



American Planning Association  
**Louisiana Chapter**  
*Making Great Communities Happen*

# APA LOUISIANA 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The American Planning Association Louisiana Chapter (APA Louisiana) is a membership organization of approximately four hundred professional planners, planning educators, planning commissioners and planning students from across the state of Louisiana. Below, please find APA Louisiana's state legislative priorities for 2020. This is not an exhaustive list of critical planning policies important to APA Louisiana, but rather reflects items that were prioritized by surveying our membership.

For more information about APA Louisiana, visit [www.louisianaplanning.com](http://www.louisianaplanning.com), or feel free to contact APA Louisiana's Legislative Committee Chair, Whitney Sayal, AICP, at (225) 389-5520 or via email at [wsayal@louisianaplanning.com](mailto:wsayal@louisianaplanning.com).

To learn more about all of the APA's Policy Guides, visit [www.planning.org/policy/guides/](http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/).

## HOW CAN WE ASSIST YOU?

1. Provide professional expertise and testimony regarding any and all planning related issues;
2. Provide outreach to both local and state officials; and
3. Review and respond to any draft legislation that is being proposed.





## Policy Item

## APA Louisiana Position

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### Transportation and Land Use Planning

Transportation improvements make land more accessible and so increase the likelihood it will be developed or redeveloped. In response APA Louisiana encourages policies and plans supporting incentives that encourage locating new development in areas that are supported by a balanced transportation network that provides a variety of transportation choices and supports more active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities. APA Louisiana also supports transportation and housing (particularly affordable housing) policies that place street, sidewalk, bike, and other interconnectivity as a high priority in the development of transportation systems and land-use development policies, plans and projects.

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### Housing

Housing is one major challenge confronting communities in Louisiana. And while the housing crisis looks different across various places of the State, planning must play a central role in finding solutions to challenges ranging from affordability to resilience and availability to accessibility. APA Louisiana supports increased investment in affordable housing programs, including providing quality housing for low and moderate income families, reduce barriers to homeownership, and support the modification of homes to help people age in place.

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### Aging in the Community

APA Louisiana recognizes that the aging of the population creates a unique opportunity and responsibility to apply sound planning approaches and policy to improve communities to serve the spectrum of needs and abilities of older adults. APA supports the creation and integration of housing, land-use, transportation, economic, social service and health systems that support a high quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. A multigenerational planning approach ensures that the needs of all residents are met and that older members of our communities are not at risk of social isolation, poverty, declining health, and poor economic well-being.

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### Hazard Mitigation

Planning for hazards before they strike can help answer questions in a more effective and efficient environment that can aid in both preparedness for hazards and coordination before, during and after disasters. It is critical to include government and regulatory agencies, non-governmental entities, educational institutions, private sector organizations including health care providers, and citizens in hazard mitigation planning. APA Louisiana is ideally suited to assist in the State's dialogue on these issues because as planners, ours is a profession that transcends all other hazard mitigation-centered disciplines and also focuses on shared futures.

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### Coastal Restoration

Coastal Louisiana faces one of the highest land loss rates in the world, which puts our homes, businesses, communities, and national energy and transportation infrastructure at risk. If this trend continues, the economic, social, and environmental impacts will be severe. APA Louisiana advocates to ensure state funding for coastal restoration, resilience and research is, at minimum, maintained at current annual levels, and a policy or commitment for long-term coastal funding has been introduced.

