



How to Join a Community Planning Group

Step One: Identify which planning group you can join.

The City of San Diego maintains a document that includes dates, times, locations, contact information, and web addresses for community planning groups:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/pdf/cpg/contactlist.pdf>

Step Two: See if you are eligible.

In general, residents are eligible for membership. Often, property or business owners are as well. Individual planning committee bylaws detail the specific eligibility.

You can find bylaws for planning groups on their websites, or you can ask for them from planning committee chairpersons.

Step Three: Attend a first meeting(s)

For many planning committees, persons are eligible for election if they have attended at least one prior meeting. In some, a minimum of three prior meetings are required. Check to see if there a requirement to document your attendance or complete an application.

For planning committees that hold elections in March, the last qualifying meeting to attend will often be in January or February.

Step Four: Build your support:

While not all community planning board elections are competitive, many are. You can take active steps to ensure you are elected to serve. In competitive elections you might not be successful the first time, don't be discouraged!

Also, pay attention to how seats are allocated. Some have open elections, some specify seats by geography (seats per neighborhood) or by category (residents versus business owners.) This may affect your strategy.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to attend a community planning group meeting. After they attend one or more meetings, they become eligible to vote in future elections for planning group membership.

Get to know existing community planning group members and have them get to know you. They get to vote on who is elected to the board, and they are often influential experts in their communities.

Step Five: Stand for election:

Community planning boards elect members generally during their March meetings. The candidates that receive the most votes are elected to serve for 2 to 4-year terms.

Bring your eligible voting neighbors, make a speech about your commitment and qualifications, and earn the votes of your peers and community members!