



NEWS BRIEFS

* The James Madison Institute has just released its most recent Policy Brief, titled "The Future of Philanthropy in Florida." This study, written by JMI Adjunct Scholar Matthew Vadum, looks at the "Greenlining" that started in California and is now spreading to Florida. To read the study, [click here](#).

* The James Madison Institute is hosting "Florida's 2010 Kickoff for Liberty" in both West Palm Beach and Miami on January 5-6, 2010. These events are open to JMI members and guests. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served. Drinks and other food items will be available for purchase. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the work JMI does around the state on behalf of the limited government, free-market principles we share. RSVPs are encouraged, but not required. Please RSVP for yourself and any guests by email at fgonzalez@jamesmadison.org or call 850-386-3131. To view more details for the West Palm Beach event, [click here](#). For more details on the Miami event, [click here](#).

*JMI would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! The Madison Policy Digest will resume distribution in 2010.

FEATURED TOPICS

- State Farm
- Corporate Income Tax
- Federal Jobs
- The Real World

ARTICLES

State Farm to stay in Florida

Sarasota Herald Tribune

By Paige St. John

December 17, 2009

State Farm and Florida regulators reached an accord Wednesday that allows the home insurer to raise rates and drop policies, but prevents it from fully withdrawing from the state.

As a result, 125,000 State Farm Florida policyholders stand to lose their coverage and the 685,000 allowed to remain with the company face a 14.8 percent rate increase. That comes on top of up to 27 percent rate increases approved earlier in the year, the result of discontinued discounts.

For complete article, click here: [State Farm](#)

Crist proposes cutting corporate-income tax

Gov. Charlie Crist is floating the idea of eliminating the state's corporate income tax to attract new businesses to Florida and shore up his conservative credentials.

Miami Herald

By Josh Hafenbrack

Gov. Charlie Crist told The Sun Sentinel on Thursday that he is crafting a plan to slash Florida's corporate income tax, which generates \$1.7 billion annually.

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The move could help solidify the governor's conservative credentials in his 2010 campaign for U.S. Senate, but the tax cut could be difficult to get through the Legislature given the state's steep budget deficit for the coming year.

For complete article, click here: [Corporate Income Tax](#)

Struggling? Maybe you should get a federal job

Raises, new salary rules help government workers

Indianapolis Star

By Dennis Cauchon/USA Today

December 11, 2009

Federal workers are enjoying an extraordinary boom time — in pay and hiring — during a recession that has cost 7.3 million jobs in the private sector, according to a USA Today analysis of federal data.

Federal employees making \$100,000 or more jumped from 14 percent to 19 percent during the recession's first 18 months — and that's before overtime pay and bonuses are counted.

For complete article, click here: [Federal Jobs](#)

OPINION

Welcome to the real world

From The Economist

For decades, America's public-sector workers have been coddled and spoiled. The recession may change that

December 10, 2009

THE American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 25, occupies a hulking building in downtown Detroit. Deep in its basement is the office of Local 207, one of the city's most aggressive public-sector unions. John Riehl, its president, has taped a poster to the wall carrying an old war cry: "No Contract No Work". The sign dates from a strike in 1986. Mr Riehl hopes to revive the old battle spirit. Detroit's mayor, Dave Bing, is urging unions to make concessions. Several have agreed. Most have not.

The trouble is, the city is broke. Mr Bing's office sits high above Detroit's barren streets. "We have not made the structural changes we should have made," he explains. Few cities have such a sprawling workforce—50 bargaining units in all—or so little money to pay for it. But Detroit is not alone. Most cities and states will collect only meagre revenues for at least the next year. While politicians mull tax increases and service cuts, public-sector workers continue to gobble up money—in Philadelphia, they account for 61% of spending. The crisis, however, at least illuminates a simple fact. The status quo is unaffordable.

For complete article, click here: [The Real World](#)

CARTOON OF THE WEEK





Dana Summers, *Orlando Sentinel*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there'd be a shortage of sand"

- Milton Friedman

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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.

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