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THE MADISON POLICY DIGEST

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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](#).

* JMI joins The Village Square in hosting "*Global Warming, Cap & Trade, Dollars & Sense*" on Tuesday, January 19. The panel discussion will focus on the climate legislation currently pending in Congress. The distinguished panel features:
-Kathy Baughman McCloud, Bryant Miller Olive
-Colleen Castille, Go Green Strategies
-Barry Moline, Florida Municipal Electric Association
-Susan Glickman, Natural Resources Defense Council and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
-**Paul Bachman, JMI Adjunct Scholar and Beacon Hill Research Director**

FEATURED TOPICS

- Unemployment Tax
- Health Care Opposition
- The Tax Effect
- Hometown Democracy

ARTICLES

Steep rise in jobless tax hitting Florida businesses

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
By Lloyd Dunkelberger
January 5, 2010

Florida businesses are being hit by a sharp increase in unemployment compensation taxes coming due just as many of them are struggling to emerge from the Great Recession.

Businesses began receiving notices last month about the increase in the tax used to pay benefits to unemployed workers. At a minimum, the annual tax for each employee would increase from \$8.40 to \$100.30[...] Businesses that made the most layoffs would face the largest increases.

For complete article, click here: [Unemployment tax](#)

Some foes of health-care bill hope courts will stop legislation

Washington Post
By Ben Pershing
January 3, 2010

Opponents of the health-care reform bill are not giving up the fight, and some think their last, best hope to halt the legislation lies not in the U.S. Capitol but in the court across the street.

A small but vocal contingent of legal scholars and many Republican lawmakers argue that the measures passed by both chambers are unconstitutional and will be ruled so by the Supreme Court. Their primary target: the individual mandate, which requires people to get health insurance or pay a financial penalty of at least 2 percent of their

income to the government.

For complete article, click here: [Health Care Opposition](#)

The Big-Spending, High-Taxing, Lousy-Services Paradigm

City Journal
By William Voegeli
Autumn 2009

In 1956, the economist Charles Tiebout provided the framework that best explains why people vote with their feet. The "consumer-voter," as Tiebout called him, challenges government officials to "ascertain his wants for public goods and tax him accordingly." Each jurisdiction offers its own package of public goods, along with a particular tax burden needed to pay for those goods. As a result, "the consumer-voter moves to that community whose local government best satisfies his set of preferences." In selecting a jurisdiction, the mobile consumer-voter is, in effect, choosing a club to join based on the benefits that it offers and the dues that it charges.

For complete article, click here: [The Tax Effect](#)

OPINION

A lesson in how not to manage growth

St. Petersburg Times
St. Pete Times Editorial
January 4, 2010

Florida voters will decide this year whether to move local land use decisions to the ballot box, and St. Pete Beach's three-year experiment along a similar path offers a good lesson on the downside of letting voters manage planning by election.

There are indeed some important differences between what has happened in St. Pete Beach and Hometown Democracy, the constitutional amendment expected to appear on the statewide November ballot. But the concept of giving residents a "yes" or "no" vote over land use decisions that were previously decided by elected officials is being thoroughly tested in St. Pete Beach. And its version of "hometown democracy" has proven to be divisive, expensive and an impediment to much-needed redevelopment.

For complete article, click here: [Hometown Democracy](#)

CARTOON OF THE WEEK





Ed Gamble, *Florida Times-Union*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse."

-James Madison

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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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