

## Winchester report – Internship at the State House – July 2024



At first, I wanted to start to write this report in the plane going back to Paris. But I must say, I was crying too much to be able to do it. So here I am, writing it a few weeks later, and my head full of wonderful memories!

If I am being completely honest, without the jumelage association, I don't think I would've been to Boston for my first time in the United States, but thanks to the jumelage, I had this wonderful opportunity and discovered a city that I think I fell in love with.

Going to Boston was my first time ever crossing the Atlantic Ocean, so I was extremely excited to taste the food on the plane and see movies for 7 whole hours! I travelled with Noémie, one of the girls that went to Winchester with me, and Céleste was supposed to join us the day after.



It was Holger, my host-dad, that picked us up to the airport, and I instantly felt comfortable with him and with my host family. Holger was born in Germany, but he lives in the United States since 1998 and now has the US citizenship. His wife is Mara, and she was born from German parents. They also have two kids : Alex and Sylvia, and also a very cute dog named Pepper ! It was very surprising but also great because at home, they speak a mix of German and English, which was easy to follow for me because I speak German quite well. Also, Sylvia went to the French “lycée” of Boston so she is fluent in French, and she was very happy to have an opportunity to speak

French (even though I wasn't too happy about it because I wanted to speak English!). We even plan to see each other when she comes to France with school next year!

I honestly think I couldn't have had a better family, and I know this is going to leave me memories for life!

Moving on to the reason I came to Boston: my internship! I was an intern at Michael Day's office, who is the state representative of Winchester. I was in office three days a week because Talia (Representative Day's secretary and the one that guided me during this whole internship) made this offer so that I would also have time to visit. I was not the only intern in the State House: each year, we are a lot to come (we were 5 at Michael Day's office) and there are conferences and talks every day for all the interns.

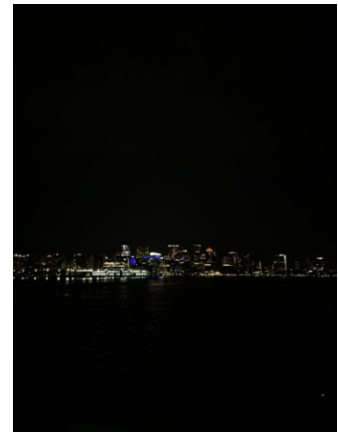


At first, I spent a few days on a very long file: we had to do a members profile file for each and every single Representative and Senator of the State House. Then, it became very interesting because as you may know, next November is the presidential election, but the mandates of the elected Representatives and Senators ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July before the election (they cannot make any important decision in order not to risk to influence the results of the presidential elections). So, it was a big period of rush when I was here and Representative M. Day made a bill proposition in order to better control the access and use of firearms. His team and him had been working on this project for two years and it has been accepted, which was a big victory for the democrats.

However, I also visited Boston and Winchester a lot. John McConnell organized for us a tour of the town hall with a meeting with the members of the town Council, and we also visited the town library. I also enjoyed going for a walk and having a coffee in Winchester with Céleste and Noémie!

We also got to visit Harvard with John and the jumelage association in Winchester took great care of us, organizing Barbecues and celebrating Bastille Day. We were very busy indeed!

In Boston, I visited a lot by just walking in the whole town and it was wonderful! It is very surprising how Boston look very European but also very American! I got to visit Boston's Aquarium, which was kind of impressive and I also went whale watching next to Cape Cod. Here's a photo of the view when we got back to Boston's harbor :



And to finish this story of my trip to the United States, I went to New York with Noémie, because we thought that we couldn't be that close to New York and not go. We stayed in a Hostel that was great and finally got to see this incredible city with our own eyes!

