

The
Madison Policy Digest

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Presented by: [The James Madison Institute](#)

JMI News Briefs

*The Madison Policy Digest is back—and with a new facelift. Continue to watch for improvements in upcoming MPD editions.

*The James Madison Institute welcomes its newest staff member, [Thomas Perrin](#), who will work to increase visibility of the institute in the legislature and throughout the state as our Director of Public Affairs.

*JMI is currently hard at work preparing for their upcoming property rights forum entitled: "Property Rights in Florida: Unfinished Business" which is being held in West Palm Beach, FL on September 28th, 2006. Click here for your invitation: [Property Rights 2006](#)

*A message from our friends at the Castle Coalition:

CONGRESS HAS ONLY 21 DAYS LEFT TO PASS EMINENT DOMAIN REFORM! Over ten months ago, the House passed H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005, by an overwhelming majority of 376-38. This bill would discourage eminent domain abuse by withholding federal economic development funds for two years from local governments that condemn private property for private commercial development. Since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Kelo v. City of New London* that private property can be seized through eminent domain on the mere promise of increased tax revenue or jobs, every home, business, church and farm across the country is endangered - because anyone's property could make more money as something bigger and newer. Federal protections are essential to curb the abuse of eminent domain, but this bill has been languishing in the Senate since last November!

Click here to find out more: [Castle Coalition](#)

Featured Topics

**AND THEN THERE WERE TWO
TO DRILL OR NOT TO DRILL: THAT IS THE QUESTION
BORDERING ON THE BORDER**

[And Then There Were Two](#)

Crist, Davis to vie for governor

Capital Bureau

By Joe Follick

ST. PETERSBURG – “The successor to Gov. Jeb Bush will be an attorney from the Tampa Bay area, as Republican Charlie Crist and Democrat Jim Davis won Tuesday's primary battles in drastically different ways.

Attorney General Crist, a St. Petersburg native, trounced Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher in record-setting fashion, earning the nod from Republican voters to replace Bush and sending a signal that a moderate message of optimism may be a tonic for troubled Republicans nationally.

Davis, a U.S. Congressman from Tampa, weathered a brutal Democratic primary battle from state Sen. Rod Smith, D-Alachua. It was a shaky showing for Davis, who even with the support of former Gov. Bob Graham, a Democratic legend, won by only about 5 percentage points over Smith."

For complete article click here: [Full Story](#)

[Entire Primary Election Results](#)

To Drill or not to Drill: That is the Question

Tests Indicate Major Oil Discovery in Gulf of Mexico

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "A trio of oil companies led by Chevron Corp. (CVX) has tapped a petroleum pool deep beneath the Gulf of Mexico that could boost the nation's reserves by more than 50 percent.

A test well indicates it could be the biggest new domestic oil discovery since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay a generation ago. But the vast oil deposit roughly four miles beneath the ocean floor won't significantly reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil and it won't help lower prices at the pump anytime soon, analysts said.

"It's a nice positive, but the U.S. still has a big difference between its consumption and indigenous production," said Art Smith, chief executive of energy consultant John S. Herold. "We'll still be importing more than 50 percent of our oil needs."

Chevron on Tuesday estimated the 300-square-mile region where its test well sits could hold between 3 billion and 15 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids. The U.S. consumes roughly 5.7 billion barrels of crude-oil in a year."

For complete article click here: [Full Story](#)

Bordering on the border

Better, Faster, and Cheaper Border Security

The Heritage Foundation

By James Jay Carafano, Ph.D., Brian W. Walsh, David B. Muhlhausen, Ph.D., Laura P. Keith, and David D. Gentilli

"Congress and the Administration should pursue a strategy that quickly enhances resources at the border within two years. The Senate and House plans to add border guards and build fences are inadequate.

Instead, a comprehensive strategy should examine other options such as a mix of federal, state, and local assets; volunteers operating under State Defense Forces; the National Guard; and private contractors. In particular, private contractors could play an important role in recruiting and training Border Patrol agents and providing personnel to secure the border. To contract out certain border security functions successfully, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should apply the lessons learned from other large-scale contracting projects. All in all, a strategy that examines and uses these multiple means would strengthen the integrity and security of

America's borders.”

For complete article click here: [Full Story](#)

Opinion

Did Voters Forget that we're a Democracy?

OUR OPINION: PREDICTABLY LOW TURNOUT UNFATHOMABLE

The Miami Herald

“Tuesday's primary was all too predictable in one aspect: low voter turnout. Less than 20 percent of Florida's eligible voters chose the two gubernatorial candidates to vie for the state's most important job. In a year when Floridians are up in arms about skyrocketing property-insurance premiums, scarce affordable housing and unacceptably high property taxes, the low turnout is unfathomable.

Fewer and fewer voters

In Broward, only 10 percent of the electorate braved stormy weather to decide on candidates to run schools, administer county services and deliver justice in the courts -- decisions that affect everyday lives. That 10 percent also selected candidates for the Legislature, where insurance reform must be addressed. The Miami-Dade County turnout for these vital choices was 15 percent, down from 33 percent in the 2002 mid-term election.

It's a tragedy that, unlike the voters in emerging democracies who turn out in record numbers, often under dangerous circumstances, the number of Americans who vote keeps declining.”

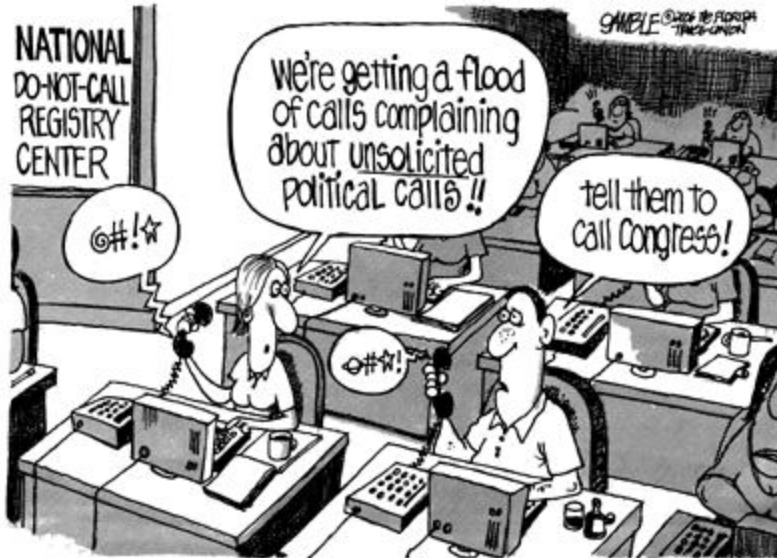
For complete article click here: [Full Story](#)

Quote of the Week

It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried.

-Sir Winston Churchill

Cartoon of the Week



Ed Gamble, *The Florida Times-Union*

Speakers' Bureau

Need a speaker for your next event? JMI's team and network of scholars are available to headline or participate in your organization's next gathering. JMI staff will help you match the topic with the appropriate speaker. To learn more contact Thomas at 850-386-3131 or Thomas@JamesMadison.org

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Log onto our web site for additional resources and more public policy information:
www.JamesMadison.org

The Madison Policy Digest is a free, weekly e-newsletter that summarizes Florida's top public policy headlines from around the state, complete with topical research and comment by The James Madison Institute. Suggestions and feedback are welcome at Thomas@JamesMadison.org.