



TENESHIA HUDSPETH

COUNTY CLERK

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Harris County Clerk's Office Receives International Recognition for Innovative Student Runner Program

(HOUSTON, TX) - The Harris County Clerk's Office (HCCO) has earned international recognition, receiving the International Association of Government Officials (iGO) Innovator Award for its Student Runner Program at the organization's annual conference in Reston, Virginia.

"This recognition is a tremendous honor and reflects our commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in the democratic process," **said Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth**. "The Student Runner Program gives students real-world experience in election administration while inspiring the next generation of civic leaders through public service."

Established in 2022, the Student Runner Program was created to engage high school students in Election Night operations. Led by HCCO's Outreach Team, the program oversees recruitment countywide recruitment, partners with school districts, and creates meaningful opportunities for students to participate in the coordination and logistics required to administer elections in the nation's third largest county.

One of the program's most distinctive features is its intergenerational approach. Parents and legal guardians can serve alongside their students on Election Night, strengthening civic participation within families and fostering a shared commitment to public service. Many students return to the program year after year, encourage classmates to participate, and ultimately transition into roles as election workers after graduation.

To participate, students must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a United States citizen
- Be a Harris County resident
- Be enrolled in a public school, private school, or homeschool program

Each participant must have a parent or legal guardian complete a Parent Approval Form, attend a 1.5-hour paid training session. Students receive \$17 per hour for their Election Night service.

The recognition highlights the Harris County Clerk's Office's commitment to innovation, civic education, and preparing the next generation of election workers and community leaders while continuing to deliver secure and accessible elections.

For more information, visit [HarrisVotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) and follow us on social media **@HarrisVotes**.

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County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth with iGO President Karen Perry and Membership Chair Wayne Rash during the award ceremony in Reston, Virginia.



Student Runners working on election night of the 2026 Primary Runoff Elections.