

Former Government Leaders Serving as Visiting Fellows at Harvard Kennedy School's Taubman Center for State and Local Government

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CAMBRIDGE – The Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) has appointed four distinguished former public officials as Visiting Fellows for the 2024-2025 academic year. The cohort includes Miro Weinberger, former Mayor of Burlington, Vermont; Alison Williams, former Chief of Staff to Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson; Paul Mounds Jr., former Chief of Staff to Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont; and Jamey Tesler, former Secretary of Transportation for Massachusetts and Governor Charlie Baker.

This fellowship provides these leaders the opportunity to collaborate with the Taubman Center's faculty and staff on research, student learning, and practitioner-facing initiatives. Their collective experience in state and local government will enrich the Center's offerings for current and future public sector leaders, contributing to ongoing scholarship aimed at improving the governance of states, counties, and cities. The fellows will also engage with HKS students, providing mentorship and facilitating access to practical opportunities to serve within state and local government across the United States.

According to **Rafael Carbonell, Executive Director of the Taubman Center and HKS Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy**, "We are honored to have such an esteemed group of public leaders at the Taubman Center and HKS. Their diverse experiences and policy expertise will foster dynamic conversations, contribute to the Center's mission of advancing the effectiveness of state and local governments, and inspire the next generation of public servants."

In addition to bringing a wide variety of insights from their time in government, each fellow will contribute thought leadership on a specific area of public policy during their tenure. Miro Weinberger will focus on housing policy and responses to the opioid crisis. Alison Williams will analyze state government childcare policies and their implications for labor force participation among women. Paul Mounds Jr. will explore strategies for fostering talent pipelines for state government leaders of color. Jamey Tesler will engage with contemporary issues in state government transitions, as well as transportation and mobility policy.

Weinberger noted, "As an HKS alum, it is very exciting to return to the Kennedy School in a capacity that allows me to engage deeply with current and emerging leaders on critical issues



such as housing, public safety, and climate action. State and local governments are at the forefront of addressing these challenges, and I look forward to contributing to the discourse on these issues.”

Alison Williams expressed her enthusiasm for expanding initiatives aimed at strengthening state and local governance: “By elevating HKS programs like Transition Term and the Dukakis Fellowship, we can cultivate the next generation of leaders who will steer public policy at the state and local levels.”

Paul Mounds Jr. highlighted the importance of state and local government in shaping effective and equitable policies: “Throughout my career in public service, I have witnessed the profound impact that principled governance can have on communities. I look forward to further exploring these themes at the Taubman Center.”

Jamey Tesler expanded on his opportunity to continue his fellowship “I am deeply honored to continue at the Taubman Center as a Visiting Fellow and contribute to the vital discussions shaping the future of state and local governance. As our transportation and mobility landscapes evolve, it is critical to develop innovative, equitable policies that support sustainable growth and accessibility for all. I look forward to engaging with the students, faculty, and fellows at Harvard Kennedy School to explore solutions that address the pressing challenges facing our communities and to foster the next generation of public sector leaders.”

The Taubman Center’s visiting fellows are seasoned professionals and academics who contribute to its mission of advancing state and local governance. Through research, public discourse, and direct collaboration with students and faculty, fellows at the Taubman Center play an integral role in fostering innovation and thought leadership in public sector governance.

For more information on the 2024-2025 Visiting Fellows, please visit the [Taubman Center website](#).

About the Taubman Center for State and Local Government

The Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School supports current and future public sector leaders in improving the governance of states, counties, and cities through research, teaching, programs, and convenings. The Taubman Center works to develop the next generation of state and local government leaders, generate big ideas and solutions to state and local government challenges, and help state and local government implement and scale solutions.



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