

Mason Reece

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Political Science, MIT
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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2022 – Present

- PhD in Political Science, focus in American Politics and Models & Methods
- Dissertation: *Essays on Local Political Behavior using Cast Vote Records*
 - Committee: Andrea Campbell, Devin Caughey, and Charles Stewart III (chair)

Rice University

2022

- BA in Political Science with Honors, BA in Social Policy Analysis, Minor in Data Science
- Distinction in Research and Creative Works, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

- Shiro Kuriwaki*, Mason Reece*, Samuel Baltz, Aleksandra Conevska, Joseph R. Loffredo, Can E. Mutlu, Taran Samarth, Kevin E. Acevedo Jetter, Zachary Djanogly Garai, Kate Murray, Shigeo Hirano, Jeffrey B. Lewis, James M. Snyder Jr., and Charles Stewart III. *Cast vote records: A database of ballots from the 2020 U.S. Election*. Nature Scientific Data 11, 1304 (2024). DOI: [10.1038/s41597-024-04017-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-024-04017-1). * Co-first author with Kuriwaki.
- Lonna Rae Atkeson, M.V. Hood III, Colin Jones, Mason Reece, and Robert M. Stein. *Postal Voting in the 2020 Election*. Journal of Election Administration, Research and Practice 1(1): 23–34 (2022).

WORKING PAPERS

- *Even Faster Ideal Point Estimation: Using Variational Autoencoders to Estimate IRT Models*
- *Partisan Elections and Partisan Voting: Evidence from Judicial Elections* (with Daniel M. Thompson). Under review.
- *Local community opposition to data centers is clear and growing* (with Adam Rauh and Tyler Simko). Under review.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Representation in Uncontested Elections*
- *Trends in Nationalization of State and Local Elections* (with Shigeo Hirano, Joseph R. Loffredo, and James M. Snyder Jr.)
- *Policy Diffusion in Local Governments: The Case of Data Centers* (with Adam Rauh and Tyler Simko)
- *Gender, Judicial Selection, and Emotional Engagement* (with Mirya R. Holman, Andreas Küpfer, and Tyler Simko)
- *DistrictView: A Pipeline to Study School Board Deliberations* (with Mirya R. Holman, Rebecca Johnson, and Tyler Simko)

DATASETS

- *LocalView Public Meetings Database*. 2026. (with Soubhik Barari and Tyler Simko).
- *DistrictView*. 2026. (with Tyler Simko, Rebecca Johnson, and Mirya Holman).
- *Cast vote records: A database of ballots from the 2020 U.S. Election*. 2024. (with Shiro Kuriwaki and 12 others).

TEACHING

Training

Kaufman Teaching Certificate, MIT Teaching + Learning Lab 2026

Experience

Instructor for *Reading (and writing) Quantitative Journal Articles*. *MIT's Pathways to Political Science Workshop*. 2026

TA for *Generalized Linear Modeling and Bayesian Inference*. MIT. Evaluation from students: 7.0/7.0. 2025

Professor: In Song Kim

Co-instructor (with *Gabrielle Péloquin-Skulski*) for *Introduction to Remote Resources*. MIT's Political Methodology Lab Workshop. 2025

Instructor for *Introduction to Remote Resources*. MIT's Political Methodology Lab Workshop. 2024

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

MIT Political Methodology Lab Research Grant 2026

MIT Prize for Open Data 2024

Sallyport Award, considered to be the top undergraduate award at Rice 2022

Judge Woodrow Seals Award for Community Service 2022

Rhodes, Marshall, and Truman Scholarship Finalist 2021 & 2022

Douglas S. Harlan Award, for demonstrated commitment to political involvement 2021

Morty Rich Scholarship, for commitment and service to Rice and the greater community 2021

Jesse Jones Leadership Summer in DC Internship Program 2020 & 2021

Rice University Trustee Distinguished Merit Scholarship 2018 – 2022

PRESENTATIONS

2026: University of Michigan School of Information; American Politics Workshop, MIT; Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference; State Politics & Policy Conference (poster); Political Methodology Conference (poster); American Political Science Association Conference; Local Political Economy Conference

2025: Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference; American Politics Workshop, MIT

2024: Southern Political Science Association Conference; Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference; American Political Science Association Conference (poster)

2023: Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference

2021: Rice University's Social Science Advisory Board

SERVICE

Editorial Assistant, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>	2026 – Present
Mentorship Co-Chair, MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council	2025 & 2026

SOFTWARE

rcvr: Clean cast vote records of many types (creator)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

CBS News Election Data Desk	2024 – Present
Co-created R/Python pipeline to scrape and analyze election night returns at the precinct-level in battleground states. Worked in real time to provide live election results for the 2024 and 2025 general elections. Collaborated with a diverse team of academics and news analysts. Implementing new machine learning and conformal inference for the 2026 elections.	
Research Assistantships	
Assisted with various research projects for: Charles Stewart III (2023–2025); Devin Caughey (Summer 2025); Political Methodology Lab (Fall 2024); Robert M. Stein and Elizabeth Vann (2019–2022); Chris Edelson (Summer 2020); A. Kadir Yildirim (2019–2020); Melissa Marschall (2019).	
Center for Election Innovation and Research	Summer 2021
Head Poll Worker in Cambridge	2022 – 2024
Head Poll Worker at the Rice Polling Location	2020 – 2022