

# Florida

---

Florida ranks 25th among the states in number of local governments, with 1,191 active as of June 2002.

## **COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (66)**

The entire area of the state is encompassed by county governments except for Duval County. Effective October 1, 1968, Duval County and the city of Jacksonville consolidated to form one government, designated the city of Jacksonville. Jacksonville is counted as a municipal government, rather than as a county government in census reporting.<sup>1</sup>

Each county government in the state is governed by a board of county commissioners. Under general law, county governments may adopt home-rule charters. These charters can include a broad range of powers.

Although the metropolitan government of Dade County performs many municipal-type services, and is classified as a “municipality” in Florida statutes, it is designated a county and is counted as a county government for census purposes.<sup>2</sup> All cities, towns, and villages in Dade County are counted as separate municipal governments.

## **SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (404)**

### **Municipal Governments (404)**

Municipal governments in Florida can include cities, towns, and villages. They are established by either special acts of the legislature or by general law. The metropolitan government of Miami-Dade County is counted as a county government, rather than as a municipal government, for census purposes (see “County Governments,” above). Municipal governments were given home-rule powers by general law in 1973.

Under general law, municipalities must fulfill the following minimum population requirements to incorporate: It must have a total population, as determined in the latest official state census, special census, or estimate of population, in

<sup>1</sup>For cities and towns located in Duval County continue to exist as separate governments: Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Jacksonville Beach, and Neptune Beach. The “general services district,” which encompasses all of Duval County, and the “urban services district,” which covers the densely-populated portion of Duval County, are not counted as separate governments.

<sup>2</sup>Effective November 13, 1997, Dade County was renamed Miami-Dade County.

the area proposed to be incorporated of at least 1,500 persons in counties with a population of 75,000 or less, and of at least 5,000 population in counties with a population of more than 75,000. The average population density per acre required for incorporation, unless extraordinary conditions can be shown, is 1.5 persons or more per acre.

### **Township Governments (0)**

Florida has no township governments.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (95)**

### **School District Governments (95)**

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

- County school systems
- Community college districts

Each county area in the state constitutes a unit for the administration and the operation of public schools. County school systems are governed by elected school boards. These boards may levy local school taxes and issue bonds with the approval of the voters. The 28 community college districts are administered by boards of trustees appointed by the Governor with the consent of the senate. These districts may impose student fees and may borrow money. State funds are distributed to community college districts in accordance with a statutory formula.

### **Dependent Public School Systems (0)**

Florida has no dependent public school systems.

### **Other Educational Activities**

Two or more school districts may enter into an agreement to operate area technical center. These centers are counted as dependent activities of the participating school districts, and are not counted as governments. Formed by two or more school districts, educational consortiums provide services to their members. These entities are classified as dependent activities of participating school districts, and are not counted as separate governments.

## **SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (626)**

Florida statutes authorize for the creation of a variety of special districts. Listed and discussed in detail below are active special districts, which are counted as governments

---

for census purposes. Florida law, through unrepealed special acts, also allows for the existence of numerous special districts that have never become active. These are not included.

**Agencies Established by Interlocal Agreements—1969 Law (not included in other types of special district governments shown elsewhere)**

Local government units may agree to exercise any of their powers jointly. Such an agreement may establish a separate agency that may or may not be counted as a government for census purposes, according to the degree of autonomy given it and the method of selecting its governing body. The functions to be performed by such an agency are specified in the agreement. The South Central Regional Wastewater Authority and the Florida Municipal Power Agency, created under this law, are counted as special district governments for census reporting.

Transit authorities can also be established under this law. Some examples of transit authorities created by interlocal agreements are the Orlando-Seminole-Osceola and Hillsborough County Transit Authorities. Agencies established under this law can have a wide variety of names. For census reporting, they are classified as special districts. Bond pools and financing commissions created under this act are not counted as separate governments if their debt constitutes a liability of the parties to the agreement establishing such an entity. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

**Airport/Aviation Authorities and Districts**

The following authorities and districts were created by special acts to provide and operate airports:

Boca Raton Airport Authority—administered by an appointed board.

Charlotte County Airport Authority—is governed by five commissioners, from five districts, who are elected by the by the citizens of Charlotte County.

Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority is an appointed board of eight: one by the Alachua County Commission, two by the Governor, and five by the city of Gainesville.

Greater Orlando Aviation Authority—is governed by a board of seven members, five appointed by the governor, one appointed by the city council of Orlando, and one appointed by Orange County board of commissioners.

Panama City-Bay County Airport and Industrial District—administered by a five-member board, with four members appointed by the city and county governing bodies and one chosen by the above appointees.

St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority—administered by an elected board of five members.

Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority—administered by a board of eight members, four elected from Manatee County and four from Sarasota County.

West Orange Airport Authority—administered by a board of nine members, three appointed by the governor, three appointed by Orange County board of commissioners, and one by each of the cities of Apopka, Ocoee, and Winter Garden.

These airport authorities and districts may impose rates and charges for use of their facilities, may receive grants and contributions from other governments. In addition, the St. Augustine-St. Johns County and the Sarasota-Manatee authorities may levy taxes. Each of these authorities and districts may issue bonds and may finance industrial facilities.

For airport/aviation authorities and districts that are dependent agencies of county or municipal governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

**Beach and Shore Preservation Districts**

The following districts were created by special act to control flooding and beach erosion:

Captiva Erosion Prevention District  
Greater Boca Raton Beach Tax District

Substantially similar provisions apply to these two districts. Both are governed by five-member elected boards. They may levy taxes and special assessments, and issue bonds.

For beach and shore preservation districts established under general law, which are governed by the county commissioners ex officio, and are not counted as separate governments, see "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

**Boards of Juvenile Welfare**

These boards, sometimes called children's services councils, are created by county ordinance to provide child guidance and mental health services, to care for dependent juveniles, and to coordinate juvenile welfare services. The 2002 Census of Governments indicated that the following counties have active juvenile welfare boards: Brevard, Hillsborough, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and Pinellas. Each board consists of five members appointed by the Governor, plus the county superintendent of schools, the district administrator for the state department of health and rehabilitative services, one member of the county school board, one member of the

---

county board of commissioners, and a judge assigned to juvenile cases. The board may receive county appropriations and, with voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes.

### **Community Development Districts**

A 1980 law authorizes the creation of community development districts by ordinance of a county commission or municipal government body (for districts under 1,000 acres) or by rule of the Florida land and water adjudicatory commission (for districts over 1,000 acres), after petition by landowners. These districts may finance various capital improvements, including sewers, streets, and water supply systems. A board of five supervisors elected by the landowners governs each district. These districts may levy property taxes and special assessments and issue bonds.

### **Commuter Rail Authorities**

Florida statutes authorize the creation of the following authorities to provide commuter rail service:

**Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (formerly the Central Florida Commuter Rail Authority now doing business as LYNX).** This authority, which serves Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties, is governed by a board of five directors consisting of three county (chair of the board of commissioners or a designee), one city (the Mayor of the city of Orlando or a designee), and one member from the Florida Department of Transportation.

**Tampa Bay Commuter Rail Authority.** This authority, which is to serve Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties, is governed by a board of 12 directors, including one appointed by the metro planning organization of each county, one appointed by the county commissioners of each county, one appointed by the local transit authority in each county, one appointed by the state Secretary of Transportation, one appointed by the Florida High Speed Rail Commission, and one appointed by the Governor.

**Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority** This authority, which serves Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, is governed by a board of nine directors, including one county commissioner and one citizen appointed by the county commissioners of each county, one employee of the state Department of Transportation, one member of the Florida High Speed Rail Commission, and one member appointed by the Governor.

Each of these authorities may fix rates, fares, fees, rentals, and charges and may issue revenue bonds.

### **Conservation, Irrigation, and Reclamation Districts**

The following districts were created by special acts to provide for drainage, erosion control, reclamation, sewerage, or water supply, or any combination of these five functions:

Dog Island Conservation District  
Oklawaha Basin Recreation and Water Conservation and Control Authority  
South Broward Drainage District (formerly Hollywood Reclamation District)  
South Florida Conservancy District  
Tindall Hammock Irrigation and Soil Conservation District  
  
Dog Island Conservation District, South Broward Drainage District, South Florida Conservancy District, and Tindall Hammock Irrigation and Soil Conservation District are administered by elected boards. Other districts of this type are administered by boards appointed by the Governor.

For districts of these types that are dependent agencies of county governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

### **County Educational Loan Authorities**

These authorities are created by county ordinance to finance student loans. A board of five members, appointed by the county commissioners, governs each authority. The authority may fix fees, rates, and charges and may issue revenue bonds.

As an alternative to creating authorities of this type, a county may delegate the power to finance student loans to an existing higher education facilities authority.

### **County Health Care Districts**

These authorities are created by county ordinance, upon voter approval, to provide funding for health care services. A board of five or more members, with two members appointed by the Governor and the other members appointed by the county commissioners, governs each district. The districts may, by voter approval, levy ad valorem taxes, but may not issue bonds.

The Palm Beach County Health Care District was created under a special act. It is governed by a seven-member board, with five members appointed by the county commissioners, and two members appointed by the Governor. It may fix fees and charges, levy ad valorem taxes, and issue bonds.

These districts are to be distinguished from the public health trusts listed under "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

### **County Hospital Boards, Districts, and Authorities**

**General law.** Under general law, the county commissioners may create county hospital boards to provide, operate, and maintain hospitals by petition of resident freeholders and after local referendum. The Governor appoints members of county hospital boards. These boards may determine the amount of required property tax levies, fix fees,

---

accept loans or grants from the federal government, and receive county appropriations. A hospital board may also determine the amount of bond issues for which the county issues bonds.

**Special acts.** Provisions for hospital districts established by special acts are substantially the same as for those established under general law. In most instances, the Governor appoints the board, although election of board members is sometimes authorized, and city or county officials in an ex officio capacity sometimes constitute part of the board membership. As under the general law, these boards may levy taxes and fix rates and fees. Most may issue district bonds, usually after voter approval. Most hospital districts in Florida operate under special legislation. For hospital districts that are dependent agencies of county governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

### **Educational Facilities Authorities**

Authorities to finance the construction of facilities for institutions of higher education are created by ordinance of the county commissioners. A board of five members appointed by the county commissioners governs each authority. The authorities may collect rent and fees, accept grants, and issue revenue bonds.

The Dade County Educational Facilities Authority is, under provisions of the charter of the Metropolitan Government of Dade County, subject to county administrative and fiscal control, and is therefore not counted as a separate government. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

### **Escambia County Utilities Authority**

This authority was established by special act to provide water and sewer utilities, and is governed by a five member board. The authority may fix rates, fees, and charges; levy special assessments; and issue bonds.

### **Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District**

This district was established after referendum to operate facilities to prevent, control, and correct environmental problems within the Everglades area in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties. A board of six members, five elected by the landowners and the executive director of the South Florida Water Management District, who serves in an ex officio capacity, governs the district. The district may levy special assessments, and may issue bonds.

### **Fire Control and Fire Protection Districts**

Fire control and protection districts are created by special acts but with substantially uniform provisions. Most are administered by boards appointed by the governor,

although election of boards is sometimes authorized. The usual method of financing is through benefit assessments, but some of the districts may levy taxes.

For districts of this type that are dependent agencies of county or municipal governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

### **Gas Districts**

The following districts were established by special acts to supply gas:

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District  
Okaloosa County Gas District  
Palatka Gas Authority

A board appointed by the participating governments governs each district. These districts may collect rates and charges, and may issue bonds.

### **Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority**

This authority was established by a special act to operate the Gasparilla Island bridge and causeway. It is governed by a board of five elected members, and four nonvoting members appointed by the elected members. The authority may levy ad valorem taxes, fix and collect tolls, and issue revenue bonds.

### **Housing Authorities**

Florida general law provides for three types of housing authorities—county, municipal, or regional (two or more contiguous counties). The authorities are established by resolution of the county or city governing bodies. Municipal housing authority commissioners are appointed by the mayor; county and regional housing authority commissioners are appointed by the Governor. Housing authorities may fix and collect rentals, receive federal contributions, and issue revenue bonds.

Area housing commissions to provide public housing have been created by special act in some localities. These acts provide for appointment of the members of the commissions representing the various governments served. These commissions may fix and collect rentals and may issue revenue bonds.

### **Housing Finance Authorities**

Housing finance authorities may be created to provide mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income housing, by ordinance of the county commissioners. The five-member authority board is appointed by the county commissioners. The authorities may make loans to mortgage lending institutions, fix charges, and issue revenue bonds.

County governments may reorganize housing finance authorities as agencies of the county government. In counties where such reorganizations have taken place, housing finance authorities are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

---

## Improvement Districts

The following improvement districts were established by special acts:

Cold Springs Improvement District  
Coral Springs Improvement District  
Indian Trail Improvement District  
North Springs Improvement District  
Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District  
Plantation Acres Improvement District  
Reedy Creek Improvement District  
Spring Lake Improvement District

These districts provide a variety of services including: sewerage, water, drainage, irrigation, roads, and parks. Each is governed by an elected board. Improvement districts may levy taxes and issue bonds.

## Joint Electric Power Supply Projects—1975 Law

Two or more agencies operating electric utilities may, by agreement, create a joint agency to acquire, construct, and operate power supply projects. The composition of the governing body is specified in the agreement. Joint agencies of this type may impose rates and charges and issue bonds. The Florida Municipal Power Agency was created under this law.

## Key West Utility Board

This board was created to operate electric utilities in Key West. It was authorized by special act, and its board is elected by the voters. It may fix charges and issue revenue bonds.

## Lee County Hyacinth Control District

This district was established by special act. Although it is governed by the board of the Lee County Mosquito Control District, the Hyacinth Control District funds are completely separate from the funds of the Mosquito Control District. The Lee County Hyacinth Control District may levy ad valorem taxes.

## Library Districts

The following districts were established by special acts to provide and operate libraries:

Alachua County Library District—administered by a five-member board consisting of three county commissioners and two members of the Gainesville city council.

Fort Myers Beach Library District—administered by a seven-member elected board.

Merritt Island Library District—administered by a 13-member governing body appointed by the Governor.

These library districts are financed by property tax levies. For library districts that are dependent agencies of county governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

## Lighting Districts

The following district was established by special act to provide street lighting:

### Pinecraft Lighting District

This district was created by a special act. A board appointed by the Governor governs the district. The district may levy benefit assessments. The Gulf Gate and Warm Mineral Springs Districts were converted to municipal service taxing units by 1986 legislation, and are now classified as dependent activities of Sarasota County.

For lighting districts that are dependent agencies of county governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

## Mobile Home Park Recreation Districts

These districts provide street lighting and recreational facilities. They are established by county or municipal ordinance, upon voter approval. An elected board of supervisors governs each district. The districts may levy special assessments, fix charges for use of recreational facilities, and issue bonds.

## Mosquito Control Districts

A general law provides for establishment of these districts by county commissioners after petition has been made by landowners. Since 1980, any new districts created under the general law, which are governed by the county commissioners ex officio, are not counted as separate governments (see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas” below).

Independent special districts of this class are governed by elected boards. Created under the general law and/or by special act, the following districts may levy ad valorem taxes, and in some cases issue revenue bonds:

Amelia Island Mosquito Control District  
Anastasia Mosquito Control District  
Beach Mosquito Control District of Panama City Beach  
Buckhead Ridge Mosquito District  
Citrus County Mosquito Control District  
Collier Mosquito Control District  
East Flagler Mosquito Control District  
Florida Keys (Monroe County) Mosquito Control District  
Fort Meyers Beach Mosquito Control Tax District  
Indian River Mosquito Control District  
Lee County Mosquito Control District  
Manatee County Mosquito Control District

---

Moore Haven Mosquito Control District  
Pasco County Mosquito Control District  
South Walton County Mosquito Control District

### **Municipal Service Districts**

The following municipal service districts were created by special acts to provide various services:

Lake Asbury Municipal Service District  
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District

The Ponte Vedra district is governed by an elected board. The district may levy ad valorem taxes; fix rates, fees, and charges; and issue bonds. Similar provisions apply to the Lake Asbury District.

### **Navigation and Port Districts and Authorities**

The following districts were established by special acts. They provide and operate port facilities and ship channel improvements. Some may also provide and operate airports or finance industrial facilities as well:

Canaveral Port Authority  
Carrabelle Port and Airport Authority  
Hillsboro Inlet District  
Jupiter Inlet District  
Lake Region Lakes Management District  
Port of Palm Beach District  
St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District  
Sebastian Inlet Tax District  
West Coast Inland Navigation District

The governing bodies of these districts may be elected, appointed by local officials, or appointed by the Governor. They may issue bonds and collect tolls and fees, and levy taxes.

For districts of this type that are dependent agencies of county or municipal governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas” below.

### **Orlando Utilities Commission**

This commission was created by a special act to provide water and electric utilities within the Orlando area. Its members are nominated by the nominating board of the city of Orlando, subject to the approval of the remaining members of the Orlando Utilities Commission itself. The commission may fix service charges and may issue revenue bonds.

### **Recreation Districts**

These districts provide and operate recreational facilities and may be established by ordinance of a city or county governing body, after referendum, or by a petition of the majority of the voters. An elected board of supervisors governs each district. The districts may levy taxes, collect user fees, and issue revenue bonds.

The following districts were created by special acts:

Barefoot Bay Recreation District  
Bay Colony Special Recreation District  
Bayshore Garden Park and Recreation District  
Carrollwood Recreation District  
Cypress Club Recreation District  
Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District  
Greater Seminole Area Special Recreation District  
Hendry-Labelle Recreation Board  
Holiday Park and Recreation District  
Port Malabar Holiday Park Mobile Home and Recreation District  
Sunrise Lakes Phase IV Recreation District  
Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District  
Tri-Par Estates Park and Recreation District  
Twelve Oaks Special (Recreation) District

The Daytona Beach and Greater Seminole districts have locally appointed boards, and the other districts have elected boards. Each may collect fees and/or special benefit assessments, and the Greater Seminole district may levy ad valorem taxes.

Recreation districts that are governed by county or municipal governing bodies ex officio are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

### **Regional Water Management Districts**

A general law divides the state into the following water management districts to provide flood control and water conservation facilities:

Northwest Florida Water Management District  
St. Johns River Water Management District  
South Florida Water Management District  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
Suwannee River Water Management District

Each of these districts is administered by a board appointed by the Governor. Regional water management districts may levy ad valorem taxes, accept state grants, and issue general obligation bonds.

Subdistricts or basins are established by the governing body of a regional water management district. They are administered by boards of at least three members appointed by the Governor, and with a member of the board of the establishing regional water management district serving as ex officio chairperson. These subdistricts may levy ad valorem taxes, but are not counted as separate governments for census purposes.

### **Regional Water Supply Authorities—1974 Law**

These authorities are established pursuant to interlocal agreements to provide wholesale water supply. The composition of the authority governing body is specified in

---

the interlocal agreement. Regional water supply authorities may levy ad valorem taxes, collect charges, accept grants, and issue revenue bonds.

### **Sanitary and Water Supply Districts**

The following districts were established by special act to provide water supply, sewerage, or solid waste disposal facilities:

Alligator Point Water Resources Board  
Cedar Key Special Water and Sewer District  
Collins Slough Water District  
Eastpoint Water and Sewer District  
Englewood Water District  
Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (water supply)  
Homosassa Special Water District  
Immokalee Water and Sewer District  
Loxahatchie River Environmental Control District  
South Seminole and North Orange County Wastewater Transmission Authority

The districts listed above are administered by boards appointed by the Governor or elected. South Seminole-North Orange authority has a locally appointed board. All of these districts may collect charges for their services, accept grants and contributions, and issue bonds. Several may levy taxes, and most may levy special benefit assessments.

Districts of this type can also be dependent agencies of county governments, and are not counted as separate governments, see “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below. Their boards usually consist of county commissioners serving in an ex officio capacity.

### **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

These districts are established by the State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on petition of landowners and after local referendum. An elected board of supervisors governs each district. Soil and water conservation districts may require contributions from benefited landowners and may accept state appropriations.

Watershed improvement districts are created within soil and water conservation districts and are not counted as separate governments. Their elected boards of directors act under the supervision of the parent soil and water conservation district. They may issue bonds and levy taxes after voter approval.

### **Transit Authorities**

A general law provides that two or more local governments may establish a regional transportation authority to provide transit service. A board appointed by the Governor and the creating governments governs each authority. The Suwannee Valley Transit Authority was established under this law.

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority was established by special act. Members of its board are appointed by the county and participating cities. The authority may set rates and charges, borrow money, and, with voter approval, levy ad valorem taxes.

The following transit authority was established under an interlocal agreement:

Hillsborough County Transit Authority

The Tri-County Transit Authority was dissolved in 1993, and its functions were taken over by the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (see “Commuter Rail Authorities” above.)

### **Water Control Districts**

A general law authorizes the establishment of these districts, formerly called “drainage districts” or “water management districts,” by the circuit court on petition of landowners. These districts provide drainage, reclamation, and water conservation facilities. An elected board governs each district. Water control districts may levy benefit assessments and issue bonds. A 1980 amendment to this law allows existing districts to continue in operation, but provides that any future districts may be established only by special act or by action of a county governing body. The Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy District and the Sunny Isles Reclamation and Water District were also established under this law.

A number of water control districts have been established by special acts, but generally are governed by most of the provisions of the general law. Some special act districts have been given broadened powers. Districts created by action of the county governing body are governed by the county commissioners serving in an ex officio capacity. They are not counted as separate governments. See “Subordinate Agencies and Areas,” below.

### **SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS**

Shown below are various governmental designations in Florida 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).

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.

In addition to the specific classes of entities listed below, counties have the power (under a general law) to create a wide variety of municipal service taxing units to provide virtually any type of service. Such districts are not included in the other types of subordinate agencies and areas listed below. They are governed by the county commissioners, and are not counted as separate governments.

**Dade County Port Authority (county).** This authority was established by a 1945 special act, but was reorganized in 1973 as two separate agencies—the Dade County Aviation Department and the Dade County Seaports Department.

**Expressway Authorities (state).** The following authorities have been established by acts of the legislature:

Brevard County Expressway Authority  
Broward County Expressway Authority  
Central Florida Expressway Authority  
Jacksonville Transportation Authority  
Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority  
Pasco County Expressway Authority  
St. Lucie County Expressway Authority  
Seminole County Expressway Authority  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority

These agencies, established to provide toll highway facilities, operate under lease-purchase agreements with the State Department of Transportation. Each authority is governed by a board consisting of members selected by the Governor or by county or city officials plus, in some cases, county or city officials serving in an ex officio capacity. Expressway authorities may fix tolls, receive earmarked portions of state gasoline taxes, and issue bonds. The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority may enter lease-purchase agreements with the city, the county, the state or any agency thereof, or federal agencies. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority also owns the local transit system in the Jacksonville area.

**Florida Housing Finance Agency (state).** This agency was created by act of the legislature to provide mortgage credit for low and middle-income housing. A board of ten members, nine appointed by the Governor plus the secretary of community affairs ex officio, governs the agency. The agency may fix fees and charges, make mortgage loans, and issue revenue bonds.

**St. Lucie County Port and Airport Authority (county).** This authority, formerly the Fort Pierce Port and Airport Authority, was established by special act to provide port and airport facilities, and to finance industrial development. It is administered by the board of county commissioners of St. Lucie County. The authority may levy taxes, fix rates and charges, and issue revenue bonds.

**Industrial development authorities (county).** These authorities are established by resolution of the county governing body to finance the construction of industrial, airport, port, pollution control, health care, commercial, or recreational facilities. The authority board consists of five members appointed by the county governing body. The authority may fix charges, set fees and rent, and may issue revenue bonds.

**Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Authority (county).** Under Dade County home-rule powers, this authority was created by county ordinance to provide sewerage and water supply. A board appointed by the county commissioners administers the authority. The authority's budget and rate proposals must be submitted to the county commissioners for approval.

Other examples are:

### State

Correctional Education School Authority  
Correctional Medical Authority  
Creek Indian Council  
Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
Everglades Fire Control District  
Florida Credit Union Guaranty Corporation  
Florida Health Access Corporation  
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation  
Florida Inland Navigation District  
Local health units  
Navigation districts (under supervision of the state division of resource management)  
Ocean Highway and Port Authority  
Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority  
Spaceport Florida Authority  
State Fair Authority  
State Health Facilities Authority  
Suwannee River Authority  
Technological Research and Development Authority

### County

Airport authorities and districts (county and joint county-city)  
Anastasia Sanitary District  
Beach and shore preservation districts  
Canal special assessment districts  
Civic center authorities (county and joint county-city)  
Community redevelopment agencies  
Development authorities and districts  
Education facilities authorities  
Electric enforcement districts  
Emergency medical services  
Fine arts councils  
Fire control and protection  
Government center authorities  
Health facilities authorities



Historic preservation boards  
 Hospital boards and authorities  
 Housing finance authorities (reorganized as agencies of the county government)  
 \*Improvement service districts  
 Island Flood Control District North  
 Land authorities  
 Law libraries  
 Libraries  
 Marion County Utility Authority  
 Mosquito control districts with ex officio boards  
 Municipal service taxing units  
 Navigation and port districts  
 New River Drainage District  
 Northdale Special District  
 Pensacola—Escambia Promotion and Development Commission (joint county-city)  
 Pinellas Sports Authority  
 Planning and zoning districts and commissions  
 Port St. Lucie Street Lighting District  
 Public health trusts  
 Putnam County Nursing Home Authority  
 Recreation districts with ex officio boards  
 Recreation and water conservation and control districts and authorities  
 Regional Jails  
 Research and development authorities  
 \*Road and bridge districts  
 Safe neighborhood improvement districts  
 Santa Rosa Island Authority  
 Sugarwood Groves Special District  
 Tri-County Airport Authority (Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties)  
 Water control districts with ex officio boards  
 \*Water and sewer districts

## **Municipal**

Airport authorities and districts (city and joint city-county)  
 Carrollwood Meadows Special District  
 Civic center authorities (city and joint city-county)  
 Community redevelopment agencies  
 Downtown development and improvement authorities  
 Electric enforcement districts  
 Emergency medical services  
 Fine arts councils and authorities  
 Fire districts and authorities  
 Government center authorities  
 Health facilities authorities  
 Historic preservation boards  
 Jacksonville Sports Development Authority  
 Jacksonville Vocational Educational Authority  
 Jupiter Island Beach Protection District  
 Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority  
 Navigation and port districts and authorities  
 North Port Road and Drainage District  
 Pompano Beach Farmers Market Authority  
 Recreation districts with ex officio boards  
 Safe neighborhood improvement districts  
 Tampa Sports Authority  
 Urban renewal commissions  
 Utilities boards and commissions  
 West Palm Beach Golf Commission

## **Tribal**

Special improvement districts on tribal lands. Florida laws also provide for various types of local areas for election purposes and administration of justice.