



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by

Harris County Commissioner - Rodney Ellis, TLIP Founder

The Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP) was established in 1990 by then-Texas Senator Rodney Ellis to honor his mentor, the late Congressman Mickey Leland, and provide opportunities for upper-level undergraduate, graduate, and law students interested in pursuing a career in public service to serve as interns in the Texas Legislature, state agencies, local and federal government, and nonprofit organizations. Now serving as [Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, Commissioner Rodney Ellis](#) continues to sponsor the program, which is a 501©3 affiliated with the Texas Southern University Foundation.

TLIP operates annually each spring academic semester. Depending on their degree program, students may receive a minimum of six and maximum of fifteen academic credit hours for participating in TLIP, which combines academic study and research with supervised practical training. Interns are responsible for tracking their degree program and enrolling in courses that allow them to receive credit. Students interested in the political process and in the kind of humanitarian values exemplified by Congressman Leland are encouraged to apply for the internship. Commissioner Ellis serves as advisor to the interns, while his office assists in coordinating on-site activities.

In odd calendar years, TLIP interns, or “TLIPers”, serve in the Texas Legislature and/or offices that influence state policy and legislation. TLIPers have been placed in the offices of ranking members of the Legislature as well as in the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, The Innocence Project, and other NGO’s. Interns are involved in all facets of the public policy making process at the state and local level. During even calendar years, interns experience county and municipal government from the ground up, and work with policy and advocacy organizations. In the even years between legislative sessions, interns have served in the offices of elected and appointed officials at the municipal and county levels, such as the Harris County Judge, City of Houston Controller, and Civil and Criminal Court Judges.

TLIP experiences often serve as the springboard for selecting public service careers. Many TLIPers continue to work in public service at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

Notably, three former TLIPers now serve in the Texas House of Representatives: The Honorable Ana Hernandez, Armando Walle, and Ron Reynolds. TLIP alumni also have held elected office as Judges, District Attorneys, and City of Houston Council Members.

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COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS
MICKEY LELAND CENTER AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2027 PROGRAM INFORMATION

THE PROGRAM

The Texas Legislative Internship Program, sponsored by Commissioner Rodney Ellis and administered by the Office of Governmental Relations and the Mickey Leland Center, provides undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to serve as interns in the Texas Legislature, various state agencies, local and federal government, and nonprofit organizations.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Interns must be enrolled in an academic institution and receive credit for their internship experience. Interns are responsible for their academic admissions and enrollment in the necessary courses.

PROGRAM DATES:

The Spring 2027 session placements will be in person in **Austin, Texas**:

- Mandatory orientation on Monday, January 11, 2027.
- First Day in office placement is Tuesday, January 12, 2027.
- Last Day in office placement is Monday, May 31, 2027*

**In Odd-Years, (i.e. 2027), TLIP lasts the length of the legislative session at 140 days / 20 weeks.*

STIPEND

For the Spring 2027 session, **full-time** interns may be eligible to receive a minimum stipend of \$10,000. Additional stipend amounts, as well as stipends for approved part-time interns, will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may take into consideration housing needs, transportation costs, and other program-related expenses.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will be assigned to work in the offices of state and local government including, ranking members of the Texas Legislature, Harris County Commissioners Court, City of Houston officials as well as non-profit organizations that impact policy.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students, at least 18 years of age, will have completed at least 80 undergraduate hours at an accredited college or university. Enrollment in graduate or professional school is preferred. Exceptional skills in writing, composition, and computer literacy are required. Full-time remote positions are not available.

THE APPLICATION

Completed applications must include a writing sample (essay or term paper), an unofficial transcript, proof of financial aid (if applicable), one letter of recommendation, and two references, a resume, and a wallet-size photo of yourself.

DEADLINE

Submit the application and documents electronically to internshipTLIP@gmail.com by **Sunday, October 11, 2026, by 11:59 PM. Rolling applications are permitted.**



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REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNS

The following conditions must exist to meet the qualifications for the TLIP:

1. The intern must complete and submit an official application by the deadline which includes: a resume, one letter of recommendation, two references, unofficial transcript showing at least 80 hours of post-secondary education, a writing sample, proof of financial aid (if applicable), a professional photo of yourself, and verification of enrollment before being approved to start his or her experience. Criminal background checks will be performed on all selected interns before the start of the program.
2. The intern enrolled at a law school, graduate school or a bachelor's program must have a minimum G.P.A of 2.5.
3. The intern must work the office placement for the entire length of the program for the intern to receive the maximum semester credit hours.
4. The intern must report to their assigned post punctually and carry out their responsibilities according to the assigned office.
5. The intern must perform other assigned projects germane to their experiential training, including writing reports, conducting research, assisting with program development and logistical planning, and attending lectures and symposiums.
6. During the internship, the intern must be available for at least one on-site evaluation.
7. The intern will be assigned to an office where they can receive training under the guidance of persons with expertise in a particular field.
8. The intern must follow all office placement policies and procedures.
9. The intern's conduct must be exemplary. Unprofessional behavior shall be the reason for dismissal.
10. The intern must sign and date the TLIP agreement provided by the Office of Governmental Relations at Texas Southern University.
11. Applicants who are accepted into the program must complete a criminal background check. (Criminal history is not determinative on acceptance into TLIP).
12. Interns will not be allowed to leave the program early without prior written approval. Interns who fail to keep their commitment to the program may face sanctions ranging from loss of academic credit to liability for the full sum of the stipend.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

MICKEY LELAND CENTER AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Sponsored by

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, TLIP Founder

Application Deadline – Sunday, October 11 at 11:59 PM

(Please Type)

Date _____

>PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth: _____ SSN: _____

Address (Current): _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Address (Permanent): _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Personal E-Mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____ | Business Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Emergency Contact Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Emergency Contact Phone: _____ | Emergency Contact Relationship: _____

>EDUCATION:

Current Major: _____ | G.P.A.: _____ | Minor(s): _____

Enrollment Status: ☐ Full Time ☐ Part Time | Projected Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Credit Hours Needed to Maintain Projected Graduation Date During Period of Internship: _____

Classification: ☐ Graduate ☐ Law ☐ Senior ☐ Junior ☐ Sophomore ☐ Freshman

Indicate Financial Aid (if any): ☐ Pell Grant ☐ Student Loan ☐ Scholarship ☐ Work-Study

College or University	Dates Attended	Completed Hours	Graduated (Yes/No)	Degree Received

>BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Please Type):

1. Please indicate by Y or “X” your office/work related skills and define your level of expertise.

SKILL	YES/NO	BEGINNER	PROFICIENT	EXPERT	DETAIL
Typing/Word Processing	☐	☐	☐	☐	WPM:
Research	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Developing/Managing Databases	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Communications/Press/social media	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Writing (Memos, Analysis):	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Oral Communication/Public Speaking	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Please list any other unique skills you will bring to TLIP:					

2. Why are you interested in the Texas Legislative Internship Program? Please explain. (200 Word Limit)

3. How would you describe your level of political awareness and interest? (100 Word Limit)

☐ Very High ☐ High ☐ Moderate

4. Have you ever worked in a public service role, government office, policy or been involved in any other governmental or political activity? If yes, please include the names, dates, and specific duties.

5. What policy issue or social issue do you feel is most important to address? Why/What influenced your perspective? **(200 Words)**

6. Please describe a book or article that you have read that has significantly influenced you. Why? How did it impact your perspective? **(200 Words)**

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

To complete the application, please include the current document along with the following as attachments in an email to internshiptlip@gmail.com by Sunday, October 11 at 11:59 PM:

1. Writing sample (a current issue essay or a research paper). It should be typed, double-spaced, and properly cited if the sample is a research paper.
2. An unofficial transcript to verify enrollment, GPA, and relevant coursework.
3. Proof of financial aid
4. One Letter of Recommendation (List Two additional references below)
5. Resume
6. Wallet-size professional photo of yourself

REFERENCES

Name: _____ | Email: _____ | Phone: _____

Name: _____ | Email: _____ | Phone: _____

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

TLIP Program Manager, Office of Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis

Phone: (346) 286-1962

E-Mail: internshipTLIP@gmail.com

Address: 2787 El Camino St., Houston, Texas 77054

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ELECTRONICALLY TO:

internshipTLIP@gmail.com

For more information about TLIP, please visit www.txlip.com

