

# A Comparison - What Checks Out?

Ryan Blackburn | *Weekly Report 12/4 - 12/10*

In being propelled into a maelstrom of responsibilities, community outreach, and diligent devotion to a cause, I have seen that my time in the realm of state public policy has contrasted greatly to what was expected. As I progressed through my first mentor visit, explained in further detail in Mentor Visit Assessment 1, I saw that the diligent atmosphere during campaign season starkly contrasted with prior expectations. Indeed, I saw this week that my hopes in the future of my mentorship under Mrs. Brigadier merit a revision on my outlook of the Independent Study and Mentorship journey.

The greatest expectation I had in preparing for my time under Mrs. Brigadier was a thought I believed to be commonplace in most political offices - one of a slower, more articulate atmosphere. However, I soon saw that the campaign season brought about a different perspective; many volunteers were working to fulfill their various responsibilities. In experiencing this, I came to believe that the world of politics offered much more effort than the public comes to believe; elected officials and candidates toil to ensure that the common citizen can understand their values, beliefs, and aspirations.

In addition to this revelation of the degree to which legislative offices and campaigns work to provide for their constituents, I also came to revise my expectations for the future of my ISM experience. I can see now that my work with Ms. Brigadier will be an undertaking not simple to overcome, but one quite worth the effort. I believe that in becoming a part of these processes in campaign and legislative offices, I can find out not only how the government functions, but how those who run it run themselves.