

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of The James Madison Institute
www.jamesmadison.org

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CONTACT US

Mail The James Madison Institute
The Columns
100 North Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850-386-3131
Email jmi@jamesmadison.org
Website www.jamesmadison.org

President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we usher in the fall here in the great state of Florida, The James Madison Institute has been hard at work promoting the principals of limited government, personal responsibility, and economic freedom. Reflecting upon the last few months, there is no doubt in my mind that The James Madison Institute has come through 2020 bigger and more productive than ever. With new projects and events throughout the Sunshine State and beyond, this year so far has been a whirlwind.

Just recently, our team was down in Orlando where we had the opportunity to be the home-state sponsor for the State Policy Network's Annual Meeting of think tanks from across the country. In July, we held our 2021 Tech and Innovation Summit, gathering thought leaders in policy, industry, and media to discuss how Florida can best lead the nation in the areas of cryptocurrency, aerospace, next-generation transportation, telecommunications, and digital technologies. Just last month, we partnered with the Millennial Debt Foundation to hold a great event in Miami focused on the fiscal future of money and the national debt. We were joined by former Congressmembers Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Carlos Curbelo, as well as Congressman Byron Donalds, Representative Danny Perez and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez. These are only a

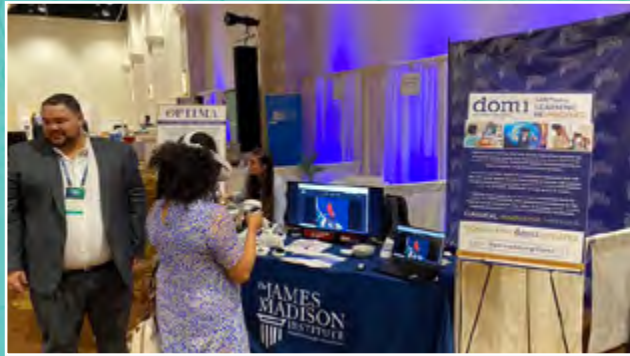
few of the many events in which we have had the opportunity to participate to the privilege to host.

Looking forward, the Florida Legislature's 2022 Interim Committee Weeks have begun, and we are already shifting gears and working hard to prepare for the upcoming Legislative Session. Our team at The James Madison Institute has compiled a bold set of priorities for 2022 to continue pressing for commonsense, practical policy ideas that place Florida on an economic path of expanded opportunity and prosperity. Our priorities stand firm in the belief that free-market capitalism, private property rights, and the rule of law are the tenets of the single biggest prosperity engine in human history.

Throughout this edition of the Messenger, I hope you will get a glimpse of the depth and breadth of our work all across our great state and throughout the country. While our efforts are advancing the cause of freedom our charge is to continue to amplify our message through new ideas and technology. The James Madison Institute continues to grow and adapt, but one thing that will always remain is our gratitude for your unwavering support. Our work would not be possible without your dedication and commitment. Together we will blaze the path towards a brighter future for the generations of Floridians still to come.

With gratitude,

J. Robert McClure III, Ph.D.
President and CEO



☛ In August, JMI sponsored a “Florida theme” opening reception at State Policy Network’s annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.



☛ JMI hosted a panel discussion about different careers in government for the young leaders at Florida Boys State, moderated by JMI’s Sal Nuzzo. The panel included Representative Ramon Alexander; legislative aide to Representative Lorraine Ausley, Jerome Maples; JMI’s Emerson George; and Capital City Consulting’s Chris Schoonover.



☛ The Millennial Debt Foundation (MDF) and The James Madison Institute (JMI) hosted a live event on the future of money and the national debt with local, state and federal leaders in Miami. JMI’s Sal Nuzzo interviewed Congressman Byron Donalds.



☛ Guests at JMI’s 2021 Tech & Innovation Summit enjoyed a virtual reality experience with Optima Domi where they got to feel like they were at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



☛ JMI’s Campus Representative Vincent Cortellesa handing out pocket constitutions at the University of Miami.



☛ SPN’s President and CEO Tracie Sharp speaking to JMI’s Board of Directors.

JMI EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR AREA SOON!

Influence



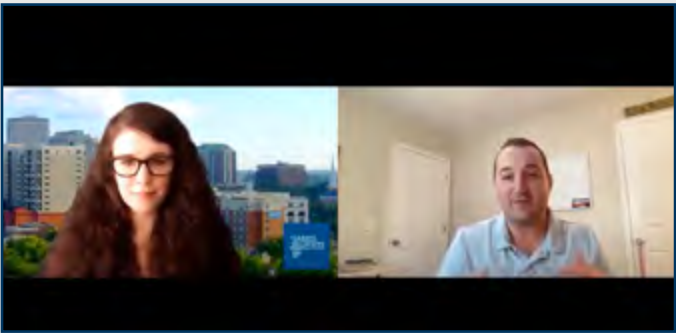
JMI's William Mattox talking about challenges facing the American history curriculum in public education on CSPAN via a Heritage Foundation panel.



Host John Paul of "It's a Paul World," interviews JMI's Dr. Robert McClure about Florida's success story and the FreedomFest Conference at Mount Rushmore.



Dr. Robert McClure speaking at FreedomFest 2021 to talk about "The Florida Story" in Rapid City, SD.



JMI's Director of the Center for Technology and Innovation, Andrea O'Sullivan, participating in an interview on decentralization in big tech with the Beacon Center of Tennessee.



Dr. Robert McClure doing an interview at FreedomFest in Rapid City, SD for Real America's Voice.



William Mattox was the master of ceremonies for an event in Miami which featured Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez, Senator Manny Diaz, and Former Representative Michael Bileca to celebrate American ideals during Founders' Month.



JMI's William Mattox speaking to students and sharing JMI materials at a homeschool convention in Orlando, FL.



Students at Tallahassee Classical School hearing from Benjamin Franklin and playing "Are You Smarter than a Franklin County Fifth Grader?"

J. ROBERT MCCLURE III
PRESIDENT & CEO, JAMES MADISON INSTITUTE, TALLAHASSEE

McClure has been president and CEO of the think-tank think tank for 17 years. "I never had plans to become involved in policy or politics. My first job after college was teaching English and coaching football, basketball and baseball at an all-boys boarding school," he says. The Institute is composed of executive personnel in Tallahassee, senior researchers across the country and college representatives around the state.

EDUCATION Former Secretary (SAS), Florida State University (FSU), University of Florida (FSU)

SOMETHING SURPRISING My great grandfather, Charles E. Davis, was president of the Florida Senate in 1911. My great uncle, Turner Davis, was president of the Florida Senate in 1915. They are the only family members to have ever served in this role.

SARASOTA TOPIC "I want to visit and the Middle East to study its history and ancient laws."

READING Confessions of My Teenage Life: The Life of a Teenage Boy; The American Revolution: The Story of the American Revolution; The American Revolution: The Story of the American Revolution



We are proud to announce that JMI's President and CEO, Dr. Bob McClure, has been named one of Florida Trend's Florida 500 most influential business leaders.

State Policy Network Annual Meeting

In August, most of The James Madison Institute staff attended the State Policy Network’s Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. As the “host think tank,” JMI sponsored the opening reception where staffers dressed in Lilly Pulitzer. Guests enjoyed “Madison Mojitos,” live music, and a chance to hold mini alligators. JMI also hosted a “meet-up” on “Campus Culture, College Football, and Campus Free Speech” where attendees wore their college football colors and enjoyed tailgate food over a discussion about intellectual diversity on college campuses. Staffers spoke on policy panels on issues of technology, healthcare, and education and some even woke up early to participate in a 5K.



We heard from leaders on the state and national levels working in government and the private sector to get the inside scoop on the promises and pressure points facing our most promising and high-growth industries. A kickoff address from Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez set the tone for the week: Florida literally and figuratively shoots for the moon. Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr spoke of the 5G future in Florida while Securities and Exchange Commissioner Hester Peirce joined us for a digital Q&A on cryptocurrencies and investment. Rep. Fiona MacFarland joined us for a fireside chat with Allegiant Strategies’ David Clark on leadership in technology policy, the latter of whom

retook the stage with Garrett Johnson of the Lincoln Network to talk about how to strengthen our “govtech” in the state. We are confident that the issues discussed in our 2021 Summit will lead the legislative agenda in 2022 and beyond. As the formal presentations and desperately missed mingling made clear, innovation is a choice. Will our leaders choose to pursue the policies that can help our citizens find new and better ways to live and grow? Or will we decide to reject innovation for fear of the future? At least for the leaders who assembled at the Summit, the decision is obvious: Florida will embrace innovation in both spirit and policy.



2021 Tech and Innovation Summit

This past summer, The James Madison Institute was thrilled to gather some of the top thinkers and doers in technology and policy to talk Florida and the future at our 2021 Technology and Innovation Summit in Tampa. Our first major in-person event after what is safe to call a true

“Black Swan” year was put to good use as participants considered how the state should approach cryptocurrency, aerospace, online platforms, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, broadband infrastructure, smart transportation, and so much more.



2022 Policy Priorities

Turning the page from 2020 to 2021, it wouldn't have been out of line to feel a sense of relief or optimism for the onset of a new year and to plan for a return to something resembling normalcy. Well, to borrow a phrase from the faithful, "God laughs hardest at those who make plans."

The 2021 Florida legislative session was, without question, one of the most unique and odd in recent memory. A closed capitol, committee hearings viewed on closed circuit from the Civic Center, and an overall odd sense of quiet permeated an otherwise traditional legislative calendar. And while the achievements made despite the circumstances were extraordinary, there was a sense that much was left to be done.

Looking ahead, it is vital to affirm, both for JMI and the 22 million (and growing) Floridians, that the mission moves forward. In the 2022 cycle, we will see the legislature tackle reapportionment, add a congressional district, pass a new budget, and (hopefully) continue advancing the Sunshine State as the best place to live, work, and start a business. That doesn't happen without a commitment to fiscal integrity, low taxes, minimal regulation, and legislative leadership to preserve the principles and reason for more than 800 new residents every single day.

We often say that "the Florida story" is one that needs to be exported. We are seeing that across the country as new states expand choice and opportunity for parents of schoolchildren, as they lower or eliminate state income taxes, as they increase the supply of healthcare delivery through free market principles, as they restore trust in their election systems. These things are happening all around us – in West Virginia, in Georgia, in Texas, in Arizona – and as states advance freedom and liberty for their residents, they look at the Sunshine State for direction and leadership. For so many Americans seeking to escape the dictatorial mandates of Leftism, the future is right here in Florida.

In so many ways, we count ourselves fortunate to do what we do in Florida. We have the pleasure of hosting policymakers of all stripes at our events and engaging often with many who we disagree with on issues. This is a blessing. We do not take for granted that, with almost no exception, our part-time legislators possess

a genuine and deep commitment to their constituents and their state. Whether republican or democrat, conservative or liberal, young or old, they all hold their roles in esteem and seek to make the right policy decisions for the people they represent and the greater good of Florida. That doesn't mean that they agree on the methods or issues – in fact, that is often not the case. They campaign vigorously and yes politics isn't for the faint of heart. But at the end of the day, when they gather in the Capitol each session, the robust debates, substantive coalition building, and honest brokering creates a state we can all be proud of.

Our team will continue pressing for common sense, practical policy ideas that place Florida on an economic path of expanded opportunity and prosperity. Florida is, in fact, the future. And we don't say that lightly. In a state of 22 million that grows by 6,000 a week, it is vital that policy matches the needs of the people and the economy. We are a hub of technological innovation, of international commerce, of tourism, and so much more. That reality requires a deliberate and intentional commitment to advancing freedom and liberty. To that end, we have compiled a robust and visionary set of policy priorities for 2022 that reinforce our principles of limited government, economic liberty, and individual freedom. We hold firm to the belief that free market capitalism, private property rights, and the rule of law is the single biggest prosperity engine in human history.

It is our pleasure to provide our policy priorities for 2022.

1 Cultivate Innovation

- a. Adopt a vision statement outlining the commitment to "permissionless innovation"
- b. Continue to oppose government-owned broadband networks in favor of private market solutions to connectivity
- c. Expand use of regulatory sandboxes to promote new industry development and further diversify Florida's economy
- d. Update money transmission regulations to create an environment where cryptocurrency innovations can flourish
- e. Foster new rules to oversee new technological

- governance mechanisms such as "decentralized autonomous organizations" (DAOs)
- f. Identify sources and limit regulatory friction in industries that would create new economic paths for entrepreneurs and opportunity for job seekers.

2 Advance Educational Opportunity & Academic Excellence

- a. Expand the availability of all existing K-12 scholarship programs to serve greater numbers of Floridians
- b. Offer flexible, student-based funding to parents interested in microschooling, pod learning, hybrid homeschooling, and other "DIY Education" options
- c. Honor Florida's most legendary educator by naming a K-12 scholarship program after Mary McLeod Bethune
- d. Make permanent changes to the Hope Scholarship program so that no child ever has to attend a school that her parents consider unsafe
- e. Strengthen civics education by elevating the role that non-governmental voluntary associations play in solving social problems and in modeling a more constructive form of civic engagement than that offered by "protest civics" activism programs
- f. Tie higher education performance funding to objective measures of healthy campus culture so that Florida universities are rewarded for distinguishing themselves as havens for free expression, intellectual diversity, and the robust exchange of ideas.

3 Protect Individual Liberty & Good Governance

- a. Promote the principles of the "Conservative Florida Budget" committing to hold growth to no more than population growth plus inflation.
- b. Modernize regulations to ensure public sector unions are truly representing workers.
- c. Reform Florida's public retirement system

- to both modernize it for new employees and ensure it can meet its obligations to public employees
- d. Advance conservative reforms to Florida's juvenile and adult criminal justice systems that both protect public safety and taxpayer dollars.
- e. Improve Florida's Personal Injury Protection (PIP) rules to encourage greater transparency and consistency and limit frivolous torts.
- f. Protect the freedom of individuals to donate to causes they support without fear of retribution.

4 Expand Healthcare Solutions

- a. Continue to advance supply side reforms to Florida's healthcare system that promote choice and opportunity for patients, lower costs, and retain a necessary safety net.
- b. Advance reforms to pharmacy benefit manager policies that can address inequities in drug pricing and supplies patients.

5 Safeguard the values of free markets, choice, and liberty in federal policy

- a. Oppose federal attempts to further socialize health insurance and healthcare provision
- b. Educate lawmakers and the public on the negative effects of proposed "5G nationalization"
- c. Export the Florida model of election integrity and transparency that can serve as a national benchmark for best practices in other states

The team at The James Madison Institute affirms our commitment to working both with those who share our philosophy and those who believe differently. It will be through effective vigorous debate and productive civil discourse that we will all reap the rewards of a better Florida, and ultimately a better country. Because as Florida goes, so goes the country. The future is right here.

We invite you to join us as the mission moves forward in 2022.

Civics Education Initiatives with the Preston A. Wells, Jr. Center for American Ideals



An update from a JMI Intern

Interning this summer with The James Madison Institute taught me the innerworkings of a non-profit think tank and introduced me to JMI’s dedication to liberty-minded policies. I learned the methods and applications the Communications team uses to inform its audience and legislators about current issues and policy briefs. I was able to brainstorm with the team about the rebranding and relaunching of JMI’s policy podcast, now called “Spill the Tea.” Additionally, I attended summer intern book club sessions with Director of the J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options, William Mattox. We read and discussed fundamental pieces of American literature,



including the Gettysburg Address and MLK Jr’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”

As a Communications Intern, I had the privilege of working with Director of Communication and Public Affairs Logan Padgett and Communications Manager Emerson George. I’m so thankful for the opportunity to intern for one of the country’s premier think tanks, with a brilliant staff that is dedicated to Florida’s continued sunny success.

Ellie Casteel is a Tallahassee native and sophomore at Wake Forest University majoring in Communications and minoring in Dance and English. She was the Communications Intern for the Summer 2021 semester.

JMI Announces a New Board Member

Harout J. Samra, an attorney from Coral Gables, FL., joined JMI's Board of Directors in August.

Recognized as an "Up and Comer" for International Law in Florida and a three-time graduate of the University of Miami, Samra focuses his practice on international dispute resolution and arbitration matters, including international civil litigation in U.S. courts.

He has represented clients from both the public and private sectors, including foreign governments, public officials and clients from a variety of industries. Samra has experience in international arbitrations administered under the International Chamber of



Harout J. Samra

Commerce (ICC), International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), China

International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), Bogota Chamber of Commerce, Madrid Court of Arbitration and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) arbitration rules.

Samra currently serves as a member of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, by appointment of Governor Ron DeSantis. He previously served, by appointment of Governor Rick Scott, as a member of the Florida Third District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission and was elected as Chair of the Commission from 2018-2019.

The logo for the "Spill the Tea" podcast. It features a dark blue background with a white teacup and saucer. The teacup has a stylized building facade on it. Above the teacup, the words "SPILL" and "TEA" are in large white letters inside speech bubbles, with "THE" in smaller white letters between them. Below the teacup, the word "PODCAST" is written in white capital letters.

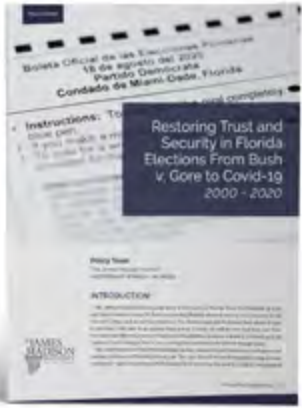
JMI has launched a new podcast, "Spill the Tea!" Every other Friday, hosts Dr. Robert McClure and Sal Nuzzo talk policy, politics, current events and more! You can find "Spill the Tea" on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, or anywhere else you get your podcasts.

Recent JMI Publications

Restoring Trust and Security in Florida Elections: Bush v. Gore to COVID-19

In July, JMI released a new study examining the reforms to the Florida Election Code that the state legislature and Secretaries of State have adopted over the two decades since the infamous Bush v. Gore presidential election. This JMI study offers a series of principles and best practices to serve as a model for the nation concerning election administration and security.

In the wake of COVID-19, Florida was able to conduct a fair, accessible, and robust election in 2020, illustrating how far the Sunshine State has come since the 2000 election. The success seen on election night in Florida is due in large part to the scores of amendments to the election code by the Florida legislature, and carried through by our Secretaries of State, over the last two decades. These modifications helped ensure that Florida’s 2020 election was conducted safely, efficiently, and successfully, despite the unprecedented global pandemic. After several states dealt with both access and security issues in the wake of 2020, the United States Congress has attempted to construct a massive federal overhaul that would destroy trust and faith in the nation’s election system. Florida stands in stark contrast to that concept, holding instead to the idea that states have the tools, the capability, and the capacity to make necessary reforms.



Permissionless Innovation: A Pro-Growth Policy Vision and Plan for Florida

On the eve of the 2021 Tech and Innovation Summit, The James Madison Institute’s Center for Tech and Innovation released a new policy brief entitled “Permissionless Innovation: A Pro-Growth Policy Vision and Plan for Florida” outlining the concrete steps that Florida policymakers can take to embrace permissionless innovation.

The brief explains that embracing a posture of permissionless innovation is a key determinant of technological development and growth. As states like California and New York continue to implement hostile precautionary measures that prompt firms to reevaluate their positions, Florida has a great opportunity to enshrine permissionless innovation policies and law to encourage new, groundbreaking industries to come to the Sunshine State.

The state of Florida boasts a highly competitive fiscal environment, yet Florida can improve its regulatory posture to be even more competitive. To cement a regulatory environment that is conducive to growth and innovation, the state should both look to improve upon backwards-looking reforms, such as our established regulatory review commission, and consider forward-looking reforms that encourage a more nimble and appropriate regulatory framework.



Celebrate Freedom

In September, The James Madison Institute (JMI) released the newest edition of its civics education curriculum “Celebrate Freedom” in partnership with the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education (NIE) and the Florida Press Education Services, Inc. JMI’s 12-page education paper will be circulated to students across the state of Florida, as well as parts of Texas.

The latest edition of Celebrate Freedom has been designed to highlight the many leaders of all backgrounds who have built America into the country it is today. This publication, which has won a SPNovation Award from the State Policy Network, was first distributed in September 2010 as JMI’s supplemental civics curriculum. Celebrate Freedom has reached over a million students over the course of the last decade, with plans to reach 1,776,000 more students between July 2021 and the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country in July 2026.

Each year during Celebrate Freedom Week, students in Florida, Texas, and a number of other states are expected to recite a key passage from the Declaration of Independence and to spend time studying this important document. Celebrate Freedom carefully examines this key passage, helping students better understand its meaning and why it is still important today. This colorful booklet examines a key passage from the Declaration of Independence, using a variety of tools and activities to help students gain a greater understanding of America’s founding principles.



An Update from Florida’s College Campuses

As we continue to reflect on the 2020 election, one thing that has stood out among all of the data is the record turnout of young people across the country. This, along with my generation’s troubling and growing acceptance of radical ideologies, makes JMI’s presence on campuses around Florida even more essential. Through events with special speakers like Jeffrey Deskovic (a wrongly-accused convict), financial literacy seminars, visits to student organizations on campus, tabling events, and social media, my colleagues and I have been working hard to educate our classmates and promote The James Madison Institute’s values of free enterprise, individual liberty, and economic prosperity. Along the way, we’re also getting our fellow students to think creatively about criminal justice reform, the environment, healthcare, and innovation. Above all else, we’re committed to helping our classmates learn more about the U.S. Constitution and participate in the election process as educated voters. Last school



year was special because we not only had to prepare students for an election for offices at every level of government, but also had to do this during the peak of a global pandemic, where most of our campuses wouldn’t allow us to hold in-person events. This year, we’re excited and ready to bring JMI back to Florida’s universities in person and get to work. We have so many great ideas of how we can engage with students even better than before, taking advantage of our ability to hold in-person events while bringing back some of the things that worked in 2020, and we can’t wait to show you.


Daniel is a junior at Rollins College studying Public Policy and Political Economy. He is the JMI Campus Representative at Rollins College.



Constitution Day

On Friday, September 17, JMI’s Campus Representatives celebrated Constitution Day on their campuses. Campus Reps passed out copies of pocket constitutions and held virtual events on founding Constitutional principles.

Centers



J. STANLEY MARSHALL
CENTER for
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To promote policy reforms that empower Florida parents to choose the schools, courses, resources and programs that best meet their child’s unique needs, interests, aptitudes and



PRESTON A. WELLS, JR.
CENTER for
AMERICAN IDEALS
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To help students of all ages learn more about the time-honored ideals that have animated American life since our nation’s founding by providing high-quality resources to teachers



CAROL & BARNEY BARNETT
YOUNG LEADERS CENTER
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To raise up young leaders who impact American culture with the principles of limited government, economic freedom, and individual responsibility through training and experience.



CENTER for TECHNOLOGY
and INNOVATION
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To provide meaningful and practical solutions to technology advances currently occurring, while also promoting a policy landscape that is conducive to advances that are yet to come.



CENTER for
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To advance free-market solutions that promote entrepreneurialism and create economic opportunities for all.



CENTER for
PROPERTY RIGHTS
at The James Madison Institute

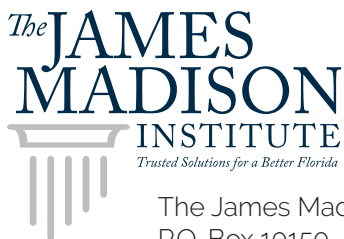
MISSION: To promote liberty, economic prosperity, and the rule of law by recommending property rights policy that will:

1. Maximize an owner’s right to enjoy and use one’s property
2. Prevent government attempts to overregulate the use of property, limit government ownership of property, and eliminate government abuse of property owners
3. Promote responsible stewardship of all property regardless of ownership—private, corporate, and public









K. EARLE DURDEN CENTER for
THE ADVANCEMENT of LIBERTY
at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To build a network of supporters, investors, ambassadors, and friends across the Sunshine State who protect and promote the ideas of free markets, economic opportunity and prosperity for every Floridian.



The James Madison Institute
P.O. Box 10150
Tallahassee, FL 32302
850-386-3131
jmi@jamesmadison.org
www.jamesmadison.org

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Save the Date | **2022 Annual Session Soiree**

Tuesday, February 15 | Goodwood Museum & Gardens | Tallahassee, FL

**LEAVE A
LEGACY OF
LIBERTY**

The Legacy Society

The James Madison Institute's Legacy Society is a group of individuals who believe the most important legacy they can leave their children is a bequest of freedom.

Become a friend of the people of Florida and join The James Madison Institute's quest to leave a permanent legacy of liberty to future generations.

If you are interested in joining Legacy Society, please contact us at jmi@jamesmadison.org or call 850-386-3131.