

2018-2019 APA- Louisiana Legislative Committee Report



American Planning Association
Louisiana Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

APA- Louisiana Legislative Committee (LC)

The Chapter's LC is comprised of representatives of each section and numerous at-large appointments to ensure that planning policy issues impacting different parts of the state are recognized. Each section leader shall nominate two members to participate on the LC annually. The LC Chair and LC Co-Chair will review/confirm the nominations and appoint at-large members to ensure the committee has a broad range of professional planning experience and knowledge. The LC will review, update, and submit an annual Legislative Platform to the APA Louisiana's Executive Committee for approval/adoption. In general, the LC will align legislative advocacy messages and activities with policy principles and statements set by APA. In addition, the LC will review legislative matters, engage and inform committee members, and advocate for planning principles to the state legislature.

LC Chair: APA-LA Vice President

LC Co-Chair: APA- LA Public Outreach and Advocacy Officer

2018 Activities

In 2018, the LC began organizing and engaging APA-LA membership at the APA New Orleans conference. Two meetings were held in New Orleans and Baton Rouge to begin formulating the policies, procedures, and activities. The LC followed three bills listed below in the 2018 legislative session.

- Bill 462, banning municipal and parish governments from establishing inclusionary zoning mandated policies. The LC was part of a coordinated effort to advocate against it, eventually passed by the legislature but vetoed by Governor Edwards.
- Bill 49, authorizing coastal restoration and protection projects as compensatory wetlands mitigation, was approved.
- Bill 99, providing for a committee to study census data improvements, was removed.

At the October 2018 APA-LA Conference in Shreveport, the LC Chair and Co-Chair led a session in conjunction with a national APA Advocacy representative. Attendees were educated about the advocacy activities at both the state and national level. They were also encouraged to sign up for legislative/advocacy alerts through the new state Legislative Committee and the Planner's Advocacy Network (PAN).

A legislative priority survey was circulated to both the Legislative Committee sign-up list and the full membership. The 2019 legislative priorities established from the survey and approved by the Executive Committee include; Coastal Restoration, Hazard Mitigation, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Infrastructure Planning & Financing, Sustainability, and Affordable Housing.

2019 Activities

Two section representatives for each section were chosen to serve on the Legislative Committee for the 2019 session. The group began meeting with the LC Chair and Co-Chair beginning in April 2019 before session began. The groups has been tracking the following bills.

[HB 83](#) (Rep. Harris) re: Extend sunset of tax credit for historic rehab to 1/1/26 SUPPORT

[SB 21](#) (Sen. Peacock) re: Transportation Trust Fund

[HB 466 \(Paula Davis\)](#) re: Provides relative to notice requirements for property that is subject to tax sales

[HB 146](#) (Rep. Crews) re: GIS public data

[HB 542 \(Carter\)](#) - raise the state's tax on gasoline and diesel, imposing fees on electric and hybrid vehicles, and redirecting revenues generated by a temporary, half-cent sales tax from the state general fund to infrastructure construction projects.

[HB 534 \(Pope\)](#) MOTOR VEHICLES: Provides relative to electric low-speed scooters.

[HB 556 \(Hodges\)](#) TAX/TAX REBATES: Establishes a state sales and use tax rebate for purchases of materials used to elevate homesteads above the base flood elevation.

[SB 91](#) (Cortez) ROADS/HIGHWAYS. Provides relative to electric low-speed scooters

[SB 218](#) (Barrow) HOUSING: Creates the shared housing initiative.

[SB 79 \(Carter\)](#)- TAX/AD VALOREM: Constitutional amendment to authorize ad valorem tax exemptions in Orleans Parish to promote affordable housing.

[SB 80 \(Carter\)](#)- TAX/AD VALOREM: Provides relative to the ad valorem tax exemption in Orleans Parish for affordable housing.

2019/2020 Plans

As part of the 2019 APA-LA Baton Rouge conference, the Legislative Committee is participating in an advocacy day at the Louisiana State Capitol. A table has been reserved for APA-LA representatives to speak to state representatives and elected officials. With a goal to introduce our organization and our priorities to state representatives and elected officials, materials outlining our mission and objectives will be distributed. The Legislative Committee section representatives will continue to track legislative through the end of the session in June and will continue to inform Legislative Committee members and full membership of pertinent legislation that impact the planning profession.