

Legal and Policy Roadblocks to Achieving Land Use Goals

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Compared to almost any other state, Ohio is in a poor position to address the problems posed by urban sprawl. Where other states have moved forward in adopting innovative planning and zoning tools, Ohio has lagged behind. One example tells it all: Ohio's "enabling" legislation for zoning has remained essentially unchanged since it was first adopted in 1919!

In addition to our failure to adopt new planning and zoning tools, Ohio's legal structure for local governance creates a fractured and divisive array of jurisdictions with few, if any mechanisms to address regional concerns.

This discussion will address the problems these shortcomings create for dealing with current land use challenges, provide examples of how other states have addressed similar issues, and recommend what steps Ohio needs to take to move from the rear to the front of the states addressing sprawl effectively.