



American Planning Association  
**Pennsylvania Chapter**  
*Lehigh Valley-Berks Section*

## Monthly Newsletter

 November 2025

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### Happy November!

Hello planners:

As the temperatures start to drop, planning continues to rise. We enjoyed an excellent 2025 APA PA Conference last month in Harrisburg, bringing together over 500 planners from across the state for great networking and social events, insightful sessions and mobile tours, and a continued support for planning around Pennsylvania.

We are gearing up for hosting the 2026 conference right in our own backyards at the Wind Creek Bethlehem, and we will be working diligently from now until next October to plan for an amazing event! If you would like to get involved, please see the section below for more information.

If you have any questions, concerns, or anything you'd like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me at [craigbeavers24@gmail.com](mailto:craigbeavers24@gmail.com). Otherwise, I'll see you in our next newsletter!

Craig Beavers, AICP Candidate

**Section Chair**



 **News and Announcements**

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## Conference Planning Committee

The next Conference Planning Committee meeting will be meeting on [Thursday, November 13th at 11 AM, hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams.](#)

Anyone can volunteer, whether you are an active section member, someone who just reads the minutes or newsletters, or even if you aren't a member or a planner! It takes a team to organize our conference and promote planning in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County, so we are looking for any and all help!

To add this meeting to your calendar, please download the calendar link here: [Calendar Invite](#)

As a reminder: The 2026 APA Pennsylvania State Conference will be held from Sunday, October 18th through Tuesday, October 20th at Wind Creek Bethlehem. Mark your calendars now!

## **Section Council Elections: Ballot Still Open!**

The ballot for the 2026-2028 Section Council election was sent out on October 15th to all eligible voting members\* as determined by the latest PA Chapter registry. The ballot will remain open until November 15th, at which time the election results will be confirmed by the Nominating Committee.

If you believe you are an eligible voting member and did not receive the ballot, please reach out at [apapalvb@gmail.com](mailto:apapalvb@gmail.com). Please note: there are only approximately 70 current members who are up to date on dues or who are the voting designee of an organizational membership.

*\*An eligible voting member is defined by the Chapter Bylaws as all PA Chapter members whose address of record (either business or personal) are within the territory of the Section and have paid any/all applicable dues and fees.*

## **Lehigh Valley Land Use Seminar: November 4th**

The Lehigh Valley/Berks Section and Stevens & Lee are proud to partner once again for our annual Lehigh Valley Land Use Seminar. Join us for a briefing on the latest cases affecting land use across Pennsylvania.

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**  
**8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**  
**Homewood Suites by Hilton**  
**3350 Center Valley Parkway**  
**Center Valley, PA 18034**

Stevens & Lee's team will present:

- How Arbitrary Can Municipal Decision Making Be Without Statutory or Ordinance Support?
- Don't Flush your Development Plans Just Because Your Municipality Denied Your Sewage Module: A Primer on the Private Request Process Under Act 537
- Proving or Challenging an Applicant's or Objector's Standing in a Hearing Under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code
- Pennsylvania Land Use Appellate Case Law and Statutory Update

## **Webinar Wednesday: Ethics Cases of the Year**

**November 5 @ 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**

During this session planners will learn firsthand how the AICP Code of Ethics emphasizes a commitment to equity and inclusion, to protecting the public interest, and to supporting AICP planners from frivolous complaints. Understand how the Code sets certified planners apart from others by focusing on integrity, appearance of fairness, and commitment to supporting

fair and just communities. This session will review multiple scenarios, including real-life ethical issues, that came before the Ethics Officer last year in 2024. The scenarios to be reviewed will involve handling potential conflicts of interest, managing private communication, and considering switching jobs from the public to the private sector within the same community. Learn how to readily access the Code on the APA website and how to download a copy of the Ethics Pledge to display as a reminder to themselves and a notice to others that they adhere to a Code of Ethics. Two members from the AICP Ethics Committee will assist in presenting the materials along with the PA Chapter's Professional Development Officer and members of the PA Chapter's Professional Development Committee.

*CM credit is pending approval. You must attend the webinar live in order to earn CM credit.*

Speaker(s):

Scott Duncanson, AICP, ENV SP, LEED Green Associate

Steve Thomas, AICP

Alexis Williams, AICP, PP

*\*\*The Pennsylvania Chapter is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speaker(s) you will hear\*\**

Deadline to register is November 4

If you're interested in sponsoring a Webinar Wednesday session or have a session for Webinar Wednesday please contact us.

Send your request to [admin@planningpa.org](mailto:admin@planningpa.org).

Register Now

## Upcoming Events

Our Section provides a calendar of CM events, local initiatives, and major planning meetings. Here are a few upcoming events of note:

- November 4 - Lehigh Valley Land Use Seminar
- [November 5 - Webinar Wednesday: Ethics Cases of the Year \(1 CM credit pending, 1 Ethics pending\)](#)
- [November 7 - Signs of the Times: Mastering Content-Neutral Ordinances \(1.5 CM, 1 L\)](#)
- [November 13 - Conference Planning Committee](#)
- [November 14 - Accelerating Housing Supply: State Chapters Take the Lead \(1.5 CM\)](#)

To view more events and CM webinars, click the button below.

[View More Events](#)

## Employment Opportunities

Our Section highlights a variety of planning and planning related jobs in our area. Here are a few open positions:

- [Senior Community & Regional Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)
- [Senior Transportation Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)
- [Community & Regional Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)

To view more job opportunities, click the button below.

[View More Jobs](#)

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**Lehigh Valley/Berks Section,  
APA PA**

Allentown, PA  
United States of America



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