



# The United States Conference of Mayors

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## THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ANNOUNCES 2007 CITY WATER TASTE TEST WINNERS

### *Five Finalist Cities Selected from a Group of 93 Submissions*

**Los Angeles.** – The U.S. Conference of Mayors announced the winner of the 2007 City Water Taste Awards today during the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. **St. Louis (MO)** was chosen as the **Best Tasting City Water in America** and it will receive a cash award of \$15,000 and bragging rights.

Hundreds of mayors attending the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting were the judges of the “Best Tasting City Water in America” who conducted a blind test of tap water for taste, clarity and aroma. The five finalists (**Anaheim, CA; Colorado Springs, CO; Long Beach, CA; St. Louis, MO and Toledo, OH**) were part of a group of 93 cities, which were selected for their achievement in providing great tasting, quality water to America’s citizens.

The ten cities that received honorable mentions were as follows: Arvada, CO, Beverly Hills, CA, Dubuque, IA, Green Bay, WI; Lansing, MI; Northbrook, IL; Philadelphia, PA; San Jose, CA; Sugar Land, TX; and Tallahassee, FL.

Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors stated, “Our cities are world leaders in providing high quality water to protect public health, for public safety and fire protection.” Although cities have achieved much success in providing water infrastructure and services in America, we may soon be facing our biggest challenges as population growth, climate change and potential shortages in the near future pose an increasing cost burden.

“We in St. Louis always knew we had great tasting water. I am proud of the men and women of our water department for their work and dedication in making St. Louis water clean, safe and delicious ... another great reason to come to St. Louis.” said winning Mayor Francis G. Slay

While USCM rewards the efforts by cities, this water taste event is also a call for the federal government to partner with us to help cities improve deteriorating infrastructures. Local government has always been the primary investor in public water infrastructure, but federal policies for the last two decades have shifted the cost of water services to local governments; and cities cannot be expected to do this alone.

The Conference of Mayors thanks Veolia Water North America, the sole corporate sponsor of the 2007 City Water Taste Test. “Everyday, the private sector supports cities and towns across the country in their efforts to provide citizens with the best water services,” said Jim Good, Vice President of Veolia Water North America. “We’re delighted to highlight the importance of good quality drinking water.”

All local government provides for the pipes, pumps, treatment works and services and has increased spending from \$45.6 billion in FY1992 to \$82 billion in FY2005.

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*

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