

NAACP Housing Advocacy News:

When advocating for affordable and fair housing, there is federal, state, regional, county and town policy that can affect outcomes. The NAACP National and State organizations typically provide guidance at the federal and state levels. It is up to the local branch to study and stay current on local housing conditions. The following provides a summary of some of our local advocacy efforts.

Housing Advocacy - Town of Warrenton:

The Fauquier NAACP Housing Committee initiated their advocacy work by studying the Town of Warrenton Comprehensive Plan 2040 and providing a detailed response with recommendations to the Town Planning Commission and Town Council.

Fauquier NAACP Comments Highlighted in Fauquier Times:

The Housing Committee of Fauquier's NAACP objected to the housing recommendations in the comp plan. Dr. Ellsworth Weaver is president of the group. The organization's four-page contribution started, "The housing section fails to clearly address the housing needs of low-income, very low-income and extremely low-income households as well as the housing disparities experienced by people of color. The plan emphasizes 'attainable' over 'affordable' housing because the term affordable carries with it negative connotations. The availability of affordable housing, however, is a matter of equity that cannot be avoided and must be addressed in the town's comprehensive plan.

The letter also states, "Emphasis must be placed on preserving what remains of early African American communities, e.g., Madisontown, Oliver City and Haiti Street. There is a lack of data focused on assessing the needs of current residents of historically African American communities and a failure to evaluate the effects of proposed land use and zoning changes on those African American communities."

https://www.fauquier.com/news/update-warrenton-town-council-will-hold-public-hearings-on-comprehensive-plan-march-9-april-13/article_39e69cc0-72b4-11eb-a0ef-978a3fbcd190.html

After the Town of Warrenton Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Town Planning Commission in the spring of 2021, the Fauquier NAACP Housing Committee developed an alert and encouraged public comment.

[NAACP Housing Committee Town Comprehensive Plan Action Alert:](https://www.naacpfauquiercounty.org/post/naacp-fauquier-county-housing-committee-issues-action-alert)
<https://www.naacpfauquiercounty.org/post/naacp-fauquier-county-housing-committee-issues-action-alert>

Committee and resident comments were highlighted in local news articles.

[NAACP Housing Committee's public hearing comments highlighted in Fauquier Now:](https://www.fauquiernow.com/fauquier_news/article/fauquier-warrenton-approves-plan-encouraging-redevelopment-4-2021)
https://www.fauquiernow.com/fauquier_news/article/fauquier-warrenton-approves-plan-encouraging-redevelopment-4-2021

[NAACP Housing Committee's public hearing comments highlighted in Fauquier Times:](https://www.fauquier.com/news/town-council-approves-warrenton-comp-plan-6-1/article_83d87d20-9d5d-11eb-9823-ab93e1b3e2be.html)
https://www.fauquier.com/news/town-council-approves-warrenton-comp-plan-6-1/article_83d87d20-9d5d-11eb-9823-ab93e1b3e2be.html

A follow-up article highlighted the lack of affordable housing in not just the Town but the County.

[Fauquier Times Article: "For many working in Fauquier County, living here isn't an option; solutions are elusive."](https://www.fauquier.com/news/for-many-working-in-fauquier-county-living-here-isn-t-an-option-solutions-are-elusive/article_4994c70c-a796-11eb-9fbf-33f93499b569.html)
https://www.fauquier.com/news/for-many-working-in-fauquier-county-living-here-isn-t-an-option-solutions-are-elusive/article_4994c70c-a796-11eb-9fbf-33f93499b569.html

Recent Town of Warrenton Housing News

Updates from the Town of Warrenton on affordable housing activities and efforts to connect existing town residences to town sewer can be found here:

<https://warrenton.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=3715&MeetingID=1586>

Housing Advocacy - Fauquier County

The Housing Committee studied the proposed update to the County comprehensive plan's Housing Chapter in May 2021. The Committee, in collaboration with Piedmont Environmental Council, developed a list of recommendations and met with County planning staff and the planning commission to review suggested updates. The County incorporated several updates to strengthen and clarify affordable housing goals in the county.

Recent Fauquier County Housing News

The Housing Chapter was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors July 8, 2021. The following link provides the staff presentation provided at the BOS meeting and the housing chapters well as public comments.

[Coversheet \(fauquiercounty.gov\)](https://www.fauquiercounty.gov/Coversheet)

Members of the NAACP Fauquier County Branch 7059 walked door-to-door in the historically African American neighborhoods of Fauquier that are in and near the town of Warrenton, passing out flyers on the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)'s no-cost opportunities for Energy Efficiency and Home Retrofits..

LEAP reports that because of the Branch's efforts, approximately 20 residences were audited and retrofitted to allow for increased energy efficiency and lower electricity bills.

See the Housing Resources page for more information on the program.

Affordable Housing Advocacy - Planning District 9 Region

The Fauquier NAACP Housing Committee studied the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Housing Study and used the data and recommendations to evaluate the Town of Warrenton and County of Fauquier housing chapters. The Housing Committee continues to collaborate with the Region to emphasize affordable and equitable housing practices.

[Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, VA \(rrregion.org\)](https://www.rrregion.org)

A Fauquier NAACP Housing Committee representative also sits on the Foothills Housing Network Racial Equity Subgroup.