



Strengthening Capacity at the Local Level for Good Governance

— SNAPSHOT

On Campus: The Taubman Center convenes thought leaders to join faculty, staff, and students to address emerging local challenges such as urban mobility, economic development, education, and government performance.

In the World: Experiential learning opportunities such as field labs and summer fellowships within state, county, and city governments provide students with critical hands-on skills while they contribute their ideas, passion, and capacity.

Taubman Center for State and Local Government

The skill of leaders and strength of institutions at all levels of government have a crucial impact on the quality of people's lives. The research and programs of the Taubman Center seek to improve the governance of states, counties, metropolitan areas, and cities by addressing the most pressing challenges that public leaders face.

Analyzing and understanding the many factors that affect local institutions, leaders, and citizens is a key part of Harvard Kennedy School's efforts to create safer, more just, and more prosperous societies.



BY THE NUMBERS

All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.

30+

Years of strengthening government at the local level

180+

Students supported through mentoring and connections to state and local government jobs

240+

Students participate in experiential learning

70

Jurisdictions in 31 states served to date by the Government Performance lab

Above: Mark Fagan, a lecturer in public policy, instructs students during a policy development field lab on autonomous vehicles.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

“If you look at the problems governments are tackling around the world, state and local governments are on the front lines trying to deliver solutions. At the Taubman Center, we spur student interest and provide hands-on experience working in governments at the local level. Through our research and this direct engagement, we identify emerging issues faculty, students, and practitioners can work on together to come up with solutions. What makes our work at the Taubman Center so exciting is that every day there’s a new policy challenge that we can make progress on.”



Jeffrey Liebman

The Work of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government

The Taubman Center generates ideas and solutions to state and local government challenges through a variety of initiatives and programs.

- **The Government Performance Lab** conducts research on how governments can improve the results they achieve for their citizens.
- **The Autonomous Vehicles Policy Initiative** hosts a forum for information exchange, research, and policy formulation regarding the social impacts of autonomous vehicles.
- **The Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston** is a university-wide entity housed at HKS that aims to improve the governance of greater Boston.
- **The Program on Education Policy and Governance** contributes to the systematic analysis of education policy and governing arrangements in the United States.
- **The Program on Crisis Leadership** examines the challenges that leaders face in extraordinary circumstances.

The Taubman Center provides experiential learning for students through:

- **Field Labs:** Courses designed with project work for local governments.
- **Transition Term:** Placements with incoming gubernatorial and mayoral transition teams during the Harvard Kennedy School January term.
- **Summer Fellowships:** Students provide support to governors, mayors, and government agencies.
- **Treks:** Student trips to meet state and local leaders in both urban and rural communities throughout the United States.
- **Economic Development Seminar:** Students learn from economic development leaders from around the United States.

Taubman Center for State and Local Government
Harvard Kennedy School
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

hks.harvard.edu/centers/taubman
taubman@hks.harvard.edu
+1 (617) 495-2199