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**Voters Increasingly Trust Cities and Towns Most with Taxpayer Dollars
Statewide Poll: Voters Say Local Governments Boost Quality of Life**

PHOENIX (May 18, 2012) – A recent statewide poll shows Arizonans increasingly trust mayors and city council members to balance budgets and make wise decisions about public funds. The number of voters who have confidence in city and town government to be fiscally responsible jumped 11 percentage points over a similar poll taken in 2011. State and county government trailed cities in this category by a margin of more than two-to-one.

The poll, which surveyed 500 likely voters across the state and was commissioned by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, also showed that:

- 68 percent of those polled said cities and towns did a “good” or “excellent” job maintaining critical services during the economic downturn.
- An overwhelming majority of voters ranked city services like police, fire and emergency protection, as well as maintaining streets and roads as critical.
- A solid majority of Arizona voters (55 percent) do not want state legislators enacting stricter rules and regulations on city and town governments.

“This poll clearly shows that voters trust cities and towns, which are the governments that are closest and most responsive to what’s going in their lives. And that trust is on the rise,” said Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Local Services Highly Valued

In terms of the services provided by cities and towns in Arizona, voters ranked public safety (police and fire) and public utilities as most critical to the well-being of their communities. Additionally, they placed a high priority on local streets and roads, libraries, recycling programs and parks. Each of those categories of service received a ranking of more than four on a five-point scale.

2-2-2/ Voters trust local governments most

Other municipal services that received high rankings included community planning, senior centers, code enforcement, recreation programs and zoning.

League Executive Director Ken Strobeck said, "Cities and towns are responsible for delivering the basic services that protect people and enhance the quality of life of communities for residents and businesses. These results demonstrate that people place a high value on city services, and appreciate the efficiency of city governments in delivering those services."

Arizona Economy Recovering

A majority of those surveyed felt that the Arizona economy was either on the path to recovery or at a neutral point, an improvement from the response to the same question a year ago. Regarding the overall direction of the state, more than 41% felt it was headed in the right direction, while about 48% said it was on the wrong track.

The survey was done by veteran Tucson pollster Margaret Kenski and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. It was conducted in late April.

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.

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