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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Women Lead and the League of California Cities® Women's Caucus Release Updated Report on Women's Representation on California City Councils

Report Shows Women Increased representation by 21 total Council Members, More Work to be Done

Sacramento— California Women Lead and the League of California Cities® Women's Caucus released a report this morning showing women have increased their representation by 21 total council members since 2014. The update follows last year's report "Snapshot on the Status of Women in City Government," which revealed that the number of California women serving on city councils is not as high as one would suspect, and did not mirror the gains woman made in other parts of the country.

"There has been some progress since last year, however, we still have much work to do in order to reach parity for women in elected office—at the local, state and federal level," said California Women Lead CEO Rachel Michelin.

Michelin, in partnership with the League's Women's Caucus, announced the updated numbers of women serving in government during the League's 2015 Annual Conference & Expo in San Jose.

According to the 2015 report, the total number of women serving on city councils statewide is now 727. Highlights from two reports can be compared below.

2014 preliminary report findings:

- 706 women were serving on city councils;
- 61 cities had a majority of women on the council;
- 191 had one woman on the council; and
- 71 had NO women serving on the council.

2015 updated report findings:

- More women are serving on city councils in California—21;
- One city—Eureka—has an all female council;
- 76 cities have a majority of women on the council – 15 more women than previous report;
- 177 cities have one woman on the council – down 14 from the previous report;

Additionally, of the 12 largest cities with populations over 300,000, the updated report shows Oakland with the highest percentage of women serving and Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Bakersfield with only one woman on the council. Riverside has no women on its council and only two cities—Fresno and Oakland—have a woman serving as mayor.

"This updated report shows that women serving in city government has increased, but is still far from representing the total number of women who live in California. We need to empower more women to fill the pipeline and consider serving on city councils throughout the state," said Michelin. "Women are more likely to seek office when they receive the right support, so California Women Lead continues its efforts to encourage, train and mentor women to be leaders in their communities and beyond, reminding them, 'if not you, then who?' We are focused on increasing the number of women candidates, and the number of women who are elected, in 2016 election cycle."

"Women comprise just over 50 percent of the U.S. population but we do not yet represent half of the council members in California. This report shows the advancement of women leaders in California city governments and the advances that still need to be achieved," said Janet Arbuckle, Grass Valley council member and president Of the League of California Cities Women's Caucus.

"We founded the non-partisan League of California Cities Women's Caucus to address the need for female representation in public office in California and across the country," states City of San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera who is also founder

and past president of the League's Women's Caucus. "Elected women have a unique opportunity and responsibility to encourage other women to run. The low numbers of women on city councils and the lack of female representation in the larger cities are especially concerning."

The updated report on the status of women serving in city government also shows continued disparities in representation at the statewide and Congressional offices.

To help counter the apparent lack of parity for California women running for — and being elected to — local and state office, California Women Lead conducts workshops with the goal of focusing attention on the need for the effective leadership that women uniquely provide, whether it's serving on a school board, as a county supervisor, as a state legislator, or in the halls of Congress; and to offer support and guidance to those women who respond to the call for effective leadership that is so desperately needed.

For a copy of the report, visit <http://cawomenlead.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-CLW-Report.pdf>

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About California Women Lead – California Women Lead is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing leadership training, policy discussion forums, and networking opportunities for women holding – or interested in holding – elected or appointed office. The report was written by Rachel Michelin, Executive Director/CEO, California Women Lead. For more information about the California Women Lead, its programs to encourage and train women to be leaders in their community and state or to support California Women Lead financially, please visit www.cawomenlead.org.

About The League of Cities Women's Caucus – The Women's Caucus is a diversity caucus organized within the League of California Cities. The Women's Caucus endorses and supports the League of California Cities (LCC) mission to restore and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy in order to enhance the quality of life for all Californians and to support policies that directly promote the development and redevelopment of safe and healthy cities. Our mission, as a bipartisan and multicultural group of elected or appointed officials and their colleagues, is to support women in public office, support issues that affect and benefit women, and provide a network of support for both men and women at the local level who are working to overcome barriers for women. For more information, please visit www.cacities.org/caucuses.