

Advocacy to Define Comprehensive Planning in the Ohio Revised Code



LEGITIMIZE THE PROCESS

Unlike neighboring states, Ohio's definition of planning lacks structure.

Defining "Comprehensive Plan" in ORC will elevate planning as a valued activity statewide.

THE CHALLENGE

Ohio law allows for the adoption of zoning "in accordance with a comprehensive plan" but the Ohio Revised Code does not define the term 'comprehensive plan.' **Ohio is one of just ten states that don't require any jurisdiction to engage in Comprehensive Planning.** Over the years, there have been several judicial cases that have determined that the preparation of a zoning map constitutes the preparation of a comprehensive plan. As an organization that promotes planning, APA Ohio disagrees with this assertion and the resulting court rulings.

RECOMMENDED SOLUTION

APA Ohio recommends adoption of a definition to "comprehensive plan" in state code which **1) describes a purpose statement for comprehensive planning, 2) outlines necessary plan components, and 3) accounts for differing needs and capabilities between municipalities and townships.** Plan components at a minimum should include land use and character; community services; housing; economic development; and natural, cultural, and open space resources.

THE BENEFITS

Prepare Ohio for the future – Our state is facing unprecedented challenges related to the economy, housing, the environment, and more which will shape our ability to grow and prosper. It is critical that localities are armed with the state support and guidance to meet these challenges head on and develop plans which envision how each individual city, village, or township may best serve its residents.

Promote fiscal responsibility – Long-term investments by Ohio communities should be supported by extensive research, best practices, and an engaged public. Utilizing the planning process as outlined in ORC would help ensure dollars are invested toward a long-term vision rather than near-sighted objectives.

Guide limited state resources – A clear definition of 'comprehensive plan' will help state agencies prioritize funding requests to communities ready for investment and best positioned to capitalize on it.

YOUR ROLE

APA Ohio is looking for your feedback on this advocacy effort. Please share your thoughts by scanning the QR code and answering a few, short questions about this important issue.



APA Ohio is dedicated to advancing the art, science and practice of planning to create vibrant communities that are equipped to anticipate and navigate change.



American Planning Association
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Creating Great Communities for All

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