



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

**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S TAUBMAN CENTER ANNOUNCES 2022  
TRANSITION TERM COHORT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 16, 2021

**CAMBRIDGE** – Harvard Kennedy School’s Taubman Center for State and Local Government announced today that 13 incoming city and county leaders from across the country and 39 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.

“Harvard Kennedy School’s experiential learning opportunities, like Transition Term, challenge students to put their skills to work while deepening their professional knowledge in the field,” said **Douglas Elmendorf, Dean of Harvard Kennedy School**. “Through Transition Term, the Kennedy School is inspiring a new generation of state and local leaders and supporting those currently in office.”

“Transition Term provides students with critical on-the-ground experience working with new mayors, county executives, and governors at a time when these administrations are most in need of extra capacity,” said **Professor Jeffrey Liebman, Director of the Taubman Center**. “We are excited to announce the largest and most diverse cohort of mayors and students yet and look forward to seeing the real-world impact of this program in the weeks to come.”

The 2022 Transition Term newly elected administrations include:

- Mayor-Elect Andre Dickens, Atlanta, Georgia
- Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston, Massachusetts
- Mayor-Elect Aftab Pureval, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Mayor-Elect Justin Bibb, Cleveland, Ohio
- Mayor-Elect Daniel Rickenmann, Columbia, South Carolina
- County Executive-Elect Brenton Davis, Erie County, Pennsylvania
- Mayor Brian DePeña, Lawrence, Massachusetts
- Mayor-Elect Edward Gainey, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Mayor-Elect Malik Evans, Rochester, New York
- Mayor-Elect Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville, Massachusetts
- Mayor-Elect Ken Welch, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Mayor Caroline Simmons, Stamford, Connecticut
- Mayor-Elect Mike Padilla, Topeka, Kansas

Through Transition Term, now in its fourth year, these newly elected leaders are matched with groups of three HKS students who will join them full-time for three weeks during the Kennedy School's January Term. Students participating in Transition Term are selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants and help to accelerate 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 workforce development, environmental, and transportation policy; explored methods to improve rural broadband access; contributed to playbooks and memos on addressing blight, homelessness, and economic development; and helped develop COVID-19 vaccine distribution recommendations and vaccine procurement efforts. 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 it was launched in 2018, 98 students and 34 mayors, county executives, and governors from across the country have participated in Transition Term.

### **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.

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