

In an effort to better inform the APA membership, the Chapter President Council (CPC) has developed a series of questions for national candidates for the American Planning Association (APA). Mike Southard and Sumner Sharpe compiled this survey for distribution by the CPC Executive Committee. The CPC encourages chapters to endorse candidates who represent their views and positions.

1) *The CPC has formally taken the position in favor of mandatory continuing education for certified planners. The next few questions pertain to your position as a candidate for national office on continuing education.*

- a) *What role do you believe continuing education plays in the advancement of a professional planner's career?*
- b) *Do you favor mandatory continuing education for certified planners?*
- c) *What role should APA (nationally) and the chapter (locally) have in educating planners?*

AC: **1A:** Maintaining skills and responding to new challenges are the essence of continuing education, and, therefore, personal advancement.

1B: Continuing education should depend on individual desires. Most planners will participate when desirable and well-designed educational opportunities are made available.

1C: APA nationally should be working with education consultants to construct curricula specific to APA's education goals. Chapters can provide guidance as to content and needs, and, most importantly, to dissemination through teleconferencing, websites, videos and local seminars.

ML: **1A:** A critically important role – lifelong learning is the hallmark of a competent professional.

1B: Yes. Professional development through continuing education is a responsibility inherent with certification, and raises the credibility of the entire planning profession.

1C: APA, through AICP, should facilitate the professional development of its membership by structuring a “user-friendly” continuing education program that offers a variety of methods to obtain credits. AICP should provide each Chapter PDO the training and tools necessary to successfully implement a mandatory continuing education program at the chapter level.

2) *The APA Board of Directors has adopted the 2002/2003 Organizational Development Plan (ODP). The following questions pertain to your views of the plan and its role toward advancing the profession, as well as the organization.*

- a) *Of the six major goals, please prioritize them in the order of highest to least importance.*
- b) *Are there any other elements or goals that you would include in the ODP and why?*
- c) *How can the Chapters be utilized to better implement the ODP?*

AC: 2A: My priorities are as follows:

1. Pursue social economic and racial equality
2. Advance the cause of planning
3. Provide education opportunities
4. Advocate for the planning profession
5. Provide valuable member services
6. Build policy and legislative partnerships

2B: No

2C: The ODP is a document of the National Board and chapter participation will depend on how national pursues the goals and strategies.

ML: 2A: All of the goals and their strategies are important. The following priorities are based on the view that APA/AICP is a business, the ODP is its business plan, and the customer is the APA/AICP membership: 1. Create a culture of continuing education and provide more education opportunities for practicing planners; 2. Develop and promote a brand definition that reflects the visual, emotional, and cultural identity of APA; 3. Aggressively advocate and implement policies and legislative agendas that support and sustain good planning at the local, state and national level; 4. Foster organizational change and maintain financial responsibility; 5. Develop new membership and product marketing strategies; and 6. Pursue social, economic, and racial equity in America's communities.

2B: No. The ODP is an excellent blueprint for APA and AICP for 2002-2003, and reflects the commitment of the APA, AICP, CPC, DC, and SRC leadership. New elements and goals should be determined during the process of preparing the 2004-2005 ODP.

2C: Ultimately, Chapter members are the foot soldiers that will accomplish APA's vision of "a nation of vital communities", which is the foundation for the ODP. Institutionally, the CPC is positioned to monitor the achievements of its Chapters by tracking relevant ODP strategies, and then coordinating its assessment with a similar review and evaluation system established for the APA Board, AICP Commission, DC and SRC.

3) *The following questions pertain to the make-up of the APA Board of Directors and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Commission. Please provide your opinion with an explanation as to your reasoning.*

a) *Should the voting for AICP President be only by AICP members instead of by all APA members?*

b) *Should the APA President serve as a voting member on the AICP Commission?*

c) *Should the CPC, DC, SRC, AICP, and/or College of Fellows (COF) be voting members on the APA Board?*

d) *The AICP Commission has an even number of voting members. Should the AICP President vote only when breaking a tie vote?*

AC: **3A:** No

3B: No

3C: No

3D: Yes

ML: **3A:** Yes. Voting for any office should be tied exclusively to those represented.

3B: No. The current system of coordinating relevant issues between the AICP Commission and the APA Board is effective.

3C: No. Again, the current system of coordinating issues through liaisons and inviting feedback on relevant agenda items is effective.

3D: No. It is important for the AICP President to be on record for every vote. Ties are rare, and when they do occur, indicate that additional discussion and work is necessary before an issue can be resolved and/or moved forward.

4) *The American Institute of Certified Planners has inducted three classes into the College of Fellows. The Chapters play an integral role in selecting nominees, financing, and preparing nomination packets. The following questions pertain to the relationship between the Chapters, AICP and FAICP.*

a) *Should the FAICP selection committee provide the Chapter President with evaluation information pertaining to non-selected candidates?*

b) *Should the COF classes be limited to a specific number or should all worthy nominees be honored?*

c) *Should a Chapter's endorsement be given more consideration than an individual endorsement?*

AC: Beyond honoring some highly respected experienced members of our organization and profession, I am not certain what the ordination of fellows provide for the membership at large. I hope this is not another addition to elitism, similar to "old school ties", private golf clubs and the social register.

ML: **4A:** Yes, absolutely. In the past, worthy nominees have not been selected even though they have been endorsed by a Chapter, and are left confused and embarrassed without plausible explanation.

4B: All worthy nominees should be honored.

4C: Yes. Chapters establish and implement a legitimate nomination process that comprehensively reviews and recommends worthy candidates. Individual endorsements should be considered as one component of a Chapter's nomination process.