

## MAP Strategic Plan Implementation 2019 Legislative & Policy Priorities (Updated January 22, 2019)

### KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The LPC reviewed the 2019 Policy Priorities of the American Planning Association (APA) during their first Committee meeting on January 7, 2019. The LPC found APA's following four (4) key legislative issues to be appropriate priorities for Maine: housing choice and affordability, inclusive growth and development, infrastructure, and healthy and safe communities. In addition to the key legislative issues adopted by the APA, the LPC may consider other policy focus areas determined relevant to planning in Maine which may arise during the 129th legislative session. Such policy focus areas may include: alternative transportation, renewable energy, and climate resiliency.

### MAP Strategic Plan Implementation 2019 Legislative & Policy Priorities Update (January 22, 2019)

The LPC presented the 2019 Strategic Plan with the first round of LDs and some LRs at the MAP general membership meeting on January 18, 2019. As presented, the LPC noted all LDs with some relevance to the key legislative issues of: housing affordability in Maine; supporting inclusive growth and development in Maine; investment in Maine's infrastructure; promoting healthy and safe Maine communities; and other planning policies for more just, healthy, and prosperous Maine communities.

In addition to legislative priorities of the LPC, the MAP members present advised the following criteria for selecting bills for testimony:

1. Only review LDs that suggest policies at the core of the planning profession in Maine. Testimony should demonstrate technical expertise on key policy issues but ancillary policy review should be a low priority or ignored by the LPC;
2. Avoid testifying on spending bills unless core to the planning profession. Technical experts (i.e. professional economists) are required for such policies as taxation or State bonds which may not be readily available for consultation by the LPC or the MAP Executive Committee;
3. The prevailing expectation of the members is for the LPC to focus on upwards of six (6) bills. By taking a strong position on a limited number of bills the LPC or MAP members can reasonably be expected to actively participate in legislative public hearings. Thus, the LPC will strategically minimize 'watering down' testimony provided by Maine's professional planners.

The LPC presented the DRAFT 2019 Handbook to the general membership present. Based on the discussion, the "Rules of Procedure" were revised for consistency with the MAP Bylaws (adopted during the Jan. 18th meeting) and to reflect the new expectation that the LPC provide testimony to the MAP Executive Committee 36 hours prior to publishing. The Rules of Procedure are revised as follows:

**"Rules of Procedure.** The LPC is authorized to speak before the Legislature and its Committees on behalf of the Association when there is unanimous support by the LPC for an action to be



taken. In the event of a lack of unanimity, the Association's Executive Board shall act as the LPC and approve or disapprove any recommended action by a vote of the majority of the Officers.

With regard to any issue addressed by the LPC intended for presentation to the Legislature and its Committees the LPC shall act by unanimity. The Chair or any designee of the Chair will articulate the proposed position and the full LPC will be provided an opportunity for debate. During the period of discussion with respect to the proposed position, any LPC member may move an alternative position. If no such alternative position is moved, and absent any objection by any member, the Chair will declare the position to have been taken by the LPC "by unanimity." Any motion made by any member of the LPC shall be addressed according to the rules of procedure adopted by the LPC. With regard to all procedural matters not specifically addressed in the LPC Handbook, LPC meetings shall be conducted in accordance with such rules as the committee adopts.

The LPC's recommended actions or positions shall be reported in writing to the Executive Board at least 36-hours before the position is made public. The written position shall include the time at which it is scheduled to be delivered. The Executive Board may reverse or affirm any position taken by the LPC by a vote of the majority of the Executive Board, but such vote shall be completed and reported to the Chair of the LPC at least 12 hours prior to the scheduled delivery of the position. The requirement for a 24 hour notice of an Emergency Meeting, as outlined in Section 4.8 of the Association By-laws, shall be waived. All actions or positions taken by the LPC on behalf of the Association shall be forwarded to the web page manager within 24-hours of delivery for posting to the Association's web page."

### **MAP's Strategic Plan: Legislative Priorities in Items 3, 5, and 7**

<https://www.meplan.org/Resources/Documents/MAP%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>

**Item 3. To provide recognition of the important and valuable contributions of the planning profession to the present and future quality of life in Maine.**

1. Develop a legislator of the year award for the elected official that promoted some important aspect of planning.

*In accordance with Item 3 of MAP's Strategic Plan, the LPC shall prepare a list of Maine's elected officials for the review and approval of MAP's Awards Committee that advanced policies in the 129th Session that address:*

- a. Housing affordability in Maine*
- b. Supporting Inclusive Growth and Development in Maine*
- c. Investment in Maine's Infrastructure*
- d. Promote Healthy and Safe Maine Communities*
- e. Other Planning Policies for More Just, Healthy, and Prosperous Maine Communities.*



**Item 5. To actively provide professional education opportunities, particularly the latest innovations to all professional planners.**

1. Develop a training program for members that covers lobbying techniques and other necessary skills involved with influencing proposed legislation.

*The LPC reviewed MAP's Legislative and Policy handbook during their first Committee meeting on January 7, 2019. The LPC prepared a final draft of the handbook for the approval of the MAP Executive Committee on January 14, 2019. During the first LPC meeting, the Committee received printed copies of the, "129th Maine Legislature: A Guide For Maine Legislators: Procedures, Services & Facts," the MAP Bylaws with attention to Sections 5.1, 5.8, Article VI Sub-Committees 6.3, 6.4C(1&2) (DRAFT revision for review by MAP membership on January 18, 2019), and as noted above: the APA's Policy Priorities for 2019.*

*MAP's LPC Chair is Maine's Legislative Liaison for the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association (NNECAPA). NNECAPA budgets for every State Legislative Liaison (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) to attend APA's Policy and Advocacy Conference and Planners Day on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. Last year (2018) is the first year all three (3) Northern New England states attended the conference. The Policy & Advocacy Conference includes lobbying training with Planners from across the United States and culminates with an opportunity to meet with Maine's Federal Legislators to discuss matters of State policy. Additionally, a Legislative Liaison from NNECAPA was invited to attend APA's 2018 Policy and Advocacy Conference in Austin, Texas. APA's invitation to Texas is anticipated for all three (3) states in 2019.*

*The 2019 MAP General Membership Meeting was developed with support from the LPC to organize a Planner's tour of the State House in Augusta, invite a Special Guest Speaker: Governor Janet Mills, and provide a legislative update and legislative goals for 2019.*

**Item 7. To provide an advocacy role in policy development at all levels of government.**

1. Continue the advocacy and review role of the Association's current legislative committee.
2. Encourage increased membership participation on this committee.
3. Explore the possibility of creating a lobbyist position in cooperation with other associated groups to pro-actively influence legislation that impacts planning, land use, economic development, and the environment.
4. Develop a training program targeted for legislators that explains the importance of planning.
5. Develop a speaker's bureau using the expertise of the current membership and offer this service to state and local government, and private organizations.





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*In fulfillment of the responsibilities provided in the MAP Bylaws, the LPC will endeavor to review pending LR's and LD's throughout the 129th Legislative Session. The LPC will provide all draft testimony to the MAP Executive Committee for review and approval and provide all testimony delivered to Legislature to the webmaster.*

*The LPC hopes to reinforce the need for the Planning profession in Maine by advising good planning decisions in Augusta. As legislative procedures and relationships develop in Augusta, the LPC will revisit the feasibility of a lobbyist position and/or a training program for legislators as noted in MAP's Strategic Plan.*

