FALL 2021 INTERNAPALOOZA ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Internapalooza Attendance

In total, **284 people** registered for the event, of which
- 75% are current Congressional interns
- 20% are prospective Congressional interns
- 5% are interns at another agency or organization

Current Congressional Intern

Attendees

*The information that follows pertains to the 75% of attendees (230 people) who are currently interning for Congressional offices.*

Chamber and Party representation

197 current interns identified their employing office, caucus, or committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber</th>
<th>Party of host office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>House</strong> (96 offices)</td>
<td>(including caucuses, leadership, and committees where identifiable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>85.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 91% personal office</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 5.6% committees</td>
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<td><strong>Senate</strong> (11 offices)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 100% personal office</td>
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<td>3.0% employed by caucuses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Democratic offices</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>71.6%</td>
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<td><strong>Republican offices</strong></td>
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<td>22.4%</td>
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To request access to anonymized dataset for research purposes, please contact info@popvox.org
Attendees Currently Interning in Congressional Offices

Geographic Location
Plurality reside in the DC area:
- 44.8% in Washington, DC
- 10.9% in Virginia
- 8.05% in Maryland.

A significant number also reside in California (9.8%) and Florida (2.87%).

Geographical breakdown by Census regions:
- East North Central: 2.3%
- Mid-Atlantic: 1.72%
- Mountain: 4.6%
- New England: 2.3%
- Pacific: 10.3%
- South Atlantic: 72.4%
- West North Central: 2.87%
- West South Central: 2.87%

Internship Awareness, Support and Goals

How current interns found out about their internships
- 46.6% Member of Congress’s website
- 41.5% School
- 38.9% Friends and family
- 7.8% Social media
- 3.1% Traditional media (Print, TV, Radio)
- 9.3% Other

Financial Support during internship
- 52.1% paid by employing office
- 11.7% support from outside organization
- 9.0% support from families or friends
- 9.6% support from their school
- 17.6% not receiving any financial support
Demographic Information

Gender
Registrants were asked “How do you describe your gender?”. The following data was normalized from responses.

- **Total current interns:**
  - 66.2% Female
  - 32.3% Male
  - 1.5% Nonbinary

- **Interns for Democrat offices, Majority committee staff, or left-leaning caucuses:**
  - 70.1% Female
  - 27.9% Male
  - 2.0% Nonbinary

- **Interns for Republican offices or Minority committee staff**
  - 46.9% Female
  - 53.1% Male

Orientation
Registrants were asked “Do you consider yourself a member of the LGBTQ community?”.

- 70.9% No
- 19.9% Yes
- 9.2% Prefer not to say
Race and Ethnicity

Following US Census practice, attendees could “select all that apply” for race and ethnicity, with an additional option to self-identify.

How would you describe your race/ethnicity? (check all that apply)

- Asian or Asian American
- White
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, Asian or Asian American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- White, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Black or African American
- Asian or Asian American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to say
- White, Middle Eastern or North African
- White, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, Middle Eastern or North African
- Middle Eastern or North African
- White, Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, Black or African American
- White, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, Black or African American
- White, Asian or Asian American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Asian American, Middle Eastern or North African
- Prefer to self-identify (below)
- Black or African American, Asian or Asian American
- White, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, American Indian or Alaska Native

One selection (82.8%)
- 42.9% White
- 12.6% Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- 12.1% Black or African American
- 9.1% Asian or Asian American
- 2.0% Middle Eastern or North African
- 0.5% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Two selections (13.3%)
- 6.1% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin + White
- 2.5% Asian or Asian American + White
- 2.0% Black or African American + White
- 1.5% Black or African American + Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin
- 1.0% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin + Asian or Asian American
- 1.0% Asian or Asian American + Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 1.0% Middle Eastern or North African + White
- 0.5% Asian or Asian American + Middle Eastern or North African
- 0.5% Asian or Asian American + Black or African American

Three selections (1.3%)
- 0.5% American Indian or Alaska Native + Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin + White
- 0.5% Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin + Middle Eastern or North African + White
- 0.5% Black or African American + Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin + White

“Prefer not to say” (2.5%)
“Prefer to self-identify” (0.5%)
Family educational background

Registrants were asked, “what is the highest level of educational attainment by parents or guardians?”

- 45.5% had at least one family member with a graduate degree
- 29.6% had at least one family member with a bachelor’s degree
- 9% had at least one family member with some college but no degree
- 3.7% had at least one family member with an associate’s degree
- 6.9% had at least one family member with a high school degree
- 5.3% had at least one family member with less than a high school degree

Educational and work experience of attending interns

Current year in school:

- 33.2% college graduates
- 27% college seniors
- 19% college juniors
- 8.5% graduate students
- 4.7% college sophomores
- 5.2% on a gap year
- 0.5% college freshmen
- 0.9% post graduate school
- 0.9% other

College type:

- 53% attended a state college or university
- 37.4% attended a private college or university
- 6.1% attended an HBCU
- 2.5% attended a community college
- 1.0% other
Previous Work or Leadership Experience

- 76.8% leadership position in an extracurricular or student organization
- 65.0% customer service job
- 52.1% office job
- 36.1% previous government internship, and 22.2% previous legislative internship
- 31.4% previous teaching or tutoring job
- 29.4% writing job, including student journalism
- 14.4% previous freelance or self-employed work

Barriers, Concerns, and Goals

Barriers overcome

Registrants were asked to identify barriers they overcame to secure a Congressional internship:

- 60.7% **competitive selection process** for a Congressional internship
- 53.9% moving costs and DC-area **cost-of-living**
- 44.4% **feeling qualified enough** to apply
- 39.9% **lack of mentorship** or resources about Congressional internships
- 25.3% concern about **working for a Member who shares their values**
- 16.3% **not knowing** the internships were available
- 12.4% worries about **safety** in DC
- 11.8% multiple attractive internship **offers**
- 9.6% **lack of support from family or friends** in pursuing an internship
- 2.3% **lack of accommodation** for health or disability needs
- 1.7% **immigration status**

Additional barriers described in “other” option included:

- lack of available internships during the **pandemic**
- difficulties of balancing **child care** and an internship
Internship hopes, concerns and goals

- 59.7% “really” or “somewhat” concerned that their internship would allow them to “find mentors who can help support me in my future career”

- 84.3% said it was either “super important, must-do” or “very important” that they expand their network of professional mentors in this experience

- 55.7% concerned about learning how Congress works

- 49.5% concerned about building up confidence in a busy office environment

- 48.7% concerned about learning procedures and tasks quickly

- 47.6% concerned about finding peers and friends to help get through the internship

- 79.2% said it was ‘super important’ or ‘very important’ to learn skills to be an effective advocate for their community

- 76.6% said it was ‘super important’ or ‘very important’ to gain confidence and leadership skills

- 74.8% said it was ‘super important’ or ‘very important’ to take away increased knowledge in how government works

- 73.4% said it was ‘super important’ or ‘very important’ to work for causes and public servants they believe in

- 81.1% said that it was ‘super important’ or ‘very important’ to come away with not only mentors, but an expanded network of peers and friends.