



**American Planning Association
Texas Chapter**

Creating Great Communities for All

The American Planning Association's Texas Chapter and its 2,400 members—community leaders, private developers, design professionals, and local officials—work with the private and public sectors in communities throughout Texas. We use our expertise and innovation to shape livable and sustainable Texas communities that reflect the character and values of each local city, town or rural area.

2023 APATX Policy Priorities for Development Character

Based on the experience of our public and private sector members, the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association has identified these four Development Character priorities for the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature.

APA TEXAS SUPPORTS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR ROLE IN MANAGING THE IMPACT OF GROWTH ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Protect Historic and Cultural Assets in Our Local Communities

Support legislation that allows local communities to preserve historic structures, historic landscapes and historic districts.

Support legislation and funding that incentivizes the preservation of historic building stock in our local communities.

Support legislation and funding that recognizes, accommodates and encourages craft industries, namely the manufacturing of handcrafted, artisanal, locally produced goods, in our communities.

Encourage the Creation of Green Infrastructure

Support legislation to protect our State's water resources and reduce impacts of flooding by allowing cities, counties and underground water districts to establish impervious cover requirements.

Support legislation and funding that provides tools and resources to preserve and add trees in our communities.

Support legislation that allows local governments to minimize adverse environmental impacts of new development through regulation of design and construction practices.

Enable Cities to Protect Neighborhoods and Commercial Areas

Support legislation that allows cities to protect residential areas from uses that have a negative impact on neighborhood safety and stability through the use of regulatory tools such as zoning

Support legislation that allows for local determination of suitable tools for managing land use and development character, such as form-based codes and unified development codes.

Enable Cities and Counties to Maintain Orderly Growth

Support legislation that preserves the authority of local jurisdictions to determine and mitigate the impact of new development on public safety and on existing infrastructure systems.

Support legislation that fosters placemaking and vibrant local economies by granting authority to municipalities to set their own standards for contextually appropriate building materials.

Support legislation that sets reasonable time limits on local governments for review of technical documents, such as engineering studies, with more flexibility in the mandatory 30-day action time frame.

Support legislation that allows local governments to expedite the subdivision plat and related engineering plan review process.

Support legislation that allows cities and counties to adequately manage plats in the municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Support legislation that sets feasible and reasonable requirements for public notices within the area of jurisdiction of the decision-making body.

Support legislation that provides affected individuals and organizations with a reasonable opportunity to present testimony about non-administrative decisions at a time when their input can be considered by decision-makers before action is taken.

Support legislation that protects developers and property owners by retaining the existing rough proportionality requirements of the State as written.