

Welcome to the 2018 Legislative Committee (LC) of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The LC prepares a [legislative agenda](#), reviews legislative bills, gives testimony on legislative matters of concern to the chapter, works to get Washington Chapter of APA (Chapter) bills sponsored, engages strategically with other stakeholders to achieve common goals, provides presentations to various audiences and forums, coordinates with National APA on advocacy and policy issues, and informs the Chapter's Board of Directors and Chapter membership about pertinent legislative issues.

The LC meets weekly via conference call at noon on Fridays during the state legislative session to review and discuss proposed legislation, receive updates from our Chapter lobbyist and provide direction for commenting on legislation (see the [legislative committee website](#)). The calls are led by one of the LC Co-Chairs, generally alternating weekly, and follow an agenda posted prior to the call on the LC Project of Basecamp, which is the main communication tool for the LC members. The Chapter lobbyist also posts prior to each call a list of bills for discussion and/or which need review for upcoming hearings.

LC members list their areas of expertise on Basecamp and are asked to review bills and make recommendations to the LC on the position, if any, the LC and Chapter should take on the bill. The bill reviews are posted on Basecamp to allow for ongoing comments from LC members. Position letters are drafted and signed by the Chapter President on bills of significance to the Chapter, and the Chapter lobbyist provides those to the Legislature via the House or the Senate Committees at which the bill is receiving a hearing. LC members and/or other Chapter members also testify at hearings on bills when the Chapter lobbyist has determined that a planner or other Chapter member with expertise is the best person to speak at hearings. The LC may also provide a letter of recommendation in support, in opposition, or with specific comments to the Governor on a bill that has passed.

The Chapter also has a [bill proposal subcommittee](#) through which chapter members can [propose legislation](#) for the chapter to consider sponsoring.

The legislative committee publishes electronic articles ([LEAD: Legislative Education, Advocacy and Direction – Close to the Ledge](#)) to provide chapter members and others with succinct and timely information regarding bills, status updates, action alerts, and other legislative news. During the 2016 legislative session, the committee published ten LEAD articles, and in the 2017 legislative session, the committee published seven LEAD articles. The legislative committee also publishes occasional longer newsletter articles, generally as a preview before (e.g. [2017 session preview](#)), and a recap after (e.g. [2016 session recap](#)), each session.

Thank you for your interest in the LC, and we look forward to your participation as an active member of the LC. Yorik Stevens-Wajda and Esther Larsen, LC Co-Chairs.