



APA Iowa 2019 Legislative Agenda

Making Great Communities Happen

The American Planning Association Iowa Chapter (APA Iowa) is a membership organization of approximately four hundred professional planners, planning educators, planning commissioners and planning students from across the state of Iowa. Please find below APA Iowa’s state legislative priorities for 2019. This is not an exhaustive list of critical planning policies important to APA Iowa, but rather reflects items anticipated to be considered during the 2019 legislative session. For more information, please contact APA Iowa Legislative Program Chair Steven Van Steenhuyse, AICP (svansteenhuyse@masoncity.net, 641-421-3626). For more information about APA Iowa, please visit www.iowa-apa.org.

Policy Item	APA Iowa Position
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reform	Recognizes that TIF is an important tool for local governments and supports the flexibility provided under current law.
Water Quality and Conservation	Supports funding and programs that facilitate and encourage nutrient reduction in Iowa’s water bodies and improve Iowa’s water quality. Furthermore, APA Iowa supports watershed-level planning that address urban and rural water quality, flood mitigation, and water recreation.
Smart Planning Principles	Supports comprehensive planning and the Smart Planning Principles outlined in Iowa Code and opposes any legislation to remove or weaken the practice of sound planning in Iowa’s communities.
Enhance Iowa Funding	Supports programs that provide additional funding and/or incentives that encourage economic development. This includes support and additional funding for the Enhance Iowa program and that program’s Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT), River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT), and Sports Tourism funds.
Brownfield/Grayfield Redevelopment	Supports efforts and funding to enhance the Brownfield and Grayfield Redevelopment program to encourage sustainable development and to revitalize blighted and distressed areas.
Minimum Wage	Supports a statewide increase to the minimum wage to ensure equity in economic development efforts as well as to ensure income thresholds for social services are not disproportionate across the state.
Local Control of Planning Issues	Believes local jurisdictions should have control on planning issues and opposes state legislation that mandates regulations or limits local planning and zoning powers. Examples issues include the regulation of adult oriented businesses, residential occupancy restrictions, firework legalization, and cellular tower/small cell placement.
Livable Communities	Supports state policies that seek to improve quality of life by promoting development of safe, accessible, and vibrant environments. Policies could address sustainable land use, mixed use developments, multigenerational and affordable housing, alternative transportation, and efforts to help residents age in place.
Housing	Supports increased investment in affordable housing programs, including the State Housing Trust Fund, Workforce Housing Tax Credits, and other programs that support the modification of homes to help people age in place.