

HISTORY

The South Carolina Constitution of 1895 gave cities the power to offer a broad range of services to their residents. These services included police and fire protection, construction and maintenance of roads, water, and sewer. In contrast, the counties received extremely limited authority to provide services. Given this situation, people who lived outside of incorporated cities petitioned the state legislature to form special purpose districts (SPD). SPD's were legally enabled to provide specialized services.

In 1973 the Home Rule Act was enacted by the legislature of South Carolina. This Act gave counties the power to provide the services previously provided by cities and SPD's. As a result of this action, no new SPD's have been authorized by the legislature since 1973.

CURRENT STATUS

Currently, approximately 500 SPD's provide a variety of services to the citizens of South Carolina. These organizations are governed by appointed or elected commissions. They are funded by ad valorem taxes, user fees, or a combination of taxes and fees. In order to pay for capital improvement projects, many SPD's sell general obligation bonds.

In the past, attempts have been made to consolidate or eliminate SPD's. The services that they currently provide would then fall under county control. Consolidation offers no benefit to citizens, since SPD's allow communities to exercise the highest form of democracy by giving local citizens the ability to control local services. SPD's promote efficient and effective local government operations.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every two years all South Carolina SPD's are required to submit a notification form to the Secretary of State and to their County Auditor. At the time of the last notification, the following categories of SPD's were registered in South Carolina.

-  **5** Airport Districts
- 17** Emergency Medical Service Districts
-  **82** Fire Districts
- 11** Hospital Districts 
- 5** Natural Gas Districts
-  **18** Recreation Districts
- 9** Sanitation Districts 
- 13** Street/Lighting/Road/Safety Districts
-  **3** Transportation Districts
- 73** Water and Sewer Districts
- 26** Watershed Conservation Districts 

For more information about SPD's please contact

SC ASSOCIATION of SPD's

P.O. Box 1184
Irmo, SC 29063
803/772-5354
www.scsdpd.com



STATE LEADERSHIP

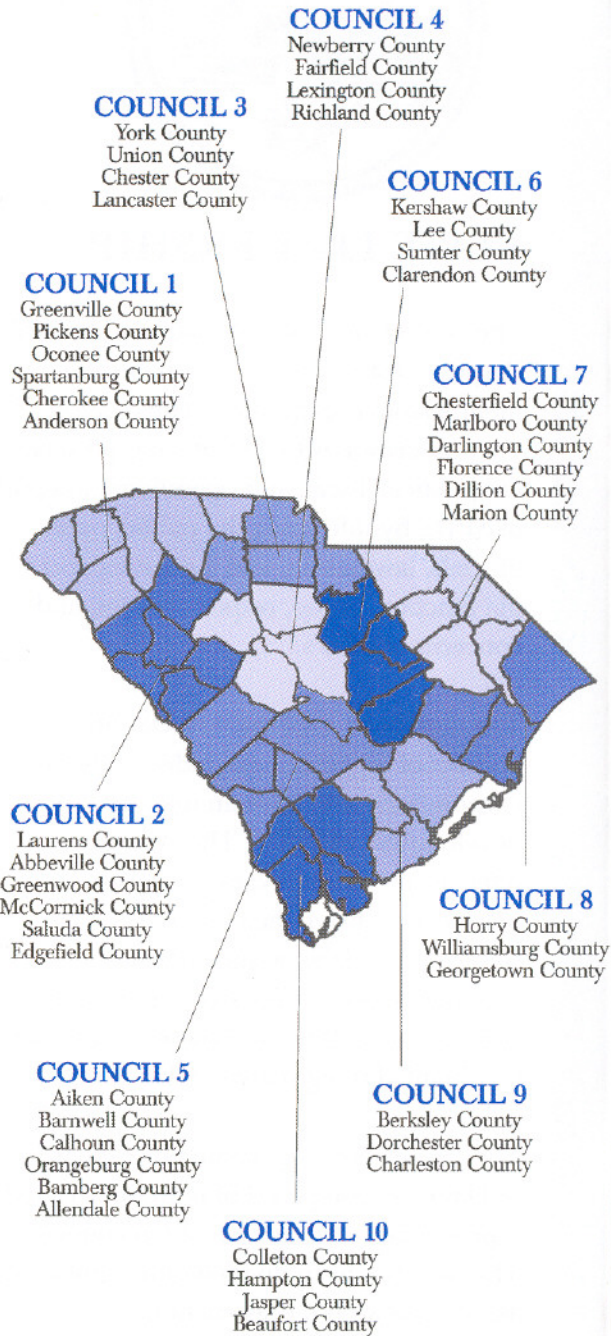
The South Carolina Association of Special Purpose Districts serves as a statewide membership organization. The mission of the Association is to educate and preserve the political, fiscal, and operational integrity of SPD's by informing the public, public officials, lawmakers, and legislators about the function, duties, responsibilities, and concerns of SPD's.

The membership of the Association consists of organizations, individuals, and corporations who have an interest in the development of SPD's. The Association offers its members a variety of services to help them achieve their goals. These services include an annual business meeting, periodic training seminars and workshops, and the Association newsletter that highlights legislative updates.

The Association is governed by a Board of Directors composed of both officers and representatives from each of ten councils. The state has been divided into councils to assure statewide representation.

STATE COUNCILS

The map below identifies the ten councils of the South Carolina Association of Special Purpose Districts.

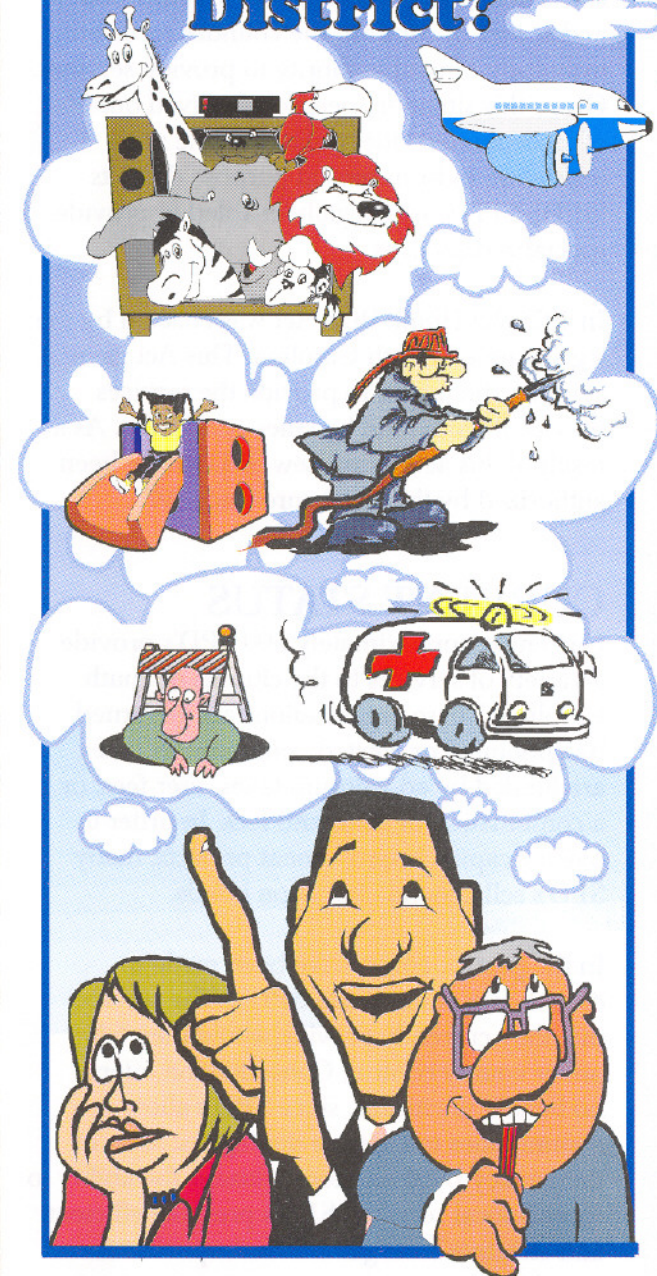


South Carolina Association of Special Purpose Districts
P. O. Box 1184
Irmo, South Carolina 29063



Copyright © 2004

What Is A Special Purpose District?



South Carolina Association of Special Purpose Districts