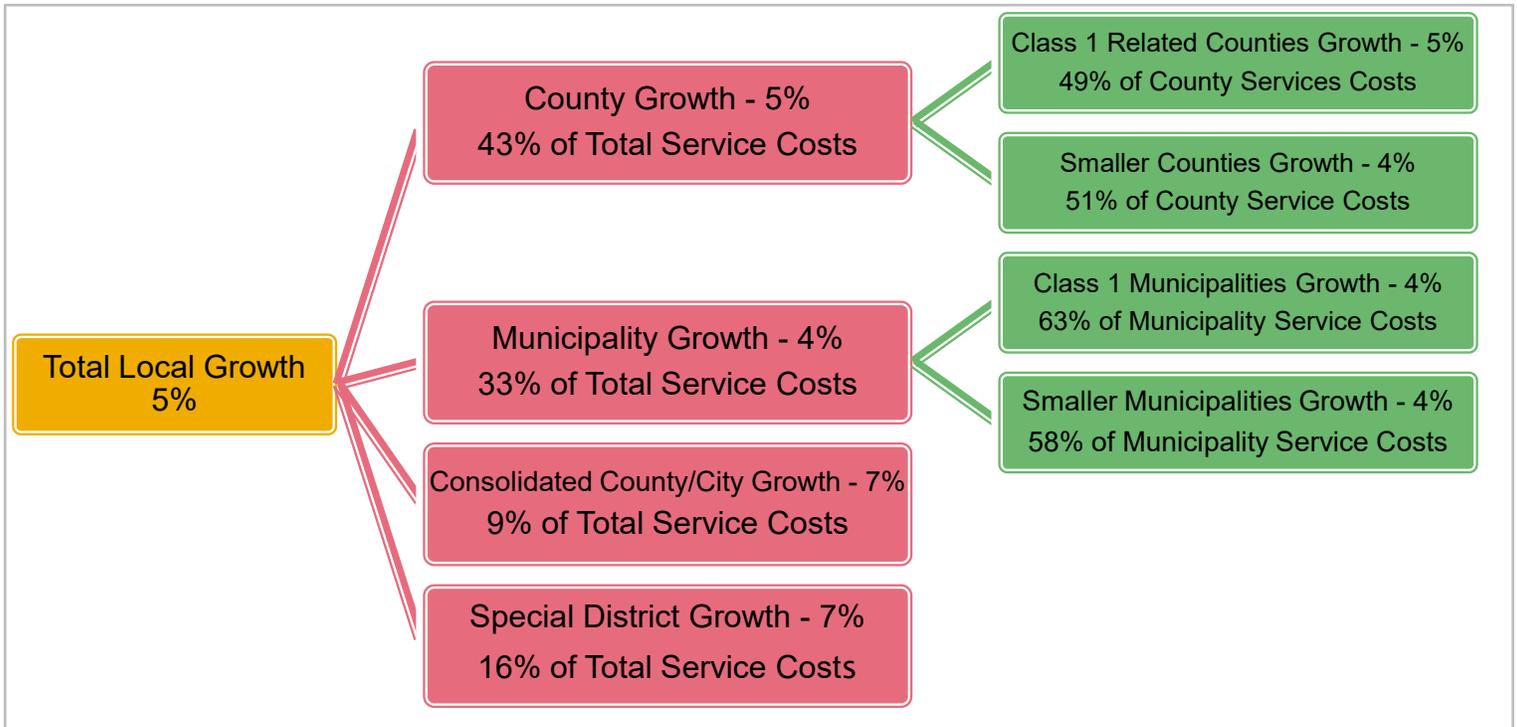


Based upon U.S. Census Bureau local data, the **total cost of local government services** in Montana has grown by an average of 5% per year while total local government revenues have increased by an average of 4.3% annually over 15 years of analysis.



As demonstrated in the chart above, the rates of growth in services costs differ between the four types of local government entities analyzed. Rates of growth are greater in Class 1 counties (counties that contain Class 1 municipalities) than in smaller population counties.

The same cannot be said for municipalities, where both Class 1 municipalities and the smaller municipalities have experienced similar growth in the costs of services. Costs of services has escalated more quickly in the consolidated county/city governments and special district entities. The impact of these faster growth entities, accounting for approximately 25% of all service costs, leads to a higher overall rate of growth.

For more information, see [Trends in Local Government Finances](#).