



**HARVARD Kennedy School**  
**TAUBMAN CENTER**  
for State and Local Government

**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S TAUBMAN CENTER ANNOUNCES 2023  
TRANSITION TERM COHORT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 15, 2022

**CAMBRIDGE** – Harvard Kennedy School's Taubman Center for State and Local Government announced today that 17 incoming state, county, and city leaders from across the country and 54 Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) students will participate in the Center's annual Transition Term. The program embeds HKS students in the offices of newly elected mayors, county executives, and governors to provide students with a unique experiential learning opportunity that helps these officials accelerate key initiatives as they shift from campaigning to governing.

“Transition Term allows Harvard Kennedy School students to broaden their professional experiences while working on the ground supporting state and local leaders,” said **Professor Jeffrey Liebman, Director of the Taubman Center**. “We are pleased to be placing our largest cohort yet and look forward to seeing students put their skills to the test in real-world settings across the country.”

The newly elected administrations participating in the 2023 Transition Term are:

Governors

- Arizona – Governor-Elect Katie Hobbs
- Hawaii – Governor Josh Green
- Pennsylvania – Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro
- Maryland – Governor-Elect Wes Moore
- Massachusetts – Governor-Elect Maura Healey
- Nevada – Governor-Elect Joe Lombardo

County Executive

- Cuyahoga County, OH – County Executive-Elect Chris Ronayne

Mayors

- Anaheim, CA – Mayor Ashleigh Aitken
- Bend, OR – Mayor-Elect Melanie Kebler
- Gainesville, FL – Mayor-Elect Harvey Ward
- Long Beach, CA – Mayor-Elect Rex Richardson
- Louisville, KY – Mayor-Elect Craig Greenberg
- Newport News, VA – Mayor-Elect Phillip Jones
- Oakland, CA – Mayor-Elect Sheng Thao

- Providence, RI – Mayor-Elect Brett Smiley
- San Bernardino, CA – Mayor-Elect Helen Tran
- San Jose, CA – Mayor-Elect Matt Mahan

Through Transition Term, now in its fifth year, these newly elected leaders are matched with teams of HKS students who will join them full-time for three weeks during Harvard's January Term. Students participating in Transition Term are selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants and help to advance projects based on each host administration's priorities, including research, data analysis, drafting memos or orders, engaging with stakeholders, and responding to rapidly evolving needs that arise during the intense early weeks of governing.

In past years, students have supported new administrations with research and recommendations on education, housing, and transportation policy; helped develop COVID-19 vaccine distribution recommendations and vaccine procurement efforts; supported efforts to gather criminal justice data to reveal community-wide criminal justice inequities; and more. Some students who have participated in the program have also continued to work in the administrations they serve during the program as summer fellows, part-time researchers, and full-time staff members.

Since its launch in 2018, 152 HKS students have served 51 governors, county executives, and mayors from across the country through the Transition Term program.

### **About the Taubman Center for State and Local Government**

The Taubman Center for State and Local Government and its affiliated institutes and programs are the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's focal points for activities that address state and local governance. The Center's mission is 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. The Taubman Center focuses on urban policy issues such as economic development, transportation, education, public infrastructure, land use, social services, public sector technology and data utilization, procurement, and performance management. Visit the [Taubman Center website](#) to learn more.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

[mquackenbush@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:mquackenbush@hks.harvard.edu)

###