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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wednesday, 12 November 2008

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A Time for Hope, Not Despair

Proponents who believe that government should play a larger role in our daily lives have gained control in Washington and in many places across the country. When problems arise, they believe government is the answer. Yet as Ronald Reagan once reminded us, "Government is not the solution to our problems; government is the problem." As a people, we need only to look at the IRS, the U.S. Postal Service and the inept response to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina to understand this truth.

As the results of election night poured in, it became evident that most Floridians did not succumb to big government solutions to the same degree that the rest of the nation did. The Florida Legislature, for instance, retains a solid majority of elected officials and a leadership team primarily committed to free-market solutions for the state's problems. We modestly believe that at least some of the credit for this rightfully belongs to The James Madison Institute.

Here in Florida, it is no accident that the Sunshine State recovered more quickly from the 2001 recession than most of the rest of the country. It is no accident that our elected officials have recently been able to balance the state budget without raising taxes; and it is no accident that Florida remains one of the most attractive places to live and work in the entire country. The question is why? The answer is simple. For a generation, this state has, for the most part, been committed to limiting the role of government in our daily lives while emphasizing the need for greater personal responsibility. In a word, the emphasis has been on liberty. Are there challenges currently and in the future? Yes. But we at the Institute remain optimistic.

The James Madison Institute will continue to be the single loudest voice for liberty in Florida, as it has been since its founding in 1987. We believe that when we provide credible solutions to support practical freedom-loving ideas, it leads to the adoption of policies that foster personal responsibility and economic prosperity.

We are indeed living in challenging times. Your continued support is now more important than ever. It is essential that advocates of the free-market system and defenders of liberty everywhere stand up for what we know is right.

The James Madison Institute is uniquely positioned to do so. JMI is a non-partisan, 501 (c)3 tax-deductible organization, so we do not get involved in electoral politics, nor do we engage in lobbying. We effectively shape the ideas that elected officials and other policy makers, members of the media and private citizens use to advance legislative

goals. Thousands of Floridians across this state have joined The James Madison Institute to help us promote this message of freedom.

Many will have you believe that Floridians want more government intrusion. However, defenders of liberty all around the country are looking to Florida with amazement this week. Elected officials who advocated conservative, constitutional principles and fiscal responsibility won their elections in Florida overwhelmingly.

Given the numerous big government solutions being bandied about on the national stage, we must continue to make Florida an example of limited government and free-market solutions. Florida is the most populous swing state in the nation, with diverse economies and demographics – a true bellwether for the nation.

What happens here sets the trends for the nation and we have the opportunity to make the Sunshine State the shining light for freedom.

Florida remains a beacon of liberty for the rest of the nation to emulate. If you are not yet a member of The James Madison Institute, please consider casting your vote for freedom by [joining our cause today](#).

Sincerely,



J. Robert McClure, III
President and CEO
The James Madison Institute

"This idea that government is beholden to the people, that it has no other source of power except the sovereign people, is still the newest and the most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man." – Ronald Reagan

"He who wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper." – Edmund Burke

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