

Special Services Districts (SSDs) in Connecticut's Downtowns

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Issue

Update OLR Report [2011-R-0325](#), which provides a directory of special services districts (SSDs) in Connecticut's business districts.

Summary

SSDs are one type of special taxing district Connecticut law authorizes. They are also referred to as business improvement districts. Under [CGS § 7-339m et seq.](#), a municipality can form a SSD to promote the economic and general welfare of its citizens and property owners. Among other things, the district can (1) acquire and convey real and personal property; (2) provide any service that a municipality can provide, other than education; (3) recommend to the municipality's legislative body that it impose a separate tax on property in the district to support its operations; (4) borrow money for up to seven years backed by district revenues; and (5) build, own, maintain, and operate public improvements. Voters in the district must approve its establishment at a referendum.

Table 1 lists the 14 SSDs in business districts and includes each district's website. We compiled this list with assistance from the Connecticut Main Street Center.

Table 1: Special Services Districts

Location	Name	Website
Bridgeport	Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District	https://infobridgeport.com/about-us/
Danbury	CityCenter Danbury	https://citycenterdanbury.com/about/
Hartford	Hartford Business Improvement District	https://hartford.com/about-us/
Hartford	Park Street Special Services District	http://samact.org/overview/
Manchester	Downtown Manchester Special Services District	http://downtownmanchester.org/about-the-special-services-district/
Middletown	Middletown Downtown Business District	https://www.downtownmiddletown.com/about-the-downtown-business-district
New Britain	New Britain Downtown District	http://www.newbritaindd.com/
New Haven	Chapel West Special Services District	http://www.chapelwest.com/
New Haven	Grand Avenue Special Services District	https://www.grandavenuessd.org/who-we-are
New Haven	Town Green District	https://www.downtownnewhaven.com/what-we-do
New Haven	Whalley Avenue Special Services District	https://www.whalleyavenuessd.com/
New London	New London City Center District	https://sites.google.com/site/newlondoncitycenter/home?authuser=0
Stamford	Stamford Downtown Special Services District	http://stamford-downtown.com/about/
West Hartford	West Hartford Center Special Services District	https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/special-services-district

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