

THE MESSENGER

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

2022 | Edition 1



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The James Madison Institute

Trusted Solutions for a Better Florida

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Over the last 30-plus years, it is heartening to see the progress towards greater liberty that Florida has made, especially in these unprecedented times. Our communities, state, country, and world face challenges that we could never have imagined and debates over things just five years ago we took for granted—gender, free speech and basic civil liberties to name a few. Nonetheless, The James Madison Institute's unwavering commitment to our mission of advancing public policy solutions that benefit all Floridians has made the Sunshine State a model for the country. Thanks to your generosity, we continue providing “trusted solutions for a better Florida.”

The James Madison Institute has had the pleasure of playing a critical role as Florida has become the single most important state in the country when it comes to policy and politics. Political philosophies and politicians come and go but one thing has remained true: JMI has led the way in the Sunshine State on what constitutes good policy for over three decades. The Florida Dream in many ways reflects the American Dream, and our citizens are reaping the benefits. Americans are voting with their feet and pocketbooks, and they are moving to states like Florida that value freedom—to the tune of over

800 people per day! This only makes our work here at JMI that much more important. Each year, more and more people take up the mission we champion and, because of your support, JMI is the strongest it has ever been.

Throughout this edition of the Messenger, we hope you will see the depth and breadth of our efforts to advance good policy by promoting the principles we share. This work occurs during the Florida Legislative Session, in the halls of the United States Congress, in Federal Cabinet agencies and, just as importantly, in other states around the country. The Sunshine State has given JMI a platform unequalled in our organization's history. Everyone wants to know, “How did Florida become so free?” and we are happy to work with other states to implement the “Florida Model.”

And while our efforts are advancing the cause of liberty, our mission must continue to grow and develop with our ever-changing state.

We are forever grateful for your continued support of our mission. Your trust in us is an investment in the future of the Sunshine State and, with our growing national profile, the country as well. We are honored that you have chosen to support us as we chart the course for a better, more prosperous future.



With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob'.

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

● Dr. Bob McClure speaking at the National School Choice Week rally at the Florida Capitol in January about the work JMI is doing for school choice and education options.



● Dr. Bob McClure participating in a January panel with Heritage Foundation in Jacksonville talking about the power and importance of school choice in America.



● Dr. Bob McClure and Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson after a meeting to discuss the Senate's priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session.



● JMI staff and friends listening to Representative Stan McClain during a dinner to talk about the future of education policy in Florida.



● JMI and Step Up for Students Board Member John Kirtley, American Federation for Children's Denise Lasher, and the JMI Champion of Education Freedom Award recipient Denisha Merriweather at JMI's 2022 J. Stanley Marshall Day Celebration.



● JMI's William Mattox giving a presentation to a Clearwater micro-school as part of our "CounterSpeech" tour (to combat "cancel culture").



● JMI Vice President of Policy Sal Nuzzo speaking at the Election Integrity Summit in Orlando, FL.

William Mattox interviewing House Speaker-Designate Paul Renner about the future of school choice in Florida at the Marshall Day Celebration in Jacksonville, FL.



Attorney General Ashley Moody speaking about crime, immigration, human trafficking and other initiatives to a room full of guests during a JMI luncheon in Sarasota, FL.



A sold-out crowd listening to Byron York speak at the 2022 JMI Session Soiree in Tallahassee, FL.



JMI EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR AREA SOON!

Influence

The Economist

Forbes

THE HILL

The Washington Times

The Boca Raton Tribune
Your Closest Neighbor

The Ledger

CITY JOURNAL

WCTV.tv
TRUSTED. LOCAL.

Florida Daily

FLORIDA POLITICS

The Florida Times-Union

FOX NEWS
92.5

The Gainesville Sun

GULFSHORE BUSINESS
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S BEST VIEW OF BUSINESS

The Heritage Foundation

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Miami Herald

Naples Daily News

News-Press.

wjct
PUBLIC MEDIA

Orlando Sentinel The Palm Beach Post

REAL CLEAR POLICY

reason
FREE MARKETS AND FREE MARKETS

SunSentinel

Tallahassee Democrat.

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

THE CAPITOLIST

PC SUN

VENICE GONDOLIER

EN SUN

NP SUN

wusf
Public Media

NEWSRADIO WFLA
94.1 • 105.9 • 96.1 • 97.0

wfsu

WEST VILLAGES SUN

abc 25
WPBF



JMI's Sal Nuzzo, Dr. Bob McClure, and Austin Moser at an Atlas Event in Miami.



Sal Nuzzo participating in a panel on the impacts of illicit trade on the Florida economy.



JMI's Dr. Bob McClure with Ben Shapiro in Tallahassee, FL.



📍 Dr. Bob McClure at a press conference with Attorney General Ashley Moody to announce a new initiative to fight against human trafficking in Florida.

📍 Dr. Bob McClure with former American Enterprise Institute CEO Arthur Brooks at a Village Square Event in Tallahassee, FL.

📍 Behind the scenes with a local Tallahassee nurse practitioner Taylor Ann Drew telling her story for a new JMI video.



📍 Students at a JMI-hosted event in Tampa interacting with a performer portraying legendary Florida educator Mary McLeod Bethune.



**HOW CAN
FLORIDA
CONTINUE
TO LEAD THE
FUTURE?**

Florida **Tech
& Innovation
Summit 2022**

September 15-16th • Miami, FL

2022 Legislative Session Statement from The James Madison Institute Policy Team

With the passage of a \$112 billion state budget, the Florida Legislature concluded the 2022 session and adjourned “sine die” on Monday, March 14.

We congratulate Speaker Chris Sprowls, President Wilton Simpson, and the members of the Florida House and Senate on their many accomplishments during the 2022 session.

“The Florida Legislature responded to growing parental concerns about the dangers of promoting Cultural Marxism in the classroom. It also addressed the need for greater instruction in practical money management skills for students. Florida continues to be a national leader in empowering parents to play a greater role in their children’s education, and this session saw meaningful gains made that we hope will continue for years to come.”

WILLIAM MATTOX

Director of the J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options, The James Madison Institute

“Florida continues to embrace technology and innovation as key determinants of our growth and future as a state. This session, the legislature passed a modernization of state money transmission laws that recognizes Bitcoin and digital assets as vital technologies for Floridians. The government can build on such successes by exploring ways to encourage Bitcoin banking, decentralization tools and applications, and digital identity in the Sunshine State. As Florida continues to draw technologists and startups to our state, such forward-looking modernizations in law will be critical to shore up our future as a leading innovator among the states.”

ANDREA O’SULLIVAN

Director of the Center for Technology and Innovation, The James Madison Institute

“Florida has once again illustrated that policymaking and governing from conservative principles is possible. Thank you to Speaker Sprowls and President Simpson for shepherding the Sunshine State through a tumultuous time for the country. Your leadership has made this state better. You, and your 158 colleagues, continue to prove the ideals of free-market capitalism, limited government, and economic liberty are the fuel that drives an economic engine. And unlike Washington, D.C.’s approach, you keep it in plentiful supply.”

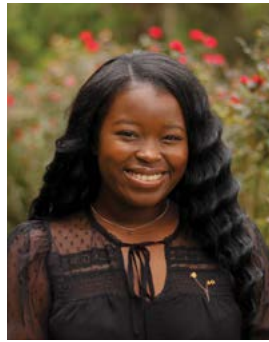
SAL NUZZO

Vice President of Policy,
The James Madison Institute



Updates from JMI Interns

My Spring internship at The James Madison Institute has been such a rewarding experience. I have spent this semester under the guidance of people who want to share their knowledge and passion for a free-market society doing transformative work to lead to a better Florida.



I've learned the importance of creating policy solutions that are rooted in the foundational principles of our country and how to keep those ideals front and center through the things I work on. One of my favorite parts of the internship is engaging in thought-provoking conversations with my co-interns in the office weekly. Learning about the inner workings of a non-profit think tank and being able to connect with members of the staff has assured me that this is a career I would like to pursue post-graduation.

As a policy intern, JMI has allowed me to think, learn, and grow. I am so thankful for the opportunity to learn from such incredible individuals and look forward to taking the things I've learned here out into the world and contributing to make our state a brighter one.

Yolanda St. Fleur is a Ft. Lauderdale native and Junior at Florida State University majoring in Political Science and Music with a minor in Law and Philosophy. She was a Policy Intern for the Spring 2022 semester.

Interning this year with The James Madison Institute, I've had the most enjoyable experience of learning from a first-class staff what it takes to run a successful policy think tank. I've had the great privilege of meeting the Lieutenant Governor, among many other public figures in Florida throughout my time at JMI. The best parts about my experience here were learning the ropes from the Communications team on how to best message and maintain the JMI brand and also the chance to attend the Session Soiree. This internship has given me great exposure to wonderful people, important work, and the public policy world!



As a Communications Intern, I had the honor of working for the Director of Communications and Public Affairs Logan Padgett and Communications Manager Emerson George. I am so thankful for the opportunity to intern for The James Madison Institute as they continue their work to provide trusted solutions for a better Florida.

Andrew Parker is a native of Merritt Island, Florida and a Junior at Florida State University majoring in Political Science and minoring in Communication. He was the Communications Intern for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Semesters.

JMI Announces a New Team Member



Susan Hildebrand serves as the Events and Logistics Manager for The James Madison Institute. She is responsible for the creation of event concepts and budgets, contract negotiations, and overall event planning and execution.

Susan is a native of Tallahassee and a proud graduate of Florida State University where she received a degree in Hospitality Management. Susan's event planning and organizational skills have been honed from her diverse work experience, which ranges

from catering private and corporate events, owning and operating a photography business, and serving as Executive Office Liaison at another not-for-profit company.

Susan and her husband Andrew have three beautiful children, Van, Presley and Otto. In her spare (very spare) time, Susan enjoys painting, eating real mac and cheese, and listening to Motown. Susan and her family are members of Good Shepherd Catholic Church where she also serves as a Nursery Supervisor.

2022 Session Soiree

In the midst of a tumultuous and unpredictable legislative session, The James Madison Institute and its special guests came together on February 15 for the 2022 Session Soiree. Congressman Neal Dunn kicked off the evening by welcoming our guests during the reception and Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez

addressed the crowd later in the evening. The keynote speaker was Byron York, author and chief political correspondent for the Washington Examiner, who provided guests with laughter and fresh insight. Thanks to our honored guests, attendees, and sponsors, the 2022 Session Soiree was a success and left us hopeful about Florida's future.



"The James Madison Institute plays an instrumental role in shaping policy in the state of Florida. Whether it's energy, healthcare, taxes, or property rights, JMI has the research Floridians need to stay up to date and hold local and state officials accountable. This organization is an invaluable resource and I look forward to seeing them accomplish more great things for years to come."

Congressman
NEAL DUNN



"Our administration has worked tirelessly to prevent government intrusion in our daily lives as well as fight for freedoms that are given to us by our creator, not government. Think tanks like The James Madison Institute are so important in advocating for our timeless ideals of limited government, economic freedom, and individual liberty."

Lieutenant Governor
JEANETTE NUÑEZ



2022 Naples Annual Dinner

The James Madison Institute had a brilliant night of insight into American politics and policy on March 30 at La Playa Golf and Resort Club in Naples, Florida. The 2022 Naples Annual Dinner hosted Kimberley Strassel, an author, commentator, and Wall Street Journal columnist.



Recent JMI Publications

Fast Facts: Florida Should Consider an Industry-Neutral Regulatory Sandbox

A regulatory sandbox is a tailored environment in which innovative businesses can experiment with new products and services and fast-track cutting-edge technologies to market with the guidance and advice of regulatory experts.

In a new one pager, The James Madison Institute released “Fast Facts: Florida Should Consider an Industry-Neutral Regulatory Sandbox” detailing how Florida can take the lead on this important issue.



Battening Down: Policy Reforms to Avoid a Florida Insurance Meltdown

In late January, The James Madison Institute released a report entitled “Battening Down: Policy Reforms to Avoid a Florida Insurance Meltdown” examining the rise in Florida’s insurance costs and detailing several recommendations on how to curtail this trend.

The report, written by Christian Cámara, a senior fellow at The James Madison Institute, outlines how insurance rate increases have stemmed from behavior by stakeholders exploiting vulnerabilities in the law, the meaningful steps the Florida Legislature has taken in recent years to combat the abuse, and how it can build upon those reforms to stabilize the insurance market and hopefully promote more investment, competition, and lower rates for consumers.

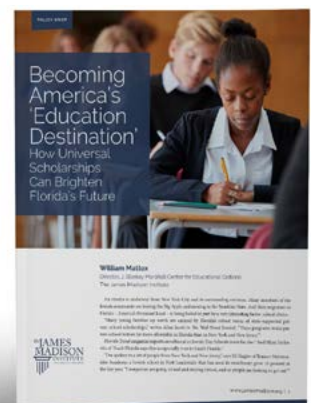
Underscoring the current issue is the fact that Florida accounts for only eight percent of insurance claims, but 76 percent of all insurance litigation nationwide. Only 8 percent of the \$15 billion in insurance payouts since 2013 went to Florida policyholders and 92 percent to lawyers and other legal expenses. Lawmakers must work to tackle Florida’s current property and auto insurance problems.



Becoming America's 'Education Destination': How Universal Scholarships can Brighten Florida's Future

At the beginning of the year, The James Madison Institute released a report entitled “Becoming America’s ‘Education Destination’” detailing how universal K-12 scholarships can brighten Florida’s future.

The report, written by JMI Director of the J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options William Mattox, examines the growing phenomenon of “education migration” in which education-minded families move to freedom-loving states like Florida that empower them to direct the education of their children. Moreover, it describes how Florida can attract such parents to the Sunshine State and can help lift rural, suburban and urban areas needing economic revitalization.



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



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

Bill of Rights Day

On December 15, we celebrated Bill of Rights Day. Throughout the day, we featured some of our JMI Campus Representatives on social media where they had the chance to share their favorite amendment in the Bill of Rights.

Here is what some of them had to say:



"The Bill of Rights is the source of our most fundamental liberties that we hold dear as Americans. As a law student, I would be remiss to not highlight the Fourth Amendment and why it is so essential to preserving our rights. As the founders wisely understood, unreasonable searches and seizures are the

foundation of a tyrannical government as constables consistently broke into colonists' homes and seized their belongings with a general warrant that existed until the death of the King. John Adams considered these writs of assistance, as provoking "the seeds of the American Revolution" and helped to later inspire the Fourth Amendment. Therefore, unreasonable searches and seizures were prohibited and a search warrant would only be issued upon probable cause by a neutral and detached magistrate. While all of the Bill of Rights are critical, for the reasons addressed above, the Fourth Amendment is the cornerstone of our country."

VINCENT CORTELLESSA
University of Miami School of Law



"The Tenth Amendment will always be the most important Amendment to me. Although it is difficult to choose one amongst them all, the Tenth was foundational to establishing the system of federalism that defined the American experiment. It has been essential in ensuring that the vision of America and each state as a "laboratory of Democracy" is continued and protected from expansive federal overreach. Different policies and laws in different states allow for the best ideas to win out and help every citizen."

COREY ADAMYK
Florida State University



"While they are all essential to the fabric of our nation, my favorite amendment of the Bill of Right is the First. I believe that our freedom of speech and freedom to exercise religion are the cornerstones upon which our most vital civil and cultural institutions have been built. America would not be the nation it is today without our ability to come together and share our beliefs and principles with one another freely and openly."

THOMAS GILMORE
Ave Maria University



Thrift Week

The week of January 17th, we celebrated Thrift Week. Thrift Week each year coincides with Ben Franklin's birthday week, since he was a huge proponent of thriftiness. Thrift Week principles consist of tenets such as earning all you can, saving all you can, and giving all you can.

An Update from Florida's College Campuses

The James Madison Institute has provided me with the opportunity to further my involvement in the movement against radical political ideologies. I have been able to give JMI a strong presence at the University of Florida through my connections with various organizations such as Turning Point USA and College Republicans. My peers have absolutely loved all of the JMI swag I've given them – the pocket Constitutions were definitely the biggest hit this year! Throughout these past two semesters, I have

hosted multiple in-person events with JMI speakers such as Sal Nuzzo and William Mattox. These events have fostered in-depth conversations about economic prosperity and big government, among other things. JMI has pushed me to expand my connections with campus organizations as well as students, regardless of where they stand on the political spectrum. My last big event for the Spring 2022 semester is going to be a student-led debate between Turning Point USA and the UF Communist Party, sponsored by JMI. I can't

wait to continue my journey as a Campus Representative for JMI until it comes time for me to graduate. We have so much in store for next semester, and I'm excited to continue educating my fellow students about individual liberty and free-market values!

Leana is a third year pre-law student at the University of Florida studying political science, English, and international relations. She is a JMI Campus Representative at the University of Florida.

March Madissonness

During the NCAA Basketball tournament, JMI Campus Representatives played a game where they asked followers on social media to select the winner of each basketball game for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. They also sprinkled in trivia questions about The James Madison Institute and worked to increase our presence among college students on campuses across the state of Florida.



JMI has launched a new podcast, "Spill the Tea!" Every other Friday, hosts Dr. Bob 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.

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 learning styles.



CENTER *for*
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
at The James Madison Institute

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



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 and students.



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



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.



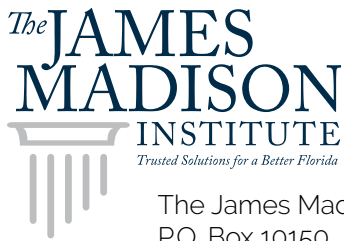
K. EARLE DURDEN CENTER *for*
THE ADVANCEMENT *of* LIBERTY
at The James Madison Institute

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.









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.



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**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.