

MADISON POLICY DIGEST

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*Governor in Chief

*Jeb Puts Seal on a Massive Education-Reform Package

*Bush Signs Bill Giving New Vouchers to Kids in Stricken Program

GOVERNOR IN CHIEF

Governor Jeb Bush has been named best governor in the nation. As the *Weekly Standard* reports, “Not *proclaimed* the best governor by the media and the political community. But recognized as the best by a smaller group: governors who served with him and experts and think-tank and conservative policy wonks who regard state government as something other than a machine for taxing and spending.

“In a state with a surging population, Bush has presided over a booming economy with the highest rate of job creation in the country and an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent (the national average is 4.6 percent). Florida has no state income tax, but Bush has nonetheless found a way to cut taxes every year of the eight he's been in office. Meanwhile, he's trimmed the state employment rolls by 11,000.

“Jeb Bush is a small government conservative. He was feted in Washington in 2003 by the libertarian Cato Institute and talks about having a ‘libertarian gene.’

“‘My guess is that I'm one of the three or four most conservative governors in the country,’ Bush says.

“He's changed the policy debate from how much government can do to how much it should leave to the people and the free market. ‘That's his greatest effect,’ says Robert McClure of the Bush-friendly James Madison Institute in Tallahassee.”

For the complete article click here:

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/012/293ppytu.asp?pg=1>

JEB PUTS SEAL ON A MASSIVE EDUCATION-REFORM PACKAGE

The *Miami Herald* reports, “Florida students will soon be required to choose majors in high school, and middle school students will begin planning for college and careers, according to a massive education package signed by Gov. Jeb Bush in Davie Monday.

“The bill, called the A++ Plan for Education, overhauls high school and middle school education in Florida, aiming to make it more relevant to students' lives.

“‘We recognize that students are not the same, they have different aspirations, different interests,’ Bush said in a speech at McFatter Technical High School in Davie, calling the bill ‘the most significant piece of legislation this year, other than the budget.’

“With the signing of the bill, Florida becomes the first state in the nation to mandate majors on the high school level.”

For the complete article click here:

http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/broward_county/14748601.htm

BUSH SIGNS BILL GIVING NEW VOUCHERS TO KIDS IN STRICKEN PROGRAM

On Tuesday, Governor Bush signed legislation that will allow 700 students who were receiving “Opportunity Scholarships” to move to another voucher program. In January, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the Opportunity Scholarship program violated the state constitution

The Associated Press reports, “The new law will allow those students, if they qualify, to receive vouchers from an unchallenged program for children from poor families, which is financed through corporate tax credits.

It applies only to those who previously had Opportunity Scholarship Vouchers. The Legislature declined to pass another bill that would have provided corporate vouchers for future failing school students.

For the complete story click here:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060606/APN/606060934>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions. (Edward R. Murrow)

OPINION OF THE WEEK

“Explosive Facts” by Thomas Sowell

“Each year about this time, some parents write in to ask for suggestions of things for their children to read during the summer, in order to counteract the steady diet of liberal-left indoctrination they have been getting in schools and colleges.

“This year there is a new book that is almost tailor-made for that purpose. Its title is *Conservative Comebacks to Liberal Lies* by Gregory Jackson. In it, all sorts of political and media spin are shot to pieces by hard facts.

“If you think that the Constitution of the United States provides for ‘separation of church and state,’ that George W. Bush is not as smart as either Al Gore or John Kerry, or that the big-money donors to political campaigns give more to the Republicans than to the Democrats, this book provides documented facts showing the opposite.

“The book goes literally from A to Z, with 26 chapters covering subjects from abortion to zealots who are terrorists.”

For the complete article, click here:

<http://www.townhall.com/opinion/columns/thomassowell/2006/06/07/200019.html>

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