



As an appointed planning official, you are often called upon to make important decisions that affect your community's physical, social and economic development. The issues that you address and the tools and techniques at your disposal to guide planning and development are becoming increasingly complex.

The Georgia Planning Association (GPA) is an organization dedicated to promoting sound community planning that benefit the residents of the state. The Association was established in 1968 to achieve a desired quality of life through comprehensive community planning across Georgia.

Specifically, the Georgia chapter of the American Planning Association has a responsibility to improve planning decision-making across the state through the provision of resources and professional development for elected and appointed planning officials in Georgia.

Top 10 Reasons Appointed Planning Officials should become members of the Georgia chapter of the American Planning Association

1. Conferences and Workshops.

GPA conferences and workshops bring the latest in theory and application to planning professionals, commission members, and citizens. Spring and Fall conferences are held in a variety of locations around the state, cover a range of planning issues, and provide opportunities for networking and most importantly, learning from each other. **A special Planning Officials track is offered at the annual Fall conference at a discounted rate.**



2. Newsletters.

The GPA publishes a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to all members. The newsletter provides up-to-date information regarding planning issues, land use law, events, and other subjects of interest to planners.

Additionally, **monthly e-newsletters are emailed to planning officials** highlighting hot topics, trends in planning, professional development opportunities and on line resources.

3. Legislative and Policy Action.

The GPA's progressive advocacy program offers members opportunities to participate in the state legislative process. The chapter's Legislative committee evaluates issues, identifies priorities, develops, then implements legislative strategies.

4. Planning Commissioner Training.

Through the Community Planning Institute, GPA sponsors planning commissioner training courses multiple times a year across the state, teaching the essentials every planning commissioner should know from the basics of zoning to the complexities of land use hearing procedures.

5. Awards.

The GPA recognizes the best of Georgia's planners and planning projects.

6. Membership in GPA provides access to and the opportunity to join the American Planning Association (APA).

APA is the national association for planners. The association is dedicated to helping professional and appointed planners make great communities happen. Planning officials are offered a discounted APA membership and access to articles, trends, resources and planning official best practices from across the country.

7. Volunteer Opportunities.

The GPA routinely benefits from the high degree of participation of its members. The Chapter encourages member participation in its diverse array of activities, including the Professional Development Committee, the Program Committee, Awards Committee, Newsletter Committee, Legislative Committee, various special project committees and task forces and more.

8. Networking.

GPA's conferences, workshops, newsletters, training and professional development opportunities provide planning officials the opportunity to network with. Share information and learn from planning officials and professionals from across the State of Georgia.



9. The 3 R's- Resources, Resources and Resources

Membership in the GPA will provide you with access to resources including information about planning trends and best practices in Georgia, updates and analysis about planning legislation, professional development opportunities related to your job as a planning official, recently released planning publications and more.

10. Lots of bang for a little Buck.

GPA membership including all of the fantastic and increasing benefits is available to planning commissioners for an annual fee of only \$35!!! Planning officials can join both GPA and APA for a total cost of only \$69!!!

JOIN TODAY

Visit www.georgiaplanning.org or complete the form below

Name ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms ☐ Mrs _____

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American Planning Association
Georgia Chapter

Please mail form to: APA, Payment Center • 9774 Eagle Way • Chicago IL 60678