

Number of Local Governments

As of 07-03-07*

General Purpose Local Governments	1,607
Counties	57
Cities	62
Towns	932
Villages	556
Special Purpose Local Governments	1,565
School Districts	698
Fire Districts	867
Authorities/Special Purpose Entities	1,078
Local Public Authorities	350
Housing Authorities	123
Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs)	116
Urban Renewal Agencies	43
Water and Sewer Authorities	26
Facility Development Authorities	11
Solid Waste Authorities	11
Parking Authorities	7
Health Care Authorities	5
Transportation Authorities	5
Miscellaneous Authorities	3
Other Special Purpose Units	728
Library Systems and Districts	272
Joint Activity Districts	185
Town Special Districts	66
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	58
Consolidated Health Districts	54
BOCES	37
Community Colleges	37
Regional Planning Boards	10
Off-Track Betting Corporations	6
Miscellaneous Special Purpose Units	3
Total Local Government Entities	4,250

*Note that this number is an estimate and subject to refinements based on whether certain entities still exist and whether they should be considered government entities.



Number of Local Governments – 4,250

As of 07-03-07*

General Purpose Local Governments – 1,607

Counties – 57

Does not include the five boroughs of New York City

Cities – 62

Includes New York City

Towns – 932

Includes five [coterminous town-villages](#)

Villages – 556

Includes five [coterminous town-villages](#)

Special Purpose Local Governments – 1,565

School Districts – 698

Includes the “Big Five” school districts though they are not independent entities

Includes 13 special act school districts that do not have taxing authority and primarily serve special education students

Includes six “minor” school districts, which have fewer than eight teachers

Includes two school districts that contract out all of their pupils

Does not include school districts that have ceased operation

Fire Districts – 867

Does not include 951 town fire protection or fire alarm districts as these are town special districts, which are administrative units of towns, not independent public corporations

Authorities/Special Purpose Entities – 1,078

Local Public Authorities – 350

123 housing authorities

116 industrial development agencies (IDAs)



- 43 urban renewal agencies
- 26 water and sewer authorities
- 11 facility development authorities
- 11 solid waste authorities
- 7 parking authorities
- 5 health care authorities
- 5 transportation authorities
- 3 miscellaneous authorities

Does not include authorities with members appointed by the Governor without local government recommendation, such as the regional transportation authorities, with the exception of the medical center authorities in Erie, Nassau, and Westchester

Other Special Purpose Units – 728

- 272 library systems and districts
- 185 joint activity districts
- 66 town special districts
- 58 soil and water conservation districts
- 54 consolidated health districts
- 37 BOCES
- 37 community colleges
- 10 regional planning boards
- 6 Off-Track Betting corporations
- 3 miscellaneous special purpose units

Does not include county planning agencies

Does not include metropolitan transportation planning organizations



Consolidations/Mergers/Dissolutions

Cities

Since 1920, there have been three villages that became cities.

Towns

Since 1950, there have been two town consolidations and two town creations.

Villages

Since 1920, there have been 37 village dissolutions, two village consolidations, and 125 village creations. Villages are the only general purpose government that can be created at local option.

School Districts

From 1900 to 1970, the number of school districts declined from over 10,000 to approximately 700. Since 1980, 37 school districts have been eliminated through annexation, consolidation, or dissolution and five school districts have been created.

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