



American Planning Association
South Carolina Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

September 24, 2025

American Planning Association – South Carolina Chapter (SCAPA) Chapter Membership
Re: Proposed Amendment to the SCAPA Bylaws

Dear SCAPA Members:

On behalf of the SCAPA Executive Committee, I want to thank you for your continued commitment to SCAPA. Together, we have built a strong and active chapter that advances planning practice, supports professional growth, and provides meaningful opportunities for connection.

To maintain this momentum and to expand the services we provide, the SCAPA Executive Committee is recommending an adjustment to annual membership dues. This change requires a vote of the membership.

Why an Adjustment is Needed

Over the past several years, SCAPA has taken on new initiatives while continuing to deliver high-quality conferences, workshops, and member services. These include:

- Legislative tracking and regular policy updates
- Hosting non-conference regional events and offering additional credit opportunities
- Refreshing and upgrading the Chapter website platform
- Expanding AICP preparation materials to better support members
- Continuing to host two annual conferences despite rising event and service costs

These initiatives reflect our shared goal of building a stronger, more effective chapter that meets the evolving needs of planners across South Carolina.

Aligning with Neighboring States

Currently, SCAPA's membership dues are set at 15% of National APA dues. In comparison:

- Georgia and North Carolina both set their rates at 20%
- Alabama's rate is 25%

To bring SCAPA in line with our peers, we are recommending an increase to 20% of National APA dues. For most members, this represents an annual difference of approximately \$15.

Non-APA Member Rate

We are also recommending an adjustment to the non-APA member rate, increasing from \$35 to \$75 annually. At present, non-APA members pay less than APA-affiliated members, and this change ensures fairness across categories. Student and other membership rates will remain unchanged.



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Next Steps

Because this change affects the SCAPA By-Laws, it requires a vote of the membership. We will present the proposal formally at the upcoming Chapter Meeting and ask for your approval.

Your membership is the foundation of SCAPA's strength and success. This modest adjustment will allow us to continue growing, offering more value to you, and keeping pace with the services and opportunities offered by neighboring APA chapters.

We greatly appreciate your support and your voice in this important decision. Please plan to attend the online Chapter Meeting on **October 1, 2025 at 12:00 PM** and participate in this vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Estep'.

Lance Estep, AICP, PMP
President-Elect

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION