

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Foundational Platform (RE-DRAFT 4)

WRAC is an alliance of Community and Neighborhood Councils which span the entire west side of the city of Los Angeles. Our regional concerns are brought up for discussion by our board members and our board is comprised of Community and Neighborhood Council leaders appointed to our board. Our positions are adopted only after a super-majority of member councils has affirmed the position in question.

WRAC holds to the following foundational principles in the areas that we have determined to be our alliance priorities:

- Land Use and Zoning - We hold that the LA Department of City Planning and its Planning & Zoning Department adhere strictly to existing planning and zoning codes and ordinances. We urge that regulations be upheld and that communities impacted by land use and development projects be allowed ample time to review and comment on any matter seeking discretionary action.
- Housing and Homelessness - WRAC urges governing bodies to adhere to community plans (made with the input of local stakeholders), with deference to local character, zoning and building regulations, building & safety codes and zoning restrictions. We expect agencies and entities to conduct meaningful outreach to the communities represented at WRAC, through our member councils, to address housing and homelessness relief.
- Mobility and Transportation - WRAC is aware of the need for new and creative solutions to gridlock and Westside mobility, as well as mass transportation. We expect research results on transit and mobility to be made available to communities impacted by pending infrastructure planning. We urge sufficient notification of all affected parties to allow them to comment on any proposed developments or transportation infrastructure proposals in areas that impact our member councils.
- Public Safety – We urge a review of public safety priorities by all agencies from time to time, and we insist on law enforcement ties to be maintained to community based organizations, such as NCs and CCs, so that public safety is done in tandem with the needs and circumstances of localized communities across the city.
- Education – We believe education is the cornerstone of our collective future, and we urge city, county and state agencies to keep a focus on funding a diverse and enriched education for our public schools, in order to ensure that no student is unable to attain a quality education, and that all students feel safe within their school environment.
- Environment & Sustainability – We insist that CEQA regulations be scrupulously applied and coastal guidelines considered while standards for development of any sort with impact on the environment, particularly in hillside and coastal areas on the Westside with high fire severity zone designations, remain reviewable by local boards and community based entities, including our member councils.
- Open Space – we urge creation and maintenance of spaces which our communities may utilize for their health and well being, while remaining respectful of the natural habitat that surrounds us. All caution should be taken to protect open spaces and urge their maintenance for future generations and minimize the affect of development in high fire areas.
- Social Justice – we believe that social justice must guide our intent as we move forward to a more equitable and inclusive Westside that provides opportunity for everyone.