

*APA Ohio's Policy  
Platform Update*

*Webinar – January 29, 2020*



Legislative  
Committee  
Members

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## Background

- Prior to 2012, legislative efforts were minimal.
- Conducted survey of members to determine major legislative concerns and where to focus.
- Struggled with keeping up with judicial cases and proposed legislation. Ex. Apple Group Ltd v. Granger Twp.
- Informed by APA National efforts, we had a day-long Board retreat to focus on legislative issues.
- Determined that we needed to tell our story before we could influence legislation.  
**#BecauseWePlan** was born!



# Background

- APA Ohio has put an emphasis on being better advocates for planning and our profession.
- “Because We Plan” slogan/hashtag used to celebrate/promote good planning in Ohio, but it doesn’t clearly state what we believe.
- APA National conducted Chapter survey to gauge legislative health – this spurred more internal review.
- Used previous membership survey and work from APA Ohio Board retreat to help craft the policy document.
- APA Florida had a good model to emulate.
- Current Policy Platform adopted by Chapter in December 2017

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## APA Ohio Policy Platform

2017-2018

APPROVED 12/8/17

As the only organization in Ohio that exists specifically “to promote good planning for the betterment of all Ohioans,” the American Planning Association Ohio Chapter (APA Ohio) believes that it is essential to clearly outline our professional position on key priority issues facing Ohio. This Policy Platform is intended to guide the Chapter’s lobbying efforts and inform positions taken by the Chapter on legislative issues. It is also meant to provide flexibility to address unanticipated issues that inevitably arise. Toward these ends, APA Ohio’s position on key issues facing our communities are listed below in alphabetical order and not in order of priority:

**Affordable Housing:** Most Ohioans’ greatest expense is housing. Mortgage or rent payments represent a higher percentage of lower income budgets which shrinks available funds for other essential human needs such as healthcare, food, utilities and transportation. APA Ohio believes that affordable housing curbs homelessness, decreases poverty, improves public health, boosts mobility, advances economies and improves the quality of life for all. APA Ohio supports increasing the availability, accessibility and quality of affordable housing in communities of all sizes.

**Brownfields:** Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion, reuse or redevelopment may be complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. They present opportunity for local governments to use marketing, redevelopment and economic development tools for these sites previously

green algae blooms in Lake Erie, larger amounts of agricultural pollution into our streams and lakes, a rise in urban bad air quality days and increased flooding of the Ohio River and its tributaries. In planning for our future, both mitigation and adaptation to climate change and its impacts are needed to maintain a safe, attractive and resilient environment for residents and businesses. Adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impacts is important for the State’s overall economy and the jobs that support it, business investments, infrastructure, health of its people and the conservation of its natural resources and protection of its natural amenities. APA Ohio supports a growth management strategy at the state, regional and local level which recognizes and provides plans, incentives, standards and regulations that address climate change adaptation and mitigation. APA Ohio also supports policies and programs, including [APA’s Climate Change Policy Guide](#), that will reduce long-term risk, promote economic

<http://www.ohioplanning.org/legislative>



## Policy Platform Utilization

- Clear statement of professional position on key priority issues facing the state of Ohio.
- Respond to short term legislative challenges.
- Respond to judicial decisions.
- Aid members in formulating responses to local issues.

# What Topics Are Covered Currently?

- *Affordable Housing*
- *Brownfields*
- *Citizen Participation*
- *Climate Change*
- *Community Development*
- *Comprehensive Planning*
- *Economic Development*
- *Energy Policy*
- *Equity*
- *Healthy Communities*
- *Home Rule*
- *Housing*
- *Infrastructure Planning*
- *Intergovernmental and Regional Coordination*
- *Land Use Planning*
- *Planning & Development Incentives*
- *Rural Planning*
- *Sustainability*
- *Technology*
- *Transportation*
- *Underserved Populations*
- *Water Resource Protection*
- *Zoning*

# Other Suggested Topics

## Considered/Not Chosen

- *Annexation*
- *Disaster Planning*
- *Funding (Local Government Fund)*
- *Hazard Mitigation*
- *Impact/Mobility Fees*
- *Managing Change*
- *Ohio Public Works State Issue 2*
- *Schools: Location, walkability, etc.*
- *Sound Planning (fiscally sound decision-making)*
- *Takings/Eminent Domain*

## Identified at Cleveland Conference

- *Autonomous Vehicles*
- *Transit*
- *Shared Mobility*
- *Accessibility*

# Proposed Changes

- *Reorganized topic areas into three categories to improve readability*
- *Created three sub-categories to reduce confusion*
- *Added “Disaster Planning” as a new category*
- *Made minor Edits (contained in following slides)*
- *Guiding Principles*
  - *Add critically necessary topics*
  - *Improve/Revise/Strengthen existing topics*
  - *Point to adopted APA Policy Guides where possible*
  - *Keep document as concise as possible*

## **APA Ohio Policy Platform - 2020**

*DRAFT 01/10/2019*

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***Disaster Planning:*** *The state of Ohio is susceptible to many types of disasters; particularly flood, wind, and severe storm hazards. APA Ohio recognizes the role of planning in the mitigations, preparation, response, and recovery of these disasters. Vulnerability and impact to disasters of all kinds is determined by social factors and the built environment, of which planners and policy makers actively design. APA Ohio supports initiatives to ensure planning intervention promotes long-term resiliency and protects all citizens, especially vulnerable populations, from the impact of disasters. Furthermore, APA Ohio supports inter-governmental funding for access to resources, financial and otherwise, for all four phases of disaster planning.*

**Infrastructure Planning:** APA Ohio supports public and private investment and policies to invest in our aging infrastructure. Ohio's aging infrastructure is in dire need of improvements to bridges, dams, drinking water, hazardous waste, waterways, parks and recreation, ports, rail, roads, solid waste, transit and wastewater. Failing underground utilities such as gas lines, water lines, storm and sanitary sewers threaten the health and welfare of state residents. The essential role to protect the public health, safety and welfare is achieved through effective infrastructure planning and funding. Coordinated planning with public agencies and intergovernmental coordination is needed to allocate scarce resources efficiently. APA Ohio supports:

- Fixing Federal Highway Trust fund by raising the motor fuel tax;
- Exploring alternative long-term road funding;
- Increasing investment at all levels of government to rehabilitate aging infrastructure;
- Using asset management and best practices to improve safety and condition of infrastructure;
- Promoting policies such as dig once policies to better coordinate use of resources;
- Encouraging the use of green infrastructure practices to mimic natural waterway processes, when appropriate, to alleviate the repair and continued maintenance costs associated with additional grey infrastructure.

**Land Use Planning:** Land use planning refers to the process by which a community decides where, within its territory, different socioeconomic activities such as agriculture, housing, industry, recreation and commerce should take place. This includes protecting well-defined areas from development due to environmental, cultural, historical or similar reasons, and establishing provisions that control the nature of development activities. APA Ohio supports the development of land use plans as the core component of the comprehensive planning process. Additionally, integration with and potential modification of adopted land use plans must **coordinate with and** respond to transportation improvements **as well as environmental** and other changes within a community.

**Rural Planning:** APA Ohio recognizes that our state's rural and agricultural lands require long-range planning for sustainability, opportunities for economic development and diversification and supporting efforts to preserve and protect Ohio's scenic, natural and agricultural areas. **In addition to protection of designated agricultural land, APA Ohio recognizes the importance of ensuring food security within our communities while working to adapt to a changing climate and the need to build resilience in our agricultural resources.** In the portions of the state without zoning authority, APA Ohio supports the promotion of educational opportunities for residents and elected/appointed officials to learn more about the planning process so that they can respond to unexpected development proposals.

***Transportation Planning:*** APA Ohio recognizes the importance of public transportation and multi-modal transportation to sustained economic development and job creation. APA Ohio supports long-term investment in public transit and a statewide dedicated funding source for transit. Ohio has the 14<sup>th</sup> largest ridership on public transit in the country, but spends less than 44 states on public transit. APA Ohio supports a robust multi-modal transportation network of highways, rail, air, transit, trails, bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation. APA Ohio supports public and private funding on a statewide and local level for new transportation initiatives for alternative transportation initiatives and supports ODOT's new Active Transportation Grants funding. APA Ohio recognizes the importance of promoting mobility for people and goods, for coordinated transportation and land use initiatives and to promote transportation modal choice. APA Ohio also supports investment in research on emerging transportation technologies; including automation and shared mobility, to further ensure diversity and accessibility of mobility options. Regional and state agencies should support local innovative transportation solutions to societal problems such as the first-mile-last-mile connectivity issues.

**Equity:** APA Ohio supports policies that meet the needs of all communities, especially those of disadvantaged communities, through policies and programs that reduce social, economic, health and environmental disparities while fostering vibrant places where residents intentionally choose to live. Equitable development expands choice and opportunity, encourages sustainable outcomes and improves quality of life for all communities while mitigating the disproportionate impacts from the negative externalities of contemporary society. APA Ohio supports complete and fair mitigation planning for the displacement of disadvantaged individuals through redevelopment processes. APA-Ohio also supports APA's [Planning for Equity Policy Guide](#) that identifies policy recommendations for planners to advocate for policies that support equity in all aspects of planning at local, state, and federal levels. APA-Ohio believes that state policies should better recognize how local, regional and statewide land use, transportation, economic development, housing and other public decisions may incentivize and support development in some communities that results in disinvestment and social and economic decline in other communities.

***Intergovernmental and Regional Coordination:*** In an era of shrinking municipal revenues, the importance of intergovernmental and regional coordination could not be greater. The coordination and sharing of resources allows municipalities to continue to provide quality services at a reduced cost. More importantly to APA Ohio, coordination can provide greater continuity in zoning and comprehensive plans across municipal borders. Such collaboration and coordination can help curb urban sprawl, improve transportation connections, help preserve agricultural lands and other green space, and better coordinate the protection of natural resources such as water, forests, and species habitat on a regional or watershed levels. The continued support and encouragement of coordination can allow planners and other officials to begin to think on a more regional level when addressing local issues.

***Water Resource Protection:*** APA Ohio recognizes the importance of water as an essential element in healthy environments and that land use changes impact both water quality and quantity. The two largest sources of drinking water for millions of Ohioans, the Ohio River and Lake Erie, are in need of protection from pollution, climate change effects, and un-regulated withdrawals. Planning can affectively impact a comprehensive approach to water management by addressing issues of sustainable water supply, groundwater resources, storm water management, flooding, and water quality. APA Ohio supports land use and environmental policies that ensure all aspects of water are integrated in terms of planning and implementation. APA Ohio also supports APA's [Policy Guide on Water](#), which calls for an integrated, systems-oriented, comprehensive approach to water management, innovative land-use planning and urban designs that improve and protect water environments, professional practices that manage water more sustainably and equitably, awareness of the potential for inequity in access to water supply, water pricing that is not sensitive to ability to pay and environmental justice issues where discharge of pollution to waterways occurs and where there is insufficient attention to flood mitigation.

Questions/Comments?



# Next Steps

- February 21 – Deadline to submit feedback
- March 13 - Finalized/distributed to APA Board of Trustees
- April 17 - APA Board of Trustees adopt revised Policy Platform



Submit Comments:  
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