



APA Colorado 2018 Legislative Agenda

The Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Colorado) is an organization of approximately 1,400 professional and citizen planners dedicated to preserving and creating great communities throughout Colorado. Our mission is to provide leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing our members with the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

Please find below APA Colorado's state legislative priorities for 2018. Issues were determined based on the results of a member survey administered in November 2017. After the issues were identified, recommendations were developed by the APA Colorado Legislative Committee. For more information, contact APA Colorado Legislative Committee Co-Chair Eric J. Heil, Esq., AICP (legislative@APAColorado.org; 970.468.0635) or Susan Wood (legislative@APAColorado.org; 303.299.2467). Please see www.apacolorado.org for additional information about APA Colorado.

INTRODUCTION

APA Colorado supports the development of equitable mixed-use, mixed-income, safe communities where people choose to live, work, and play. We support choice and opportunity by promoting efficient and sustainable land development that incorporates redevelopment patterns that optimize prior infrastructure investments, and consumes less land. Less land for urban development provides balance by leaving land available for agriculture, open space, natural systems, and rural lifestyles.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This legislative agenda consists of the following major policy items, but is not an exhaustive list of critical community planning policies which are important to APA Colorado.

- 1. Affordable Housing**
- 2. Transportation**
- 3. Water Conservation Planning**
- 4. Regional Cooperative Planning**
- 5. Climate Change**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Support planning, technical assistance, funding, investment and regulations that promote development of sufficient affordable housing to meet the housing needs of a growing workforce across Colorado communities. Promote sustainable and equitable affordable housing at locations near centers of employment, transit, and resident oriented public facilities to provide mobility and access for all people. Similarly, to foster access to opportunity, encourage the inclusion of compatible affordable housing within existing residential communities.

TRANSPORTATION

Multi-modal transportation infrastructure requires coordination of local, state and national resources to successfully meet the transportation needs of people and to adequately serve current and future development. Roads, highways, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities are underfunded, which results in a deficit of all modes and concerns that not all infrastructure is in a state of good repair. Additionally, provision of infrastructure and siting of facilities must take into account the need to provide mobility to all demographic groups including the traditionally underserved. Support a comprehensive, equitable approach to transportation planning and finance that integrates land use; includes all modes of transportation; and provides connectivity between various modes.

WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING

Water is a necessary resource to support communities and sustain development in Colorado and is limited in availability. Support efforts to strengthen requirements to provide proof of adequate water supply to serve existing and future development in terms of quantity, quality, and dependability; promote the use of any protective means that are necessary to safeguard drinking water supplies; and promote the integration of land use planning and water planning

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PLANNING

Many environmental, social, and economic issues require a regional approach to promote cost effective and high quality future growth. Regional planning to consider the effect of development on water supply, natural resources, wildlife habitat, geologic hazards, floodplains, or other sensitive environmental areas, and to coordinate long range plans is necessary to efficiently use and protect resources; achieve resiliency; and maintain economic sustainability. Support policies, tools and financial incentives that promote local, regional, state, and national government coordination on community development issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries in both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The earth's climate is warming, most likely in response to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that have been introduced to the atmosphere through the consumption of fossil fuels and other human activities. A warmer climate results in measurable effects that negatively impact people, the economy, the environment, and communities. Support means to curtail GHG emissions including: compact development patterns that will result both in fewer vehicle miles traveled and a reduction in overall carbon footprint; the use of green-building materials and techniques; and funding for research. Support resiliency planning and all good planning practices and regulatory solutions that will address the conditions created by climate change including extreme weather and changing conditions (such as drought, wildfire, storms, and flooding).