



# Goals

- **Provide** high-quality training to local communities to ensure a broad understanding of the legal basis of planning in Washington State, including those procedures and protocols which all boards, commissions and elected bodies need to know in order to do their work legally and effectively.
- **Convey** clearly in Short Courses and related workshops, the logic and components of the comprehensive planning process, and share techniques and strategies through which an adopted community comprehensive plan can be implemented.
- **Increase** understanding of the role of the planning commission, and provide suggestions for improving the working relationships among the planning commission, staff and elected officials.
- **Promote** the necessity of citizen participation in the planning process, and provide examples of successful citizen participation strategies and programs from around the state.
- **Maintain** a stance of political neutrality at all times.

# Education

- ***www.planningpaw.org***. Find the latest news and notices, information on upcoming PAW events, important links, employment opportunities, contact information and an online registration form.
- ***The Western Planner***. The magazine-based platform to share unique, timely information to communities of the Western United States is free with every membership.
- ***Conferences***. The Annual PAW Conference takes place in April. Topics covered include Comprehensive Plan formulation strategies, planning for economic growth, environmental planning and accomplishing periodic planning updates. The conference also includes mobile workshops and the Short Course on Local Planning.
- ***Land-Use Boot Camps***. These one-day conferences focus on the legal aspects of planning, including mock land-use hearings and speakers from across the State.
- ***Planner's Forums***. Regional planner's forums are held each quarter as a place to discuss locally important planning topics and coordinate regionally. They are primarily for planner, planning commissioners and local government elected officials. Agendas are posted at [www.commerce.wa.gov/growth](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth).
- ***Short Course on Local Planning***. PAW partners with the state Department of Commerce and other organizations to bring the Short Course to communities throughout Washington state. This 3-hour training includes a review of the legal framework for planning in Washington, comprehensive plan basics and the roles in planning. Short courses are always free and open to all, presented by volunteer experts. Specialized Short Courses can be arranged on request.

# Mission

Our vision is of strong and livable communities guided by informed citizens. Our mission is to help shape a vibrant Washington through effective and informed community planning. We do this by providing an inclusive forum for sharing problems and solutions, developing planning knowledge and putting this knowledge into the hands of the public and their elected officials. Our goals are to provide education, develop a sustainable infrastructure that will build organizational capacity and grow awareness of the purpose and value of PAW.

**PAW** is a grassroots, educational organization serving the needs of planning commissioners, elected officials, tribes, special purpose districts, private sector firms, state agencies, students and interested citizens. Unbiased planning education is the reason PAW was formed more than 50 years ago, and it is still the mission of PAW today.

Planning Association of Washington  
203 Mission Avenue, Suite 107  
PO Box 745  
Cashmere, WA 98815  
(509) 782-9446 | [vicky@planningpaw.org](mailto:vicky@planningpaw.org)

