



American Planning Association  
**Washington Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

## **About the Legislative Committee of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Legislative Committee (the Committee). This is an exciting, dynamic, and impactful committee that reviews and analyzes proposed state legislation relating to the Growth Management Act (GMA), the Local Project Review Act, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and other legislation pertaining to planning. Originally drafted by former Committee co-chairs and members Esther Larsen and Yorik Stevens-Wajda, this orientation letter is intended to provide an overview of how the Committee operates and how you can best get involved.

The Committee takes the lead on behalf of the [American Planning Association](#) National organization and the [Washington Chapter](#) to engage in the state legislative process and advocate for policies, laws and resources that help planners *Create Great Communities for All*.

### **Committee Purpose**

The Committee prepares the Washington Chapter's [legislative priorities](#), reviews bills, gives testimony on legislative matters of concern to the Chapter, works to advance bills sponsored by the Chapter and engages strategically with other interested parties to achieve common goals. It also provides presentations to various audiences and forums, coordinates with APA National on advocacy and policy issues, and informs the Washington Chapter's Board of Directors and membership about pertinent legislative issues.

### **Committee Activities**

During the state legislative session, the Committee meets every Friday at noon via Zoom to review and discuss proposed legislation and strategy with our chapter lobbyist. Committee members list their areas of interest and expertise on the committee membership roster. This information is used to help identify members with subject matter expertise that may be available to review bills. Prior to each meeting, the chapter lobbyist posts a list of bills for discussion and/or which need review for upcoming hearings. Members then volunteer to further analyze bills of interest and make recommendations on a position, if any, the Chapter should take on a particular bill, and then present their findings to the Committee. Where there is consensus among Committee members to take a position on a bill and to comment, position letters are drafted, signed by the Chapter President and then sent to the House or the Senate Committee(s) in which the bill is receiving a hearing.

Committee members and/or other Washington Chapter members also testify in person at hearings on bills when available and when the chapter lobbyist



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recommends that a planner with expertise would best carry the message. The Chapter also occasionally drafts legislation for consideration by lawmakers through the Washington Chapter's bill proposal process.

The Committee publishes articles (*LEAD: Legislative Education, Advocacy & Direction*) to provide Washington Chapter members and interested parties succinct and timely information regarding bills, status updates, action alerts and other legislative news. In 2023, the Committee published three LEAD articles, and they can be found on the [Committee's website](#) along with other important documents such as the Washington Chapter's legislative priorities as well as previously submitted letters regarding bills.

### **How to Get Involved**

The Committee is always seeking new members. The only requirement for membership is that individuals must be a Washington Chapter member. If you are, please let us know that you are interested in participating so that we can add you to Basecamp and provide you with Zoom meeting information. Once you have joined Basecamp, please actively participate in conversation threads, tune into conference calls, volunteer to review bills and draft position statements in order to shape the Chapter's advocacy efforts. Generally, you can expect to spend between one and three hours per week during the Legislative Session and a significantly lesser amount of time outside of the session on Committee work.

If you are not a Chapter Member, you can join or renew your membership via [National APA](#). Please make sure to add on your APA-WA dues.

Thank you for your interest in the Legislative Committee, and we look forward to your input and participation!

Robin Proebsting, Chair,  
Chris Collier, Vice Chair  
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