

I had my interview in Montpellier yesterday, July 4, 2024. The timeline so far:

June 28, 2021 Mailed dossier via La Poste to Montpellier

September 22, 2021 Entire dossier returned to me asking for the original FBI report which was already included in the initial package

September 23, 2021 Wrote an Attestation sur L'Honneur saying that it was indeed the original and returned the dossier to Montpellier via La Poste

February 15, 2022 Attestation depot de dossier letter received from Montpellier via La Poste

June 18, 2024 Received email from agent JJ with an interview date of July 4 at 16h00. He asked me to bring my carte de séjour and passport, to print out but not sign the "Charte des droits and devoirs du citoyen français" that he had attached and for the following documents to be emailed to him in advance:

- Un justificative de votre activité actuelle (contrat de travail, Kbis, retraite, ou autre) ainsi que pour votre conjoint
- Vos trois derniers avis d'imposition
- Votre bordereau de situation fiscale modèle P237 (Finances Publiques sent me an attestation ; not a form and it was accepted)
- Un justificatif de domicile de mois de trois mois
- La copie recto-verso de votre titre de séjour et de votre conjoint

June 21, 2024 Received email from agent JJ saying that he had successfully received the updated documents listed above. He had clearly read my application prior to my interview since he noted, "you're married, you have your own house, etc."

I wore a sports coat, tie, and dress slacks and carried copies of every document that I had included in my original dossier mailed 3 years prior. I arrived at the Préfecture at 15h30, showed the guard a printout of my appointment email, did the same at reception, and then agent JJ came to get me from the waiting area at 16h10. He was relaxed, soft-spoken, and calm. After confirming that he had received all of the requested documents by email he asked for my carte de séjour and for the Charte that I had printed out. After signing the Charte, the questions began with:

When did you move to France?

When did you first visit France and why?

Why do you want to become French?

What did you do for a living before retiring?

How often do you return to the USA?

What are your links to France (family, friends, house, vacations, etc.)?

What are your hobbies?

Do you travel often in France?

Did you speak French before you moved here?

Do you belong to any associations?

What will becoming French mean for you?

What is laïcité and what do you think of it?

In what year did the Revolution begin?

What are the dates of the 2 world wars?

We are currently in which Republic and when did it begin?

Who have been the presidents during the 5th republic?

Name some French kings.

Name some French writers.

What are some topics currently in the news?

Those were all of the questions. The entire interview took 15 minutes during which the agent entered my answers on his keyboard. After each response he would summarize what I had said to ensure that what he was typing matched what I was saying. I am grateful to have had such a kind and responsive agent who said it would take 6-8 months to receive a positive decision but only 2 months for a negative one, adding with a smile, "so, the longer you have to wait, the better the news."