

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

There were two local governments in the District of Columbia as of October 2007.

### **COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (0)**

There are no county governments in the District of Columbia.

### **SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (1)**

#### **Municipal Governments (1)**

The District of Columbia, within which the city of Washington is located, is classified as a separate county area and as a separate state area in population statistics but is counted as a municipal government in census statistics on governments. An elected mayor and an elected council, composed of 13 members, govern the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia, in addition to functions generally performed by cities, performs state and county-type functions. The budget for the District of Columbia is locally prepared but subject to final determination by the U.S. Congress and approval or veto by the President of the United States. Revenue is derived primarily from local taxes. The council sets the tax rate necessary to provide the property tax share of the budget allowed by Congress. In addition, the federal government makes an annual appropriation to the District of Columbia government as required by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 and other appropriations in support of local services, development, and education. The District of Columbia may issue general obligation bonds.

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

There are no township governments in the District of Columbia.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (2)**

### **School District Governments (0)**

There are no independent school district governments in the District of Columbia.

### **Dependent Public School Systems (2)**

Two public school systems are dependent on the District of Columbia government and are not counted as separate governments:

District of Columbia Public Schools  
University of the District of Columbia

From July 2000 to June 2007, the District of Columbia Public Schools were governed by a nine-member board of education, four of whom were appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council, four of whom were elected by and from districts, and the board president who was elected at-large. The board of education established policies and appointed the superintendent. A state education office, under the office of the mayor and with a director appointed by the mayor, was established in July 2000. Some responsibilities previously designated for the board of education were transferred to this office.

Effective June 12, 2007 as provided for by the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, the District of Columbia public schools were placed under the direct governance of the mayor of the District of Columbia. The school system is administered by a chancellor who serves as the chief executive officer and serves at the pleasure of the mayor. Also implemented was the creation of a department of education also subordinate to the mayor, headed by the deputy mayor for education and having oversight for the state superintendent of education office, previously designated as the state education office, and the maintenance and modernization of school facilities. The state superintendent of education is appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council.

The state board of education, effective for 2007

consists of the former board of education comprised of nine members four of whom are appointed by the mayor, four of whom are elected from school districts, and one of whom is elected at-large as president of the board. Beginning January 2009, the board shall consist of nine members of whom eight shall be elected from school election wards and one of whom shall be elected at-large. The board president shall be elected by and from the board membership. The board is responsible for approving state academic standards as recommended by the state superintendent of education, advising the state superintendent on educational matters, approve high school graduation requirements, and other administrative and advisory duties.

Charter schools are classified as private in the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board is appointed by the mayor in consultation with the city council from a list of qualified individuals submitted by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Also classified as a dependent agency of the District of Columbia government, and not counted as a separate government, is the University of the District of Columbia. The university is administered by a 15-member board of trustees. Eleven trustees are appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. Three trustees holding degrees from the University of the District of Columbia or from one of the three predecessor institutions, are elected by the living graduates of the four institutions. One student trustee is selected by the university student body.

## **SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (1)**

### **Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority**

This authority is counted under "Virginia--Special District Governments."

### **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates the transit system serving the Washington area and is counted as special

district government. It was created by a compact signed by the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland and Virginia, and approved by Congress. The authority is administered by a board of six directors, two from each signatory, selected as follows: Two appointed by the District of Columbia Council from its members or the mayor or the city administrator, two appointed by the Washington Suburban Transit Commission of the state of Maryland, and two appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission from the membership of each. In Maryland, following a 1992 amendment, the Governor's appointees to the Washington Suburban Transit Commission, one from Montgomery County and one from Prince Georges County, are the Maryland members of the authority.

The authority may fix rates and fares, borrow money, issue revenue bonds, and accept gifts and grants. In addition, the authority may receive appropriations from the federal government, the District of Columbia government, and participating Maryland and Virginia local governments. The District of Columbia share of the system costs may be paid from the proceeds of the sale of District general obligation bonds.

## **SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS**

The agencies listed below have certain of the characteristics of governmental units, but are classified as agencies of the District of Columbia government and are not counted as separate governments.

**The Anacostia Waterfront Corporation**, created in 2004, is responsible for the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of the lands adjacent to the Anacostia River and associated waterways and for the environmental restoration of the Anacostia River and waterways. The board of directors includes seven members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council; two voting ex officio members who are the mayor and the chief financial officer of the District; three non-voting ex officio members who are the chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior,

and the administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration or their designees. The corporation may charge and collect fees in connection with assistance and services, receive grants and gifts, and may issue bonds for eligible projects as approved by the council. The Anacostia Waterfront Corporation and the Southwest Waterfront Holdings Corporation were created as subsidiaries of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, effective July 2006

The Anacostia Waterfront and its subsidiaries, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation and the Southwest Waterfront Holdings Corporation were abolished effective October 1, 2007. Powers, duties and responsibilities were transferred to the mayor.

**Business improvement districts (BID)**, authorized by 1996 legislation, may be created upon application to the mayor by the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation formed for the purpose of forming a business improvement district within a self-defined geographic area in which most activity is commercial or industrial.. A majority of the property owners or commercial tenants and owners, as defined by assessed valuation, must be in agreement with the application. Business improvement district activities are designed to improve the economic development climate. Revisions to a BID plan are subject to review by the mayor prior to implementation. Geographic expansion is subject to city council approval. Revenues are derived from assessments against properties within the district, subject to member approval. Amendments in 2006 to revise taxes relevant to the Mount Vernon Triangle CID account for the designation as a community improvement district. Districts are also authorized to accept gifts and grants and may issue bonds. This act is scheduled to expire 20 years from the date of enactment, May 29, 1996.

**The District of Columbia Housing Authority**, created in 2000 as the successor agency to the District of Columbia Housing Authority created in 1974, operates the city's public housing. The authority is governed by a nine-member board of commissioners consisting of four commissioners appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council, three commissioners

elected by residents of the authority's housing properties, one commissioner representing labor and designated by the central labor council, and the deputy mayor for planning and economic development serving ex officio. If dissolved, all assets of the authority revert to ownership by the District of Columbia government. The authority may issue revenue bonds.

**The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency**, created in 1979, is responsible for providing mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income housing. The mayor, with the advice and consent of the council, appoints the five-member board of directors. The agency may fix interest, fees, and charges; receive appropriations and grants; and issue revenue bonds.

**The District of Columbia Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation**, created in 2000, for the purpose of securitizing the proceeds from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. The corporation purchased the District of Columbia's right, title, and interest in the proceeds from the agreement by issuing bonds to pay the purchase price; future payments under the Master Settlement Agreement will be used will be used for debt service. The corporation is governed by a five-member board of directors consisting of the chief financial officer, the mayor or designee, and the chairman of the council of the District of Columbia; one private citizen appointed by the mayor; and one private citizen appointed by the council of the District of Columbia. The corporation is authorized to issue revenue bonds.

**The District of Columbia Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund**, created in 2000, for the purpose of receiving revenue owed and accruing to the District of Columbia from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, payments received with respect to residual interest, and other funds. The fund is governed by a three-member board of trustees consisting of one member appointed by the council and two by the mayor with council approval. Fund earnings are transferred to the general fund or to health, social, or educational capital expenditures or programs as specified in legislation.

**The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority**, created in 1996, is responsible for providing water distribution services and sewage collection, treatment, and disposal to the District of Columbia and to portions of the Metropolitan Washington area. The authority is governed by an 11-member board of directors of whom six are appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council and five are appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by the other participating jurisdictions. The mayor also appoints an alternate member for each of the board members in the same manner as board members are appointed. The authority may levy and collect charges for services, receive grants, and with power delegated by the council issue revenue bonds.

**The District of Columbia Zoning Commission** consists of the architect of the capitol (Federal), the director of the National Park Service (Federal), and three members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. The commission is financed through District of Columbia government appropriations.

**The National Capital Planning Commission**, created by the U.S. Congress, is responsible for comprehensive planning for the physical development of the national capital and the surrounding environs. The commission is classified for census purposes as a dependent agency of the federal government.

**The National Capital Revitalization Corporation**, created in 1998, is responsible for developing a revitalization plan for legislatively designated areas of the city which incorporates the facilitation of business investment, employment growth, the development and renovation of housing, retail and other services, parking facilities and public infrastructure improvements. The corporation is governed by a nine-member board of directors of which three are designated by the President of the United States, four are appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council, plus the chief financial officer and the mayor of the District of Columbia serving as voting ex officio members. The corporation may establish one or more for-profit or not-for-profit corporate subsidiaries. The corporation may receive and allocate tax

increment revenues for development purposes. With certification of the District of Columbia chief financial officer, the corporation may issue tax increment revenue bonds. Upon dissolution of the corporation, property of the corporation and its subsidiaries shall vest in the District of Columbia. The corporation absorbed the Redevelopment Land Agency from the District of Columbia and handles the disposition of real estate assets. Functions of the abolished Economic Development Finance Corporation were transferred to the corporation.

The RLA Revitalization Corporation was created in 2002 as a non-profit subsidiary of the National Capital Revitalization Corporation. The corporation is responsible for the management and disposition of a portfolio of real property in the District of Columbia. All functions, duties, and powers of the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency and of the Department of Housing and Community Development performed on behalf of the Redevelopment Land Agency were transferred to this subsidiary after initial transfer to the National Capital Revitalization Corporation. The National Capital Revitalization Corporation and the subsidiary RLA Revitalization Corporation have the same board of directors and the same president and chief executive officer. Revenues include income from the sale and lease of corporation properties.

The National Capital Revitalization Corporation and its subsidiary, the RLA Revitalization Corporation were abolished effective October 1, 2007. Powers, duties and responsibilities were transferred to the mayor.

**The Sports and Entertainment Commission** promotes the District of Columbia as a sporting event site; coordinates development and construction of sporting facilities and related infrastructure; manages District of Columbia owned facilities, including the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and non-military functions of the National Guard Armory; and may own and operate a professional sports franchise. The commission was responsible for the development, construction, and leasing of the baseball park which opened in the spring of 2008. A 13-member board of directors consists

of nine members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council plus the following ex officio members: The commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard, the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia, and the director of the recreation and parks department, and a city government employee designated by the mayor. The commission may fix and collect rates, rents, fees, or other charges for the use of facilities or for services rendered in connection with the use of facilities. If authorized by a two-thirds vote of its board, with the majority including the vote of the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia, the commission may issue bonds payable from revenues or from pledged tax revenue dedicated by the council of the District

of Columbia.

**The Washington Convention Center Authority**, created in 1994, is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the convention center. The nine-member board of directors is composed of seven members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council plus the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia and a member designated by the mayor, both of whom shall serve as ex officio voting members. Annual operating budgets are submitted to the mayor for review and approval. The authority may issue bonds payable from revenues of the authority or from certain designated taxes.