



**American Planning Association
Planners Advocacy Week
December 5–9, 2005**

Join your local APA chapter for the launch of a new policy advocacy program — Planners Advocacy Week in congressional district offices. This program builds on the terrific success of the annual Planners Day on Capitol Hill, which brings hundreds of planners to Washington, D.C., for meetings with members of Congress on important planning-related legislation. Now it's time to take the planning message home, to your *local* statehouse!

What is Planners Advocacy Week?

This December, APA is coordinating meetings between planners and their congressional representatives back home in the district office during recess. This means that while Congress is away from Washington, we have a great opportunity to influence public policy. What better place than at home to highlight and demonstrate the local importance of planning for safe and secure communities?

During the week of December 5-9, APA members nationwide will conduct meetings in their congressional district on behalf of the policies that make great and safe communities happen. This is your opportunity to get involved and be part of this landmark effort for APA and good planning. Congress is now considering a range of disaster mitigation and pre-disaster planning proposals. Planners Advocacy Week will focus on actions that the planning community and elected officials can take in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

During Planners Advocacy Week, APA members will promote the Safe Communities Act of 2005 (H.R. 3524), which provides grants through the Department of Homeland Security for incorporating disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness into comprehensive land use planning and urban development. At the same time, APA staff will be working with congressional offices to reinforce our message, highlight our organization-wide involvement and provide substantive briefings to lawmakers and staff here in our nation's capital.

Want to participate?

APA makes it easy to be a part of the planning movement. We'll give you all the information you need to set up a meeting. We'll coordinate interested members from the same area so that you can conduct a joint meeting. We'll provide you with training and talking points in advance via our website. We'll send you packets of material to leave behind with your representative. We'll even make sure that you have thank you notes to follow up after the meeting.

There are many ways to get involved.

If you can't conduct a meeting during the designated Planners Advocacy Week, don't worry! We'll help you set up a meeting as close to our advocacy week as possible, at a time when you are available. Meeting with your member of Congress in their district office during recess is just one way to get involved. In addition, or alternatively, we encourage you to coordinate a site visit with your representative — preferably to a site that demonstrates successful planning for hazard mitigation. Why not team up with other professionals in your field? Planners Advocacy Week is a great time to reconnect with your friends at the American Society of Landscape Architects who

we worked with this May to conduct a joint Advocacy Day during the Legislative & Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

Get creative! Other ways to get involved include media outreach, whether in the form of an op-ed article, press release, or interview, or a "town hall" meeting. There are numerous ways to advance APA's policy agenda and stay active through our local advocacy programs.

Be an active part of the planning movement.

Think of the value of a consistent message being delivered simultaneously nationwide in support of legislation that ensures planning for safe and secure communities. It's easy to get started. Just complete the form below, sign up online at www.planning.org/legislation.plan.htm, or contact APA's government affairs staff at govtaffairs@planning.org.

What's next?

APA will hold its annual Planners Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., as part of the annual Legislative & Policy Conference January 29-31, 2006. You have the chance to be part of APA history twice ... once during Planners Advocacy Week this December, and again at the 2006 Legislative & Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., the following month. APA's advocacy is only as strong as your commitment. Join us to help ensure communities of lasting value.



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JOIN THE PLANNING MOVEMENT. Be a part of APA's policy program. Sign up today for the Planners Legislative Action Network (PLAN) and get ready for Planners Advocacy Week by completing the form below. Help support safe growth planning in your district. Your voice will make a difference!

APA staff will follow up with more details and personalized assistance.

- Yes, I want to participate in Planners Advocacy Week. Send me information to set up a meeting with my congressional representative.
- Yes, I want to participate in Planner's Advocacy Week. I'd like more information and assistance in setting up a meeting.
- Yes, I want to participate in Planners Advocacy Week but I can't conduct a meeting during the week of December 5-9. I'd like assistance in setting up a meeting some other time during the recess.
- I can't participate in Planners Advocacy Week, but I want to be an active part of APA's grassroots advocacy program, the Planners Legislative Action Network (PLAN).

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Phone / Fax _____

E-mail _____

HOME address _____

HOME city and state _____

HOME zip code _____

Congressional district (if known) _____

Complete and return this form to APA at:

American Planning Association
Attn: Government Affairs
1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036
Fax: 202-872-0643

Questions? Contact 202-872-0611 or govtaffairs@planning.org