



JAMES H. SVARA: BIOGRAPHY

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

In his research and teaching, he specializes in local government politics, management, ethics, and citizen engagement. He has a special interest in the roles and responsibilities of elected and administrative officials in local governments. He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters including the recent

white paper [Connected Communities: Local Governments as Partners in Citizen Engagement and Community Building](#) co-edited with Janet Denhardt for the Alliance for Innovation.

He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and an honorary member of the International City/County Management Association. He is a board member of the Alliance for Innovation.

He has spoken at meetings of the National League of Cities, International City Management Association, and the National Association of Counties, as well as to organizations of local government officials in twelve states and four foreign countries. He has served as a consultant to city governments on charter revision, and he has contributed to the drafting of the 7th and 8th editions of the Model City Charter.

He received the BA in History from the University of Kentucky in 1965 and the Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University in 1972. He has served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at North Carolina State University where was director of the Public Administration Program from 1990-1998 and head of the department from 1998-2005.

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