



**WE'RE THE TEXAS CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

Our members - community leaders, private developers, design professionals, and local officials - have the expertise and innovation to shape livable and sustainable Texas communities.

People and businesses moving to Texas overwhelmingly pick economically vital and desirable places. Those places are communities where good planning ensures that Texas continues to be a place to invest time and money.

We plan the transportation corridors keeping the Texas economy moving. We mitigate natural disasters with smart development codes and disaster recovery planning. We work with property owners to keep business centers and neighborhoods safe and successful.

**PLANNERS MAKE TEXAS SUCCESSFUL**

We care about the people who live in our communities and we want our local economies to be strong.

Texas' competitive success depends on having places where people want to live and companies want to locate. Texas communities - and their residents, property owners, and planners - need the right tools in our toolbox in order to protect public safety and minimize red tape.

But often the details make the difference. We want to be the resource you and other Legislators turn to when you need to know how legislation will help or hinder successful economic development and quality of life for Texans.



# PLANNERS HELP CITIES BE SAFER AND MORE LIVABLE



## FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

### CREATING DIVERSE CHOICES

More people and jobs are heading to Texas. From 2020 to 2050, Texas is expected to add more than 18 million new residents! That means many more homes, jobs, and businesses. And virtually all of these new residents choose cities and suburbs in Texas' metropolitan areas.

Along with growth comes change. The share of Texans who are seniors will also more than double by 2050. This means our communities must offer new and different choices to meet resident needs.

Planners understand the options that are available to achieve each community's unique objectives. They work with local stakeholders - businesses, residents, schools, healthcare providers, and others - to create effective action plans.

Whether they prefer walkable, transit-oriented homes or a relaxed country lifestyle, planners have the tools to create the places your constituents want.

### REFINING LEGISLATION FOR BETTER RESULTS

In past sessions, several bills passed which had unintended negative consequences for Texas residents, property owners, and developers. APA Texas is committed to working with the Legislature to address these impacts.

One example is the 2019 building code restrictions in HB 2439, which responded to a perceived "monopoly" for brick companies on exterior building materials. Due to this bill, developers can't count on quality development next door. Cities must issue permits that violate deed restrictions, or that use materials like aluminum wiring and plastic gas lines most fire marshals and cities prohibited as unsafe.

These regulations should be amended to allow cities to require reasonable exterior materials that maintain health, safety, and property value.

### RESPONDING TO THE UNEXPECTED

The experiences we've all had recently have revealed opportunities to improve the lives of Texas residents and the vitality of Texas businesses and communities. Recent disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and even industrial explosions in rural areas demonstrate more needs to be done.

Planners want to work with the Legislature to respond to adversity. We can assist you with information, analysis, best practices, and practical details that will make your actions more effective.

Our Texas planners include experts who can help you with issues ranging from statewide broadband coverage, to hurricane and flooding response, to making all neighborhoods safer and healthier.