

THE MESSENGER

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

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Trusted Solutions for a Better Florida

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Julie and I hit the road this summer, traveling to twelve different cities in twelve different states. Those states represented an incredible cross section of the country, big cities like Chicago and Las Vegas, mid-size cities like Santa Fe and Little Rock and small towns in Texas and Mississippi. During our travels, I made a conscious effort to meet and speak with all kinds of Americans, from every class, every race, every religion, immigrants and native born. These were bartenders and business people, landscapers and city workers, mechanics and CEOs, professional athletes and hotdog vendors.

What I found is that the vast majority of these people want the same things. They want their shot at the American Dream, and the same for their children and grandchildren; they want a little more money in their pocket; they want opportunities and choices for their families, and they essentially want to be left alone to do these things. It is the complete antithesis of what we see coming out of Washington, D.C. or what we see every night on cable news. In other words, in flyover country, the American Dream and the view of our nation as a "shining city on a hill" is still very much alive. It was refreshing; it was exhilarating, and frankly somewhat surprising.

Margaret Thatcher once famously declared, "Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy." More currently, the lead singer Bono from the iconic band U2 stated, "America is not just a country, it is an idea." As Julie and I travelled the country we saw this again and again. Frankly, it renewed my sense of purpose in the desire to deemphasize Washington, D.C. as much as possible, and to strengthen the role of the states in every way, following the original and infinite foresight of our Founders.

Americans have watched over the last 60 years as Washington has consolidated more and more power at the expense of the states and the citizenry, while becoming more and more insular and corrupt regardless of party. All of this culminated in the disastrous one-size-fits-all national response to Covid that emanated from our nation's capital. I would argue, however, that the tide is turning and states are regaining their footing, realizing their power through the Constitution.



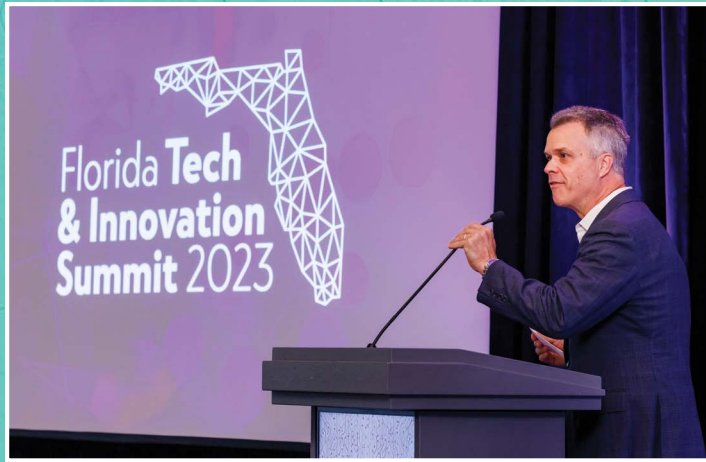
We have seen the very real pushback by states in multiple places. Big city mayors, Blue State Governors, Red States, Purple States, Democrats and Republicans have voiced their opposition in a variety of ways. There is a movement afoot, and states are realizing they do have alternatives to the dictates handed down from our nation's capital. The movement is real.

And if recent history is any indication, because of The James Madison Institute, the Sunshine State will continue to lead the way, constantly pushing back against Washington power. The rest of the states have taken notice. Florida and JMI must continue setting the example for freedom and for common sense public policy. The future of Florida is the future of the country at large.

None of this could occur without your generosity and support. We never forget that...thank you. The work continues and together we will win this struggle by carrying the voice of freedom across our state and throughout the country.

Onward together,

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



● JMI's President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure welcoming attendees to the 2023 Florida Tech & Innovation Summit in Coral Gables, FL.



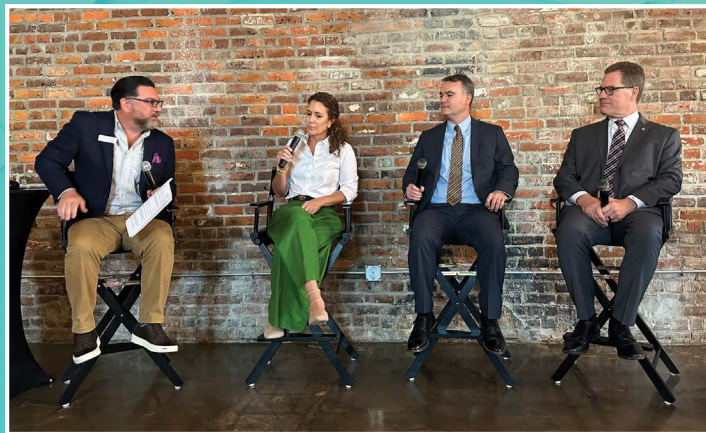
● JMI's Dr. Bob McClure and Representatives Fiona McFarland and Tommy Gregory at JMI's Sarasota luncheon to talk about the victories from the 2023 Legislative Session.



● JMI's "Women in Government Panel" during Girls State with Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson, Major Kelly Hildreth, State Representative Allison Tant, JMI's Executive Vice President Becky Liner and Senator Jennifer Bradley.



● JMI Center for Tech & Innovation Director Dr. Edward Longe presenting during the American Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting in Orlando.



● Speaker Paul Renner, Senator Jennifer Bradley, and Representatives Wyman Duggan and Dean Black during JMI's 2023 Jacksonville Luncheon discussing the "Session of the Century."



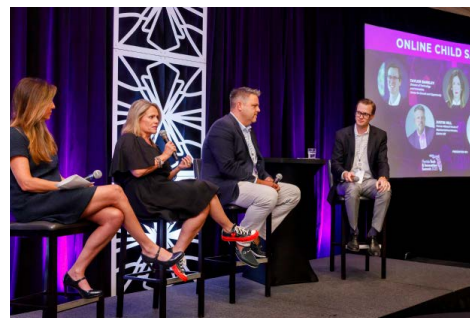
● JMI Marshall Center for Educational Options Director William Mattox leading workshops on founding principles and distributing booklets, buttons, pocket Constitutions and more at the Great Homeschool Convention in Round Rock, TX.

JMI EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR AREA SOON!

2023 Florida Tech & Innovation Summit

The James Madison Institute was thrilled to gather some of the top thinkers and doers in technology policy to talk Florida and the future at our 2023 Technology and Innovation Summit in Miami. During the two-day summit, participants considered how the state should approach cryptocurrency, online platforms, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, broadband infrastructure, and so much more. Attendees heard from Erika Donalds from Optima Foundation, James Czerniawski from Americans for Prosperity, Nathan Leamer from Digital First Project, Patrick Hedger from Taxpayers Protection Alliance, Jessica Melugin from Competitive Enterprise Institute and other notable speakers. Many more discussions were had on online child safety, Florida's innovation economy, broadband deployment, and other issues.



JMI BY THE NUMBERS

During the second half of 2023, The James Madison Institute...



Posted **20** original pieces on JMI's website addressing issues around the country



Reached **250,000** students with in-person civics programming and materials in Florida and other states



Authored and placed **17** in-state and national media outlet op-eds



Had **11,352** likes, comments and shares on social media posts



Had **492,023** content views on social media platforms



Increased the number of social media followers by **20%**



Reached the inbox of our audience **389,594** times



Hosted events around the state that attracted **555** people



Had **319,000** visits to jamesmadison.org

Influence



Townhall



◉ JMI Senior Vice President Sal Nuzzo and other partners at Governor Ron DeSantis' bill signing ceremony for paycheck projection



◉ JMI staff at The Columns with Denmark Ambassador to the United States Jesper Sorensen during a visit to Tallahassee.



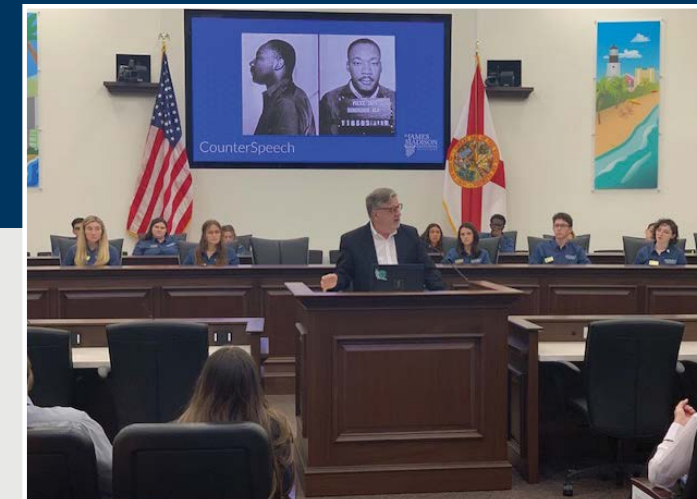
◉ During State Policy Network's 2023 Annual Meeting, JMI was awarded the SPN 2023 Network Award for our help to advance school choice options for Floridians.



◉ William Mattox, Director of the Marshall Center for Educational Options, presenting JMI's "CounterSpeech" program to the Florida 4-H Legislature at the Capitol on June 26. Over 100 students ages 14-18 from 4-H chapters around the state were in the audience.



◉ JMI's William Mattox speaking to 800+ Florida high school students at the American Legion Boys State gathering in Tallahassee.



◉ JMI's Vice President of National Strategy Lindsay Killen at an event with Mark Janus and others celebrating the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court Decision in Janus vs AFSCME, restoring the First Amendment rights of millions of public sector union employees.



◉ JMI Vice President of Communications Logan Padgett speaking during a roundtable on IRS overreach with Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis.



Congrats to JMI President and CEO **Dr. Bob McClure** on being named one of Florida Trend's **500 Most Influential Business Leaders**.

Influence

In a recent survey of 800 donors, JMI asked:

“When you think about the work The James Madison Institute has done, what is the first thing that comes to mind as the greatest impact we’ve made?”

Here are the top responses:

Teaching civics to students in schools	Keeping us current on what the legislature is doing	The influence JMI has on the rest of the country	Helping to maintain free-market principles with elected officials	Your insight and methods. Thank you for your positive contributions on all fronts, particular priorities and focusing on truth while not operating out of fear
Promoting common sense, limited government policies	Universal School Choice for all Florida students	Educating lawmakers on the important issues	I can't think of just one impact, they are all equally important	

What three words would you use to describe The James Madison Institute?

EDUCATE ESSENTIAL INSIGHTFUL EFFICIENT ADVOCATE INFLUENTIAL BOLD DEDICATED CONSISTENT

VALUABLE THOUGHTFUL KNOWLEDGEABLE DILIGENT CREATIVE HONEST

ADVISORY INFORMED ACCOUNTABLE EFFECTIVE HONEST

“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.”

JEANETTE NUÑEZ
Florida Lieutenant Governor

“From my undergraduate days at FSU, through my time as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, to serving as Florida’s Chief Financial Officer, The James Madison Institute has been a constant source of wisdom in tackling Florida’s biggest policy challenges. They are absolute rock stars.”

JIMMY PATRONIS
Florida Chief Financial Officer

“JMI is the most effective policy group in Tallahassee. Much of the policy that the Governor and the legislature take up are a result of the work that JMI does.”

CORD BYRD
Florida Secretary of State

“The James Madison Institute is easily one of the nation’s most impactful state-oriented public policy organizations. Yet JMI’s influence extends well beyond Florida. Not only does JMI stand up for freedom in Florida, but JMI’s work product is often used - for good reason - as a model for other public policy organizations throughout the country. I have worked closely with JMI for approximately 20 years and The Heartland Institute and I are always proud to do so.”

JAMES TAYLOR
President, The Heartland Institute



2024 SUNSHINE STATE POLICY PRIORITIES



EDUCATION

- ▶ **Enact trigger legislation for Title I money to school choice programs.** Call on the federal government to allow states to redirect Title I dollars from school systems to student scholarship programs so that Title I monies “follow the student” and “fund students, not systems.”
- ▶ **Foster microschoools, hybrid schools, and other innovations by reducing onerous regulatory overreach.** Treat hybrid and microschoools as enterprises closer in form to conventional homeschooling than to conventional/macro public schools.
- ▶ **Improve accountability in campus free speech via performance funding.** Reform the performance funding bonus program so that no university is eligible unless they receive a “green light” rating from FIRE
- ▶ **Expand virtual education choice.** Level the playing field between Florida Virtual School and other digital providers so that parents have a wider array of viable digital course options from which to choose for their children.



HEALTHCARE

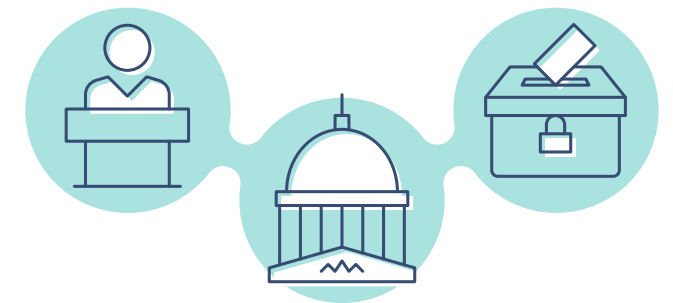
- ▶ **Enact license recognition for healthcare providers.** Allow doctors, nurses, dentists, physician assistants, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, etc. from other states to practice in Florida without onerous and unnecessary hurdles.
- ▶ **Encourage healthcare price transparency.** Allow individuals to price-shop for non-emergency and/or elective procedures and either keep a portion of the savings (from insurance reimbursement rate) or allow it to be put toward their annual deductible.
- ▶ **Crack the employer-benefit tax distortion on health insurance.** Call on the Congress to allow private HSA dollars to be available for premium payments to health insurance and Direct Primary Care plans.
- ▶ **Promote traditional insurance alternatives that increase choice and reduce costs.** Create a pilot project for Direct Primary Care for state employee plan and/or Medicaid recipients, which would include wrap-around catastrophic coverage that complements DPC plan.

- ▶ **Increase health insurance choice and competition.** Allow individuals to purchase qualified health insurance plans offered in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and other US territories.
- ▶ **Address urgent and growing need in Florida for more elder care facilities.** Repeal remaining Certificate of Need restrictions for hospices and nursing homes, allowing new facilities to be constructed – addressing a need for the anticipated three million new residents over the next seven years.
- ▶ **Expand existing “Right to Try” policy for individualized treatments.** Extend the benefits of Florida’s Right to Try law to patients with rare or ultra-rare diseases, empowering them to work with their physicians to seek innovative, highly-specialized treatments.



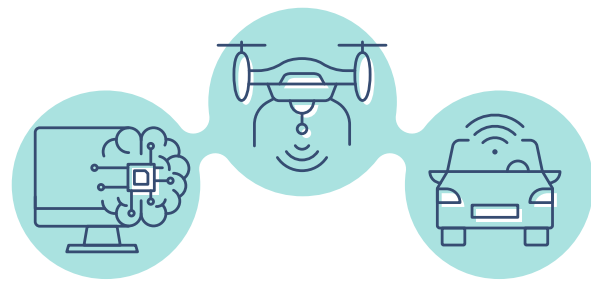
ENTREPRENEURIALISM

- ▶ **Amplify Florida’s job creation by eliminating duplicative licensing schemes.** Allow employees in most occupations to have their professional licenses recognized by State license boards.
- ▶ **Address Florida’s water quantity needs through incentives for conservation.** Establish private water market rights, whereby water permits can be commoditized and traded, creating incentives for major water users to conserve and sell unused permits.
- ▶ **Protect competition and property rights in the live event ticket market.** Ensure that individuals purchasing tickets to live events in Florida (sports, concerts, or other events) are able to fully exercise their rights to donate or sell their tickets in a secondary/resale market without restrictions from monopoly actors in the market.



GOVERNANCE

- ▶ **Ensure proper separation of powers and legislative authority.** Establish guidelines for legislative oversight over regulatory agencies, including targeted review of major rules, sunset reviews, and other mechanisms to ensure the roles of each branch are properly maintained.
- ▶ **Reduce regulatory burdens in new legislation.** On all new legislation, in addition to a fiscal note, perform a regulatory note that rates the bill for its level of regulatory change.
- ▶ **Codify Constitutional budgeting principle.** Resolution for 2024 ballot limiting state budget growth to no more than the sum of the percentage of inflation plus the percentage growth in population.
- ▶ **Guard Floridians, especially small business owners, from overreach, harassment, targeting, and discrimination by the federal government.** Create specific regulatory mechanisms to reduce/eliminate undue targeting by federal agencies like the Internal Revenue Service through data collection, registration requirements, and other controls.
- ▶ **Protect enacted reforms within Florida’s property insurance arena and advance necessary reforms to the reinsurance market.** Ensure that reforms passed in 2022 and 2023 are allowed to continue to stabilize the market and counter Florida’s frivolous litigation environment.
- ▶ **Solidify long-term viability of the Florida Retirement System.** Shift to a defined-contribution program for all new hires participating in FRS, eliminating the defined benefit program in a glidepath manner that doesn’t hurt existing participants.
- ▶ **Increase transparency in fuel tax charges.** Require fuel receipts to display taxes charged, applying consistency with other point-of-sale systems.



TECH & INNOVATION

- ▶ **Codify airspace property rights for individuals.** The legislature must codify airspace rights above private properties to strengthen property rights as the use of drones becomes more pervasive.
- ▶ **Expand data privacy reform.** Ensure data privacy policies include adequate protections for all consumers and do not impose excessive compliance costs for businesses or force them into expensive litigation. Call on the federal government via resolution to pass a federal data standard.
- ▶ **Enact a universal regulatory sandbox.** Expand the use of regulatory sandboxes to promote permissionless innovation and further diversify Florida's economy. A universal regulatory sandbox would aim to increase the number of tech startups compared to 2021 and retain its status as the best state for innovators.
- ▶ **Establish Pro-AI Policies.** Preempt Florida's municipalities from regulating how AI is used by creating statewide rules for how the technology can be used, lowering the cost of operating for businesses, and providing clarity for citizens. Establish an AI task force made up of stakeholders to recommend a pro-AI regulatory framework in Florida.
- ▶ **Reform Florida's Communication Service Tax.** Extend the prohibition on municipalities increasing the local CST rate.
- ▶ **Cybersecurity safe harbor/Continued investments.** Create an affirmative defense for entities that comply with state cybersecurity law and industry standards but are targeted by cybercriminals. Continue funding cybersecurity initiatives and workforce training programs.

An update from a JMI Intern

Interning at The James Madison Institute has far exceeded my expectations. I worked in the Tallahassee office during the summer semester, and I was shocked at the amount of hands-on experience I was gaining. I was given the opportunity to conduct policy research on critical topics and produce content pertaining to them. I was surprised and honored to find my writing and research featured on The James Madison Institute website and social media pages. Through participation with JMI in events such as Boys State and Girls State, I was able to meet various pivotal leaders in Florida. One of the highlights of my interning experience has been taking part in an intern book club with various community members where I was able to engage in complicated discussions with those who hold different viewpoints. Through The James Madison Institute's internship program, I have been able to develop skills necessary for my upcoming post-graduate career, as well as being able to be involved in America's most important state. I have enjoyed my experience working with The James Madison Institute so much that I am currently continuing my internship remotely as I attend school out of state.



Adelyn Hanlon is a senior at Troy University. She is double majoring in Political Science and English and is a Tallahassee native.



JMI staff at The Columns with Denmark Ambassador to the United States Jesper Sorensen during a visit to Tallahassee.

From Sea to Shining Sea – Blueprint: Florida is on the Move

Lindsay Killen

*Vice President of National Strategy
Director, Durden Center for the Advancement of Liberty*

When spring legislative sessions came to a close and lawmakers returned to their districts for a long summer break, the Durden Center for the Advancement of Liberty rolled up our sleeves and hit the road.



Across the states, policy strategists began the process of unpacking the good, bad, and ugly from the 2023 legislative sessions and examining how we can best prepare for a successful 2024 and beyond. Blueprint: Florida has played an active role in sharing information and perspectives that will shape how state and federal policymakers approach important issues as we look ahead.

Indeed, this work has taken us from the east coast to west, and from the north to the south, meeting with governors, legislators, Congressional members, staff and constituencies invested in advancing better policies rooted in free enterprise – and taking pages from Florida's successful playbook.

Here is just a small snapshot of what we've been up to since June:

- Traveled to **Anchorage, Alaska** to meet with Gov. Dunleavy, Attorney General Taylor, state and local officials interested in passing meaningful labor reforms and learning from Florida's experience this year.
- Participated in a State Policy Network working group on tax and fiscal policy reform in **Washington, D.C.** and discussed adaptations states could make to reduce costs of living and expand entrepreneurship.

- Spoke on a panel to next-generation leaders in the freedom movement in **Chicago, Illinois**, discussing the importance of strong leadership that can move the states and country in new directions.
- Addressed policy analysts from around the country on the merits of a federalist approach to curbing centralized federal power and overregulation at the **State Policy Network Annual Meeting**.
- Participated in the **Heritage Foundation's Project 2025** task force on readiness for the next federal administration – an ongoing role we will play over the coming year.
- Engaged with allies in **Oakland, CA** on building movement strategies that can save California from progressive policies that drive away its citizens and undermine freedom and prosperity.
- Conducted outreach to state and federal allies and policymakers attending JMI's annual Tech & Innovation Summit in **Miami, FL**.
- Participated in panel conversations with state and national partners, including the Tennessee House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader, focused on workforce reforms at a freedom summit in **Nashville, TN**.

We're also preparing to launch Center-Right coalition meetings in Jacksonville and Sarasota, Florida, bringing grassroots and grasstops leaders together for substantive partnerships that reinforce strong conservative policymaking in the Sunshine State – mirroring coalition meetings JMI has coordinated or supported in surrounding Florida cities, including Tallahassee, Orlando, and Naples.

As we continue to seize opportunities to export the Florida model and advance common causes across the states, we are increasingly confident about JMI's capacity for impact. We look forward to the continual expansion of our footprint across the country as we prepare to finish the year strong and position for success in 2024.

Recent JMI Publications



TEN FOR TECH A Policy Toolkit for States to Embrace Innovation in 2024

Technology has fundamentally reshaped how Americans live their daily lives, with advancements over the last year surpassing what even the most optimistic technologists thought possible. While lawmakers must be conscious of any potential harm from using technology, they must do so proportionately and strategically and embrace the principles of free markets and limited government. In October, JMI released “Ten for Tech: A Policy Toolkit for States to Embrace Innovation in 2024.”



KEEPING TEENS SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA A Guide for Free-Market Lawmakers

Millions of teenagers across the United States access the internet and social media platforms daily. According to Pew Research, 97 percent of teenagers use the Internet daily, with 46 percent saying they use it almost constantly. For most, these visits will be harmless—to catch up on the latest news, connect with friends and family, conduct research for a school project, or tweet their latest thoughts or feelings. But, unfortunately, while the vast majority will have a positive experience on social media, others will interact with cyber bullies, cyber criminals and, potentially, child predators. Such dangers have led lawmakers across the political spectrum and at every level to propose legislation designed to keep teens safe online, particularly when using social media platforms. In July, JMI released an Issue Commentary, “Keeping Teens Safe On Social Media: A Guide for Free-Market Lawmakers” to help legislators navigate this complex and important issue.

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

Constitution Day

On September 17th, JMI and other organizations around the country celebrated Constitution Day. Our Campus Representatives passed out hundreds of pocket Constitutions to college students on their campuses.

JMI also distributed more than 250,000 copies of our civics education curriculum, Celebrate Freedom, to Florida high school students.



An Update from Florida's College Campuses

As a James Madison Institute Campus Representative at the University of South Florida, I've had the privilege of representing this esteemed organization on our campus during my junior and senior years. This role has provided me with a platform to engage with students, faculty and the broader university community on critical policy issues and legislative matters that impact the state of Florida. Through hosting events, discussions, and collaborating with local leaders, my responsibilities as a Campus Representative have allowed me to contribute to the Institute's mission of advancing free-market policies and promoting economic freedom. We've had the honor of hosting state legislators to discuss topics such as the legislative process and specific initiatives to help integrate our policy recommendations into that lawmaking



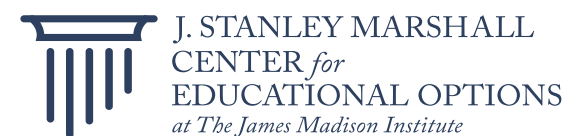
process. In addition, we have hosted several events for sports clubs at USE, engaging them in legislative discussions, in order to broaden JMI's outreach even more. By fostering a greater understanding of these issues among our university's diverse population, my position as a Campus Representative played a part in shaping informed, civic-minded individuals who are empowered to make a difference in the larger political landscape of Florida. As a graduating student here at USE, I plan to move forward with JMI during my journey in law school. I have confidence that this position will assist me in continuing to spread JMI's message and further grow this organization!

Hailey McIlvaine is a senior at the University of South Florida majoring in Psychology on the pre-law track.

2023-2024 Campus Representatives

- DYLAN SMIDT • Ave Maria University
- JACOB AGUIRRE • Florida International University
- JESSICA HATTEMER • Florida Gulf Coast University
- ANDREW DEN BOGGENDE • Florida Southern College
- COURTNEY MCLAIN • University of Central Florida
- ISABELLA CONTOPOULO • University of Florida
- SAMUEL HIRSCH • University of Miami School of Law
- OLIVIA STOUTAMIRE • University of North Florida
- HAILEY MCILVAINE • University of South Florida
- DANIEL HOLLINGSWORTH • Tallahassee Community College
- RUSSELL TRETTER • Rollins College

Centers



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.



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.



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.



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.



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

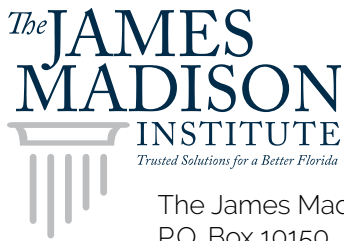


MISSION: To promote liberty, economic prosperity, and the rule of law by recommending property rights policy that will:

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









MISSION: To offer scholarly research, legislative education, testimony, connections to Florida policymakers, communications and media work, along with other needs that arise in specific states pursuing Florida's successful policy efforts.



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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.