

THE SESSION OF THE CENTURY

This year, the Florida Legislature showed the rest of the country what it means to govern and lead by principle.

As lawmakers in D.C. continue their stellar record of commitment to solving absolutely zero of our most pressing issues (national debt, entitlement reform, border security, just to name a few), a focus is increasingly being placed on the impact state legislatures across the country have on policy.

Florida's 2023 Legislative session has been the single most transformational session in the last 100 years ... in any state.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, Governor DeSantis, Senate President Passidomo, and House Speaker Renner showed great leadership in enacting strong policies to help all Floridians. We want to thank them, as well as the many policymakers who contributed to the great policy victories. We at The James Madison Institute are honored to continue fighting for the ideals of limited government, economic freedom, and free enterprise for everyone in the Sunshine State and we are pleased to see that our leaders share in that mission.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

■ Extended school choice scholarship eligibility to every K-12 student in FL — while also converting one-time vouchers to flexible-use Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). **HB1**

■ Protected 500,000 public employees by ensuring that they are not coerced into joining a union, that bargaining units are providing value to employees, and taxpayer dollars are not used to collect dues for unions. **SB256**

■ Reformed civil litigation rules that had created a cottage industry of frivolous and fraudulent lawsuits, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars every year in an unnecessary “tort tax.” **HB837**

■ Cut off ESG scoring within the \$202 billion in Florida's retirement plan, ensuring the 2.6 million participants are protected from “woke investing” practices that do not put returns first. **HB3**

■ Mandated that Florida's 2.8 million public school children learn how to stay safe online. **HB379**

■ Passed legislation to connect 900,000 Floridians to high-speed internet. **HB1221**

■ Ensured mobile applications domiciled in hostile nations are not on government devices. **SB258**

■ Banned the preemptive establishment of any Central Bank Digital Currency in the state. **SB7054**

■ Authorized students applying for Bright Futures scholarships to be able to submit test scores from a new college entrance exam — the Classic Learning Test (CLT) — that rivals the SAT and ACT. **SB240**





HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED:

■ Prevented compelled speech on state university campuses (specifically, “diversity statements” — political litmus tests — for student admissions and/or faculty hiring/promotion). **HB931**

■ Replaced mandatory college courses in “diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)” with general education requirements from core academic disciplines. **SB266**

■ Strengthened viewpoint diversity on college campuses via enhanced speaker programs and academic centers named for Alexander Hamilton, Adam Smith, etc. **HB931**

■ Allowed charter schools to receive a portion of the local monies collected to fund school buildings/facilities.

■ Expanded Telemedicine availability for every Floridian. **HB279**

■ Protected the freedom of physicians in Florida from mandates on conducting specific procedures that violate their religious beliefs. **SB1580**

■ Established a mechanism for small businesses to seek redress from the overreach of local government, through statewide preemption and business impact statements on local ordinances. **SB170**

■ Continued to protect the integrity and security of Florida’s election system. **SB7050**

■ Preempted local governments from forcing Florida’s 2.8 million small businesses to pay specific wage amounts greater than the established minimum wage. **SB892**

■ Preempted municipalities from banning drone delivery services. **SB1068**

■ Passed a budget of \$117 billion, in line with JMI’s “Conservative Florida Budget” principle, keeping expenditures at or below the combined rate of population growth plus inflation.
