Chapter Survey

The goal of this survey is for APA to better understand Chapter capacity and operations for legislative and policy matters. We are aware that some state Chapters do not take positions or proactively discuss legislation as a matter of course and we are not trying to describe an optimal level of involvement, but merely to assess how Chapters currently interact with their state’s policy apparatus.

Please do not answer only ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ but instead describe the status of your Chapter with regards to the issue raised.

1. Chapter and Board Structure
   a. Does your Board take positions on state or local legislation?
   b. Does your Chapter have a committee charged with directing legislative and policy advocacy?

2. Direct Advocacy
   a. Do you currently employ a lobbyist? If yes, then please explain for what purpose.
   b. Have you previously employed a lobbyist? If yes, then please explain for what purpose.
   c. Do you conduct Lobby Day or Advocacy Day activity or have a State Capital conference (and if so, on what date)?
   d. Does your Chapter have an Amicus Committee?
   e. Have you prepared Amicus Briefs?

3. Chapter Participation
   a. Does your Chapter participate in the Great Places program?
   b. Do you participate in the Fall Policy Conference?
   c. Does your Chapter regularly participate in Planners’ Day on Capitol Hill?
   d. Is your Chapter part of any legislative coalition(s)? If yes, please list which coalitions.

4. Legislative Activity
   a. Does your Chapter adopt a regular policy agenda?
   b. Does your Chapter take a position (positive or negative) on active legislation?
   c. Does your Chapter respond to proposed regulations?

5. National Planning Survey Follow Up Questions
   These questions are in response to a brief survey conducted at the National Planning Conference and are meant to help illuminate topics of interest that respondents highlighted.
   a. Describe your current situation regarding proposals that would lead to a loss of state or local planning authority (if applicable, otherwise write N/A).
   b. Give a specific example of sample legislative language promoted by a national organizations that may affect your interests (if applicable, otherwise write N/A).
   c. What is your Chapter doing to address climate change resiliency— including sea level rise (if applicable, otherwise write N/A)?
   d. What is the top planning issue in your state?

6. Chapter Research and Policy Products
   a. Does your Chapter write reports on legislative topics?
   b. Does your Chapter draft proposed legislation?
   c. Does your Chapter use APA-produced policy guides to support chapter research or policy products? If so, how (please provide an example)?
7. Broader Engagement
   a. Does your Chapter issue a State legislator award or have a legislative recognition program?
   b. Does legislative content appear in your Chapter’s newsletter or on your website?
   c. Do you conduct other types of legislative advocacy events or training sessions? If so, please include a brief description (or write N/A).

8. Communications
   a. Does your Chapter use social media to have a dialogue with elected officials regarding key policy issues?
   b. Does your Chapter work with print or digital media outlets to communicate how planning adds value to communities (i.e. submit letters to the editor, op-eds)? If so, please include a brief description.
   c. How does your Chapter celebrate the value of planning? Provide a brief description of communications-related efforts at the Chapter level (E.G. National Community Planning Month).

9. Priority State Advocacy/Legislative Needs
   a. What are your Chapter goals or work plan related to policy and advocacy matters over the next two years?
   b. What are your Chapter’s greatest needs related to policy and advocacy matters?
   c. If you could make one request from National APA for policy and advocacy support, what would it be?