



# Last Year's Winners

## Helen & Alan Berg Good Governance Award

### Milwaukie “All Aboard” Community Visioning Project

The League presented its 2018 Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance award to the city of Milwaukie. The award recognized the city for its “All Aboard” Community Visioning Project. Created in 1998, the Good Governance award honors city programs that connect citizens within a community.

In July 2016, the city began the process to develop a new community vision in advance of an update to its comprehensive plan. Entitled “Milwaukie All Aboard,” this project resulted in the creation of a new vision statement that defines the “ideal Milwaukie” for the year 2040 and includes an action plan of items to help the city achieve that vision. This vision has been enthusiastically embraced by the Milwaukie community, by city department heads, and the Milwaukie City Council, which adopted it on September 5, 2017. Working with a consulting team, the city developed a diverse, robust public engagement process that sought to include a wide variety of stakeholders within the community, and which could be replicated throughout the state.



## Award for Excellence

### City of Independence Revitalizing a Rural Community

The League presented its 2018 Award for Excellence to the city of Independence for revitalizing a rural community through attitude, engagement and alignment. The Award for Excellence recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.

The transformation of Independence is an example of how thoughtful governance and community engagement can foster revitalization in a rural setting. Independence suffered through the fall of the agriculture and timber industries in the 1980s and 1990s, and residents began to worry about the community's direction. A downtown development plan was created in 1997 with significant public input and a 20-year effort got underway.

By giving the public a voice and allowing them to help chart a path for the community, the revitalization of Independence became a “community” project instead of a “city” project. Over 20 years, Independence has rebuilt its downtown streetscape, constructed an amphitheater, built a new library, developed new soccer fields, constructed a fenced dog park and running trail, created numerous community events, and developed its neighborhood parks, among countless other projects. In each case, the city leveraged creative partnerships and put the public front and center – identifying projects, helping to raise money, advising on design choices, and celebrating the completion of each project.

