Vibrant societies require active, engaged citizens. The Institute of Politics ignites passion for public service through opportunities for civic participation and robust discourse, inspiring dialogue and debate across perspectives and preparing students to provide effective political leadership in the United States and around the world.

Promoting greater understanding and cooperation between academia and the world of politics and public affairs is vital to Harvard Kennedy School’s aim of encouraging emerging and established public leaders and engaged citizens to create a better world.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“In today’s increasingly polarized world, young people’s commitment to public service and civic engagement is needed more than ever. Through diverse programming and events, the IOP aims to encourage a passion and appreciation for politics and public service. In addition, we aim to prepare our students to provide political leadership and make a difference in the United States and around the globe.”

The Work of the Institute of Politics

The Institute of Politics advances public service in real time both on campus and in the world through offerings including:

- **The John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum:** Harvard’s premier arena for political speech, discussion, and debate.
- **Harvard Youth Poll:** A biannual poll examining the political opinions and civic engagement of young Americans ages 18 to 29.
- **The Bipartisan Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress:** The preeminent educational and preparatory program for newly elected Republican and Democratic members of the House of Representatives.
- **Resident Fellows Program:** Each semester six fellows immerse themselves in the Harvard community by residing on campus, mentoring a cohort of undergraduate students, holding office hours, and leading study groups.
- Numerous other programs for Harvard undergraduates including summer internships, study groups, community action, and more.