

Consolidated City–County

From Wikipedia

In the field of local government in the United States, a **consolidated city–county** is a city and county that have been merged into one unified jurisdiction. As such, it is simultaneously a city, which is a municipal corporation, and a county, which is an administrative division of a state. Therefore, it has the powers and responsibilities of both types of entities.

A consolidated city-county is different from an independent city, which is a city that is not deemed by its state to be located within the boundaries of any of the state's counties, but is recognized by the state as a separate legal territorial entity, distinct from its surrounding or adjoining counties. However, an independent city can also result from the consolidation of a city and a county. The highest concentration of large consolidated city–county governments in the United States is in the Midwest and upper south, where Indianapolis, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; Kansas City, Kansas; and Lexington, Kentucky are located.

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Overview

England has six "metropolitan counties" created in 1974: Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire. From 1986, these metropolitan counties do not have county councils but rather joint boards for certain functions. Modern unitary authorities are similar, and are known as *county boroughs* in Wales. In Scotland, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow are functionally "independent cities", though the term is not used.

Similar arrangements exist in other countries such as Germany, where Berlin, Bremen, and Hamburg are both cities and states. Nearly every larger city in Germany is a consolidated city–county, like Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich or Dresden; Austria, where the capital of Vienna is both a city and state; France, where the capital city of Paris has been coterminous with the *département* of Paris since 1968; and South Korea, where Seoul is a *special city*, while six other cities (Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju, Incheon, and Ulsan) are *metropolitan cities*. Additionally, the Australian Capital Territory government in Australia performs all municipal functions of the city of Canberra, and thus functions as an integrated city–territory. Similarly, the City of Tokyo merged with the prefecture to form Tokyo metropolis in 1943.

Wyandotte County, Kansas, uses the term "unified government" to refer to its consolidation with Kansas City, Kansas, and most of the towns within the county boundaries in which some cities and towns remain separate jurisdictions within the county. Individual sections of a metropolitan or regional municipality may retain some autonomous jurisdiction apart from the city-wide government.

Often, in place of another level of government, municipalities form coalitions^[original research?] – essentially governmental organizations which are not empowered with any law-making or law enforcement powers. This is the case in the Atlanta metropolitan area, where the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) studies and makes recommendations on the impact of all major construction and development projects on the region, but generally cannot stop them. The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) is a true government agency of the state of Georgia, and does control some state transportation monies to the cities and counties, but otherwise has very little authority beyond this small power of the purse.

The case of New York City is unique, in that the city consists of five boroughs, each of which is co-extensive with a county. The boroughs retain some individual functions within the city government, but the counties are essentially merely administrative divisions. The city as currently constituted was created in 1898 by the consolidation of the independent cities of New York (i.e. Manhattan) and Brooklyn with Queens and Richmond (Staten Island) counties and a part of Westchester County which became The Bronx.

Balances

In seven consolidated city–county governments In the United States, the formerly independent incorporated places maintain some governmental powers. In these cities, which the Bureau of the Census calls "consolidated cities", statistics are recorded both for the entire consolidated government and for the component municipalities. A part of the consolidated government is called the "balance", which the Census Bureau defines as "the consolidated city minus the semi-independent incorporated places located within the consolidated city".^[1]

These consolidated cities are:^[1]

- Athens–Clarke County, Georgia
- Augusta–Richmond County, Georgia
- Butte–Silver Bow, Montana

- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Jacksonville-Duval County, Florida
- Louisville-Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Nashville-Davidson, Tennessee