

Last weekend I was in Washington DC. It is a City I absolutely love for a whole host of reasons and it was a pleasure to go back and visit but the buzz in the run up to the American presidential campaign added to the vibrant political current that filters throughout the streets and districts.

Apart from talking points coming from the post-season baseball games on every screen in the bars, across DC the only topic of conversation is Hillary Clinton versus Donald Trump. Now I appreciate that I was in the American political capital and the US version of the Westminster bubble is very much alive and well, but we were fascinated to hear what people were predicting the outcome to be.

We were in town for “gropegate”, as it would have been called here, and yet such comments have not made the outcome any more or less certain. I spoke to both republican and democrat supporters and neither felt their candidate would absolutely, without a doubt, win the vote. So I asked, for those of us with less knowledge about the US voting system, where do we look on the night to confirm the result and it is simply in two states: Florida and Ohio, the latter has never not voted for the winning side. And at the moment they are too close to call.

We should be interested in the outcome. The USA is an ally, a trading partner and a friend. Who is in the White House come January will shape key aspects of economic, trade and even environmental policy, and that is dependent on just two areas of the country. In the UK 2016 has been an extraordinary year of seismic events. It will be interesting to see whether the USA follows suit but I am sure us political nerds will be staying up and waiting to find out!