

Washington State Special Purpose Districts Established Between 1988 and 2012

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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
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; W 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
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 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
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.	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	
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
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.
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

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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
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	
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
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
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 up to \$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
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

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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
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 jurisdiction; 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

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 200,000 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 and 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.**

*****Property tax authority.** This column indicates whether the district has the authority to impose property taxes, not whether a majority of the district's revenues are derived from property tax revenues.