LEADERSHIP SIX
INTERNSHIP & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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OVERVIEW

Leadership Six is an intensive internship program in which young Illinoisans will have an opportunity to dramatically improve both their knowledge and skills base across six democracy issue areas while making a real difference in the lives of people across our state.

Our unique program combines policy, advocacy and professional development. Interns become core advocates across CCIL’s six issue areas: voting rights, ethics, money in politics, constitutional issues, gerrymandering & representation, and media & democracy. By the end of their service term, interns will have learned valuable skills and knowledge related to advocacy, civic engagement and good governance. In addition, they will have participated in a comprehensive leadership program and built an impressive portfolio of work.

Lead by our Outreach Manager, the Leadership Six team will receive the training and support to become the next generation of civic leaders in Illinois as we work to hold power accountable at every level.

ELIGIBILITY & LENGTH OF PROGRAM

To be eligible for Leadership Six, applicants must reside in Illinois at time of selection. **Interns are expected to work between 10-15 hours per week.** Our summer term is three months long, and both fall and spring terms are four months long.
Internships are not paid. However, interns may receive college or high school credit for the program, and expenses incurred during the internship, such as travel to events, materials, etc. are paid by CCIL.

**THE POLICY PROGRAM**

If selected, Leadership Six Interns will be immersed in a robust policy and advocacy program across CCIL’s six issue areas. Each intern’s personal campaign plan will focus on some aspect of their campaign of focus, as well as their Letters to the Editor/OpEd piece. **While an intern must choose one area for primary focus, all interns will cycle through and learn about all six of CCIL’s issue areas.**

1. **Voting & Elections**
2. **Ethics & Accountability**
3. **Media & Democracy**
4. **Gerrymandering & Representation**
5. **Money & Influence**
6. **Constitution, Courts & Other Democracy Issues**

Below is a sampling of campaigns that can be expected within each issue area:
**VOTING & ELECTIONS**

**Voting & Elections Interns** will focus on issues of election integrity and voting rights, with a primary focus of protecting the vote for November. Topics of focus will include voter registration modernization, implantation of automatic voter registration, and of course, election protection. Election Protection will be a core part of work in this internship area. Working with the Election Protection program and volunteers, these interns will identify advocacy opportunities for ways to ensure the November election is safe, secure and accessible. They will play a central role in the recruitment of Election Protection volunteers and assist with Election Protection volunteer training, participate in an educational campaign to recruit election judges (particularly through high schools and universities), build relationships with local election officials and develop a deep understanding of the current election administration landscape in Illinois, and help staff the 866-Our-Vote hotline.

**ETHICS & ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Ethics & Accountability Interns** will focus on issues of transparency and good government. Topics of focus will include executive ethics, FOIA and the Illinois Open Meetings Act, judicial ethics, and legislative ethics. Work will focus on holding power accountable at the local, state and national level. A key focus of this internship area will be CCIL’s Lincoln Line Project, a comprehensive ethics campaign that will be launched in 2020.

**MEDIA & DEMOCRACY**

**Media & Democracy Interns** will focus on issues of the First Amendment and other free speech and public access topics. Topics covered by this internship area include net neutrality, broadband access, media consolidation, and freedom of the press.
GERRYMANDERING & REPRESENTATION

Gerrymandering & Redistricting Interns will focus on the Fair Maps amendment in Illinois and the 2020 Census. Interns will assist with recruitment of Census Ambassadors and serve as a Census Ambassador coordinator, assisting with the management and coordination of Census Ambassador activities. They will also assist in the planning of census outreach activities, including virtual town halls and other social events and coordinate and participate in phone banks, text banks, and other digital outreach strategies to ensure households are filling out their census forms. Outside of the census, other advocacy areas will include prison gerrymandering, mass incarceration and national redistricting efforts.

MONEY & INFLUENCE

Money & Influence Interns will focus their research and advocacy on issues of campaign finance, lobbying reform, and corporate accountability. Specifically, interns in their area will focus on reforms such as small donor match programs, voucher programs, and other grassroots approaches to democratizing the political donor base. In addition, they will focus on the influence of organizations like ALEC on the state and national level.

CONSTITUTION, COURTS & OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES

Constitution, Courts & Other Democracy Issues Interns will fight for issues such as fair courts and H.R. 1, the For The People Act. In addition, they will focus on issues such as the Emoluments Clause and other constitutional issues raised by the Trump presidency. These interns will also work on issues related to calls for an Article V Convention.
THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A central tenant of CCIL’s internship philosophy is “Learn by Leading,” which is why we will encourage interns to consistently participate in CCIL’s communication strategy through publishable blog posts and social media postings, helping to raise their own profile within the democracy reform community. We will also encourage interns to participate as much as possible in events where CCIL has a leadership role, such as in coalition meetings and strategy sessions.

In addition to the policy and advocacy training all interns will receive, interns will also have an opportunity to participate in a productive 6-course leadership curriculum over the course of their internship.

THE TRAININGS

Personal & Professional Branding

Update your biography or resume, take stock of your current professional reputation and assess where you want to be and how to get there. Future employers, coworkers and potential clients will Google you — are you happy with the results? Learn how to impact search results and put your best online face forward. Learn how to use Twitter, Facebook, email and other online tools to advance your cause, persuade your family and friends and reach out to your professional networks.
You Say You Want To Govern: What do we care about most and how do we pay for it?
Participants will take on the role of one of the key players in the federal budget process. They will have to negotiate budgetary priorities with other participants and then agree on specific policies to realize these priorities. Interns will go through The Fiscal Ship budgetary exercise developed by the Brookings Institution and Wilson Center.

Model Democracy: How to govern during a pandemic?
Participants will play various congressional and executive branch roles in a scenario dealing with a contemporary domestic policy issue.

Ethos, Pathos & Logos: The Art of the Argument
Interns will review the fundamentals of debate and persuasion, both in written and oral form. The performances and tactics of some of the greatest debaters will be reviewed, and interns will end the session by debating staff and other experts.

Even if you aren’t interested in politics, politics is interested in you
Interns will review tactics and strategies that will make them a force in state and local policy. Campaign training – tailored for both those who may eventually want to run and to those who want to play behind the scenes roles – will be provided. Interns will learn the typical ways to scale the ladder of politics, will learn how to work elections (canvassing, election monitoring, phone banking, get out the vote) and fundraising strategies.
**Retreat/Roadmap for next class**

Interns will kick off their post-internship capstone project – working on a short handbook for young future Illinois leaders on how to make a difference in their communities.

**MENTORSHIP**

In addition, Leadership Six Interns will be assigned a personal mentor from CCIL’s Board of Directors, and will engage with their mentor at least once per month. Board Members have extensive exposure to Common Cause as an organization, our campaigns here in Illinois, and will serve as a valuable resource as interns consider the impact of their campaigns. Mentors and mentees will meet once a month for coffee or lunch to discuss what is happening within the organization, the intern’s current campaign, and to generally build a professional relationship that will add development value to the overall internship experience.

Interns will also be given special opportunities for meetings with academics, government officials, and journalists.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Visit [http://commoncause.org/illinois/internships](http://commoncause.org/illinois/internships) to begin your application today!