

The goal of my summer research was to volunteer my time and skills at Public Assets Institute (PAI) in Montpelier, Vermont. PAI is a nonprofit group that works to provide information about state, local, and national government in a non-partisan manner that ordinary Vermont residents can understand. As a political science major, I am concerned with the low level of democratic participation in our society; Public Assets attempts to raise this participation level. It researches government policy proposals, analyzes fiscal decisions, and publishes these updates on its website. As a supplement to the website, open-editorials, radio interviews, speaking tours, and press releases give information to citizens without an internet connection.

The core topics I worked on were preparing the State of Working Vermont 2011 Report, monthly jobs briefs, and research about 'Tax Flight' and 'Brain Drain' in Vermont. At the back of this report are the actual publications off the PAI website.