**Support Historic Preservation:**

* Historic preservation that encourages re-use of existing structures is consistent with environmental sustainability goals: adaptive re-use reduces landfill waste and conserves energy and materials. Any reforms should prioritize our communities’ health and climate goals over the interests of developers.
* Maintaining a strong historic preservation ordinance is integral to ensuring that our City and its neighborhoods retain their unique identity and character, which contribute to a palpable sense of community and cultural heritage significant to our quality of life in San Diego.
* Strong historic preservation measures protect the availability of “Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing,” which is essential to maintaining socioeconomic diversity within our communities as opposed to new housing development that overwhelmingly consists of market rate housing for the wealthy.
* Preservation and development can coexist harmoniously, with thoughtful planning and cooperation. By supporting historic preservation efforts, we promote sustainable development practices that enhance, rather than diminish, the character of our neighborhoods. Contrary to misconceptions, historic preservation only affects a small portion of development projects, and importantly, it plays a vital role in maintaining the unique identity of our City and its neighborhoods.
* Historic neighborhoods and sites are not only cultural assets but also essential economic drivers that support the vitality of our City—they contribute to tourism, job creation, and higher property values, all of which in turn add to the City’s tax revenues. Maintaining a pro-historic preservation policy will ensure a continued robust economy for San Diego and its residents.

**“Preservation and Progress” Issues**:

* Historic districts help maintain the character of and cohesiveness of our older neighborhoods. Strengthen the program by adopting rules to provide a simplified path for National Register Historic Districts to be designated locally. Allow residents and community groups to submit nominations for local designation of historic districts, which have not been listed on the national register and that have been identified by surveys.
* Maintain a robust Mills Act program and expand eligibility to include properties listed on the National Register. The Mills Act program is an affordability tool, making historic homeownership available to all buyers. It is the only local financial incentive for homeowners to restore and maintain historic properties, which in turn stabilizes older neighborhoods and increases property values. Tax losses are minimal in comparison to the benefits of the program.
* The current historic designation appeals process works well and should not be changed. Introducing the concept of “De Novo” review to the City Council, would cripple the decision-making authority of the qualified professionals on the HRB and inject politics into the appeals process, likely resulting in more loss of precious historic sites.
* Historic reviews of building permits help protect historic resources and result in minimal project delays. The review process can be streamlined if a comprehensive city-wide survey of the City’s potential historic resources is performed, but changes to the review process should be conditioned on the survey being conducted.
* Create objective design standards so new construction in historic districts compliments existing historic structures.
* Don’t allow “mitigation” or a commemorative designation program to become a substitute for preservation. A plaque is not a historic site!

**How to take action and make a comment to the City**:

1. Go to the City’s web portal suggestion form for Preservation and Progress: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e0d989551042482a80386110ae91f92e> and write your comments.
2. Email your comments to the Historic Resources Staff at the Planning Department at this email address: [historicplanning@sandiego.gov](mailto:historicplanning@sandiego.gov)
3. Write an email or letter to your City Council member. Find your representative’s information at: <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/politiciansplus.htm>
4. Call your representative: Find your representative’s information at <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/politiciansplus.htm>