

April 29 2025

Dear City Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for your work on the land use plan.

Please change the plan to eliminate protections for historic districts.

First, it doesn't make any sense to exclude only some old houses from upzoning. There is no reason to exclude an old house in a historic district but not to exclude old houses in other parts of the city.

Second, it is not fair to exclude historic districts at all. If you require the city to keep historic districts, that would just be setting aside wealthy areas for wealthy people, instead of lowering the cost of housing for everyone.

Please make the plan fair and let the city end the historic districts. As City Planner Jill Thacher said, city council can undo historic districts if it wants to. Here is what MLive said about that on March 6:

Asked whether there's anything preventing City Council from undoing historic district designations, Thacher said council could appoint a study committee to explore whether a historic district should continue to exist and, if a case is made for it, council could eliminate a historic district.

So, council can get rid of historic districts. It's not that hard to do. Give council the permission it needs.

Thanks for making Ann Arbor a better place.

Thank you,
Ann Arborite

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