

Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

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Administration Department, Bureau of General Affairs,
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The System for the Organization of Local Public Entities

According to the Constitution, the basic principles of the regulations concerning the organization and operation of local public entities shall be stipulated by law, and the content of that law shall be based on the "Principle of Local Autonomy."

The Constitution of Japan

Regulations concerning organization and operations of local public entities shall be fixed by law in accordance with the principle of local autonomy. (Article 92)

(Reference: Japanese Law Translation <http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=174>)

Local Autonomy Act

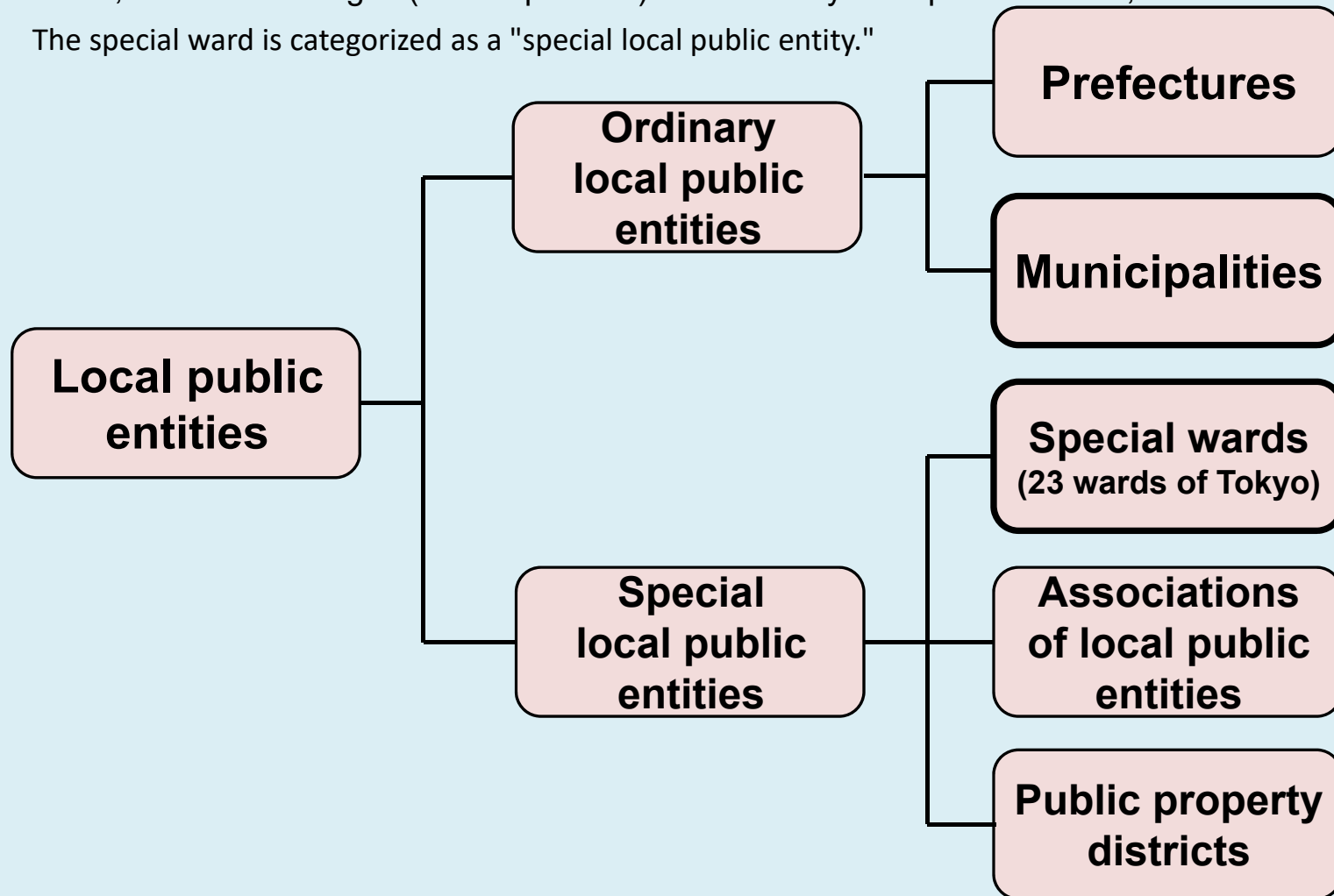
It fixes the the basic principles of regulations concerning the classification, organization and operation of local public entities. (Article 1)

Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Categories of Local Public Entities

Cities, towns and villages (“municipalities”) are “ordinary local public entities,”

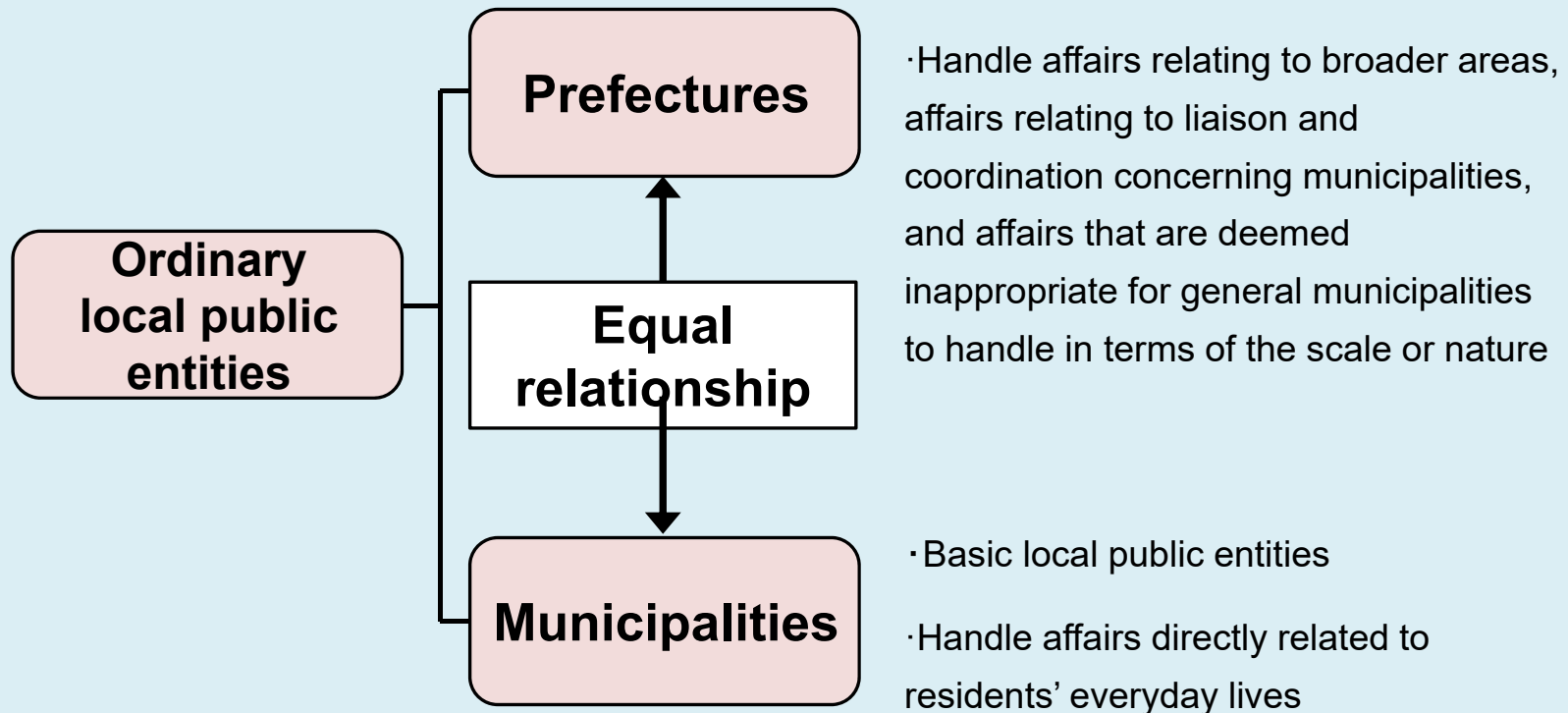
The special ward is categorized as a “special local public entity.”



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Ordinary Local Public Entities

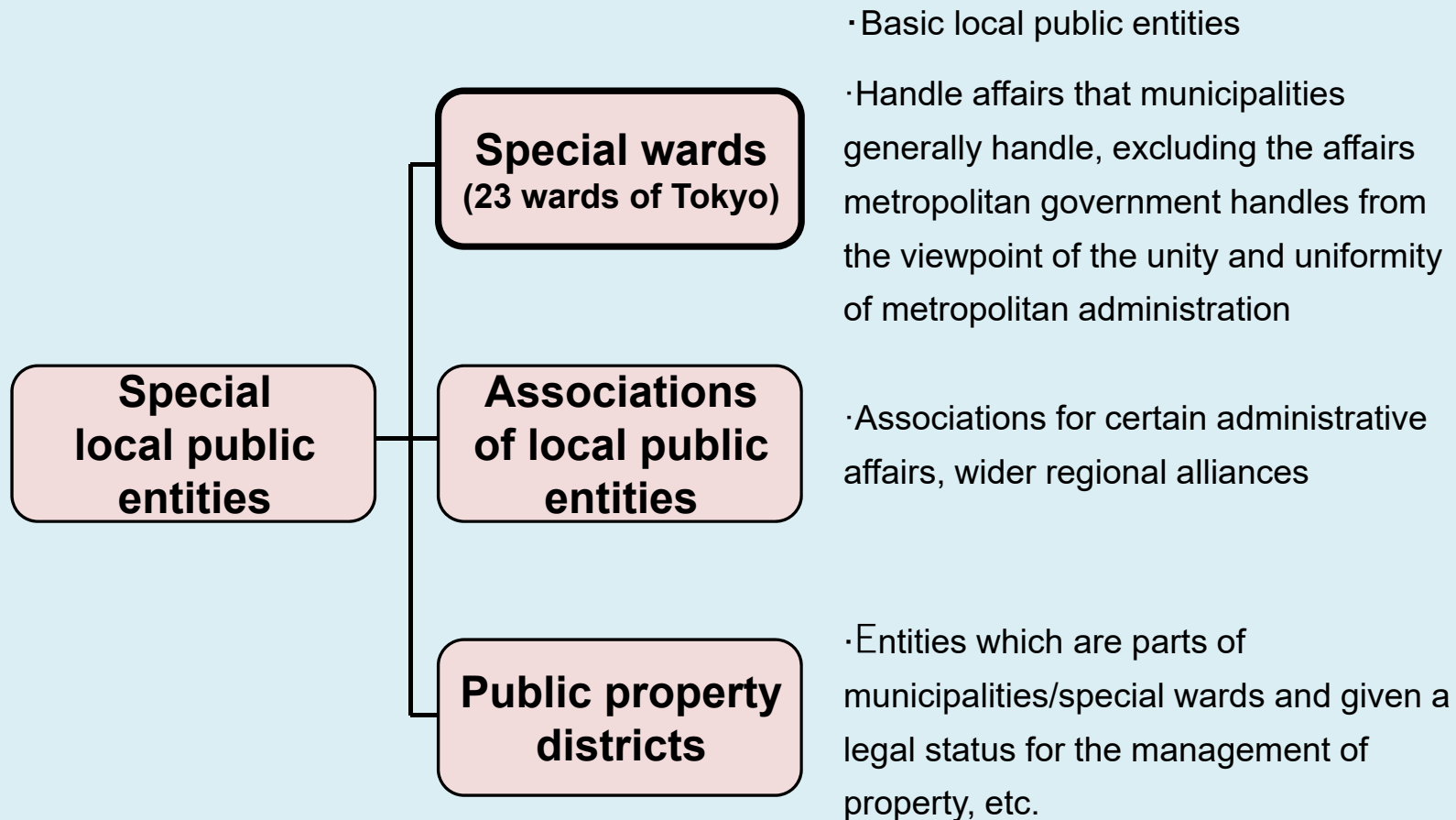
In the Local Autonomy Act, both prefectures and municipalities have the same status as an ordinary local public entity and are in an equal relationship.



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Special Local Public Entities

Among local public entities, legal entities other than ordinary local public entities



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Special Ward System

The purposes of the special ward system

- **Securing unity and uniformity as a large metropolis**

In order to respond to the situation of a large metropolis, such as the high concentration of population and the continuous nature of urban areas, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government handles affairs from the viewpoint of securing the unity and uniformity of a large metropolis.

- **Realization of local administration closer to residents and "Autonomy of Residents"**

Promote decentralization even in a large metropolis, and handle administration near to residents as much as possible in special wards, which are local governments closer to residents.

Reasons why the special wards are not categorized as an "ordinance-designated city"

The special wards constitute a metropolitan area, where at least 9.3 million people live and more than 10 million people work.

It is difficult for a single ordinance-designated city to serve the whole of such a huge area.

Therefore, in the areas of the special wards, each special ward, as a basic local government, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, as a wide area local government, share a role and cooperate with each other to administer the entire metropolitan area.

Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Special Ward System

Relationship between general prefectures and municipalities
(Article 2 of the Local Autonomy Act)

Division of roles between prefectures and municipalities

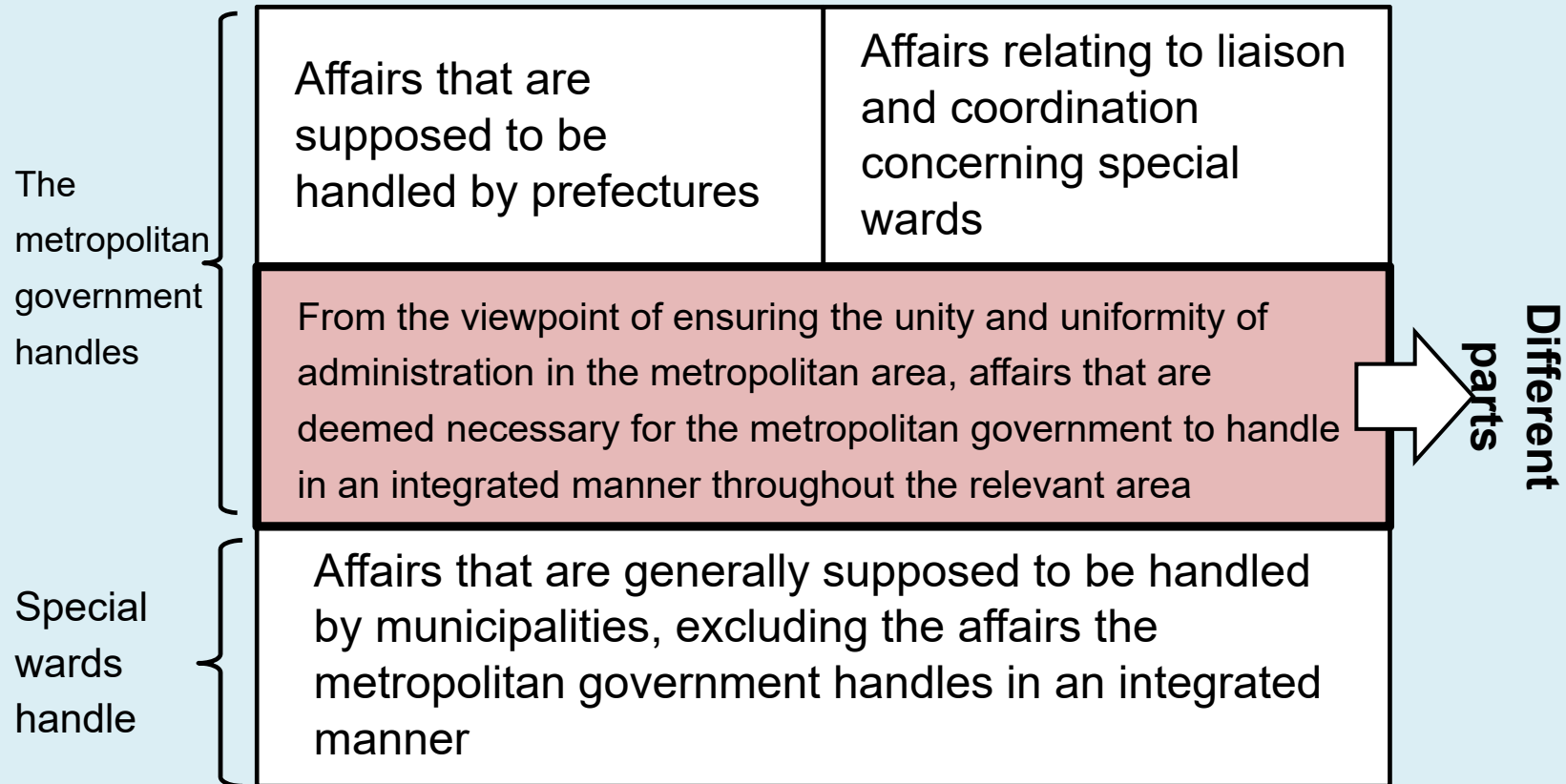
Prefectures handle	Affairs for wide areas	Affairs relating to liaison and coordination concerning municipalities	Affairs that are inappropriate for general municipalities to handle in terms of the scale or nature
Municipalities handle	Affairs of ordinary local public entities generally, excluding the affairs prefectures handle		

Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Special Ward System

Relationship between the metropolitan government and the special wards
(Article 281-2 of the Local Autonomy Act)

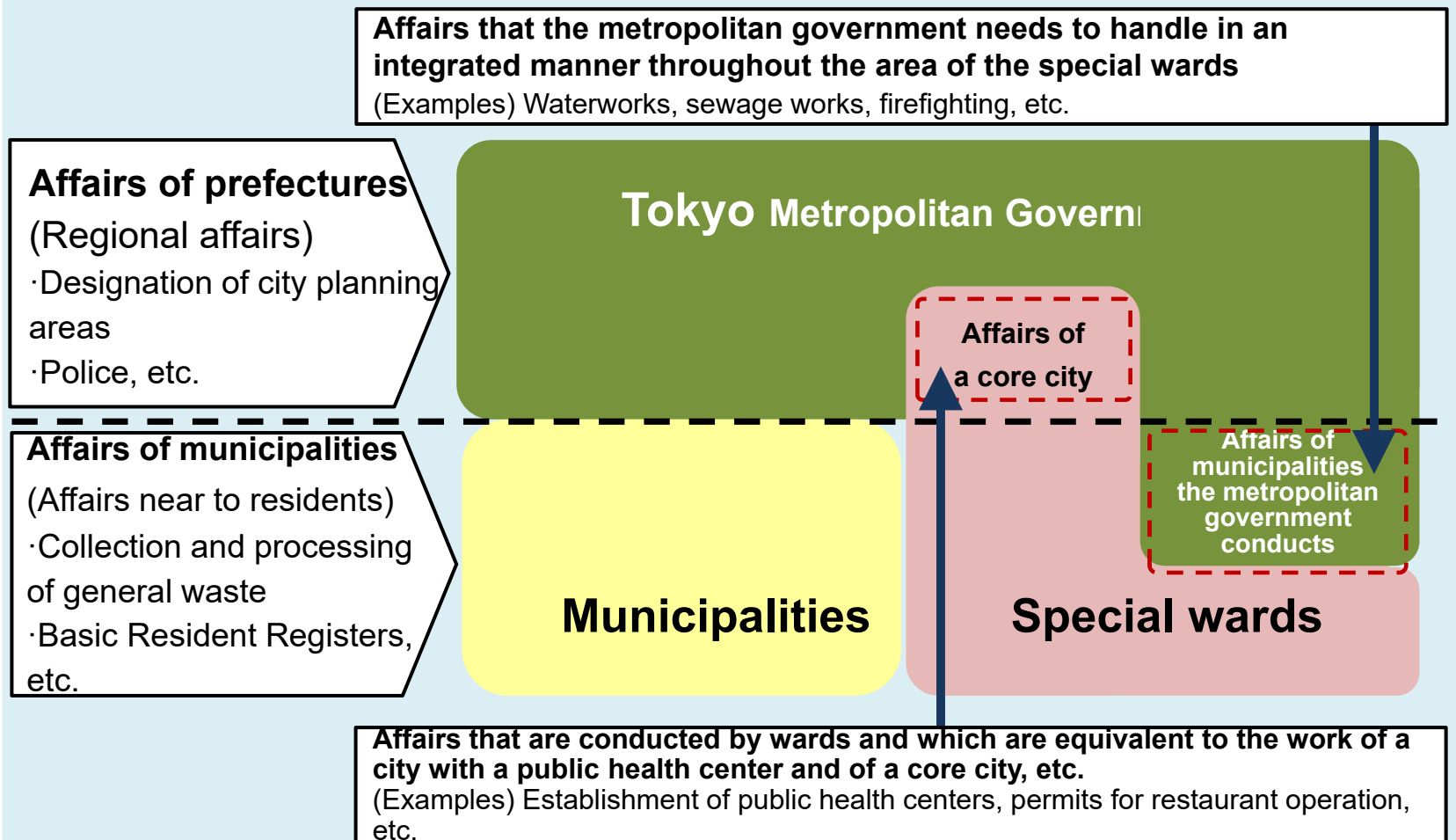
Division of roles between the metropolitan government and wards in the areas where special wards exist



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Special Ward System

An illustration of administrative allocation between the metropolitan government and the special wards



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Metropolitan Government and Wards Financial Adjustment System

Purpose

Balance the allocation of financial resources between the special wards themselves, as well as between the metropolitan government and the special wards, and ensure the autonomous and systematic operation of the administration of the special wards.

Special ward financial adjustment allocation

Of the amount of revenue from "fixed asset tax", "city, town and village inhabitant tax (corporations)", and "special land possession tax" that are levied and collected by the metropolitan government, a certain percentage is granted to each special ward.

- **Ordinary allocation**

The metropolitan government calculates the amount of the standard financial demand and the amount of the standard financial revenue for each special ward, and allocates it to special wards whose amount of demand exceeds the amount of revenue, in accordance with the revenue shortage.

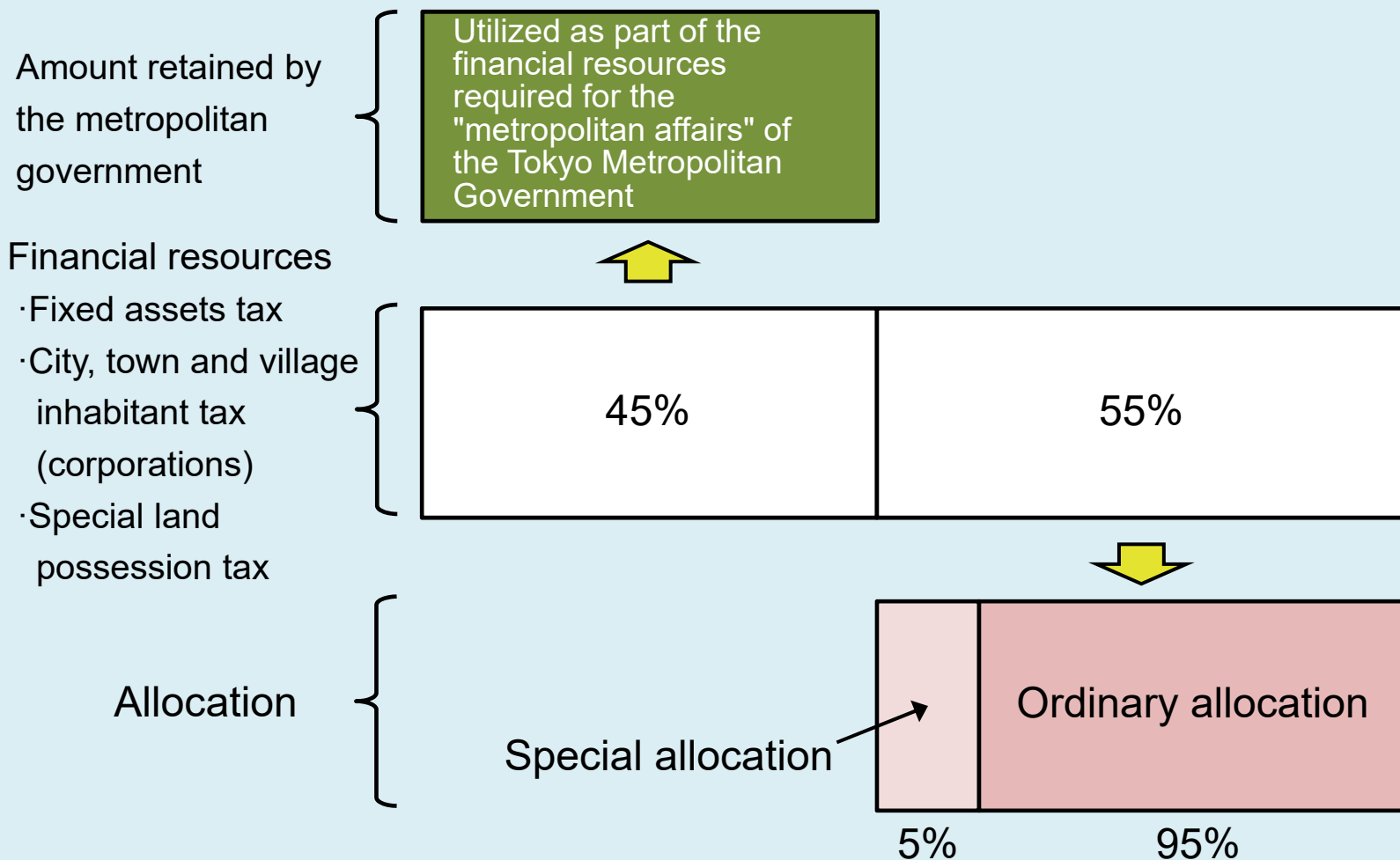
- **Special allocation**

Allocated to special wards with special circumstances, such as the financial demand arising from disasters.

Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Metropolitan Government and Wards Financial Adjustment System

Mechanism of the system



Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Area, Population, etc. of Special Wards

Classification	Area (October 1, 2016) (?)		Population base on the Basic Resident Register (January 1, 2017) (people)			Population of Japanese (people)		Population of foreigners (people)		Proportion of alien registration (%)		Population density (people/?)		Population aged 65 or over (January 1, 2017) (people)		Proportion of population aged 65 or over (%)		Daytime to nighttime population ratio (%)	
Chiyoda Ward	19	11.66	23	59,788	23	57,123	23	2,665	9	4.5	23	5,128	23	10,786	21	18.0	1	1460.6	
Chuo Ward	21	10.21	22	149,640	22	143,464	22	6,176	14	4.1	16	14,656	22	23,715	23	15.9	2	431.1	
Minato Ward	12	20.37	17	249,242	17	230,250	9	18,992	4	7.6	21	12,236	19	43,155	22	17.3	3	386.7	
Shinjuku Ward	13	18.22	12	338,488	13	297,253	1	41,235	1	12.2	8	18,578	13	67,020	19	19.8	5	232.5	
Bunkyo Ward	20	11.29	19	213,969	19	204,795	20	9,174	13	4.3	6	18,952	21	42,433	18	19.8	6	157.5	
Taito Ward	23	10.11	21	193,822	21	179,222	15	14,600	5	7.5	5	19,171	18	45,750	4	23.6	7	153.4	
Sumida Ward	17	13.77	16	265,238	16	253,743	18	11,495	12	4.3	4	19,262	14	60,298	8	22.7	11	108.9	
Koto Ward	6	40.16	8	506,511	8	480,434	5	26,077	7	5.2	20	12,612	9	108,870	10	21.5	10	122.2	
Shinagawa Ward	10	22.84	10	382,761	10	371,019	17	11,742	18	3.1	10	16,758	11	80,836	11	21.1	9	140.6	
Meguro Ward	16	14.67	15	273,708	14	265,614	21	8,094	20	3.0	7	18,658	16	54,622	17	20.0	12	105.8	
Ota Ward	1	60.75	3	717,295	3	695,696	7	21,599	19	3.0	22	11,807	3	163,127	7	22.7	13	96.8	
Setagaya Ward	2	58.05	1	892,535	1	874,339	11	18,196	23	2.0	13	15,375	1	180,009	16	20.2	16	94.9	
Shibuya Ward	15	15.11	18	222,278	18	212,453	19	9,825	11	4.4	15	14,711	20	42,463	20	19.1	4	240.1	
Nakano Ward	14	15.59	13	325,460	12	309,767	14	15,693	8	4.8	3	20,876	12	67,578	14	20.8	15	95.4	
Suginami Ward	8	34.06	6	558,950	6	544,407	16	14,543	21	2.6	12	16,411	7	117,740	12	21.1	20	85.1	
Toshima Ward	18	13.01	14	284,307	15	257,247	4	27,060	2	9.5	1	21,853	15	57,464	15	20.2	8	143.3	
Kita Ward	11	20.61	11	345,149	11	325,597	8	19,552	6	5.7	11	16,747	10	87,761	1	25.4	14	96.7	
Arakawa Ward	22	10.16	20	213,113	20	195,282	12	17,831	3	8.4	2	20,976	17	49,882	5	23.4	17	91.4	
Itabashi Ward	9	32.22	7	557,309	7	534,642	6	22,667	16	4.1	9	17,297	6	127,738	6	22.9	19	90.4	
Nerima Ward	5	48.08	2	723,711	2	707,289	13	16,422	22	2.3	14	15,052	4	157,004	9	21.7	22	83.8	
Adachi Ward	3	53.25	5	681,281	5	653,864	3	27,417	17	4.0	19	12,794	2	168,323	2	24.7	18	90.9	
Katsushika Ward	7	34.80	9	456,893	9	438,125	10	18,768	15	4.1	18	13,129	8	111,748	3	24.5	21	84.1	
Edogawa Ward	4	49.90	4	691,514	4	660,687	2	30,827	9	4.5	17	13,858	5	143,949	13	20.8	23	82.4	
Area of the Arakawa Estuary		1.12																	
Central Breakwater		6.78																	
Total of special wards		626.79		9,302,962		8,892,312		410,650		4.4		14,842		2,012,271		21.6		129.8	

