



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

Chapter Officers

Chance Sparks, AICP, CNU-A
President
512.312.0084
Chance.Sparks@freese.com

Heather Nick, AICP
President-Elect
903-245-4459
hnick@tylertexas.com

Gary Mitchell, AICP
Treasurer
(281) 721-4105
gary@kendigkeast.com

Christina Sebastian, AICP
Secretary
972.941.5760
christinas@plano.gov

Doug McDonald, AICP
Past-President
214.801.7792
president@apatexas.org

Lee Battle, AICP
TML Affiliate
214-509-4163
lbattle@cityofallen.org

Executive Administrator

Mike McAnelly, FAICP
9629 Fallbrook Drive
Dallas, Texas 75243
214.850.9046
administrator@apatexas.org

Thank you, Chairman Paddie, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. My name is **Chance Sparks**, and I represent the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. We are testifying **in favor of HB 12**. The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APATX) represents public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas.

HB 12 is an essential tool for local communities to respond to all types of disasters and will help the coordination between state and locals to, hopefully, mitigate the human cost of a disaster.

The proper response to a disaster varies based on the type of disaster. A tornado outbreak is quick forming and leaves little time for an emergency alert but could affect an entire region of the state. Winter storms and hurricanes give a more advanced warning but affect more expansive areas; in both circumstances, an alert system would benefit all communities in the state.

Our communities' resiliency is a legislative priority for APATX this session, and we would welcome any opportunity to work alongside the Legislature to implement a statewide alert system. Our members already work with local communities to improve resiliency and have firsthand experience to enhance the coordination of the state's response to disasters.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chance Sparks, AICP
President
American Planning Association - Texas Chapter