

Local Government in Planning: Key Takeaways

1. Localities are required to prepare a comprehensive general plan that encompasses land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety.
2. Zoning codes are developed in coordination with several bodies, dividing a jurisdiction into various categories such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational.
3. State legislation significantly impacts local planning decisions, with key examples in California being the California Environmental Quality Act, the Housing Crisis Act, and the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency Act.
4. Housing, homelessness, transportation, changing demographics, and climate change have and will continue to inform city planning in important ways.
5. Community building is at the heart of city planning, with the goal being to design places that are suitable to live, work, and play.