



Media Contact:

Ken Strobeck, Executive Director
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
602-258-5786
kstrobeck@azleague.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIES AND TOWNS LEAD BY EXAMPLE ON INNOVATION AND COST SAVINGS

PHOENIX (March 29, 2012) – As Arizona emerges from economic recession, cities and towns are leading by example to find innovative ways to cut costs while still effectively attracting jobs and maintaining high levels of service.

In recent years, Arizona’s 91 cities and towns have cut their spending by nearly 30 percent on average to weather the economic downturn.

“We responded to the crisis by doing more with less,” said Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, president of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns. “But the only way to really do that without hurting the services that local residents expect and deserve is to be innovative and creative, and that’s what we’re seeing across the state. Local governments have already saved millions of dollars through innovation and creativity.”

Highlights of cities and towns strides in innovation include:

- The City of Maricopa, in an effort to reduce paper waste, is using iPads and an app called iLegislate for agendas, note-taking and action items from City Council and other meetings. Transitioning to a paperless City Council agenda saves \$5,000 a year and approximately 200 hours of staff time.
- Since the City of Phoenix created its Efficiency and Innovation Task Force in 2010, the city has saved over \$40 million by outsourcing and privatizing certain functions like IT services, landscaping and janitorial services at parks, and vehicle maintenance.

-more-

2-2-2/Cities and towns lead by example on innovation and cost savings

- The City of Avondale has renovated its old City Hall building and converted into a collaborative space for entrepreneurs, innovators, tech startups, creative companies and the general public. Gangplank Avondale opened on March 20. As part of this innovative partnership, businesses have access to a creative and collaborative environment without the overhead costs associated with opening a business, while participants give back to the community by leading free workshops and mentoring follow entrepreneurs.

About the League:

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of all the 91 incorporated cities and towns in the state of Arizona. It provides policy and legislative advocacy, information and inquiry services, along with publications and educational programs to strengthen the quality and efficiency of municipal government. It was founded in 1937 to serve the interests of cities and towns and to preserve the principles of home rule and local determination. For more information, visit www.azleague.org.

###