

THE MESSENGER

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Trusted Solutions for a Better Florida

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President’s Message

Now that we have had time as a nation to digest the recent elections, one thing is clear. Florida is the single most important state in the country when it comes to policy and politics. While the rest of the nation saw pockets of success for those who share our belief in free markets, limited government and personal responsibility, the Sunshine State indeed saw a Red Wave of “Movement Conservatism” - in statewide races, in the legislature, municipalities across the state, school board elections and even in areas traditionally known for left of center politics.

The question is, “What Now?” The short answer is, collectively, it is time to think Big and get to work. Floridians have spoken. They believe in policies that advance greater economic freedom and individual liberty. And it is our job at The James Madison Institute (JMI) to move aggressively to advance these ideas. The whole country is watching. These next two years are a tremendous time of

opportunity in the Sunshine State.

And speaking of the rest of the country, JMI has the enormous privilege right now to carry the message of freedom to the rest of the nation. Because Florida remains the

Beacon of Liberty for the other 49 states and all eyes are watching, JMI can advance good policy in numerous other states, and we are currently doing so. This 1 +49 strategy is our plan to carry the “Florida Model” to the rest of the country and to Washington, D.C. Talk about thinking Big!

Finally and most importantly, none of this could be done without you, our supporters and friends. The success we see, the work of JMI and the efforts to carry forth this message across state lines would never occur without your generosity. But as one former Florida Governor once said, “ Victory is never final.” So together, let’s think Big and get to work!

With gratitude,

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



◆ Dr. Bob McClure speaking to family and friends of George Gibbs at the dedication luncheon of the George Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity.



◆ JMI Director of the Marshall Center for Educational Options, William Mattox, at a statue unveiling of Mary McLeod Bethune in Daytona Beach, FL.

◆ JMI participated as a host of the Decision 2022 “Before You Vote” debate series between Senator Marco Rubio and Congresswoman Val Demings.



◆ Representative Allison Tant, Senator Lorraine Ausley, Secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Simone Marsteller, and Chairman of the Florida Commission on Offender Review Melinda Coonrod participated in a “Women in Government” panel hosted by JMI at the American Legion Auxiliary’s Girls State.



◆ Dr. Bob McClure speaking to the American Legion’s Boys State about The James Madison Institute and how we work with the Florida Legislature.



◆ With inflation soaring, JMI’s thrift curriculum, “All About the Benjamins” received lots of attention at this year’s Great Homeschool Convention near Austin, TX. Ben Franklin’s timeless wisdom never disappoints.

JMI

EVENTS

AROUND

FLORIDA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR AREA SOON!

2022 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 2022 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, smart transportation, and so much more. A kickoff address from Mayor Francis Suarez set the tone for the week. Former Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai spoke about the future of 5G and innovation. Representative Randy Fine addressed the China tech threat. Erika Donalds spoke about “Matriculation in the Metaverse” and the bridge between technology and education. Many more discussions were had on healthcare and intellectual property, Florida’s innovation economy, broadband deployment, and other issues. We heard from Tom Fabricio on the future of tech policy in Florida along with COO and co-founder of Hydra Host, Garrett Johnson, on disruptive agents of innovation.



We are confident that the issues discussed in our 2022 Tech Summit will lead the legislative agenda in 2023 and beyond. As the formal presentations and networking 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.

Thank you to each of our sponsors and speakers for a great event!



2023 Annual Dinner

On Wednesday, January 25th, 2023, The James Madison Institute (JMI) will hold our Annual Dinner to champion the work of policy leaders and citizens alike who value free-market principles and individual liberty. Join us this year with keynote speaker and

former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, the Honorable Betsy DeVos. The dinner will be held at Goodwood Museum and Gardens in Tallahassee. The Sponsor Reception will begin at 6:00 pm and the dinner will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE!

You are invited to
THE JAMES MADISON INSTITUTE
Annual Dinner
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
6PM RECEPTION • 7PM DINNER

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE *at*
GOODWOOD MUSEUM & GARDENS
1600 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Honorable
BETSY DEVOS
11th U.S. Secretary of Education

INDIVIDUAL TICKET | \$150



Betsy DeVos is a leader, an innovator, a disruptor, and a champion for freedom. She is the nation's leading advocate for education freedom for students of all ages, having served as the 11th U.S. Secretary of Education from 2017-2021. For more than three decades, she has been tireless in her pursuit of public policy reforms that get government out of the way and allow all students the freedom, flexibility, resources and support they need to choose where, when and how they learn. Her advocacy has helped create new educational choices for K-12 students in more than 25 states and the District of Columbia and expanded post-high school education options for students and adult learners alike.

JMI Staff Fun!



Over the summer, the JMI staff attended the wedding of JMI President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure's daughter Anne Jackson Miller McClure Shenker to John Samuel Shenker. It was a beautiful wedding and we are thrilled for the newlyweds.



Rivalry in the office is strong! During October, the staff hosted a tailgate themed lunch where each staffer wore their favorite college colors.



After all the fun travels of the summer, the whole JMI staff was able to get together for a summer cookout! We had burgers, played games and just enjoyed each other's company.



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 you get your podcasts.

Influence



Over the Summer, JMI hosted a book club where Jonathan Haidt's bestseller "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion." In June, our own Bill Mattox met Haidt at a conference in Denver, where both were speaking.



JMI's Stan Marshall Center Director William Mattox attended a birthday party honoring Mary McLeod Bethune in Washington's Lincoln Park. Dr. Marshall served on the Bethune-Cookman Board of Trustees for many years.



JMI staffers attended the State Policy Network's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Staffers spoke about JMI's influence in Florida and shared success stories of those benefiting from free-market policy in Florida.



Congratulations to JMI's President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure for being named to INFLUENCE Magazine's "150 Most Influential People in Florida Politics" along with Florida Trend's "500 Most Influential Business Leaders."



JMI's William Mattox interacting with Florida Senator Perry Thurston and many other distinguished Floridians at a black tie gala honoring the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune at the Florida House in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Bob McClure taping Usual Suspects with Gary Yordon.



At the Bethune statue celebratory gala at the Library of Congress, JMI's Jill Mattox ran into our friend, Ersula Odom, who performs as Mary McLeod Bethune at in-school performances JMI sponsors.



JMI's William Mattox speaking at Heritage Foundation's Future in Education panel about the life of Mary McLeod Bethune and how educators today are carrying on her vision.

JMI's President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure filming a tribute in Panama City honoring former JMI board chair and mentor, Charles Hilton.



Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Dr. Bob McClure at the unveiling of the Charles Hilton Center.



JMI Vice President of Policy Sal Nuzzo speaking at an event hosted by National Consumers League on protecting innovations in the secondary ticket market on Capitol Hill.

An update from JMI's Interns

As a policy research intern at The James Madison Institute for Fall of 2022, I have had the opportunity to work alongside individuals who share a passion for shaping a Florida that prioritizes economic freedom. Whether through gathering research or authoring policy analyses, my time with The James Madison Institute has allowed me to utilize my interest in economics and public policy to contribute to this vision, while also providing valuable insight on policy work and writing. Additionally, merely being immersed in the Institute’s environment—one that encourages collaboration and discussion between interns and



Mason Robinson is a fourth-year economics student at Florida State University and is currently serving as a policy intern at The James Madison Institute.

staff—has not only been a highlight of my academic career, but has also significantly shaped what I value in my professional life. Having the opportunity to work with individuals who share a passion in bettering the State of Florida is an experience I will cherish forever, and the essential lessons that I have accumulated through the briefs, research, discussions, and writings will continue to impact my work. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to intern at The James Madison Institute this fall.

Interning at the James Madison Institute has been one of my favorite experiences during my time at Florida State University. I have had the privilege of serving as a policy and communications intern. The internship was a truly immersive experience as I found myself doing the same work as the members of the Institute with their valuable mentoring. This internship program is essentially a test run for what it is like to work in a policy institute. At The James Madison Institute, you can choose policy areas you are interested in and brainstorm solutions with the policy directors and other interns. One of my favorite parts of the



Chloe Kauffman is a third-year economics student at Florida State University and is currently serving as a policy & communications intern at The James Madison Institute.

internship was working with another intern on a piece for the Fall Journal. The staff at The James Madison Institute encouraged my interests and fostered a perfect environment to learn about various things, such as producing policy outputs and social media content. I now know I want to continue working in public policy at a think tank after graduating. I am so grateful for the opportunity I had to intern with JMI!

JMI Announces New Team Members



Nicole Kiser

In June, JMI added a new communications manager, Nicole Kiser.

Nicole is responsible for developing new and creative ideas for social media and the promotion of the JMI brand across various platforms.

Nicole was formerly the PR and Digital Media Assistant for Sociallee PR and Digital Media as well as a former intern for The Heritage Foundation and JMI.

Through past internships and jobs, she has gained a thorough knowledge of how to utilize social media platforms in order to grow a brand. Nicole has been able to produce content receiving thousands of views on platforms like Instagram and Tik Tok.

She is a recent graduate of Florida State University (FSU) with Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Relations and Political Science. While at FSU, Nicole was a member of Lady Spirithunters and the Florida Public Relations Association Student Capital Chapter.



Edward Longe

In September, The James Madison Institute announced the newest addition to our team, Edward Longe, director of JMI’s Technology and Innovation Policy Center. Launched in 2019, this center focuses on policy goals to ensure Florida is best positioned to be a major driver of innovation in the 21st Century. The Tech and Innovation Policy Center focuses on areas such as data privacy, broadband infrastructure, antitrust, transportation innovation, and the future of work in the digital age.

As director, Edward promotes market-centered policies that will allow Floridians to reap the countless social and economic benefits that tech and innovation can offer. His policy work is guided by a steadfast belief that the principles of limited government, economic liberty, and individual freedoms produce the best outcomes. Edward joins JMI as a successful policy expert with vast knowledge in various areas. Before joining, he worked at the American Consumer Institute as a Policy Manager with a diverse policy portfolio that focused on tech and innovation but also included antitrust, healthcare, and labor.

JMI Names Center for Economic Prosperity After George Gibbs

The James Madison Institute announced the naming of the Center for Economic Prosperity after a great friend of the Institute, George Gibbs.

George Gibbs was deeply involved in Jacksonville's business and civic community. Throughout his life he owned two successful shipyards and was an avid sailor. He also served on the JMI Board of Directors for 18 years. Mr. Gibbs and his wife Ann never took for granted the business environment that allowed them to create their own success through their entrepreneurial endeavors and firmly believed in maintaining these opportunities for generations to come. Before George's passing in October 2020, he and Ann committed a Legacy Society gift to JMI. Thus, we have named the JMI Center for Economic Prosperity in his honor.

Across the U.S., free-enterprise believers and entrepreneurs face substantial and, at times, overwhelming barriers to bringing new, exciting and potentially superior products and services to market.



These barriers are unnatural and artificial – they seek only to protect entrenched interests at the expense of market-based competition. In the end, consumers, economic prosperity and liberty lose out.

The mission of the George Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity is to promote free-market solutions that unleash entrepreneurialism and fuel the American economic engine for all.

"We are excited to re-launch this policy center and engage both policymakers and the public. Mr. Gibbs' legacy support ensures that we can continue to pursue advancement in public policy and share the principles of economic freedom, personal responsibility and limited government." – Sal Nuzzo, Vice President of Policy, The James Madison Institute



Victor Claar, Ph. D., JMI's Adjunct Director of the George Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity

"We are very appreciative of George Gibbs, and his lovely wife Ann, for their commitment to JMI over the last two decades. There is no doubt that Mr. Gibbs' memory will live on through this generous legacy gift through the George Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity. With the help of Mr. Gibbs' legacy gift, JMI continues to find solutions to build a better Florida. We would also like to thank the entire Gibbs family for their support of JMI." – Dr. J. Robert McClure, President & CEO, The James Madison Institute

Dr. Victor Claar, associate professor of economics in the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, will serve as the Adjunct Director of the George Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity.

In August, JMI hosted a luncheon at The Columns dedicating the Center for Economic Prosperity in the name of George Gibbs, with his wife, Ann, and other family and friends present.



2023 Sunshine State Policy Priorities



As the rest of the nation looks to the Sunshine State, we present our 2023 Policy Priorities.

The James Madison Institute, Florida’s leading think tank in America’s most influential state, is at the tip of the spear in the fight for freedom. In both cementing progress for Floridians and serving as the north star for 49 other states in desperate need of idea leadership, our purpose is to advance ideas that make Florida the best place to live, work, and raise a family. From entrepreneurs starting and expanding businesses, to parents tailoring education settings to best fit their children, to everyday Floridians interacting with their healthcare providers – the ideas we champion protect and advance opportunity and prosperity here and offer a path to export these cherished ideals beyond Florida’s borders.

The state of Florida stands apart as a contrast to that reality and presents the vital alternative – freedom, opportunity, and economic liberty for all.

For tens of millions of Americans, day-to-day reality has been a roller coaster of catastrophic events and economic tumult. From 9/11 to Middle East wars to the financial sector collapse to the Great Recession to COVID and the economic times of the present – there seems to be little progress toward anything resembling normalcy. In all of this, Americans know two things – it was not the way our founders intended us to be, and that Washington politicians and bureaucrats are wholly incapable of fixing what years of neglect of the founding principles have wrought.

Entrepreneurship

Florida will be the single best state in the U.S. to start and grow a business.

Florida’s economy – at over \$1 trillion a year – places the state in the top 15 globally. As high-tax high-spend states continue to hemorrhage people and income, Florida continues to expand its economic footprint. This will continue to present both opportunities and challenges. We can continue to illustrate to the rest of the country that our economic agenda is the most prosperous set of policies possible. We also must be vigilant about protecting Florida from big-government policy influence. As Florida grows, there will be a growing need to address the needs of millions of new residents. That will best be accomplished via a commitment to limited government principles and economic liberty.

2023 Entrepreneurship Priorities

- ▶ **Anti-ESG** – protect the 2.6 million participants and \$202 billion in Florida’s retirement system from the destruction of ESG (Environmental Social Governance) measures.
- ▶ **Property Insurance** – restore sanity to Florida’s \$60 billion property insurance market through necessary reforms to our litigation environment, providing necessary relief to Florida’s 9.5 million homeowners.
- ▶ **Separation of Powers** – ensure Florida’s 2.5 million small businesses and job creators are free from the unnecessary regulatory hurdles too often inflicted by local governments seeking to extort money for growth.

SUNSHINE STATE STAT: *over the past 25 years, as Florida has become a beacon for entrepreneurialism, more than \$225 billion in annual income has migrated from high-tax/low-growth states – more than \$1 million every hour.*

Education

Florida will be the premier education destination in the world.

No state delivers better bang-for-buck in K-12 education than Florida. And the key to our success can be summed up in two words: education choice. Robust school choice programs – which began in the late 1990s with Gov. Jeb Bush’s “A+ Plan” – have spurred significant learning gains among charter, private, homeschooling, and (yes, even) public school students. Moreover, a similar appreciation for diversity – specifically, viewpoint diversity — has earned Florida’s higher education system national recognition, proving once again that education quality is about far more than how much, or how little, public money is spent.

While there is much to celebrate about education in Florida, there are also some significant policy holes that still need to be plugged, quickly, lest we lose our national standing and fail to provide high quality learning opportunities uniquely suited for every student.

2023 Education Priorities

- ▶ **K-12 Choice** – adopt a “New A+ Plan” in K-12 Education that provides flexible-use scholarships for all Florida families (that’s the A), coupled with weighted funding for special populations, including those living in Title I neighborhoods (that’s the Plus).
- ▶ **K-12 Federal Funding** – advance a resolution calling for new federal policy aimed at making Title I monies portable so that “money follows the student” ensuring Florida (and any state) can use Title I to “fund students, not systems.”
- ▶ **Higher Education** – provide performance funding “bonuses” to state universities that earn a Top 25 ranking for campus free speech and viewpoint diversity.
- ▶ **K-12 Civics** – require subject-specific content knowledge for social studies instructors — rather than general certification — similar to existing subject-specific content knowledge requirements for science teachers.

SUNSHINE STATE STAT: *Currently, more than 1.7 million children use some form of school choice in Florida — more than any other state, including those with universal education savings accounts.*

Governance

Florida will be the model of limited government efficiency for every other state to emulate.

A good government is one that operates efficiently, effectively, and avoids unnecessary burdens on taxpayers. Throughout the past 25 years, Florida has adhered to this strategy for managing growth. Despite the state growing by approximately seven million residents over that period (a 50 percent increase), Florida has held the line on the size of state operations. Florida’s state budget remains among the leanest in the United States – owing to a constitutional commitment to being a no-income tax state. In addition, voters passed an amendment to the state’s constitution requiring a 2/3 supermajority of both chambers of the legislature to raise any state tax or fee. These protections mean greater emphasis and pressure can be placed on other areas of state government – mission creep can turn into bureaucratic bloat without a proper check and balance.

2023 Governance Priorities

- ▶ **Budgeting** – support the concept of the Florida Conservative Budget model as an effective limitation on government growth, retaining Florida’s role as the state with the leanest state government per capita in the United States.
- ▶ **Federal Overreach** – establish safeguards for individuals, businesses, and non-profits from unwarranted harassment by the IRS.
- ▶ **Public Employment** – protect all 500,000 public sector employees from direct and indirect coercion tactics used by government unions.
- ▶ **Public Safety** – promote sensible public safety policies that protect communities and safeguard public dollars.

SUNSHINE STATE STAT: *with roughly 419 state employees per 100,000 residents, Florida’s state operations are among the leanest in the United States – trailing only Nevada and Arizona.*

Healthcare

Florida will be the benchmark of choice, competition, and patient-provider access in healthcare.

Over the past ten years, Florida has made a policy commitment to run in the opposite direction of Washington DC and many of the states with regard to both health insurance and healthcare delivery. Florida remains one of only a handful of states that have refused to expand Medicaid to working-aged able-bodied adults – saying no to increasing federal government control over health insurance. At the same time, policymakers have sought to address supply side delivery – expanding telemedicine, repealing most Certificate of Need (CON) laws, allowing advance practice nurses to operate independently, expanding the ability of pharmacists to test and treat for several routine conditions, and a host of other reforms. As a result, Florida is trending in the right direction – new facilities are being built, new practices are being established, and care is growing. There is more to do, and the lure of “free money from Washington” will remain, and we will continue to push for additional measures to address our unique healthcare needs.

2023 Healthcare Priorities

- ▶ **Transparency** – promote policy reforms to healthcare costing that promote transparency and decrease pressure on cost of services.
- ▶ **Telemedicine** – expand the ability of healthcare providers to leverage innovations and deliver services via telemedicine.
- ▶ **Pharmaceuticals** – ensure that state policy is both effective and efficient in addressing drug costs, availability, and distribution at all junctures of the process.
- ▶ **CON** – repeal all remaining healthcare Certificate of Need regulations in Florida.
- ▶ **Scope of Practice** – continue to expand the ability of highly qualified nurses, physicians’ assistants, and pharmacists to practice at the highest level of their training.

SUNSHINE STATE STAT: *Florida’s population is expected to increase to 25 million by 2030. The state will need an additional 5,000 primary care physicians – just to keep pace with population growth.*

Innovation

Florida will beat all comers as the center of innovation and tech entrepreneurship.

As states such as New York and California drive innovators and entrepreneurs away by imposing burdensome regulations and high taxes, Florida can cement its status as a national and global hub for technology and innovation. Yet, it can only capitalize on this opportunity if the legislature and state agencies continue to implement free market policies and a light-touch regulatory agenda that fosters innovation. As the state moves into the 2023 legislative session and lawmakers grapple with increasingly complex questions, they must resist the urge to embrace big-government solutions or heavy-handed regulation that would deny Floridians the numerous benefits tech and innovation can offer or cost the state its status as a tech and innovation hub.

2023 Innovation Priorities

- ▶ **Data Privacy** – ensure that any data privacy policy reforms proposed include adequate protections for consumers and do not impose excessive compliance costs for businesses or force them into expensive litigation.
- ▶ **Communication Services Tax (CST)** – lower or abolish the Communications Service Tax, which disincentivizes investment and raises costs for Floridians. Abolish/Impose an upper limit on what municipalities can charge residents.
- ▶ **Broadband Equality, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)** – Establish clear guidelines to ensure BEAD money is spent effectively and efficiently to connect the more than half a million Floridians that do not have access to fixed or wired broadband, opposing any use of funding to establish Government Owned Networks.
- ▶ **Regulatory Sandboxes** – Expand the use of regulatory sandboxes to promote innovation and further diversify Florida’s economy, increasing the number of tech start-ups compared to 2021 and retaining its status as the best state for innovators.
- ▶ **Cybersecurity** – update cybersecurity rules for state agencies and municipalities to ensure that Floridian’s data remains out of the hands of nefarious actors.

SUNSHINE STATE STAT: *The State of Florida ranked second in tech job growth in 2021, adding 10,522 new tech jobs.*



Recent JMI Publications

The 2022 Journal

Over the past 25 years, Florida has embraced a slew of free-market conservative reforms, many of which have been the first of their kind. The Sunshine State continues to be an outpost of liberty to other states in the battle of ideas.

In October, The James Madison Institute released the 2022 edition of The Journal, JMI’s annual publication of articles from all policy areas that align with JMI’s efforts. As the title suggests, the latest edition of The Journal focuses on the “Collision Course” between Florida and Washington, D.C. It includes 25 individual articles, opinions, narratives and reflections from industry leaders, policy experts, JMI advisors, and staff. It is our hope that you will see this issue as an insight into the many ways that Florida is at the forefront, as well as a projection of what lies ahead for the Sunshine State.

Opening this issue is a piece highlighting the legacy of Earl Durden -- written by his son, Michael -- announcing his new initiative at JMI. It also includes the 2022 Amendment Guide and articles from incoming Speaker of the Florida House Paul Renner, National Review columnist John Fund, and Former U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, among others.

Common Themes from the Commonwealth

In 2017, Florida surpassed New York with the largest Puerto Rican population in the U.S. The perspective of this Floridian population – over a million potential voters – is pivotal in securing the presidency in a swing state that has chosen the winner of 17 out of the last 20 presidential elections.

Today, Puerto Rican residents are found in high concentration throughout Central Florida, a region that has been decisive in every U.S. presidential election since 1992. With just one exception, the winner of this region has won every gubernatorial race since 1990.

Twice as many Puerto Ricans live in U.S. states today as in Puerto Rico, due in large part to the island territory’s dramatic long-term loss of population. But many of them continue to feel invested in the fate of their ancestral homeland. Surveys show that mainland Puerto Ricans especially believe the territory’s uncertain status is a major cause of its political corruption and instability. Puerto Ricans living in the mainland U.S., having voted with their feet to live in a U.S. state, are also the most likely to want statehood for Puerto Rico. The statehood supporters among them, in turn, are also the most likely among Puerto Rican voters to support conservative ideals and Republican candidates.

A new report from JMI adjunct scholar, David Freddoso, titled, “Common Themes from the Commonwealth, 2022 Update: Puerto Rico’s Growing Role in Florida Politics,” examines the impact of Florida’s Puerto Rican voters’ attitudes toward a variety of issues and how candidates could appeal to this crucial segment.

The analysis concludes that candidates for office should approach this issue carefully and respectfully if they want to gain support within this influential bloc of voters.



2022 Amendment Guide

On November 8, 2022, millions of Floridians went to precincts all over the state to cast their votes. In addition to electing a governor, a lieutenant governor, 28 members of Congress, 120 members of the State House and 40 of the 40-member Florida Senate, the ballot tasked Floridians with voting on three proposed constitutional amendments. Constitutional initiatives play a pivotal role in the governance of the state, and thus warrant careful consideration.

In an effort to help citizens better understand these new ballot initiatives, JMI released a 2022 Amendment Guide, in both English and Spanish, analyzing the three ballot initiatives on the 2022 Florida ballot.



An Update from Florida’s College Campuses

My involvement with The James Madison Institute has provided me with valuable insight and experience into the world of state-based policy. As a campus representative, I have had the privilege of spreading the message of JMI to fellow students through bringing in speakers and hosting zoom calls with local Florida politicians and business leaders. My time interacting with other students has led to numerous fruitful discussions on important topics such as education policies and criminal justice reform. My peers and professors have taken full advantage of all the great things that JMI has to offer; from the giveaway cups and pens to the always popular pocket Constitutions. I have also had the privilege of working with other campus organizations that share



similar missions to JMI such as Young Americans for Freedom and the American Enterprise Institute Executive Council. Through these connections, I have spoken at club meetings, introduced speakers at events, and even led book clubs that discuss important current event topics. Overall, being a campus representative for JMI has offered me the opportunity to develop a keen awareness for Florida-based public policy and has given me the tools and resources to interact with my fellow students and keep them informed about the ideas and principles that JMI represents so well! ☺

Thomas Gilmore is a junior at Ave Maria University completing a double major in Economics and Politics with a minor in Data Analytics.

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 campus. Our Campus Representative at Ave Maria University, Thomas Gilmore, hosted a lecture with Dr. James Stoner, Professor of Political Science at LSU, on the importance of the Constitution. JMI's Campus Representative Isabelle Mayday hosted a Constitution Day event on FSU's campus with Jason Gonzales, managing partner at Shutts and Bowen. Leana Dippie hosted a joint tabling event with the UF Turning Point USA chapter and handed out constitutions to students.

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

Here are some testimonies from students around the state who received pocket Constitutions:

"I really appreciate The James Madison Institute giving out free constitutions. It's a resource that I feel everyone should be familiar with."

JACOB GARCIA

"I find it incredible that Americans take so much pride in their founding documents and principles. Thank you to JMI for helping teach students how the US government works."

CRAIGO VAN DEN BERG

"As someone who firmly believes in each American's right to have access to our foundational documents, I could not have been more thankful for The James Madison Institute for giving out Constitutions for Constitution Day. It not only helped for me to be closer to the rights that each person holds, but also allowed for my peers to become more familiar with the law of the land that affects our everyday lives. This practice helps to make citizens more educated and cognizant of the hopes, dreams, and goals of our nation."

JUSTIN KELLEHER



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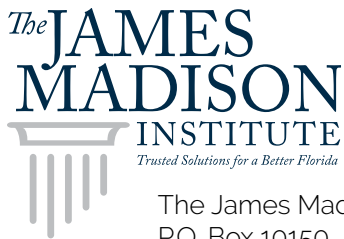
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1. Maximize an owner's right to enjoy and use one's property
2. Prevent government attempts to overregulate the use of property, limit government ownership of property, and eliminate government abuse of property owners
3. Promote responsible stewardship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









K. EARLE DURDEN CENTER for
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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.



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