



*Leaders at the Core of Better Communities*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 12, 2013

**CONTACT:** Michele Frisby, Director, Communications &  
Public Information  
(202) 962-3658; [mfrisby@icma.org](mailto:mfrisby@icma.org)

**PRESQUE ISLE CITY MANAGER SELECTED AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF  
INTERNATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—**James A. “Jim” Bennett, city manager, Presque Isle, Maine,** was recently selected as president-elect of ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Mr. Bennett was chosen by the ICMA Executive Board at its May 30-June 2 meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, and he will serve as president-elect for a one-year term commencing September 2013 at the ICMA 99th Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Bennett will assume the role of president at the ICMA Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in September 2014, as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary.

ICMA’s mission is to create excellence in local governance by promoting professional management worldwide and increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world. The organization’s nearly 9,500 members in 26 countries also include educators, students, and other local government employees.

“We are proud to hear of Jim’s selection as the next ICMA President. This is a tremendous honor, not only for him, but also for the City of Presque Isle, the ‘County’ and for Maine,” stated Emily Smith, Presque Isle City Council Chairwoman.

ICMA’s 21-member Executive Board acts in the capacity of directors, overseeing the organization’s financial, member-related, and programmatic affairs and selecting the board president. The ICMA Executive Board also enforces the organization’s Code of Ethics, which governs the professional and personal conduct of the membership. ICMA board members attend four meetings annually.

(continued)

Mr. Bennett's career in Maine local government spans more than 30 years. He launched his career in public service in 1982 at age 21 with his election as selectman for the town of Lisbon, and subsequent reelection three years later. In 1986, he accepted the position of town manager of Dixfield, a small town located in Maine's River Valley region. Following two years with Dixfield, Mr. Bennett went on to serve as town manager of New Gloucester (1988-1990) and Old Orchard Beach (1990-1996), until he became city administrator of Westbrook in 1986, a position he held for six years. He later served as city administrator of Lewiston (2002-2009), the second-largest city in Maine; and as interim town manager of Sabattus (2009-2010). He accepted his current position as city manager of Presque Isle in 2010.

Mr. Bennett has been an active member of ICMA since 1986. He served several stints on the organization's Conference Planning Committee and was named chairman in 2007. He also served as a member of the Small Community Task Force (1999-2001); an Annual Conference Blogger (2008); a member of the Task Force on Women in the Profession (2012-present); and an ICMA Legacy Leader (2009-present), as one of a group of senior executives committed to coaching and supporting the professional development needs of the next generation of local government managers.

In 2008, Mr. Bennett was elected to a three-year term on the ICMA Executive Board as one of three vice presidents from the organization's Northeast region, which includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and all six of the New England States. He also earned designation as a Credentialed Manager in 2002, the inaugural year of ICMA's Voluntary Credentialing Program (VCP). The VCP defines and recognizes members who are qualified by a combination of education and experience, adherence to high standards of integrity, and an assessed commitment to lifelong learning and professional development.

(continued)

Mr. Bennett received an ICMA Service Award in 2011 in recognition of his 25 years of service to local government. He also has been recognized by ICMA for several outstanding programs implemented under his direction, including: Westbrook's Strategic Plan (2002); Lewiston's Southern Gateway Project (2006); and Lewiston's Health Care Management by Prevention Program (2008).

Mr. Bennett's professional achievements include serving on the board of the [Maine Town, City, and County Management Association](#) (MTCMA), from 1996 to 1998 (the year in which he became president); and as past president from 1999 to 2000. He also served on the MTCMA Conference Planning Committee. In 2003, MTCMA designated him "Manager of the Year," and in 2006, he received the Public Service Leadership Award from the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Bennett earned an Associate of Science degree from Bentley College in Massachusetts in 1981 and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Maine in 1985. He completed his formal education with a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Southern Maine in 1997.

#### [About ICMA](#)

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. The organization's mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build sustainable communities that improve people's lives. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to 9,500 appointed city, town, and county leaders and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities throughout the world, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas.