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Jim Svava is Professor in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University and Director of the Center for Urban Innovation.

In his research and teaching, he specializes in local government politics, management, and ethics, and has a special interest in the roles and responsibilities of elected and administrative leaders in local government. He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters that examine leadership by mayors, council members, and city managers. The books he has written include:

- *Official Leadership in the City: Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation*
- *A Survey of America's City Councils: Two Decades of Continuity and Change*
- *Facilitative Leadership in Local Government: Lessons from Successful Mayors and Chairpersons* (editor and contributor)
- *Leadership at the Apex: Political-Administrative Relations in Western Local Government* (co-authored with Poul Erik Mouritzen from Denmark)
- *The Ethics Primer for Public Administrators in Government and Nonprofit Organizations*

He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and an honorary member of the International City/County Management Association. He has served as a member of the National Council of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and chair of the Section on Intergovernmental Administration & Management of ASPA. He is currently on the board of the Alliance for Innovation and a member of the ICMA Strategic Planning Committee.

He has spoken at meetings of the International City/County Management Association, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties, as well as to students and organizations of local government officials in twelve states and five foreign countries. He has served as a consultant to city governments on charter revision in several states and to the Forum for Executive Public Management in Denmark, and he contributed to the drafting of the 7th and 8th editions of the *Model City Charter* of the National Civic League.

He received the BA in History from the University of Kentucky and the Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University. He has served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he directed the Public Administration Program and at North Carolina State University where he was director of the Public Administration Program from 1990-1998 and head of the department from 1998.