

Texas

Texas ranks 3rd among the states in number of local governments, with 4,784 as of June 2002.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (254)

There are no areas in Texas lacking county government. The county governing body is called the commissioners court.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (1,196)

Municipal Governments (1,196)

Municipal governments in Texas are the cities, towns, and villages. Three types of municipalities are authorized under general law:

Type A cities and towns—1875 law

Type B towns and villages—1858 law

Type C cities, towns, and villages—1909 law

The minimum population required for incorporation is 600 for Type A municipalities, and 201 for Type B or C municipalities. There is no maximum population for Type A municipalities, but the maximum population is 9,999 for Type B municipalities and 4,999 for Type C municipalities. Type A and B municipalities may operate under the aldermanic or city manager forms of government, whereas Type C municipalities must operate under the commission form of government.

In addition, Texas law authorizes municipalities of 5,000 population or more to adopt home-rule charters. Municipalities organized under special acts prior to 1881 may continue to operate under and may, by resolution, amend their charters in any regard not in conflict with state law.

Township Governments (0)

Texas has no township governments.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (1,089)

School District Governments (1,089)

The following types of school districts in Texas are counted as separate governments for census purposes:

Common school districts

Independent (self-governing) school districts

Municipal school districts

Rural high school districts

Industrial training school districts

Rehabilitation districts for the handicapped

County, joint county, and union junior college districts

Independent junior college districts

Enlarged junior college districts (formerly “regional college districts”)

In 1995, authorizing legislation for common school districts, municipal school districts, rural high school districts, industrial training school districts, and rehabilitation districts for the handicapped was repealed. No new districts of these types may be formed, however, existing districts are allowed to continue under the former laws.

Common and independent school districts may in some cases be countywide, countyline (intercounty), or consolidated. An elected board of trustees governs each common or independent school district. Both types of may levy local school taxes and issue bonds.

Municipal school districts may certify the amount of school taxes to be collected by the city or town. Rural high school districts are governed by an elected board of trustees. Rural high school districts may levy school taxes and issue bonds.

An industrial training school district is governed by a board of trustees consisting of three elected members who appoint an additional four ex officio members—a city council member, a school district board member, a juvenile court judge in the county, and the county judge or a member of the commissioners court. Industrial training school districts may levy ad valorem taxes upon voter approval.

A rehabilitation district for the handicapped is administered by a board of directors. The total number of directors is determined by the population of the district. Some of the directors are recommended by a county commissioner covering each precinct and additional members representing the population are appointed by the county judge. Rehabilitation districts may levy ad valorem taxes.

The county and joint junior college, union junior college, independent junior college, and enlarged junior college districts are each administered by an elected board of trustees or regents. Districts of these types may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Dependent Public School Systems (1)

The University of Houston Charter School of Technology was created in 1997 to assist elementary school children

in academic development. The school is sponsored and operated by the University of Houston, and therefore is not an independent school system.

Other Educational Activities

A junior college administered directly by an independent school district is not counted as a separate government, but is classified as an activity of the school district. Legislation in 1965 established countywide vocational school districts that are financed by a county tax levy. These districts, however, are administered by the board of trustees of local school districts, and are not counted as separate governments. Also not counted as separate governments are the “common elementary districts” within rural high school districts. These have no boards or fiscal powers separate from the rural high school districts.

Regional education service centers, which provide various educational and support services to school districts, are created according to guidelines set by the state department of education. A seven-member board appointed by representatives of the participating school districts governs each center. The centers may receive contributions from participating school districts and grants from the state foundation school fund. As of June 2002, 20 regional education service centers were reported in operation.

Higher education authorities, which finance student loans and construction of higher education facilities, are listed under “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (2,245)

Texas statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below. It should be noted that some conservation and reclamation districts are also authorized to operate under the provisions of the water code, and the conservation and reclamation districts created by special acts may have the same designation as districts established under other general laws.

Agricultural Development Districts

Agricultural development districts are established under the same constitutional provisions as conservation and reclamation districts. These districts promote and encourage the conservation of soil and water in the area. A district is created upon petition to the county commissioner’s court by at least ten residents of the proposed district. Upon approval, the county commissioners will select a temporary board of commissioners until permanent members can be elected by the residents of the district. The district may issue bonds, enter into contracts to provide services, and impose charges for use of land or facilities.

Airport Authorities

Airport authorities to operate and maintain airports have been authorized under a number of special acts with similar provisions. Thus, authorities may be established by the

county commissioners court after petition of voters and approval by local referendum. A board of directors, either appointed by the county commissioners or elected by the voters, governs each authority. The authority may fix rates and charges for services and facilities. Airport authorities, as a rule, may issue both revenue and general obligation bonds, but general obligation bonds require voter approval.

Civic Center Authorities

These authorities to provide civic centers and related recreational facilities are created by the county judge on petition of the governing bodies of one or more cities following a public hearing. A board of directors, appointed by the county judge on recommendations from the cities included in the authority, governs each authority. The board of directors may issue revenue bonds and collect fees, rentals, and charges for services and facilities.

Conservation and Reclamation Districts

Conservation and reclamation districts may be established under either general or special laws. Under general law, such districts are created by the county commissioners (or by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission if the district serves two or more counties) on petition of landowners after hearing and, in some instances, local referendum. Conservation and reclamation districts established by special acts with substantially similar provisions are known by a variety of names.

Conservation and reclamation districts perform a variety of functions, including irrigation, flood control, water storage for both domestic use and irrigation, generation of power, water supply, sewerage and waste disposal, and soil conservation, as specified in the authorizing legislation for each district. Their boards of directors are appointed by the Governor or some state agency or by local officials, or are elected by the voters, as specified in the authorizing legislation for each district. Revenue for conservation and reclamation districts is mainly from rates and fees imposed for services. Some districts of this type may also levy ad valorem taxes or special assessments. These districts may also issue bonds and accept loans and gifts from the federal government.

Conservation and reclamation districts that are governed by the county commissioners court ex officio, including the Harris County Flood Control District, are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below).

For river authorities established under laws authorizing conservation and reclamation districts, see “River Authorities,” below.

For agriculture development districts established under laws authorizing conservation and reclamation districts, see “Agricultural Development Districts.”

The Edwards Aquifer Authority, also established under laws authorizing conservation and reclamation districts, is described below.

County Research and Development Authorities

Authorities to promote scientific research and development may be created by resolution of one or more counties in affiliation with one or more eligible research oriented institutions. A board of directors, appointed by the commissioners court of each county served and by the president of each eligible institution, governs each authority. Authorities may fix rents, fees, and charges, and may issue revenue bonds. No county research and development authorities were reported to be in existence as of June 2002.

Drainage Districts

Districts to provide for drainage of agricultural lands are established by the county commissioners court on petition of landowners and after hearing and referendum. A board of commissioners administers each district; the commissioners are appointed by the county commissioners or, on petition to the county commissioners, are elected by the voters. The districts may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Drainage districts that are governed by the county commissioners ex officio are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Edwards Aquifer Authority

The Edwards Aquifer Authority, created by special act under constitutional provisions applicable to conservation and reclamation districts, is the regional agency charged with protection and management of the aquifer in an eight-county area encompassing all of Bexar, Medina, and Uvalde Counties and parts of Comal, Caldwell, Hays, Guadalupe, and Atascosa Counties. The authority has the power to regulate wells, to set limits on total pumping from wells, to reduce aquifer water use, and to implement comprehensive regional planning for water conservation and future water supply. The board, comprised of 15 elected directors and two appointed directors, may assess user fees and may issue revenue bonds.

Emergency Communications Districts

Districts to provide a “911” emergency telephone number are established upon organization of the district board of managers, after voter approval. The board of managers consists of members appointed by the governing body of the participating governments represented. The district may impose a “911” service fee on telephone customers.

Emergency Services Districts

These districts to provide fire protection services and, optionally, ambulance and other emergency services are established by the county commissioners court on petition

of voters, after hearing and referendum. A board of commissioners appointed by the county commissioners court governs each single-county district. An elected board of commissioners governs each multicounty district. Both types of districts may levy ad valorem taxes and, with voter approval, impose a sales and use tax. Subject to the approval of the county commissioners court and referendum districts may issue bonds. A rural fire prevention district may convert to an emergency services district upon petition of voters and subject to procedures required to create a district. Following conversion, the emergency services district assumes all obligations and outstanding indebtedness of the rural fire prevention district.

Hospital Districts and Authorities

Texas statutes authorize the following types of districts to operate and maintain hospitals that are counted as separate governments:

Hospital authorities—1957 law

Hospital authorities—1963 law

Hospital districts—1957 general law

Hospital districts—1989 general law

Hospital authorities created under the 1957 law are established by ordinance of one or more cities. A board of directors, appointed by the city governing body, governs each authority. The authorities may fix charges and may issue revenue bonds, but may not levy taxes.

Hospital authorities created under the 1963 law are established by the county commissioners. A board of directors, initially appointed by the county commissioners court, governs each authority. However, the resolution authorizing revenue bonds for authority purposes may also indicate how a majority of directors are selected. The directors not specified in the resolution are appointed by the commissioners court. The authority may fix rates and charges for services and facilities.

Hospital districts created under the 1957 general law may be created in counties under 75,000 population that meet specified assessed valuation requirements, by the county commissioners on petition of voters and after local referendum. An elected board of trustees governs each district. The district may collect charges, levy ad valorem taxes, and issue bonds upon voter approval. Subsequent legislation in 1961 provided for two hospital districts in Brazoria County with the same general provisions as above.

Hospital districts created under the 1989 general law may be created by petition to the county judge, after public hearing and referendum. An elected board of directors governs each district. The districts may fix fees and charges, issue bonds, and, after voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes.

In addition, numerous hospital districts have been created by special legislation after voter approval. A board of directors, trustees, or managers governs each such district

and is usually elected, but is in some cases appointed. These districts may fix service charges, but ad valorem tax levies and bond issues require voter approval. However, for a few districts, the authorizing legislation requires county approval of capital projects. Districts for which such approval is required are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

The following types of hospital districts under general law are not counted as separate governments (see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below):

Hospital districts in counties over 190,000 population
Hospital districts with ex officio boards—1957 optional law

Health facilities development corporations created by a hospital district are classified as dependent on the hospital district creating them. They are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Housing Authorities

Texas laws authorize three types of housing authorities—county, municipal, and regional. The governing body of a county or city may, upon resolution of need, establish a county or city housing authority. Similarly, two or more counties may establish a regional housing authority; the newly formed regional district replaces any existing county districts. The mayor appoints the city housing authority commissioners, and the county commissioners appoint the county or regional housing authority commissioners. Housing authorities may fix rents and charges and issue bonds.

Housing Finance Corporations

These entities are described under “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below. Housing finance corporations that serve two or more governments are counted as special district governments, but housing finance corporations that serve only one county or city are not counted as separate governments.

Improvement Districts

These districts, created by special act, in areas outside of municipalities, are authorized to engage in projects which include landscaping, lighting, streets and sidewalks, solid waste, water, sewer, parking facilities, parks, and public transit. Districts have revenue and debt issuing powers as provided in each special act. Some, but not all, may issue bonds. Subject to referendum, districts may levy an ad valorem tax or impose a sales and use tax. Districts also may impose impact fees or assessments on properties as provided in each special act. These districts have functions similar to municipal management districts listed under “Municipal Subordinate Agencies and Areas.”

Irrigation Districts

Formation of districts to provide irrigation and drainage facilities is initiated by petition after public hearing and approval from the county commissioners (if the district covers a single county) or from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (if the district covers more than one county); confirmation by the voters is necessary. A board of five directors, elected by the voters, governs each district. The district may levy ad valorem taxes and impose water charges, and may issue bonds.

Jail Districts

Districts to finance jail facilities are created by petition of voters to one or more counties, after public hearing and referendum. An elected board of directors governs each district. The district may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds after voter approval. No jail districts were reported to be in existence as of June 2002.

Levee Improvement Districts

These districts to provide levees and reclamation are established by the county commissioners court, on petition of the landowners and after hearing. A board of directors, appointed by the county commissioners or elected at the option of voters, governs each district. The districts may issue bonds after referendum and may levy ad valorem taxes.

Library Districts

Library districts to promote and support area libraries are established by the county commissioner’s court on petition by 5 percent of registered voters, subject to county referendum. Upon passing of the referendum, voters choose in the same election the initial five board of trustees to govern the district. The board may levy a sales and use tax, and may fix fees and charges for services.

Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authorities

These authorities are established by contract between two or more cities, counties, hospital districts, school districts or combination thereof to provide community mental health and mental retardation services. A board of trustees appointed by the governments represented governs each authority. The authorities may fix fees and charges, and receive contributions from member governments in accordance with contractual provisions.

Mental health and mental retardation authorities serving a single county are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authorities

Municipalities having a population of 60,000 and located in a metropolitan area having a principal municipality with a population greater than 1.2 million may, by ordinance,

create a metropolitan rapid transit authority. The governing body of all authorities is appointed and varies in size as necessary to represent member municipalities. With voter approval, the district may levy sales and use taxes. Districts may also impose rates, fares, tolls, rents, vehicle-emission taxes, or other charges.

Prior to 1995, authorities had been created by the principal city in metropolitan areas to provide transit service in the metropolitan area. Metropolitan rapid transit authorities serving Austin, Corpus Christi, Houston, and San Antonio metropolitan areas were established under this law. The law also provides for the addition of member municipalities and county areas, subject to referendum in the proposed annexation areas.

Municipal Power Agencies

These agencies to provide for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power are created by the enactment of concurrent ordinances by two or more public corporations, including cities, towns, and conservation and reclamation districts. A board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of the creating governments, governs each agency. The agency may issue revenue bonds and enter into contracts for the sale or exchange of energy. The Texas Municipal Power Agency and the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency were established under this law.

Navigation Districts

Districts to construct, maintain, and operate port facilities are created by the commissioners court, on petition of resident landowners and after hearing and referendum. Districts may include not more than all or parts of two counties. The districts may be created under a couple of different laws. Districts for the development of deep-water navigation that include a city with a population of more than 100,000 may operate and develop ports and waterways inside the district and extending to the Gulf of Mexico. An appointed board of commissioners governs each district except for one district, the Trinity River Canal and Conservation District, which has an elected board. Districts may levy ad valorem taxes and may issue bonds after voter approval. Some navigation districts are called “port authorities.”

Noxious Weed Control Districts

These districts may be created by the county commissioners court on petition of landowners and after public hearing and local referendum. An elected board of directors administers each district. The districts may levy an ad valorem acreage tax.

Palacios Seawall Commission

This commission was created by a 1983 special act to maintain seawalls. It consists of appointed representatives of Palacios city and Matagorda County. The commission may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Public Health Districts

Districts to provide public health services are created by interlocal agreements between two or more local governments. The composition of the district governing body is specified in the agreement creating the district. The amount to be paid to the district from each participating government is also specified in that agreement.

Regional Tollway Authorities

Regional tollway authorities to operate and build tollways and turnpikes are established on petition to the commissioner’s court of each county that intends to be in the jurisdiction of the authority. A board of directors governs each district; with the commissioner’s court of each county selecting one member and the governor selecting one member. Other processes for selecting board members may be invoked depending on the size of the turnpike project involved. The authority may issue revenue bonds, and fix and collect tolls.

Regional Transportation Authorities

Regional transportation authorities to acquire, plan, construct, operate, and maintain a transportation system in the metropolitan area are established by petition initiated by a county or city governing body, after voter approval. The authority area is subdivided into subregions, each consisting of a principal municipality, the county of the principal municipality, and other municipalities and areas in the subregion. An 11-member executive committee, appointed by the subregional boards, governs each authority. Members of the subregional boards, in turn, are appointed by the governing bodies of participating county and municipal governments in accordance with a statutory formula. As an alternative, an authority serving one subregion may be governed by the subregional board. An authority may acquire, maintain, plan, and construct a transportation system. An authority also may charge rates, fares, and fees; issue revenue bonds; and, with voter approval, levy a sales tax. The Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Fort Worth Transportation Authorities are organized under this law.

River Authorities

River authorities are established by special acts of the legislature under the same constitutional provisions as conservation and reclamation districts. They may perform a variety of functions, including irrigation, flood control, water storage for both domestic use and irrigation, generation of electric power, sewerage and water disposal, and soil conservation as specified in the authorizing legislation for each authority. River authorities may encompass one or more counties. A board of directors, appointed or designated in whole or in part by the Governor, appointed by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission,

elected by the voters, or appointed by member governments, governs each authority. All river authorities may impose rates and charges; some may issue bonds. Only one river authority, upon voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes.

Rural Fire Prevention Districts

These districts to provide fire protection services are established by the county commissioners court on petition of voters, after hearing and referendum. A board of commissioners appointed by the county commissioners court governs each single-county district. An elected board of commissioners governs each multicounty district. Both types of districts may levy ad valorem taxes. Districts created that overlap territory of existing rural fire prevention districts do not include the overlapped territory when determining if it is a single-county or multicounty district.

A rural fire prevention district may convert to an emergency services district upon petition of voters and subject to procedures required to create a district. Following conversion, the emergency services district assumes all obligations and outstanding indebtedness of the rural fire prevention district.

Rural Rail Transportation Districts

Districts to preserve rail freight service are established by order of the commissioners courts of two or more contiguous counties. A board of directors, appointed by the commissioners courts of the counties served, governs each district. The district may fix rents and issue revenue bonds.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Soil and water conservation districts are established by the state soil and water conservation board on petition of landowners and after referendum. A board of directors governs each district; it consists initially of two members appointed by the state soil and water conservation board and three elected members, but their successors are elected. The districts may accept federal and state grants.

Special Utility Districts—1983 Law

Districts to provide water and sewer systems, fire protection, and solid waste collection, or any combination of these services, are created by petition of a water supply corporation to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, after public hearing and referendum. Districts may include any part or all of one or more counties. An elected board of directors governs each district. The districts may fix fees and charges and issue bonds.

Sports and Community Venue Districts

These districts to provide sports facilities are established under a separate law than sports facility districts. Any county, municipality, or combination of the two may create a district. A board of at least four directors governs

each district, with the nature and manner of selection of directors decided on by the creating governments. The district may issue bonds and levy a tax.

Districts that are created by a county with more than 3.3 million population or a municipality with more than 1.9 million population must seek prior approval to issue bonds, and therefore those districts are counted as dependent agencies. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

Sports Facility Districts

Districts to provide sports facilities may be created by order of the county commissioners court. An appointed board of five commissioners governs each district: two are appointed by the county commissioners court, two by the governing body of the most populous city in the county, and one by the school board of the largest school district in the county. The districts may fix fees, charges, and rentals, and may issue revenue bonds.

Superconducting Supercollider Facility Research Authorities

Authorities to finance, build, operate, and maintain projects in support of a nuclear supercollider research facility may be created by resolution or ordinance of two or more county, municipal, or special district governments. The composition of the authority governing body is specified in the resolution creating the authority. The authority may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds after voter approval. No superconducting supercollider facility research authorities were reported to be in existence as of June 2002.

Water Districts

The Texas Water Code permits the establishment of the following types of districts:

Districts established by the county commissioners court and serving one or part of one county:

Fresh water supply districts—water supply and fire protection

Underground water conservation districts (single county)—conservation and development of water supply

Water control and improvement districts (single county)—water supply, sewerage systems, irrigation, flood control, drainage, electric light and power, and navigation

Water improvement districts (single county)—irrigation and water supply

Water supply districts—water supply and conservation, and electric light and power

Districts established by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission:

Groundwater districts—water conservation and protection

Municipal utility districts—water supply, sewerage systems, flood control, parks and recreation, solid waste, and street lighting

Underground water conservation districts (multi-county)—conservation and development of water supply

Water control and improvement districts (multi-county)—water supply, sewerage systems, irrigation, flood control, drainage, electric light and power, and navigation

Water improvement districts (multicounty)—irrigation and water supply

Similar provisions apply to each of these types of districts. Each is established on petition of landowners to the county commissioners court (by constituent districts in the case of water supply districts) or to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission; a local referendum is required except for the water supply districts. All have elected governing bodies. They may issue bonds, fix and collect charges as appropriate, and, with the exception of water supply districts, may levy ad valorem taxes.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

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

Among the subordinate agencies and areas listed below, some represent “special taxing areas” within the territory of an established government. This method of financing additional services in limited areas by property taxation, while also used by some municipal and township governments in a few states, is more widely utilized by county governments. In the listing below of authorized county-related agencies, a bullet (▪) appears for each entity of this kind—i.e., any that may individually serve a portion rather than all of a county and for which a tax may be levied against the assessed value of property in the area served.

Deepwater Port Authority (state). This authority was established by a special act to provide an offshore deep-water port capable of accommodating supertankers for the import of crude oil and other fluid commodities. A nine-member board of commissioners, appointed by the Governor with senate approval, governs the authority. The authority may fix rentals, tolls, fees, rates, tariffs, and charges, and may issue revenue bonds.

Harris County Flood Control District (county). This district, which was organized under the conservation and reclamation district law (1937) to provide drainage, flood

control, and reclamation services (see “Special District Governments,” above) is not counted as a separate government. It is governed by the county commissioners of Harris County.

Health facilities development corporations (county, municipal, or special district). These corporations to finance health care facilities are established by resolution of the governing body of a county, municipality, or hospital district. A board of directors appointed by the creating government governs the corporation. The corporation receives revenue from the rental or sale of health facilities, and may issue revenue bonds.

Higher education authorities (municipal). These authorities to finance higher education facilities and student loans are established by ordinance of the creating municipality. A board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of the participating municipalities, governs the authority. The authority may fix charges, receive contributions, and issue revenue bonds.

Hospital districts in counties over 190,000 population (county). These districts are established by the county commissioners court, after voter approval. A board of hospital managers, appointed by the county commissioners court, governs each district. The county may levy taxes and issue revenue bonds for district purposes. The district budget may be adopted only after approval by the county commissioners court. The Bexar County, Dallas County, El Paso County, Harris County, Nueces County, and Tarrant County Hospital Districts were established under this law.

Housing finance corporations (county or municipal). These corporations are authorized to provide mortgage credit for housing. They are established upon application of three or more persons to the county or city governing body, after resolution of the governing body. A board of directors governs each corporation; the initial directors are named in the articles of incorporation, but their successors are appointed by the county or city governing body. A corporation may accept grants or contributions, fix charges in connection with its loans, and issue revenue bonds. Housing finance corporations that serve two or more governments are counted as special district governments; see “Special District Governments,” above.

Industrial development corporations (state, county, municipal, or special district). These corporations are authorized to provide facilities for industries. They are established on application of three or more persons to the governing body of a county, a city, or a conservation and reclamation district, after resolution of the establishing government. A board of directors, appointed by the establishing government, governs each corporation. A corporation may fix rentals, receive the proceeds of sales taxes (in

certain cities), and may issue revenue bonds, subject to the approval of the establishing government.¹

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (state).

This corporation was created by act of the legislature to finance loans to students. The corporation board consists of 11 directors, eight of whom are appointed by the Governor, one by the commissioner of higher education, one by the coordinating board of the Texas college and university system, and the comptroller of public accounts ex officio. The corporation may receive contributions, fix charges in connection with its loans, and may issue revenue bonds.

Texas Hospital Equipment Financing Council (state).

This agency was repealed by law in 1999.

Texas Public Finance Authority (state). This authority, formerly named the Texas Public Building Authority, was created by act of the legislature to finance state buildings. A board appointed by the Governor with the consent of the senate governs the authority. The authority may fix rentals and may issue revenue bonds.

Texas Turnpike Authority (state). This authority ceased to be a state agency in 1997, and is now a division of the Department of Transportation.

Texas Water Resources Finance Authority (state).

This authority was established by act of the legislature to finance water resources conservation and development by purchasing water-related bonds issued by Texas political subdivisions. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission governs the authority in an ex officio capacity. The authority may receive interest from bonds it acquires, and may issue revenue bonds.

Urban renewal agencies (municipal). These agencies may be established by the city council after local referendum. A board of commissioners appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council governs each agency. An urban renewal agency may accept grants and appropriations and issue revenue bonds. The sponsoring city may issue general obligation bonds for urban renewal purposes and may levy taxes for this purpose with the approval of the voters.

Other examples include:

State

Agricultural Finance Authority
Intermunicipal commuter rail districts
Texas Economic Development Corporation
Texas High Speed Rail Authority

Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority
Texas Military Facilities Commission
Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
(formerly Texas Water Development Board)
Veterans Land Board

County

City-county health units (county portion)
City-county hospitals (county portion)
Conservation and reclamation districts governed by county commissioners (special acts)
Corrigan Hospital District (Polk County)
County appraisal districts
County building authorities
Crime control districts
Defense base development authorities (rural areas)
Drainage districts governed by county commissioners
Health services districts
Hood County Hospital District
Hospital districts governed by county commissioners (1957 optional law)
Joint county-municipal auditorium boards (county portion)
Joint city-county hospital boards (county portion)
Livingston Hospital District (Polk County)
Lubbock County Hospital District
Mental health and mental retardation authorities (single-county)
▪ Mosquito control districts
Park districts (counties with river frontage on both the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers)
Redevelopment authorities
▪ Road districts
Road utility districts
Rural and urban transit districts
Sports and community venue districts (based on population)
Storm water control districts
Titus County Hospital District
Tyler County Hospital District
Wind erosion conservation districts

Municipal

City of Laredo Port of Entry Authority
City-county health units (city portion)
City-county hospitals (city portion)
City elderly housing corporations
County mass transit authorities
Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport Board²
Defense base development authorities
Industrial districts (administrative areas)
Joint county-municipal auditorium boards (municipal portion)

¹The Texas Small Business Industrial Development Corporation, which is governed by the Texas Economic Development Commission, was organized under this law.

²The budget of the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport Board is subject to approval by the city governing bodies of Dallas and Fort Worth.

Joint city-county hospital boards (city portion) La Porte
Area Water Authority
Municipal management districts
Municipal parking authorities
Municipal property finance authorities or corporations
Public improvement districts
Redevelopment authorities
Road utility districts
Sports and community venue districts (based on
population)

Other

Pollution control districts created within the Gulf Coast
Waste Disposal Authority are administered by the author-
ity and are classified as dependent activities thereof. The

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, in turn, is organized
as a conservation and reclamation district under Texas
law, and is counted as a special district government for
census purposes.

Texas laws also provide for various types of local areas for
election purposes and administration of justice.