



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

2023 LEGISLATIVE & POLICY 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 planning education and empowerment for all residents, 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 2023 legislative and policy priorities** intended to guide the Chapter's participation in policy development and rulemaking at the state and federal levels. OAPA supports policies, rules, and programs, including technical and financial resources, that advance its legislative and policy priorities, including the following specific actions or intentions.

Top Priorities

OAPA's top four Policy and Legislative Priorities. These top priorities are of equal importance:

Advance racial equity

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

State and local planning work and projects must incorporate community benefits that bring measurable, permanent improvements to the lives of affected residents - particularly those in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color - and must minimize or mitigate disproportionate negative impacts on communities of color, lower-income residents, and other underrepresented or disadvantaged groups.

Planners must collaborate and communicate with community-based organizations to build trust and sustain partnerships. This will help planners better understand and advocate for

policies and programs that increase access to resources and opportunities, support community development, and empower Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, while helping ensure that policies minimize or mitigate disproportionate negative impacts on such communities.

OAPA supports promoting equitable community engagement.

Historically, traditional planning processes and community engagement in Oregon have failed to meaningfully provide opportunities for inclusive participation and incorporate the voices and perspectives of people of color, low and moderate-income residents, people with disabilities, renters, and other underrepresented groups with intersectional identities. This has resulted in inequitable outcomes that persist today.

Traditional community engagement policies, processes, and resources must be updated to empower and help community partners and underrepresented communities proactively address policy gaps and access planning policy and data-informed decision-making processes. In addition, assistance must be provided in encouraging their inclusive participation to help shape land use planning and investment decisions at all levels of government. OAPA supports legislation that addresses systematic racism (e.g., hiring practices, procurement and contracting barriers that prevent community-based organizations from collaborating with state, regional and local agencies, and disproportionate policing) and undoing past harm by discontinuing the status quo and preventing future harm.

OAPA supports:

Updating Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement) to:

- Strengthen proactive community engagement efforts and initiatives to foster trust and build partnerships;
- Explicitly elevate the voices of communities of color and other traditionally underrepresented or excluded groups or community leaders and representatives of such groups, and ensure they are proactively engaged and have meaningful and inclusive opportunities to participate in all land use planning and decision making;
- Require equitable and fair notice to tribal governments and communities. Ensure consultation and mutual concurrence occur when land use decisions impact tribal cultural resources and land owned or managed by a tribal government and all impacted communities and provide consultation in a safe environment and mutual concurrence;
- Incorporate practices to engage and involve all members of the impacted communities on climate justice, environmental justice, and equity in land use and planning decisions; involving and collaborating with those communities in the development of communication; messages and products that resonate with the intended communities; and
- Incorporate modern technologies and mediums to enhance equitable, reliable and sustained access and information delivery via culturally specific media outlets and culturally and linguistically responsive formats to reach all communities. Ensure people with disabilities have access to information in appropriate formats that at a minimum, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and work to improve communication between local government and all members of the public, including outreach to disadvantaged groups.

OAPA opposes:

- Doing nothing with respect to Goal 1. OAPA opposes any legislative efforts to maintain the status quo or any language and message that worsens existing inequities in the Oregon planning system.

Confront climate change

Oregon needs to act now to confront climate change. More needs to be done to educate and take action 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:

- Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through integrated land use and transportation planning; resource and habitat preservation, protection and enhancement; increased equitable access to sustainable and reliable investment in transit, commuter rail, and active transportation projects; increased investment in shared mobility projects and innovative micro-mobility projects; and increased investment in infrastructure improvements for electric vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
- Implementing state climate legislation and rulemaking that ensures the planning program works to achieve the objective of arresting and reversing climate change.
- Measures that reduce GHG emissions, advance climate adaptation by and resiliency of communities, and increase carbon sequestration.
- Creating a new Goal 20 in the Statewide Land Use Planning Goals to address climate change (or other appropriate vehicle), and any changes needed to existing goals, to include the need to reduce GHG emissions, promote carbon sequestration, and mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. Incorporating the new goal into local comprehensive plans means that as communities plan for a future that includes climate change, the impacts and implications of climate change will be understood and addressed in planning and land use decisions from the land use and transportation sectors.
- Collaborating with frontline, impacted, and allied groups to advocate for State and Federal actions and appropriations of State and Federal funding that prioritize environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. State actions should emphasize investment in green projects that benefit and elevate impacted communities and low-income households; support low carbon and local economic development; encourage community amenities that improve health outcomes; create climate-friendly jobs that provide for professional and living wages; help increase participation in job training and job placement, including increasing the percentage of job training and climate-smart training programs and targeting participation from underserved, marginalized, and vulnerable communities; and ease the transition to a low carbon economy.
- Working collaboratively with California and Washington APA state chapters' and national efforts to coordinate regional-level climate change work.

- 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 financial 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.

Address the housing crisis

There is a housing crisis in Oregon, and it is critical that efforts must 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 recovering from the 2020 wildfires. OAPA supports ending homelessness through access to affordable and supportive housing options. Subsidized housing, with or without supportive services, has ended homelessness for families and played a key role in ending homelessness.

OAPA supports:

- Preserving and increasing the supply of safe, stable and affordable housing across Oregon for low to moderate-income households, including rental and ownership opportunities. All appropriate housing types -
- Preventing and ending homelessness, while preserving and maintaining existing affordable housing, including housing serving populations with different needs.
- Innovations in affordable housing and support for cutting-edge research and studies that investigate solutions to affordable housing.
- Increasing the supply of a variety of housing options within the state's urban growth boundaries in a way that will decrease economic disparities within and between communities.
- Increased funding and technical assistance to all communities to help meet their housing needs, including adequate water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure funding.
- Legislation that promotes housing stability and mitigates or minimizes the displacement of residents, with attention to historically and systematically marginalized communities.
- Increase the emergency shelter bed inventory to ensure the safety of vulnerable populations.

- Promoting housing in connected, complete communities – close to quality schools, jobs, services, food and household necessities, cultural centers, places of worship, recreation, open space – with convenient access to transit and other transportation options.
- Implementing HB 2003, the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis.

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, the UGB and to local authority for planning and zoning disguised as addressing the housing crisis.

Protecting and Supporting Oregon’s Planning Program

To help ensure cities and counties comprehensively plan for today and future generations, governments at all levels need funding and resources to support healthy, equitable communities and foster great thriving communities.

OAPA supports:

- Increased funding and technical resources. Governments at all levels need funding and technical resources to support good planning and foster great thriving communities.
- OAPA supports resuming the statutory practice of regularly scheduled Required Period Review. Periodic Review is a process where a jurisdiction responds to local, regional and state changes in conditions that necessitate updating comprehensive plans and implementing codes in order to be consistent with the State Land Use Planning Goals. This practice allows aligning new legislative and rulemaking mandates with Periodic Review so that jurisdictions can better anticipate and plan for resource needs in order to conduct planning projects, including public participation, in a thoughtful, coordinated and transparent manner. Typically the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) budget includes providing grant funding to support periodic review.
- Developing and implementing 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 OAPA’s legislative and policy priorities. Support increased coordination between DLCD and other state agencies such as ODOT and OHCS.

OAPA opposes:

- Efforts to weaken Oregon’s planning program.
- Legislative initiatives that fail to consider the impact on the capacity of local

planning agencies to meet new demands while maintaining the ongoing level of responsibilities.

- Legislation that fails to recognize local and regional differences and/or proposes unduly preemptive policies at the state level related to land use, housing, or community development.

Additional OAPA Priorities

Promote equitable resiliency and recovery

Oregon is facing unprecedented challenges – including wildfires and extreme weather events such as extreme heat – that require immediate and ongoing action to help communities adapt, recover, and rebuild. There is an increased urgency to ensure all of Oregon’s communities can withstand and bounce back from natural hazards and other disasters, 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, 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.
- Reducing barriers to equitable local innovations that increase community resilience and facilitate equitable, sustainable rebuilding in fire-damaged communities, making them less vulnerable to future disasters.
- Aligning with frontline, impacted, or allied groups to ensure that policies advance 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:

Policies that lead to the displacement of local residents in rebuilding efforts as well as hazard mitigation planning.

Plan for and develop equitable and resilient infrastructure

Well-planned, equitable, efficient, and resilient infrastructure is the backbone of vibrant communities for all. Planning for infrastructure is essential for fiscally-responsible local governments. However, equitable, reliable, sustainable, and sufficient funding for infrastructure remains a challenge. Equitable access to financial and technical resources is important to ensure infrastructure is designed to support a community’s immediate and long-term goals, particularly in light of climate change impacts and increased occurrences of extreme weather-related events and other natural

disasters.

OAPA supports:

- Ensuring that infrastructure can be well planned, designed, constructed, and maintained at local and regional levels to support equitable local economic and community development, accessibility, livability, sustainability, and resilience.
- Encouraging communities to make infrastructure decisions that advance equity, and prioritize complete streets for all. The decision should focus on accessibility for people with disabilities, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, integrating blue and green infrastructure, and conserving financial and natural resources.
- Replacement, upgrades, and hardening of infrastructure, including earthquake recovery, bridges, and culverts for flooding-related issues.
- Increase coordination with ODOT regarding impacts on local and regional planning
- Continued support to local communities implementing 2021 SB 762's comprehensive wildfire bill components related to hazard planning and development review.

Engage with APA's Advocacy team

To ensure that the needs of all Oregonians are being met in line with the Chapter's priorities and the following related areas of concern: federal land, clean and safe drinking water, and natural resource and habitat (forest, range, rivers, wetlands, coastal) issues; federal electric power production, and environmental restoration; farm and land conservation programs; community and economic development; multi-modal transportation planning; and census and federal data.

- Track and participate in federal policymaking.
- Engage with Oregon's Federal delegation, including key committee members, to advocate for sound policy and reliable, sufficient, and sustainable funding sources to maintain, enhance, protect, and/or develop equitable, efficient, and sustainable local and state solutions.
- Advocate for benefits from federal investments for federally-covered programs in Oregon to flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Encourage active participation of all OAPA members in APA's Advocacy Network.

Support Equitable Economic Development

OAPA supports policies and programs that support equitable development – an approach to reduce disparities in underserved communities with a focus on healthy, vibrant and resilient mixed use neighborhoods. Equitable development complements the goals of equity planning, sustainability, and economic vitality. OAPA seeks policies that prevent displacement, promote equitable revitalization, preserve and expand housing affordability, support local business formation and expansion opportunities and healthy neighborhoods.

OAPA supports:

- Policies and funding that help create and sustain vibrant commercial and mixed-use areas that support local demand for goods and services.
- Initiatives that facilitate and support connected innovation and jobs centers
- Policies that support economic development and family-wage jobs in historically underserved neighborhoods and communities of color.

OAPA opposes:

- Economic development that does not create family-wage jobs for women, communities of color, or other historically underserved or disadvantaged groups.
- Development that does not benefit vibrant mixed use neighborhoods.

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 inclusive participation, equitable, 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