

THE MESSENGER

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary year it's been for liberty in the Sunshine State.

This past Legislative Session brought tremendous achievements for Florida—and with your support, The James Madison Institute stood at the heart of the action.

Together, we championed bold reforms that promoted educational freedom, fought to protect consumers in Florida's evolving property insurance landscape, and remained vigilant in safeguarding innovation against burdensome government overreach. These aren't just policy wins—they are proof that principles still matter.



Because of your generosity, JMI is stronger than ever. Our team continues to grow as we keep up with the ever-changing demands of a dynamic state and a nation that wants to be more like Florida!

This year, our research has informed key debates both in the Florida Capitol and around the country, our scholars have been featured in major state and national media outlets, and our events have welcomed new faces to Florida's liberty movement—all made possible by you.

As we look ahead, your continued partnership will allow us to keep defending the ideals that built this great state and country. I look forward to celebrating with many of you at our upcoming gatherings—and to building a freer Florida together.

Onward together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



➊ The Florida GOP Mayors public policy association met at JMI headquarters to chat about school choice advancements in their cities with our staff and Former Governor Jeb Bush.



➋ Dr. Bob McClure spoke at the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees about the Free State of Florida.



➌ JMI partnered with the Mackinac Center and Donors Trust on an event about the important role of federalism pushing back against federal overreach.



➍ Dr. Bob McClure spoke at a roundtable with Governor Ron DeSantis in Tampa about property tax reform and ways to lower costs for Floridians.



➎ JMI's Dr. Edward Longe hosting a conversation with Whitney MacKay, Bureau Chief Prosecutor with the Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit of the Office of the Florida Attorney General during the 2025 Florida Tech & Innovation Summit.



📍 JMI's Logan Padgett hosted a "Women in Government" panel with Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson, Highway Patrolwoman Kelly Hildreth, and State Representative Michelle Salzman as part of the American Legion's Girls State event.



📍 JMI's William Mattox hosted a political football game at the American Legion's Annual Boys State event.

JMI EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR AREA SOON!

2025 Red White and Bluegrass

The James Madison Institute and its special guests came together on March 25th for the 2025 Red, White and Bluegrass event. Guests enjoyed live bluegrass music, shucked oysters, and a keynote address from Former Congressman Trey Gowdy. Thank you to speakers, attendees, and sponsors for a successful event that left us hopeful about Florida's future.



2025 Naples Annual Dinner

The James Madison Institute hosted the 2025 Naples Annual Dinner on February 17. Former Congressmen Trey Gowdy and Harold Ford were the keynote speakers. It was a brilliant night of insight into American politics and policy. Thanks to our guests and sponsors for a wonderful event.



2025 Tech & Innovation Summit

In June, The James Madison Institute hosted our 6th Tech and Innovation Summit in Coral Gables. We gathered with policymakers, business leaders, stakeholders and experts to discuss cyberfraud, broadband deployment, regulatory sandboxes, technology in education, artificial intelligence and more. Our keynote speaker was Former Congressman Justin Amash. Thank you to our attendees, speaker, panelists and sponsors for making the event a success. We look forward to next year's Summit already! The 2025 Florida Tech and Innovation Summit showed the future of tech policy is in capable hands. Industry experts, policymakers, and innovators are working together, here in the Sunshine State and across the nation, to ensure policy supports consumers and creators without stifling necessary growth.



Influence



🕒 JMI policy staff met with members of the Finnish Parliament, Constitutional Law Committee.



🕒 JMI attended a press conference unveiling the new George Washington statue at the Florida Capitol! What a powerful tribute to the Father of Our Country, right in the heart of the Sunshine State.



🕒 JMI participated in a signing ceremony with Governor DeSantis, House Speaker Danny Perez, and Senate President Ben Albritton on immigration reform legislation — keeping the Sunshine State safe and secure!



🕒 Dr. Bob McClure met with Emilio Gonzalez, a candidate for Mayor of Miami on The urgent need to reform permitting, procurement, over-regulation and lessening the tax burden on residents.



🕒 JMI President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure met with Brette Powell, Special Assistant to President Trump and Director of the Office of Public Liaison, about election reform and education freedom in Florida.



🕒 Dr. Bob McClure participated in an interview with Preston Scott, host of The Morning Show with Preston Scott on WFLA.



🕒 Dr. Bob McClure with Gary Yordon, co-host of Usual Suspects on WCTV, talking about JMI's policy priorities, election results and more.



🕒 JMI's Brian Hickey at the White House for the University of Florida National Championship Ceremony with President Trump.

JMI BY THE NUMBERS

During the second half of 2024, The James Madison Institute...



Over **6,000** likes,
comments and shares on
social media posts



Over **150,000**
content views on social
media platforms



Reached the inbox
of our audience over
1 million times



Authored and placed
19 op-eds in state
and national media outlets



Received almost
5,000 visits
to jmipoll.com and
91,000 visits
to jamesmadison.org

JMI Files Amicus Brief on Private Property Case

The Third District Court of Appeal has accepted an amicus brief by The James Madison Institute and the Florida Home Builders Association to help guide it as it considers a critical issue regarding the government's taking of private property in quasi-eminent domain proceedings, known as Bert Harris Act Claims. In particular, the lower court imposed for the first time and without any legislative support, two new stringent requirements before a government is obligated to compensate land owners for the taking of their property. The two new requirements—i.e., that the landowner, itself, must have made a “material”

investment with the specific intent to undertake the property use that was later taken by the government—are completely divorced from economic reality and are anathema to the basic tenets of free markets and financing. If the appellate court does not reverse these fundamental errors by the lower court, the order will significantly undermine decades of property rights laws, create a chilling effect on billions of dollars in real estate development, and undermine long-term landownership in the State. The case is *Karenza Apartments, LLP v. City of Miami*, Case No. 3D2024-2014 (3d DCA).

2025 Legislative Wrap-Up

Center for Technology and Innovation

■ **Protected Digital Security and Innovation** by highlighting the flaws of legislation requiring AI-generated content be labeled. This mandate would have created significant technical and compliance challenges for smaller Florida businesses, while protecting larger well-established firms.

■ **Defended Consumer Data Privacy** by educating lawmakers about the dangers of “right to repair” legislation. Specifically, this legislation would have created potential security breaches involving medical records or banking information through access to the internal components of personal digital devices without sufficient safeguards.

■ **Preserved Constitutional Freedoms** by highlighting the First Amendment violations associated with requiring that app stores age-verify users. This protected all Floridians from creating new data breach targets while supporting market-based solutions like age-appropriate design features and parental controls that respect users’ privacy.

■ **Safeguarded Critical Encryption Technology** by outlining the dangers of creating back doors in “end to end” encrypted messaging services. This prevented the creation of intentional vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious hackers, similar to those responsible for the “Salt Typhoon” attacks on American telecommunications infrastructure in December of 2024.

■ **Advanced Digital Infrastructure Development** by supporting the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department of Commerce. This program allocates \$50 million annually from existing communications services tax revenue to fund utility relocation costs previously passed to consumers. This represents a paradigm shift toward using the Communications Services Tax revenue to actually fund communication services rather than diverting dollars to general revenue. In doing so, we are helping to create a sustainable framework for maintaining and expanding Florida’s vital communications networks.

■ **Identified Future Priorities** for supporting Florida’s growing independent workforce of 890,000 contractors, the highest proportion in the country. Future legislation should include “portable benefits” solutions allowing businesses to voluntarily contribute to benefit programs without triggering employee classification, and reasonable cybersecurity liability protections that would shield businesses using industry-standard security practices from liability if hacked.

Marshall Center for Education Freedom

■ **Aided the Advancement of ‘Sports Choice’ in FL (and MO).** We aided Senator Corey Simon’s successful effort to expand “sports choice” options for private school students who wish to play a sport for which their school has no team. Simon’s measure will build upon Florida’s much-celebrated “Tim Tebow Law” (which gives homeschool students sports team opportunities). Soon after this new Florida legislation passed, the state of Missouri adopted a similar bill. (JMI stayed in regular contact with proponents in MO, sharing insights and encouragement.)

■ **Helped Address Learning Space Needs for New Education Enterprises.** We helped advance a proposal to give charter schools “first dibs” on claiming abandoned school buildings that could be used for educational purposes – and we generated a great deal of interest (via op-eds and legislative testimony) in making it possible for private schools and new “microschool” enterprises to make use of underutilized school building space as well.

■ **Beat Back Efforts to Cap, Restrict, and Over-Regulate K-12 Scholarship Programs.** We helped convince lawmakers that FL's #1 ranking in Education Freedom could be in jeopardy if a proposed enrollment cap on scholarship programs was adopted. We also helped convince them (via op-eds and digital ads) to remove some onerous new paperwork requirements on scholarship parents – and to steer clear of any new restrictions on how families could use their Personalized Education Scholarships. In addition, we led a successful effort to “keep the home in Home Education Instructional Programs” (after a proposed ban on home-based “edu-preneurs” was introduced).

■ **Aided Efforts to Adopt New Federal Education Policies Friendly to Parents.** We urged the federal government to permit Title I monies to “follow the child” in states like Florida (via weighted scholarships for those living in communities needing revitalization). We also worked with proponents of a federal school choice tax credit program (which found its way into President Trump’s “One Big, Beautiful Bill”).

■ **Laid the Groundwork for Future Legislation Lifting Zoning Restrictions on Microschools.** We held meetings with mayors, local commissioners, and state leaders interested in removing barriers to new education enterprises – especially zoning and building use regulations that often trip up new education enterprises. We expect this issue to be a top priority in 2026.

Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity

■ **Continued to defend against efforts to interfere with vital business-to-business contracts known as Interchange Fee Agreements.** These efforts seek to interfere with these agreements through government initiatives seeking to sever the sales tax from interchange fees. This government overreach would create a new tax collecting regime with severe penalties for enforcement, create the potential for unwarranted consumer privacy concerns and reduce security programs, while limiting access to credit for Floridians.

■ **Stood against efforts to undo recently enacted reforms within Florida’s Property Insurance market** by engaging against efforts by billboard attorneys to roll back critical reforms on attorney fees passed in 2022 and 2023 that continue to stabilize the market and counter Florida’s frivolous litigation environment. By pushing back against these efforts, we helped preserve a fairer, more sustainable insurance environment for homeowners across the state.

■ **Improved Election Integrity in Florida** with legislation that strengthens regulations and accountability over the citizens’ initiative petition process for amending the State Constitution. These include tighter restrictions on petition gatherers; expanded supervisor of elections’ responsibilities for verifying, scanning, and tracking signatures; and establishing new registration, training, and eligibility rules for gatherers.

■ **Restored proper legislative authority and reduced Regulatory Burdens** with new guidelines for legislative oversight over executive agencies. These reforms include requiring agencies to systematically review and evaluate existing rules, make necessary changes, and annually report progress. Reforms also broaden the scope of agency workshops to include information gathering for statements of estimated regulatory costs, and address multiple aspects of agency rule development and implementation.

■ **Removed bureaucratic obstacles related to Housing Affordability** by engaging on multiple reforms such as land-use regulations requiring local governments to permit multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in commercial, industrial, and flexibly zoned areas without special approvals, allowing counties and municipalities to approve affordable housing developments on parcels owned by religious institutions. Additionally, the legislation prohibits restrictions on density, floor area ratio, or height below the highest allowed standard, streamlines administrative approval of qualifying projects, raises the voting threshold on certain impact fee increases to a unanimous vote, requires phase-in of such increases, and restricts further fee hikes if unused in the preceding five years.

JMI New Hires

Emma Rose Graddy Joins the JMI Team as Media Relations Manager



In July, Emma Rose Graddy joined the JMI team as the Media Relations Manager where she leads strategic communication efforts; manages media relations; develops engaging content to elevate the Institute's mission and initiatives; and identifies opportunities to expand JMI's reach across media platforms.

Prior to joining JMI, Emma Rose worked at the Florida Department of Health from 2023 to 2025, serving first as Social Media Manager, and later as the Communications Coordinator for the Agency.

A recent graduate of the University of South Florida (USF), she earned a bachelor's degree in Integrated Public Relations and Advertising, with a minor in Mass Communications. She participated in USF's study abroad program, spending a semester in Florence. During this time, she traveled throughout Italy and visited Croatia and Denmark, solidifying her love of travel.

Emma Rose worked her way through college as a lifeguard and in the hospitality industry. Upon deciding on a course of study, she secured a position at the Tampa Bay Tourism Chamber, tasked with expanding the profile and awareness of the greater Tampa Bay area. She garnered further hands-on experience working as a Sales Lead and Event Coordinator for Orlando Pub Crawl and as a Marketing Intern for National Strategies Public Relations.

Emma Rose is a native Tallahasseean and enjoys spending time at the beach, baking homemade sourdough bread, and honing her skills as an amateur guitarist – only playing when outside the earshot of others.

JMI Adds Vice President of Advancement, Brian Hickey



In March, JMI hired Brian Hickey as the Vice President of Advancement. Brian is an accomplished association executive, event director, marketing professional, and non-profit leader with over twenty-three years of diversified experience. He has a proven track record of positive growth in fundraising, corporate partnerships, and

enhancing the financial viability of organizations.

Previously, Brian served as the Director of Partner Relations at the Florida Bankers Association, where he drove significant non-dues revenue and managed the for-profit entity, BancServ. In addition, he served as the Director of the Florida Afterschool Network, where he successfully raised substantial grant funds and developed advocacy campaigns for high-quality after-school programs.

Brian's career also includes roles such as Interim Executive Director and Director of Sports at Leon County-Tourism (Visit Tallahassee), where he coordinated major events generating significant economic development from sports tourism visitor spending. He began his career at the Florida Sports Foundation managing large-scale athletic events.

Native to Tallahassee, Brian holds a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration from Florida State University. Brian's contributions have consistently led to increased revenue, enhanced member engagement, successful fundraising efforts, and improved organizational efficiency.

Brian lives in Tallahassee with his wife and two children.

An update from a JMI Intern

JMI Adds Russ Walker to the Team



In June, JMI added Russ Walker to the team to serve as the Senior Strategist for the Durden Center for the Advancement of Liberty.

Russ Walker is an accomplished political executive with over 28 years of experience leading statewide and national campaigns and organizations.

He has served as a senior advisor to presidential candidates and U.S. Senators. For nearly three decades, he has provided general consulting and campaign management services to private corporate clients, non-profits, ballot measures, and political candidates. He has served as a senior advisor to President Trump's 2020 campaign, Dr. Ben Carson's 2016 presidential campaign, and U.S. Senator Mike Lee. He has worked on campaigns in 40 of the fifty states and overseas.

Russ has advised some of the most influential organizations on the right, including the State Policy Network, FreedomWorks, Club for Growth, and Republicans Overseas. He has also collaborated closely with several of the nation's most successful state-based think tanks, such as Libertas (Utah), the Mackinac Center for Public Policy (Michigan), and The James Madison Institute (Florida), among others.

He founded and led FreedomWorks for America, along with other political action committees over the past two decades. He played a key role in organizing, training, and guiding the Tea Party movement.



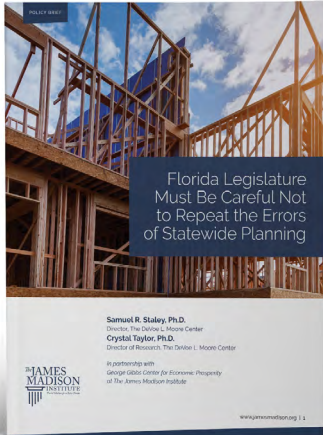
It was within weeks, not months, that The James Madison Institute elevated my analytical skills and professional development to an entirely different caliber. As the Research Assistant for the Policy, Development,

Executive, and Communications teams, I regularly liaise between JMI's seasoned professionals to support comprehensive research projects on topics ranging from free-market economics to school choice pathways. I've been fortunate to see the tangible fruits of this labor as well. Just recently, I was given the opportunity to co-author commentary on the Florida Legislature's 2025 debate between property and sales tax cuts with our President and CEO, J. Robert McClure, where we were published in local news outlets.

Indeed, JMI's focus on pragmatic policy first drew me to apply, but something not often considered behind the scenes is the close environment full of collaboration, mentorship, and respect that makes JMI the premier organization it is. I'm eternally grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this team, and to say that I've grown in my capacity as a Research Assistant would be an understatement.

Ian Parry is a recent graduate of Florida State University, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in International Affairs and Political Science. During his undergraduate years, Ian spent time preparing for the policy world through extensive extracurricular involvements, which included student government and a legislative internship for a Tallahassee lobbying firm. Looking to the future, Ian plans on pursuing his Juris Doctorate degree before entering the legal sector or returning to public policy work.

Recent JMI Publications



Florida Legislature Must Be Careful Not to Repeat the Errors of Statewide Planning

This Session, the Florida Legislature passed a number of housing measures. The Florida state legislature has been busy preempting local governments on local land-use and regulatory decisions to allow for the construction of more types of housing in more places. Over the last decade, the state overrode local jurisdictions on some noteworthy travel and housing issues. In June, JMI released a new policy brief within the Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity by Dr. Crystal Taylor and Dr. Samuel Staley urging the legislature not to repeat the errors of statewide planning that further exacerbate housing costs.



The \$38 Billion Mistake: Why AI Regulation Could Crush Florida's Economy

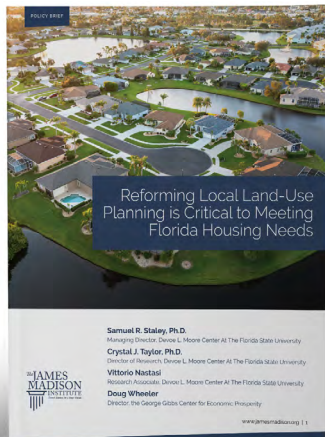
In June, JMI's Center for Technology and Innovation released a paper by Dr. Edward Longe and the Abundance Institute's Taylor Barkley. Rather than pursuing state-level restrictions that fragment the regulatory landscape and create compliance burdens, Florida's leaders at both the federal and state level should advocate for a coherent federal AI governance framework that prevents a patchwork of conflicting state regulations. This approach would protect the state's economic interests from in-state and out-of-state burdens while ensuring appropriate oversight occurs at the national level, where it can be most effective and least disruptive to interstate commerce.



Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

In May, JMI released a new paper within the Durden Center for the Advancement of Liberty on the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act by JMI Senior Fellow, Ben Gibson. The SAVE Act requires that states establish a program to remove noncitizens from voter rolls and authorizes states to utilize existing federal databases, including the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database and the Social Security Administration's Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS), to verify citizenship status. If it is determined that an alien is unlawfully registered to vote in federal elections, the Secretary of Homeland Security must conduct an investigation to determine whether to initiate removal proceedings.

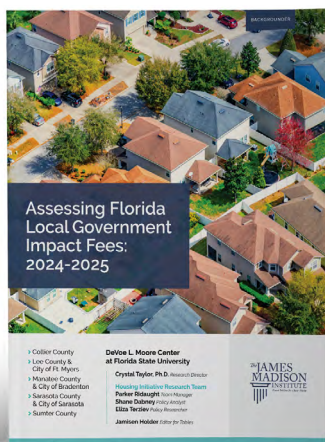
The SAVE Act allows for a private right of action against election officials who fail to uphold proof of citizenship requirements for federal elections and adds criminal penalties for election officials who register noncitizens to vote in federal elections.



Reforming Local Land-Use Planning is Critical to Meeting Florida Housing Needs

Florida is facing an unprecedented housing affordability crisis. According to the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency, single-family home prices in Florida have grown by 165% since the end of the Great Recession in 2009, and the rate of growth accelerated considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rise in home prices is particularly severe in Florida compared to nationwide trends.

In May, JMI released a new policy brief from the Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity, “Reforming Local Land-Use Planning is Critical to Meeting Florida Housing Needs” by Doug Wheeler — Director of the Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity at JMI; Samuel R. Staley, Ph.D. — Managing Director, DeVoe L. Moore Center at The Florida State University; Crystal J. Taylor, Ph.D. — Director of Research, DeVoe L. Moore Center at The Florida State University; and Vittorio Nastasi — Research Associate, DeVoe L. Moore Center At The Florida State University.

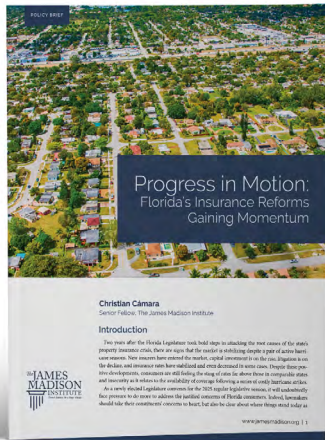


Assessing Florida Local Government Impact Fees: 2024-2025

Housing prices across the nation have been steadily climbing for decades. In April, in partnership with researchers from the DeVoe L. Moore Center, The James Madison Institute released a timely new report within the Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity, “Assessing Florida Local Government Impact Fees: 2024-2025,” which details regulatory challenges facing Floridians who need to construct more homes and have more types of housing.

The study includes an analysis of impact fees, which are payments collected by local governments to offset the costs of new growth, within five counties in Florida — Collier, Lee, Manatee, Sarasota and Sumter. Common uses for impact fees include funding roads, emergency medical services, law enforcement, public parks, and other amenities. These five counties represent very different approaches to designing and implementing impact fees. The JMI study also offers cities and counties guidance on how to better approach and refine fees in order to ease the burden on builders and homeowners.

Recent JMI Publications (cont.)



Progress in Motion: Florida's Insurance Reforms Gaining Momentum

Two years ago, the Florida Legislature took bold steps in attacking the root causes of the state's property insurance crisis. Since then, there are signs that the market is stabilizing despite recent active hurricane seasons. New insurers have entered the market, capital investment is on the rise, litigation is on the decline, and insurance rates have stabilized and even decreased in some cases. Despite these positive developments, consumers are still feeling the sting of rates far above those in comparable states and insecurity as it relates to the availability of coverage following a series of hurricanes.

As a newly-elected Florida Legislature begins to convene for committee weeks and session, legislators will undoubtedly face pressure to do more to address the justified concerns of Florida consumers. Indeed, lawmakers should take their constituents' concerns to heart, but also be clear about where things stand today as opposed to a couple of years ago when insurance rates were severely increasing, competition was decreasing, and losses due to uncontrolled litigation were fleeing the industry and triggering downgrades and insolvencies.

In December, The James Madison Institute (JMI) released a new report from the Gibbs Center for Economic Prosperity entitled "Progress in Motion: Florida's Insurance Reforms Gaining Momentum" by JMI Senior Fellow Christian Cámara. The JMI report examines the issues that plagued the market prior to reforms being enacted and explains how the market is currently stabilizing. The policy brief goes on to encourage lawmakers to resist any pressure to dilute any of the reforms that are already having a positive impact less than a year after they were enacted.



Protecting Paradise: Cybersecurity in the Sunshine State

Florida's cybersecurity landscape faces unprecedented challenges, as evidenced by several major breaches in 2024, including the theft of 20,000 sensitive files from the Florida Department of Health and a system-wide shutdown of North Miami's government operations. These incidents highlight a broader pattern of vulnerability: in 2023, Florida recorded over 41,000 cyber incidents resulting in losses of \$874.7 million, ranking third nationally in both total incidents and financial impact.

In December, JMI released a new paper from the Center for Technology and Innovation, "Protecting Paradise: Cybersecurity in the Sunshine State."

The paper states that Florida must implement a comprehensive strategy that includes sustained investment in government cybersecurity infrastructure; development of a balanced, safe harbor program; integration of AI-driven threat detection; mandatory K-12 cybersecurity education; and targeted protection programs for elderly residents. Additionally, addressing the critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals—currently estimated at 500,000 nationwide—must be a priority.

An Update from Florida's College Campuses

Serving as a James Madison Institute Campus Representative for the past two years has been an incredibly meaningful experience. This program has shaped the way I think about public policy, civic engagement, and student outreach. This role gave me the opportunity to promote the values of limited government, individual liberty, and free markets to faculty and students, alike. I found ways to do so through engaging events, approachable conversations, and methods tailored to the diverse student body at the University of Florida.

Being a Campus Representative gave me the opportunity to build strong partnerships with other student leaders. These relationships helped me amplify JMI's presence and reinforced the importance of collaboration in effective outreach. This experience has taught me how to connect ideas with people, and how to make civics education feel personal and relevant. It taught me how to build connections from the ground up, adapt messaging to resonate with diverse student audiences, and communicate core principles with clarity and enthusiasm.

I'm proud of the impact I've had on my campus, and I'm deeply grateful for the support I received from the JMI team. As a recent graduate, I look forward to seeing the program continue to grow and inspire future leaders to



carry forward the principles of liberty and informed citizenship.

Throughout the semester, I hosted and participated in a variety of events that introduced hundreds of students to JMI's mission and opportunities. I collaborated with student groups such as Turning Point USA, Young Americans for Freedom, Florida Women in Business, and the Gator Society for Pre-Law Women to bring JMI's presence to life on campus. During tabling events like Presidents Day and James Madison's Birthday, I distributed pocket constitutions, stickers, and snacks to draw attention and spark interest. These events were not only fun and visually engaging, but they served as natural entry points to conversations about public policy, internships, and JMI's impact in Florida. One of the most meaningful parts of this role was the ability to personalize outreach. Whether I was presenting to over 85 students at the Florida Women in Business meeting or handing out snacks at tabling events, I focused on creating inviting, accessible spaces where students felt comfortable asking questions and starting conversations about policy.

Isabella is a recent graduate of the University of Florida, holding degrees in Criminology and in Political Science. She plans to attend law school in August 2026.

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

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

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Jimmy Patronis partnered with JMI and recognized January 13-17, 2025 as Florida Thrift Week with a proclamation promoting the importance of thrift and its benefits to Florida families and the state's economy. Every year, Florida Thrift Week encourages financial literacy and responsible consumer behavior in the Sunshine State.



Campus Rep Events

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.



Daniel Hollingsworth, the JMI Campus Representative at Florida State University, was named the Outstanding Student of the Month in March by the FSU College of Political Science.



Ayla Yebba, the JMI Campus Representative at University of South Florida, hosted William Mattox for a discussion on civic discourse on college campuses.



David Brady, the JMI Campus Representative at Florida Southern College, hosted an event in January with Justin Callais of the Archbridge Institute and the creator of the Social Mobility Index. Justin spoke to a group of students on his index and the institutional factors that allow people to flourish.

2025–2026 Campus Representatives

CARSON WOLF — Ave Maria University
DAVID BRADY, JR. — Florida Southern College
MARY CONNOLLY — University of Central Florida
ISABELLA CONTOPOULO — University of Florida
SAMUEL HIRSCH — University of Miami School of Law
AYLA YEBBA — University of South Florida
DANIEL HOLLINGSWORTH — Florida State University
RUSSELL TRETTER — Rollins College

Centers



J. STANLEY MARSHALL
CENTER *for*
EDUCATION FREEDOM
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.

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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.

.....



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

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

.....



CENTER *for* TECHNOLOGY
and INNOVATION
at The James Madison Institute

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



GEORGE GIBBS CENTER
for ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
at The James Madison Institute

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

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CENTER *for*
PROPERTY RIGHTS
at The James Madison Institute

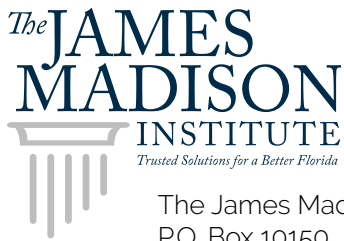
MISSION: To promote liberty, economic prosperity, and the rule of law by recommending property rights policy that will:

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









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

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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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.