

# ASLA ADVOCACY

## Checklist for state and federal issues important to ASLA Chapters

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.

During the recent [ASLA Federal and State Legislative Priorities Process](#), ASLA members provided critical feedback on federal and state issues and programs that are important to them and should be included in the ASLA 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities Agenda. On the stateside, most ASLA Chapters identified licensure, water and stormwater regulations, procurement, and design and planning local codes and ordinances as most important. Federal issues identified as critical in ASLA National's current Federal Priorities Agenda include: transportation planning and design; parks and recreation; water and stormwater management; designing for pollinators; and community development and infrastructure issues.

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 process. However, for Chapters that want to weigh in on issues that are outside of this domain, but are important to the Chapter, ASLA recommends utilizing the following checklist to take action on specific policies:

- 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 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 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. The appropriate chapter member/leader should draft the letter or statement in support of or not supporting the issue.
6. ASLA recommends sending the draft letter or statement to ASLA government affairs staff (contact information below) for review. This step is not required, but is recommended, so that national staff can be aware of chapter advocacy actions, and to assist in identifying any problematic language.
7. The statement or letter should be placed on chapter letterhead and signed by appropriate chapter leadership.

For questions, contact State Government Affairs Director [Elizabeth Hebron](#) on *state* issues or Federal Government Affairs Director [Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA](#) on *federal* issues.