



## 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization of more than 800 planners from across the state who work for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, community-based organizations, universities, and private firms. We provide leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. OAPA supports sustainable communities and works to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Below are **OAPA's 2022 legislative priorities** that are intended to guide the Chapter's participation in the 2022 Oregon Legislative Session. The legislative priorities are not listed in order of importance. OAPA supports policies, rules, programs, and technical and financial resources that advance the legislative priorities, including the following specific actions or intentions.

### **A. Promote equitable community engagement**

Historically, planning processes and community engagement in Oregon have failed to meaningfully incorporate the voices and perspectives of people of color, low- and moderate-income residents, people with disabilities, renters, and other underrepresented groups. This has resulted in inequitable outcomes that persist today. Community engagement processes and resources must be updated to empower and help underrepresented communities access planning policy and decision-making processes. In addition, assistance must also be provided in encouraging their inclusive participation to help shape planning and investment decisions at all levels of government.

#### **OAPA supports:**

- Updating Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement) to:
  - Explicitly elevate the voices of communities of color and other traditionally underrepresented or excluded groups and ensure they have the opportunity to participate in land use planning and decision making;
  - Require equal and fair notice to Native American tribes and tribal communities and provide consultation and mutual concurrence when land use decisions impact lands and natural resources that are owned or managed by a tribal government;
  - Incorporate practices to engage all members of the affected community on climate justice, environmental justice and equity in land use and planning decisions; and
  - Incorporate modern technologies and mediums to enhance access to information and improve communication between local government and the public, including disadvantaged groups.

### **B. Advance racial equity**

Anti-racism must be centered in policy and planning work in Oregon, with an emphasis on intersectionality. A deliberate effort needs to be made to advance racial equity and combat systemic racism in the state.



**OAPA supports:**

- Increasing access to resources and opportunity, support community development, and otherwise empower Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities; and policies that minimize or mitigate disproportionate negative impacts on such communities.
- Legislation – even if unrelated to planning – that addresses systematic racism (e.g., hiring practices and disproportionate policing), undoing past harm and preventing future harm.

**OAPA opposes:**

- Doing nothing. OAPA opposes any legislative efforts to maintain the status quo.

## **C. Confront climate change**

Oregon needs to act now to confront climate change. More needs to be done to mitigate climate change and to help communities prepare for, adapt to, and become more resilient to its impacts, while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on vulnerable community members.

**OAPA supports:**

- Measures such as the Reach Code that further efforts to: reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, advance adaptation by and resiliency of communities, and increase carbon sequestration.
- Creating a new Statewide Planning Goal (Goal 20) to address climate change, including the need to reduce GHG emissions, promote carbon sequestration, and mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts from the land use and transportation sectors.
- More coordination by and funding for State agencies to effectively address climate change; and appropriation of Federal and State infrastructure money that prioritizes projects that address climate change, resiliency, and equity.
- Prioritizing planning and assistance for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community members and other vulnerable communities, and centering their voices when developing policy.

**OAPA opposes:**

- Legislation that leads to a net increase in GHG emissions.
- Efforts to diminish the State’s commitment to respond to climate change, including agencies’ work toward the goals outlined in [Executive Order 20-04](#).

## **D. Address the housing crisis**

There is a housing crisis in Oregon, and it is critical that efforts continue to increase housing availability, affordability, and choices for Oregonians across the state. The need to ensure access to temporary and permanent housing is especially acute in communities that are recovering from the 2020 wildfires.

**OAPA supports:**

- Preserving or increasing the supply of housing that is affordable to moderate- to lower-income residents, including rental and ownership opportunities.
- Increased funding and technical assistance to communities to help meet their housing needs, including adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure.
- Legislation that promotes housing stability and mitigates or minimizes the displacement of residents, with attention to historically and systematically marginalized communities.



**OAPA opposes:**

- Legislation that would cap or limit the ability of jurisdictions to adequately fund infrastructure through system development changes (SDCs).
- Attacks to the land use program and to local authority for planning and zoning disguised as addressing wildfire recovery.

## **E. Promote equitable resiliency and recovery**

Oregon is facing unprecedented challenges – including the coronavirus pandemic, economic crisis, wildfires, and extreme weather events such as extreme heat – that require immediate and ongoing action to help communities prepare, recover, and rebuild. There is an increased urgency to ensure all Oregon’s communities can withstand and bounce back from natural hazards and other disasters, with an emphasis on minimizing vulnerability.

**OAPA supports:**

- Legislation that promotes equitable integrated strategies at the state and local level to reduce risk and improve the ability of all individuals, communities, economic systems, and the natural and built environments to withstand, recover from, and adapt to changes from natural hazards, climate change, human-made disasters, and economic shifts.
- Legislation that reduces barriers to equitable local innovations that increase community resilience and facilitates smart rebuilding in fire-damaged communities, making them less vulnerable to future disasters.
- Funding for the planning and development of infrastructure.
- Advancing environmental justice to address inequities and prioritizing vulnerable communities in recovery and resiliency strategies.

**OAPA opposes:**

- Changes that subvert the Statewide Planning Program.
- Policies that lead to displacement of local residents in rebuilding efforts after the wildfires.

## **F. Advocate for Oregon’s planning program**

Oregon’s planning program helps ensure cities and counties comprehensively plan for today and for future generations. Governments at all levels need funding and resources to support good planning and foster great communities.

**OAPA supports:**

- Increased funding and technical resources for local, regional, and state agencies engaged in planning work, including the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Land Use Board of Appeals.
- Initiatives that set a high standard for good planning with authentic engagement.
- Policies that maintain land use decision-making at the local level.
- Better state agency coordination that accomplishes these goals.

**OAPA opposes:**

- Efforts to weaken Oregon’s planning program.
- Legislation that fails to recognize local and regional differences and/or proposes undue preemptive policies at the state level related to land use, housing, or community development.



## LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OAPA considers the following when taking a position on proposed legislation or policies:

- **Benefit.** Will the policy advance the goals of the Oregon planning program and the APA objective of “**creating great communities for all,**” in keeping with OAPA’s mission and vision? Does the policy recommend “best planning practices” for both process and outcomes? Does it facilitate effective and meaningful engagement of all community members? Does it help sustain vital, resilient, and healthy communities? Does it provide for processes and resources (e.g., access to technical assistance and funding opportunities) that benefit urban, rural, and Tribal communities or place an unfair burden on a geographic area or type of community?
- **Clarity.** What will the proposed policy require? Is it clear? What are the outcomes and products expected from local, regional, state, and federal agencies, businesses, and residents? Is this a policy that will help the public understand the benefits of planning?
- **Collaboration.** Does the policy support partnerships, integration of strategies, or prioritize cooperative opportunities that increase capacity and meet multiple mutually agreed upon objectives?
- **Cost.** How much will the policy cost – to the state, a region, the public, local governments, or other relevant partners? Does it provide for an efficient and equitable allocation? Who will pay? Do all local governments and their partners required to implement the change in policy have the resources to do so?
- **Creativity.** Can we come up with a more efficient, effective, and creative policy that accomplishes the same purpose with broader collaborative political and public support? If a policy has negative impacts, can we come up with a way to overcome the harmful effects consistent with the proposal’s intent? Can we think of a way to accomplish the purpose in a way that gets broader legislative support?
- **Demonstrated Need.** Does the change in policy address a demonstrated need or problem? Is there evidence that shows the Legislature needs to act to address a need or solve a problem? Are local and regional governments better suited to address these needs in the absence of state legislation?
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.** Is the policy reflective of and responsive to Oregon’s diverse people and places? Does the policy further equity and inclusion or reduce disparities and remove barriers, especially for communities that have faced historical injustice? Does the policy seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration? Does it alter policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs? (Adapted from the American Institute of Certified Planners Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.)

### **How does OAPA define diversity, equity, and inclusion?**

**Diversity** is an inclusive concept that “encompasses, but is not limited to race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexuality, ability, educational attainment, spiritual beliefs, creed, culture, tribal affiliation, nationality, immigration status, political beliefs[,] veteran status”, and geographic location. “With greater diversity, we can be more creative, effective and just, and bring more varied perspectives, experiences, backgrounds, talents and interests to the practice of planning and to the communities we serve. We recognize that achieving diversity and inclusion is an evolutionary process that requires an ongoing renewal of our commitment.” (Adapted from APA’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, Adopted April 2018)

**Equity** is “just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Unlocking the promise of the nation by unleashing the promise in us all.” (PolicyLink Equity Manifesto, 2018)

**Inclusion** means that everyone can participate and everyone belongs. Inclusion applies to all components of the planning process – from how we do planning in alignment with Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goal 1: Citizen Involvement to how we comprehensively plan for, design and build, and manage our communities, farm and forest lands, and natural spaces and resources.

Source: OAPA Strategic Plan 2018 Update