

Candidate to be Included on Slate

COMPONENT NAME: Michigan Chapter, American Planning Association

POSITION: At Large Board member

CANDIDATE: Jacob Kain, AICP

247975

CANDIDATE POSITION STATEMENT

Michigan is at a crossroads. From housing affordability to aging infrastructure, our communities face generation-defining challenges. As planners, we possess the unique ability to synthesize data and visualize future impacts, but to meet this moment, we must lead.

Planners too often act as passive facilitators, prioritizing process over outcomes. To maximize our effectiveness, we must provide our members with the professional "backbone" required to stand behind difficult facts and speak truth to power. This requires shifting away from long-held paradigms and breaking down the silos that dull our collective efficacy and impede comprehensive solutions.

The future of Michigan depends on our ability to work across boundaries. Collaboration with architecture, engineering, public health, and economic development is now more vital than ever.

As a member of the MAP Board of Directors, I will champion:

- **Interdisciplinary Integration:** Strengthening ties with allied professions to create a unified front for change.
- **Forward-Thinking Advocacy:** Prioritizing the state's long-term health through evidence-based strategic planning.
- **Peer Support for Innovation:** Creating forums to share strategies for shifting traditional planning paradigms.

"Business as usual" no longer suffices. I ask for your vote to ensure Michigan planners are defined by courage, connectivity, and lasting impact.

Work Experience

2023 – present:	Assistant City Manager for Development Services, City of Midland
2022 – 2023:	Director of Planning & Community Development, City of Midland
2015 – 2022:	City Planner, City of Mt. Pleasant
2010 – 2015:	Senior Planner, City of Gainesville, Florida

2005 – 2009: Supports Coordinator, Liberty Resources, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Education

Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning, University of Florida, 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Hope College, 2005

Planning Affiliations

American Institute of Certified Planners, 2016 – present

Certified Floodplain Manager, 2025 – present

MAP Training Instructor, 2021 – present

Redevelopment Ready Communities Technical Advisory Committee, 2022 – present

MAP Inclusive Design Committee, 2025 – present

Florida APA, San Felasco Section, Board of Directors, 2011 – 2015

Florida APA, Young Planners Group, Chair, 2012 – 2013

Florida APA, Student Board Member, 2010