



## GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS TAKING POLICY POSITIONS

As state legislatures, regulatory agencies, the U.S. Congress, and the administration become more active on issues impacting the profession of landscape architecture, local ASLA chapters may choose to weigh in on critical legislative and regulatory proposals outside the scope of ASLA's biennial Federal and State Legislative Priorities.

With support from ASLA national staff, ASLA chapters should feel confident weighing in on issues that the chapter and the society identified as priorities through the ASLA Federal and State Legislative Priorities Survey process. However, for chapters that want to weigh in on ancillary issues that are outside of this domain, but are important to the chapter, ASLA recommends utilizing the following checklist to take action:

1. The issue should comport with at least one of [ASLA's Public Policies](#) and should not conflict with ASLA's National Federal Priorities Agenda.

*(ASLA Public Policies are external documents, developed by the Policy Committee and adopted by the Board of Trustees, reflecting positions on specific issues, from the perspective of the society and the profession of landscape architecture. The policies represent the society's beliefs, values, and visions.)*

2. ASLA is a non-partisan organization, as such, ASLA does not endorse political candidates, party platforms, policies, legislation, or regulations intended to promote a particular party or candidate.

*(Nothing in the above statement precludes or inhibits in any way individual members from participating in political action committees and political action advocacy groups organized separately from ASLA.)*

3. The chapter should establish reasonable consensus of support or non-support on the issue within the membership.

*(This could be through a formal survey, open forum during in-person chapter meeting(s), email responses, newsletter announcement(s) with requests for comments, or any other appropriate informational outlet that provides chapter members adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issue.)*

4. After receiving adequate feedback and consensus on the issue, the chapter Executive Committee, or relevant chapter leadership, should review and "sign off" on supporting or not supporting the issue.

5. An appropriate chapter member/leader should draft a letter or statement in support of or not supporting the issue.

- a. ASLA national staff requests the draft letter or statement be provided to ASLA government affairs staff (contact information below) for review. This step is mandatory so that national staff can be aware of chapter advocacy actions and to assist in identifying any problematic language.

6. The statement or letter should be placed on chapter letterhead and signed by appropriate chapter leadership.