Renée D Cross

Senior Executive Director & Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston

Renée Cross is the senior executive director and a researcher at the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs. She serves as a principal investigator in the Hobby School's survey research on local and state politics and policy while overseeing government internship programs, civic engagement projects and external relations. Her academic interests include Houston and Texas government, politics, and history, civic engagement and voting, with experience formulating public opinion surveys, data compilation and statistical analysis, demographic analysis, and making reports and presentations accessible to a general audience. Cross routinely provides analysis of public opinion and politics for national, state and local media, such as the New York Times, Bloomberg, the Texas Tribune, Texas Monthly, Texas Standard, the Houston Chronicle and Houston Public Media. She is a lecturer in the department of political science at the University of Houston and is also an adjunct professor in the department of social sciences at the University of Houston-Downtown, teaching courses including Texas Politics, Urban Politics, American Democracy and Participation, and State and Local Government, and she has served on numerous advisory boards and committees such as the White House Presidential Personnel Office's Regional Referral Network, the League of Women Voters-Houston and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County. A native of Houston's East End, Cross earned a bachelor of science degree in political science and psychology summa cum laude at the University of Houston and a master's degree in political science from the University of St. Thomas, with a thesis addressing the impact of the internet on voter participation. She and her husband Stan share their never quite completely restored 1920 bungalow in the Woodland Heights and their never quite finished cabin in La Grange with their rescue dogs and cats.