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HUNDREDS OF ARIZONA LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO ATTEND LEAGUE CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX

PHOENIX - Municipal officials from most of the 91 incorporated cities and towns in Arizona will be in attendance at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference in Phoenix, August 19-22 at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. The League Conference is the largest annual gathering of its kind in Arizona, where nearly 1,000 elected officials, staff, business leaders and guests gather to discuss vital issues impacting cities and towns around the state.

"As leaders of our state's communities, Arizona's mayors and councilmembers will come together at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference to share best practices, exchange ideas and learn about innovative ways to deliver high-quality and essential services to citizens," said Clarkdale Mayor and League President Doug Von Gausig. "The conference, which is the largest and most important training event for municipal officials in the state, will have dozens of educational sessions and events to equip local leaders with the tools and information they need to continue to build strong and vibrant communities."

2014 League conference highlights include:

- **Arizona Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on Tuesday, August 19 at 5:00 p.m.** All major Arizona gubernatorial candidates have been invited to discuss the important issues facing our state and to share their position with conference attendees. Ted Simons, host of "Arizona Horizon" on Eight, Arizona PBS, will moderate the forum. The forum will be streamed live online via the League YouTube page. To view the forum, visit www.leagueaz.org/govforum beginning at 5 p.m.
- **Visiting Dignitaries from Sonora, Mexico.** The Association of Mayors of Sonora will be in attendance to meet on issues of interest to both Arizona and Sonora communities. The Sonoran mayors will participate in a **panel on Thursday, August 21 at 8:15 a.m.** to discuss the Arizona-Sonora Bi-National Mega Region and commemorate a bi-national cooperation agreement with the Arizona mayors.

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- **General Luncheon on Thursday, August 21 at Noon.** The annual luncheon will feature **U.S. Senator John McCain** as keynote speaker. The program will also include:
 - **Presentation of the 2014 League Legislative Friends and Champions**, honoring local government supporters from the state legislature. League Vice President and Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell will preside over the session and present the awards.
 - **Presentation of the 2014 Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards**
- **Ninth Annual Youth Program** will welcome more than 100 youth delegates from cities and towns throughout the state. Delegates will participate in sessions and activities planned specifically for youth interested in local government. They will also have the opportunity to interact with local elected officials, network with other youth delegates and learn about issues and challenges facing Arizona.
- More than **30 educational sessions** on topics ranging from fundamentals of local government such as budgets and public records, to sessions on transportation, veterans issues, border issues, working with state agencies, water resources, energy efficiency, council-manager relations and economic development. For a full list of sessions and other conference events, visit: http://www.leagueaz.org/e/14ac/2014_lact_program.pdf
- Conference delegates will also participate in the League's Annual **Resolutions Committee**, where legislative policy positions are debated and adopted, and where every city and town, regardless of size and location, has an equal vote. Members will also honor mayors and council members who have served in office for eight, 12, 16, 20 or 24 years.
- **Election of new leadership** for the League including the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer as well as members of the Executive Committee governing board.

About the League:

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of 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.

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IMPORTANT NOTE FOR EDITORS/REPORTERS:

The League welcomes you to cover and report on conference sessions and events throughout the week. Conference badges are required for admission. Please stop at the registration desk in the ballroom foyer to sign in and obtain your badge.