

Brian N. O'Leary, AICP

Biographical Information:

Brian N. O'Leary, AICP, is the section chief of county planning for the Montgomery County Planning Commission, where he has worked for 25 years on a wide range of planning projects. As section chief, Mr. O'Leary oversees the county comprehensive plan, the farmland preservation program, model ordinance production, data collection, and revitalization projects. Prior to this work, he was a community planner, helping local townships and boroughs with their zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, development reviews, open space plans, and comprehensive plans. Mr. O'Leary received his undergraduate degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and his Masters of Business Administration in real estate/urban land studies from Temple University.

Over the last ten years, Mr. O'Leary has been very involved with the Chapter and the Southeast Section. He is currently president of the Chapter and continues to serve on the Chapter Awards committee. He is a past chair of the Southeast Section, was a co-chair of the 2009 state conference in Valley Forge, and was a co-chair of mobile workshops for the 2007 APA national conference in Philadelphia. In addition to his involvement with PA APA, Mr. O'Leary is currently a member of the Lower Merion Township Planning Commission, is the government board member of the Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance, and is a member of ULI Philadelphia's Regional/Suburban Initiative Council.

Mr. O'Leary lives in Wynnewood, a suburb of Philadelphia, with his wife and two children. He grew up in Havertown, Delaware County.

Candidate Statement:

Over the past two years, the Chapter Board has taken a variety of steps to strengthen planner resources, advocacy, and outreach. For resources, we've held two excellent conferences, continued our training courses, and begun to put best practices on our new website. For advocacy, we filed a friend of the court brief opposing the Marcellus Shale provision that supersedes local zoning. We also began sending a welcome letter to new legislators and submitted a letter of support for the Senate version of the transportation bill. On outreach, we have prepared new marketing material, added a student representative to the board, and begun working closely with an emerging professional group. I hope to continue these initiatives over the next two years if I am reelected.

As president, I have worked hard to be inclusive and transparent. We have made our meetings open to everyone, posted the Board minutes and budget online, listened to people's concerns, and, most importantly, tried to resolve any concerns quickly and fairly. For example, the smaller sections of the Chapter felt that they weren't getting enough of a rebate from the Chapter, which is based on members, to actually hold any events. We came up with an alternative rebate formula that has a small equal base amount for all chapters, with the additional funds based on the Chapter's membership. We also increased the rebate budget so no section would lose funding under the new formula.

If reelected, I will continue this open approach while working hard to strengthen the voice of planners in Pennsylvania. Thank you.