

Special Purpose District Overview

2017 UTLAW Land Use Conference

Julie Fort

Julie@txmunicipallaw.com

Misty Ventura

misty.ventura@svlandlaw.com

APRIL 6, 2017

What Is A Special Purpose District?

“These districts are areas of the state, county, municipality, or other political subdivision that have been divided for judicial, political, electoral, or administrative purposes. Special purpose districts were originally created due to urban sprawl and the desire of suburban residents to create entities that could provide their own infrastructure and levy taxes for limited purposes, such as firefighting, road construction, and water and sewage treatment.”

Research Spotlight, publication of Texas Senate Research Center, Oct. 2008

What Benefit Do District's Offer?

1. Provide a quality or quantity of development that will not occur without district creation
2. Provide desirable growth and expansion of the tax base without increasing taxes or costs to existing customers
3. Offset City costs to extend infrastructure
4. Assess the users of the infrastructure for the cost of the infrastructure

Examples of Special Purpose Districts in Texas

EDUCATION

- Independent School Districts
- Charter Schools
- Special Purpose School Districts
- Jr./ Community College Districts

HEALTH

- Hospital Districts
- Emergency Service Districts

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Arts and Entertainment Districts
- Sports Facility Districts
- Library Districts
- Sports and Community Venue Districts
- Homestead Preservation Districts
- Municipal Development Districts

WATER, WASTEWATER, SOLID WASTE, ROADS and DRAINAGE

- Public Utility Agencies
- Solid Waste Districts
- Storm Water Management Water Development Board
- Water Quality Control
- Groundwater Conservation Districts
- Water Control and Improvement Districts
- Fresh Water Supply Districts
- Regional Districts
- Special Utility Districts
- Water Supply Corporations

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in over 30 legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: Special Purpose District Overview

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
21st Annual Land Use Conference session
"ABCs of Development Financing"