.145; RCW 36.69.200; RCW 36.69.350; RCW 36.69.130. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 | |
| **Park & Recreation Service Areas (*Body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes* )** | Parks and Recreation | 1963 | RCW 36.68.400 - .620 | Finance, acquire construct, improve, maintain, or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium, and, or recreational facilities. | Resolution or petition -10%; feasibility study; election. | County legislative authority, acting ex officio and independently. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.60 per $1,000 upon voter approval; excess levy; general obligations bonds; admission fees and charges. RCW 36.68.520; RCW 36.68.525; RCW 36.68.550. | Yes | Yes | No | 7 | |
| **Emergency Medical Service Districts** ***(Quasi Municipal Corporation*** | Public Safety | 1979 | RCW 36.32.480 | Emergency medical services and funding. | Hearing; ordinance. | County legislative authority or interlocal agreement. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000, subject to voter approval. RCW 84.52.069. | Yes | No | No | 7 | |
| **Urban Emergency Medical Service Districts** ***(Quasi Municipal Corporation)*** | Public Safety | 1994 | RCW 35.21.762 | Emergency medical services and funding for city or town located in two count. | Hearing; ordinance. | City or town council, acting in an ex officio capacity and independently. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.50 per $1,000, subject to voter approval. RCW 84.52.069. | Yes | No | No | 1 | |

# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fire Protection Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Public Safety | 1933 | Title 52 RCW | Eliminate fire hazards and protect life and property outside cities/towns except where cities/towns have annexed. | Petition -10%; hearing; election. | Board of fire commissioners; 3 or 5 elected commissioners. | Merger of districts permitted upon voter approval. Dissolution of districts permitted upon voter approval. Chapter 52.06 RCW; Chapter 52.10 RCW. | Regular levies (3 different levies with each a max of $0.50 per $1,000); excess levy of $0.50 per $1,000; benefit charges upon voter approval, general obligation bonds, and local improvement districts. Collection of reasonable charges for emergency medical services. See generally Ch. 52.16 RCW; RCW 52.12.131. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 367 | |
| **Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Public Safety | 2004 | Ch. 52.26 RCW | Provides for regional fire protection service delivery, enhanced funding options, and new authority to address critical fire protection projects and emergency services. | Any two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions convene a planning committee and create a plan; resulting plan submitted to voters. | Designated by the fire protection services authority plan | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levies (3 different $0.50 per $1,000 levies); excess levy of $0.50 per $1,000; benefit charges upon voter approval, general obligation bonds, and local improvement districts. Collection of reasonable charges for emergency medical services. See generally Ch. 52.26 RCW; RCW 52.12.131. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 7 | |
| **Legal Authorities (Hydroelectric) - Irrigation Districts -** ***(Separate legal entity capable of exercising in its own name the powers granted it)*** | Public Utility | 1983 | RCW 87.03.825 - .840 | Enables cooperative development of hydroelectric generating resources by cities and irrigation districts, cities towns, irrigation districts and PUDs. | Two or more districts form authority through interlocal contract. | Contained in interlocal contract. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Rates, tolls, charges, and contract payments. RCW 87.03.837. | No | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **Operating Agencies (Electricity Generation and Distribution, Cities & PUD)** *(Municipal corporation)* | Public Utility | 1981 | Ch. 43.52 RCW | Generate electricity. | Interlocal agreement. | Interlocal agreement. | Dissolution permitted upon unanimous agreement of members. RCW 43.52.360. | Rates and charges for electricity services. RCW 43.52.300. | No | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **Public Utility Districts** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Public Utility | 1931 | Title 54 RCW | Conserve water & power resources; supply public utility service including water and electricity, sewer, telecommunications. | Resolution or petition -10%; election. | Election commission of 3 or 5 commissioner districts. | Consolidation permitted upon voter approval. Dissolution permitted under general dissolutions statute. RCW 54.32.010; Ch. 36.96 RCW. | Regular Levy of up to $0.45 per $1,000; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; rates and charges for services; local improvement guaranty fund. RCW 54.16.080; Chapter 54.24 RCW. | Yes | Yes | No | 27 | |
| **Solid Waste Disposal Districts** *(Quasi Municipal Corporation)* | Public Utility | 1982 | RCW 36.58.100 | Provides for and funds solid waste disposal in counties under 1 million. | Hearing, ordinance. | County governing body. | Dissolution permitted upon resolution of the county legislative authority. RCW 36.58.100. | Excise tax; excess levy; general obligation and revenue bonds; fees for disposal services. RCW 36.58.130; RCW 36.58.140; RCW 36.58.150. | Yes | Yes | No | 2 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Television Reception Improvement Districts** | Public Utility | 1971 | Ch. 36.95 RCW | Construction, maintenance, and operation of television and FM radio translator stations. | Petition - 50%. | If district less than full county, Board of 3,5-9 appointed members; if same as county then county commissioners. | Dissolution permitted upon resolution of the county legislative authority. RCW 36.95.200. | Excise tax (of up to $60 per year per television set). RCW 36.95.100. | No | No | No | 6 | |
| **Water-Sewer Districts (water-sewer district, water district, sewer district)** ***(Municipal Corporation)*** | Public Utility | Sewer Dist 1941; water dist 1913; water-sewer con-solidation 1971 | Title 57 RCW (districts reclassified, formerly Sewer Title 56, Water Title 57), reclassification 1997 | Furnish ample supply of water; purchase and maintenance of fire fighting equipment; furnish wastewater collection; provide street lighting. | Petition -10% or resolution if public health necessity hearing; election. | 3,5,or 7 elected members. | Dissolution permitted according to several methods, including by the courts, voter approval, and legislative authority. Chapter 57.04 RCW. | Excess levy of $1.25 per $1,000 of assessed value authorized at time of formation; general obligation and revenue bonds; local improvement districts; fees and charges for services. RCW 57.04.050; Chapter 57.08 RCW; Chapter 57.16 RCW; Chapter 57.20 RCW. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 191* | "Number in operation" includes all water-sewer district types. |
| **Sewer Districts** | Public Utility | 1941 | Title 57 RCW | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | Yes | Yes | Yes | See water-sewer districts. | |
| **Sewage Improvement Districts - Formerly under Title 85 After 1979 powers of title 85** | Public Utility | 1923 | RCW 57.04.120-.130 | | Counties with populations of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand become sewer districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | Yes | Yes | Yes | See water-sewer districts. | |
| **Water Districts** | Public Utility | 1913 | Title 57 RCW | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | See Water-Sewer Districts. | Yes | Yes | Yes | See water-sewer districts. | |
| **Solid Waste Collection Districts** | Public Utility | 1971 | Ch. 36.58A RCW | Mandatory collection of solid waste in unincorporated county. | Hearing; UTC investigation. | None specified. | Dissolution permitted upon resolution of county legislative authority. RCW 36.58A.020. | Fees for services. RCW 36.58A.040. | No | Yes | No | | |
| **Airport District, County (*Municipality*)** | Transportation | 1945 | RCW 14.08.290-.330 | Establish and operate airports or other air navigational facilities. | Application - 100 voters; election; resolution. | Board of county commissioners or 3 elected airport commissioners. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy of up to $0.75 per $1,000, voter authorization required; revenue bonds; fees & charges pertaining to airport operations. RCW 14.08.290; RCW 14.08.090; RCW14.08.122. | Yes | Yes | No | 2 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **City Transportation Authority (Monorail)** (*Municipal Corporation*) | Transportation | 2002 | Ch. 35.95A RCW, Ch. 248 Laws 2002 | Construct and operate public monorail transportation system. | Ordinance or petition -1%; election. | Appointed or elected depending on ballot proposition. | Procedures for dissolution provided in RCW 35.95A.120, which includes dissolution upon voter approval. | Regular levy of up to $1.50 per $1,000 upon voter approval; excess levies; motor vehicle excise tax of up to 2.5%; general obligation and revenue bonds; local improvement district; rates, tolls, fares, and charges for use of facilities and services. RCW 35.95A.050; RCW 35.95A.070; RCW 35.95A.080; RCW 35.95A.100. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | |
| **County Public Transportation Authority** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Transportation | 1974 | Ch. 36.57 RCW | Allows county to provide public transportation. | Resolution of county. | Appointed; membership set by statute. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Contributions from participating counties; fares and rates for services. RCW 36.57.040; 36.57.060. | No | Yes | No | 2 | |
| **County Rail Districts** *(Quasi Municipal Corporation* | Transportation | 1983 | Ch. 36.60 RCW | Provide and fund improved rail freight and passenger service. | Hearing; resolution, election. | County legislative authority. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval or resolution of the county legislative authority. RCW 36.60.020; RCW 36.60.130. | Excess levy; general obligation and revenue bonds; revenues from operations. RCW 36.60.040; RCW 36.60.050; RCW 36.60.060. | Yes | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **County Ferry Districts, passenger-only (Counties of 1 million pop)***(Municipal Corporation)* | Transportation | 2003 | Ch 36.54.110-.190 RCW, RCW 36.57A.210 | Allows a county on Puget Sound with a population over one million to fund and operate a passenger ferry service. | Hearing; ordinance. | County legislative authority acting ex officio. | Dissolution permitted under dissolution statute for ports. Ch. 53.48 RCW; RCW 36.54.190. | Regular levy of up to $0.75 per $1,000, except a district in county with pop of 1.5m or more is subject to max $0.075 per $1,000; excess levy; general obligation bonds; tolls for services. RCW 36.54.130; RCW 36.54.135; RCW 36.54.140. | Yes | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **Public Transportation Benefit Area** (*Municipal Corporation*) | Transportation | 1975 | Ch. 36.57A RCW | Provide public transportation services with defined area. | Resolution or petition -10% to call a conference; hearing; resolution of conference. | Selected by participants; membership set out in statutes. | Dissolution permitted upon voter approval. RCW 36.57A.160. | Motor vehicle excise tax and sales and use tax (for passenger ferry services); rates and charges for services. RCW 36.57A.090; RCW 36.57A.210; RCW 82.80.130; RCW 82.14.440. | No | Yes | No | 20 | |
| **Regional Transit Authority** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Transportation | 1992 | RCW 81.112 | Enables transportation system for Puget Sound Area. | Joint regional policy committee formed to create plan, counties pass resolution to join, plan placed before voters,Interlocal agreement; resolution. | Board of appointed representatives; membership set by statute. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Voter approved sales and use tax of up to 1%; sales and use tax on retail car rentals; voter approved employer tax of $2 per month per employee; fares, fees, charges for services; general obligation and revenue bonds; local improvement districts. RCW 81.112.080; RCW 81.112.130; RCW 81.112.140; RCW 81.104.150, RCW 81.104.170, RCW 81.104.160. | No | Yes | No | 1 | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

*Prepared by Office of Program Research - Updated September 19, 2012*

| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional Transportation Investment District** *(Municipal Corporation)* | Transportation | 2002 | RCW 36.120 | Provides regions with the ability to plan, select, fund, and implement (or contract for the implementation of) projects identified to meet the region's transportation and land use goals. | Committee created; plan, election. | Members of each legislative authority acting ex officio and independently. | Dissolution occurs upon completion of project or series of projects. RCW 36.120.170 | Voter approved taxes and fees, including a sales and use of up to 0.1 percent, a local option vehicle license fee of up to $100 per vehicle, a parking tax, a local motor vehicle excise tax, a local option fuel tax, an employer excise tax, and vehicle tolls on new or reconstructed local or regional arterials or state routes; general obligation and revenue bonds. RCW 36.120.050; RCW 36.120.130. | No | Yes | No | 0 | |
| **Roads & Bridges Service Districts** *(Quasi Municipal Corporation)* | Transportation | | Ch. 36.83 RCW | Providing funding for capital costs for state highway improvement a county or road district has authority to provide. | Hearing, ordinance or resolution. | Board of three commissioners appointed by the county legislative authority or county executive. | Dissolution permitted upon resolution of county legislative authority. RCW 36.83.020. | Excess levy; general obligation bonds; local improvement districts; gifts and donations. RCW 36.83.030; RCW 36.83.040; RCW 36.83.050; RCW 36.83.080. | Yes | No | Yes | 1 | |
| **Transportation Benefit District** (*Quasi Municipal Corporation*) | Transportation | 1989 | Ch. 36.73 RCW, RCW 35.21.225 for city | Help public-private sectors address public transportation. | Hearing; ordinance. | County or city legislative authority acting ex officio or interlocal agreement if more than one jurisdiction. | Dissolution occurs upon completion of project or series of projects. RCW 36.73.170. | Excess levy; other voter approved taxes and fees, including a sales and use tax of up to 0.2%, a vehicle fee of up to $100 per vehicle, a fee or charge on building construction, and vehicle tolls; general obligation and revenue bonds; local improvement districts; grants and donations. RCW 36.73.040; RCW 36.73.060; RCW 36.73.065; RCW 36.73.080; RCW 36.73.110. | Yes | Yes | Yes | 13 | |
| **Unincorporated Transportation Benefit Areas (UTBA)** (*Quasi Municipal Corporation*) | Transportation | 1975 | RCW 36.57.100 | Provide transportation services to unincorporated areas of the county. | Allows county to provide public transportation. | See County Transportation Authority. | See County Transportation Authority. | See County Transportation Authority. | No | Yes | No | 1 | |
| **County Road District** | Transportation | 1889 | RCW 36.75.060 | Provide revenue to establish, lay out, construct, alter, repair, improve and maintain county roads. | County commissioners can create up to 9 districts, one road district in each county commissioner's district. | Not specified. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Regular levy. RCW 36.82.040. | Yes | No | Yes | 39 | |
| **Public Waterway Districts** | Transportation | 1911 | Ch. 91.08 RCW | Provides funding for owners of lands bordering upon/accessible to any navigable water shall to improve waterway. | Petition - 35%; hearing. | County board of commissioner. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessment; bonds. RCW 91.08.270; RCW 91.08.465. | No | No | Yes | | |

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# Washington State Special Purpose Districts

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| District & Designation | Category | Date of Law | Enabling Statute (RCW) | Purpose | Formation | Governance | Dissolution/Consolidation Statutes | Funding | Property Tax Authority? | Fees and Charges Authority? | Assessment Authority? | Number in Operation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **River & Harbor Improvement Districts** | Transportation | 1903 | Ch. 88.32 RCW | Funding source for river improvements. | Petition - 100 freeholders owning land. | Appointed by U.S. govt. | *See note on general dissolution statutes. | Benefit assessment; bonds. RCW 88.32.140; RCW 88.32.040. | No | No | Yes | | |

**Notes:**

*General dissolution statutes. There are several statutes that relate to dissolution procedures for special purpose districts. (1) Ch. 36.96 RCW pertains to the dissolution of "inactive" special purpose districts, including every municipal and quasi-municipal corporation other than counties, cities, and towns. The statute specifically provides that such special purpose districts includes, but are not limited to, water-sewer districts, fire protection districts, port districts, public utility districts, county park and recreation service areas, flood control zone districts, diking districts, drainage improvement districts, and solid waste collection districts, but does not include industrial development districts created by port districts, local improvement districts, utility local improvement districts, and road improvement districts. (2) Ch. 53.48 RCW pertains to the dissolution of port districts, but is also used for other types of districts, including all municipal and quasi-municipal corporations having a governing body, other than cities, towns, counties, and townships, such as port districts, school districts, water-sewer districts, fire protection districts, and all other special districts of similar organization. It does not include local improvement districts, diking, drainage and irrigation districts, irrigation and reclamation districts, and public utility districts. (3) Ch. 57.90 RCW contains a mechanism to disincorporate certain districts in counties with 210,000 population or more and that have been inactive for five years. Ch 57.90 RCW only pertains water-sewer, park and recreation, metropolitan park, county rural library, cemetery, flood control, mosquito control, diking and drainage, irrigation or reclamation, weed, health, and fire protection districts, and any air pollution control authority amd regional fire protection service authority.

**This table was completed using information provided by the Municipal Research and Services Center (specifically the chart located at http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/governance/spd/spdchart0112.pdf) and directly from statute where noted.

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