UH Election Lab Application, 2020-2021-2022

Created in 2019, the UH Election Lab is a team of undergraduate students work who closely with faculty to explore the process of voting, focusing on how we vote, and how elections are administered (https://www.uh.edu/class/political-science/about/election-lab/).

Students will be given the opportunity to work closely with faculty and graduate students, gain first-hand experience with academic research and writing, and have a nice brag point for your graduate school or career resume!

Our current plans are to accomplish **two projects in the next two years**. The first project is a comprehensive study of Texas politics. The results of this project will include a series of briefing papers on how Texas politics has changed in the last few decades and where it is headed. Several such stories appeared in 2020 as the national media turned their attention to Texas but we will dig deeper. We will focus on the big picture (statewide political changes), on how several regions are changing, and changes in individual demographics using individual and county-level data. This requires a two year commitment since our plan is to have these drafted by the 2022 election.

The second project is on recall elections, where the public can recall elected officials with enough signatures. Local elections are becoming more important as Texas becomes more competitive politically since local elections are a training ground for many future elected officials. The population growth of Texas also means that more policy making is occurring at the local level putting more of an onus on local officials to lead. No academic work exists on recall elections and the effects of these recalls on local government and future voter participation are not known, despite an increase in the last few years.

Name: **Student ID:**

Major: **Likely graduation year:**

Email: **Preferred Phone:**

Preferred Project:

☐ **Texas Elections Project (two year commitment)**

☐ **Recall Elections Project (one year commitment)**

In a one page narrative, describe why you would like to be a part of the UH Election Lab and why you are qualified. Include classes taken, extracurricular activities, work experience, or whatever else you believe important.

Please also attach a full resume.

Put this completed form, your narrative, and your resume in a single PDF and email it to Brandon Rottinghaus (bjrottinghaus@uh.edu) by April 30, 2021.