
Principles of the
Washington Public Utility District Law
(RCW 54)

- People in any Washington county have the right to form a public utility district by a majority vote, and to maintain local autonomy in district affairs.
- PUDs possess the right of eminent domain so that the will of the majority can be exercised.
- PUDs have authority to provide electricity, water, sewer and wholesale telecommunication services.
- A locally elected PUD commission forms and administers the public utility district, thus embodying the principle of home rule in utility service.
- PUD commissions must appoint and employ qualified utility management.
- PUDs have the right to finance utility development and operations with revenue bonds.
- PUDs are developed on a district-wide basis for the benefit of all rural and urban inhabitants.
- PUD commissions establish rates and services on a fair and nondiscriminatory basis.
- PUDs pay taxes to local and state governments to prevent loss of tax revenues after utility operations are converted from private to public ownership.
- PUDs may cooperate on utility operations by mutual agreement among districts, for the benefit of individual districts.
- Utility service is provided for the public good, not for profit.