

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut ranks 39th among the states in number of local governments, with 649 active as of October 2007.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (0)

Effective October 1, 1960, Connecticut county government was abolished and county functions were transferred to the state government. However, the former county boundaries were retained for election of county sheriffs and for judicial purposes. Thus, Connecticut counties are not counted as governments for census purposes.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (179)

The subcounty general purpose governments in Connecticut consist of municipal (city and borough) governments and town governments. These two types of governments are distinguished primarily by the historical circumstances surrounding their incorporation. In Connecticut, city, borough, and town governments have similar powers and perform similar functions. Towns, which are treated as municipalities in Connecticut statutes, are counted as a separate type of local government in census statistics on governments.

Municipal Governments (30)

The term "municipality," as defined for census statistics, applies only to the cities and boroughs in Connecticut. Nine boroughs (all except Naugatuck) and one city (Groton) are located within town areas but are not consolidated with the towns and are counted as separate municipal governments. For the borough of Woodmont, the governmental functions performed in other parts of the state by town governments are performed by an overlying city, Milford.

The other 19 cities (including Milford) and the borough of Naugatuck are also located within town areas, but, in each of these instances, the town government and the city or borough

government have been consolidated. Each of these 20 consolidated governments has responsibility both for services handled in other parts of the state by town governments and for the usual city or borough functions. Each is counted only once in census statistics on governments as a municipal government and not as a town government.

Town or Township Governments (149)

Towns, although not differing in legally authorized powers from cities and boroughs, are classified for census purposes as a separate type of local government. The entire area of the state is encompassed by town governments, except for areas in which a town is consolidated with a city or borough government. The two towns of Putnam and Windham are consolidated with an underlying city or borough for governmental purposes but are designated as towns. They are therefore counted as town (or "township") governments, and not as municipal governments, in census statistics on governments.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (166)

School District Governments (17)

Only the regional school districts in Connecticut are counted as separate governments in census statistics on governments. A regional school district is organized by joint action of two or more towns, after referendum. It is administered by a board consisting of members appointed by the governing body of each participating town. Fiscal needs are determined by the regional school district board and apportioned to the participating towns. The districts may issue bonds with voter approval.

Dependent Public School Systems (149)

Connecticut statutes provide for the following types of dependent public school systems:

Systems dependent on municipal governments:
City school systems

Systems dependent on town governments:

Town school systems

The city and town school systems in Connecticut have elected governing bodies that administer the schools; however, their budgets are subject to review and change by the city or town budget-making authority and governing body. City and town school systems in Connecticut are not counted as separate governments.

Other Educational Activities

Regional educational service centers may be established in any regional state planning area by four or more boards of education to provide special services to the participating school systems. These centers are classified as joint educational service agencies of the participating public school systems and are not counted as separate governments.

Regional vocational agriculture centers may be established by agreement between any local or regional board of education with other such boards of education. These centers are joint activities of participating public school systems and are not counted as governments.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (453)

Connecticut statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below.

Fire, Sewer, and Similar Special-Purpose Districts

A general law in Connecticut provides for the establishment of districts for any or all of the following purposes: fire and police protection; street lighting and sprinkling; establishing building lines; planting and care of trees; constructing and maintaining streets, crosswalks, drains, flood or erosion control systems, sewers, and recreational facilities; establishment of a zoning commission or a planning commission and a zoning board of appeals (if the town government does not have

a zoning or planning commission); collection and disposal of garbage; and the like. Such a district may be established by vote at a town meeting called by the board of selectmen upon the petition of voters in the proposed area. Officers for the district are elected. Each district may issue bonds and set taxes as well as special benefit assessments.

Fire and sewer districts are also created by special acts of the general assembly. These districts are similar in organization to the districts established under general law and are also counted as governments.

First, Second, Third, and Sixth Taxing Districts of Norwalk

These four taxing districts, located within the area of the city of Norwalk, were established by the Norwalk city charter and may perform the following functions within their defined areas: First Taxing District—water supply; Second Taxing District—electric light and power and water supply; Third Taxing District—electric light and power; and Sixth Taxing District—public library, street lighting, and sewers. Each of these districts has a separately elected governing body. Each district may set ad valorem taxes and rates and charges for services and may issue bonds.

The Fourth and Fifth Taxing Districts of Norwalk, which constitute the city of Norwalk proper, are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Housing Authorities

Three types of housing authorities are authorized under Connecticut law: municipal housing authorities (serving a single borough, city, or town), regional housing authorities (serving two or more boroughs, cities, or towns), and Indian housing authorities.

Municipal housing authorities are established by resolution of the borough, city, or town governing body. Each authority is governed by a board of commissioners appointed by the chief executive officer of the borough or city or

the town board of selectmen. The authorities may issue bonds and fix and collect rentals. Regional housing authorities may be established by two or more boroughs, cities, or towns and operate under similar provisions.

Under a 1976 general law, housing authorities may also be established for each designated Indian tribe. These public entities are created by state law and have public boards created under state law. The chief or other governing head of a tribe appoints five members of the tribe to be commissioners. These authorities have the same revenue powers as municipal housing authorities.

A city, borough, or town governing body may designate a housing authority as a redevelopment agency. Redevelopment agencies established as separate city, borough, or town agencies are not counted as separate governments for census purposes. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Improvement Associations

These associations are established by special acts of the general assembly but are under substantially uniform provisions as to organization and operation. An elected board governs each association. Each association may set ad valorem taxes, assessments, and charges for services. These associations may perform one or more of a variety of functions similar to those of fire and sewer districts. Some associations of this type are known locally as "beach associations."

Infrastructure Improvement Districts (special acts)

These districts are created by special acts. The districts exist to perform a number of community functions and facilities including fire fighting, street lighting, roads, sewage, parking, recreational facilities, flood control, and water systems. The districts are governed by popularly elected boards. The districts may set taxes, benefit assessments, and fees and may issue bonds.

Litchfield Hills Regional Water Authority

This authority was created by a 2006 special act to supply water to the city of Torrington and nearby towns. The authority is governed by a board of five directors who are appointed by a representative review board. The representative review board consists of four members appointed by the chief executive officer of the city and one member appointed by the chief executive officer of each participating town. The board of directors may issue bonds and set rates for water with the approval of the representative review board.

Metropolitan District (Hartford Area)

This district was established by a 1929 special act primarily to provide a water supply and sewerage system for the Hartford metropolitan area. Legislation also authorizes the district to sell, distribute, and transmit electric power; dispose of solid waste; and operate river front park facilities on the Connecticut River in the Hartford area. A board of 29 commissioners governs the district. Seventeen commissioners are appointed by the governing bodies of cities and towns within the district as specified by statute. In addition, eight commissioners are appointed by the Governor, one is appointed by the state house speaker, one is appointed by the minority leader of the state house, one is appointed by the senate president, and one is appointed by the minority leader of the senate. The district may set ad valorem taxes, fix charges for water, and issue bonds.

Municipal Electric Energy Cooperatives

These cooperatives are established to provide electric power by concurrent resolution of two or more municipalities. Each cooperative is governed by a cooperative utility board appointed by the governing body of each municipal electric utility represented; the number of representatives per member utility is specified in the agreement establishing the cooperative. These cooperatives may fix rates, fees, rentals, or charges and may issue revenue bonds. The Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative was formed under this law.

Pomperaug Valley Water Authority

This authority, authorized by special act to provide a water supply system for the towns of Bethlehem, Middlebury, Oxford, Southbury, and Woodbury, was established by referendum. An elected board of directors governs the authority. The authority may fix rates and charges and issue revenue bonds.

Putnam Special Service District

This district was established to finance fire protection, police protection, and street lighting under provisions of the town charter of Putnam. An elected board of five directors governs the district. The district may levy ad valorem taxes.

Special service districts established under a 1973 general law are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Regional Refuse Disposal District One

This district was established by the towns of New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winchester to provide solid waste management. A board of directors appointed by the governing authority of each city and town governs the district. The district may levy assessments and issue revenue and refunding bonds.

Regional Resource Recovery Authorities

These authorities are established by concurrent ordinances of participating boroughs, cities, or towns. The number of board members and their method of selection are determined by agreement between the participating governments. The authorities may fix fees or charges and may issue revenue bonds.

Authorities of this type that serve a single borough, city, or town are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Regional Water Pollution Control Authorities

These districts may be created by concurrent ordinances of two or more municipalities (town, city, borough, consolidated town and city, or consolidated town and borough). These districts provide and operate sewage facilities. The creating ordinances determine the number of directors and method of appointment. The authorities may set fees and assessments and may issue bonds.

Water pollution control authorities created by a single municipality under a different law are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

This authority was established by special act to provide water supply for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District. The authority governing board consists of five residents of the district appointed by the representative policy board which, in turn, consists of one member appointed by the chief elected official of each city or town in the district with the governing body’s approval, plus one member appointed by the Governor. The authority may fix rates and fees and issue revenue bonds.

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

This authority was established by a special act to provide water supply in the southeastern part of the state. The governing body of each participating city and town appoints two members to an advisory board that, in turn, appoints a five-member board to administer the authority. The board may fix rates and charges, set special benefit assessments, and issue revenue bonds.

Transit Districts

Any town, city, or borough, by itself or in cooperation with one or more other municipalities, may establish a transit district after voter approval. A board of directors

governs each district; it consists of members appointed by the participating governments as follows: Each municipality has at least one member, municipalities with a population from 25,000 to 100,000 have two, and those of 100,000 or more have four. The boards may fix rates, determine the proportionate share of the total appropriation to be paid by each municipality, and issue either revenue or general obligation bonds. Transit districts may provide transit service directly or contract with a public or private transit system for provision of transit service. Transit districts with similar provisions have been authorized by special acts.

Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority

This regional airport serves the south central Connecticut region. The authority is governed by a board of 14 directors. Nine directors are appointed by the mayor of New Haven, two are appointed by the mayor of East Haven, and three are appointed by the South Central Regional Council of Governments. The authority may set fees for services and issue revenue bonds.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in Connecticut that have certain characteristics of governmental units but that are classified in census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments and are not counted as governments. Legal provisions for some of the larger of these are discussed below (see "Public School Systems," above, regarding educational agencies of this nature).

Connecticut Development Authority (state).

This authority was created by act of the general assembly to provide mortgage credit for industrial, health care, pollution control, or recreational facilities. It is governed by a board consisting of four members appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, one by the minority leader of the senate, one by the speaker of the house of representatives and one by the minority leader of the house of representatives,

plus the commissioner of economic and community development, the state treasurer and the secretary of the office of policy and management. The authority may make mortgage loans, set fees and rentals in connection with its projects and loans, and issue revenue bonds.

Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (state). This authority was created by act of the general assembly to finance the construction of buildings for nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education, child care facilities, and other such nonprofit organizations. It is governed by a board of ten members, eight of whom are appointed by the Governor, plus the state secretary of the office of policy and management and the state treasurer. The authority may fix rates, rents, fees, and charges; make mortgage loans to qualifying hospitals and institutions; and issue revenue bonds.

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (state). This agency provides financial assistance for housing for low- and moderate-income families and persons through the purchase of government-insured mortgages. The authority consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, one by the speaker of the house of representatives, one by the minority leader of the senate and one by the minority leader of the house of representatives, plus the state treasurer, the commissioner of economic and community development, the secretary of the office of policy and management, the banking commissioner. The authority may issue revenue bonds secured by income from mortgage payments.

Connecticut Marketing Authority (state). This authority was established by a special act to develop and operate marketing facilities and to enable more economical distribution of Connecticut agricultural products. The authority is composed of one public member from each congressional district of the state, two at-large public members, the commissioner of agriculture, and the commissioner of economic

and community development. The Governor appoints three members of the authority and the president pro tempore of the senate, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority leader of the house of representatives each appoint one member. In addition, the Governor appoints two members of the authority who are tenants of the Hartford market facility. The authority may set rentals and issue bonds.

Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority

(state). This authority was created by act of the general assembly to finance facilities for recovery of resources from solid waste. A board of 12 directors governs the authority: four are appointed by the Governor, two each by the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house, one each by the minority leaders in the senate and the house, plus the commissioner of transportation and the commissioner of economic and community development. The authority may fix fees, make loans, and issue revenue bonds.

Redevelopment agencies (municipal and town).

General law permits cities, boroughs, or towns to establish these agencies or to designate the housing authority of the municipality as the redevelopment agency. Redevelopment agency boards are appointed by the chief executive officer of the sponsoring borough, city, or town with the approval of its governing body. Bonds for redevelopment purposes are issued by the borough, city, or town governments. Two or more municipalities may jointly create a redevelopment agency.

Soil and water conservation districts

(state). These districts are established by the state commissioner of environmental protection. A district board, selected by local residents in accordance with regulations of the state commissioner, governs each district. The districts are financed by state appropriations.

Other examples include:

State

Capital City Economic Development Authority
Connecticut Emergency Response

Commission

Connecticut Equestrian Center Corporation
Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service
Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority
Connecticut Housing Authority
Connecticut Innovations Incorporated
Connecticut Lottery Corporation
Connecticut Public Transportation Commission
Connecticut River Gateway Commission
Connecticut Student Loan Foundation
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Lower Fairfield County Convention Center Authority
Regional tourism districts
University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation (formerly John Dempsey Hospital Finance Corporation)

Municipal

Connecticut River Assembly
Decentralized wastewater management districts
District health departments
First Fire Taxation District of West Haven
Fourth and Fifth Taxing Districts and fire districts of Norwalk
Historic district commissions
Middletown Fire District
Middletown Sanitary District
Municipal districts
Municipal flood and erosion control boards
Municipal harbor commissions
Municipal resource recovery authorities (serving a single borough or city)
Municipal water authorities (city)
Municipal wetlands and watercourses commissions
Parking authorities and commissions
Port authorities or districts
Public recreational facilities authorities
Regional emergency medical services councils
Regional solid waste operating committees
Sewer authorities
Special service districts—1973 general law
Taxing districts (special acts)
Village districts
Water pollution control authorities

Town

Decentralized wastewater management districts
District health departments
Historic district commissions
Lake authorities
Municipal districts
Municipal flood and erosion control boards
Municipal harbor commissions
Municipal resource recovery authorities (serving a single town)

Municipal water authorities (town)
Municipal wetlands and watercourses commissions
Niantic River Gateway Commission
Parking authorities and commissions
Port authorities or districts
Public recreational facilities authorities
Sewer authorities
Special service districts—1973 general law
Taxing districts
Water pollution control authorities