Mason Reece

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology   2022 – expected May 2027

- PhD in Political Science, focus in American Politics and Models & Methods
- Dissertation: *Essays on Local Political Behavior using Cast Vote Records*, advised by Andrea Campbell, Devin Caughey, 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, summa cum laude

Written Work

Publications

- *Cast Vote Records: A Database of Ballots from the 2020 U.S. Election*. 2024. Nature Scientific Data. (with Shiro Kuriwaki and 12 others; co-first author with Kuriwaki). Winner of MIT's Prize for Open Data. Media coverage.
- *Postal Voting in the 2020 Election*. Journal of Election Administration, Research and Practice. 2022. (with Lonna Atkeson, MV Hood III, Colin Jones, and Robert M Stein).

Working Papers

- *Even Faster Ideal Point Estimation: Using Variational Autoencoders to Estimate IRT Models*
- *Missed Opportunities: Uncontested Elections in Contested Places*
- *Partisan Elections and Partisan Voting: Evidence from Judicial Elections* (with Daniel M. Thompson)
- *Trends in Nationalization of State and Local Elections* (with Shigeo Hirano, Joseph Loffredo, and James M. Snyder Jr.)

Teaching

Kaufman Teaching Certificate	Spring 2026
TA for Generalized Linear Modeling & Bayesian Inference (taught by In Song Kim)	Fall 2025
Designed and Taught MIT Political Methodology Workshop: Cluster Computing	2023 & 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 to the greater community	2021
Jesse Jones Leadership Summer in DC Internship Program ($7,500 per year)	2020 & 2021
Rice University Trustee Distinguished Merit Scholarship ($25,000 per year)	2018-2022

PRESENTATIONS

Political Methodology Conference (2026, anticipated); State Politics & Policy Conference (2026); APSA Conference (2026, anticipated); MIT American Politics Workshop (2025); ESRA Conference (2025); SPSA Conference (2024); Rice University's Social Science Advisory Board (2021); Covid-19 & the Election: Understanding Voter Preferences and Intentions (2020)

SERVICE

Graduate Mentorship Co-Chair (2025 & 2026)

SOFTWARE

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

OTHER EXPERIENCE

CBS News Election Data Desk   2024 –

- 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); MIT Election Data + Science Lab (2023-2026); 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