

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of The James Madison Institute
www.jamesmadison.org

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President's Message



It's already the midway point of 2018 – and we are fast approaching what will be one of the most consequential elections in Florida's history. While we have strived as a state over the past 20 years to place the economy of Florida on a trajectory for lasting prosperity, the progress we have made is 100 percent at stake and on the table for voters to decide on November 6.

Typically, I am reluctant to make too much of the long-term consequences of any election. I tend to smirk when pundits talk about each upcoming election as “the most important election in history.” But all hyperbole aside, I truly believe that Floridians will look back on the 2018 election as one where we decided to stay the course or chose to move in a totally different direction and pursue the path of progressive states like California, Illinois, and Connecticut.

When Floridians take to the polls on the first Tuesday of November, they will cast votes for more offices and issues than at any other time in recent history. On the ballot will be all new cabinet members (Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Agriculture Commissioner), all 120 members of the Florida House of Representatives, more than one-third of the Florida Senate, our 25 members of the United States Congress, a highly-contested U.S. Senate seat, and 13 ballot initiatives for the Florida Constitution. In addition, three members of the Florida Supreme Court will be retiring, making this election all the more pivotal for the future of our courts.

Regardless of the results of November 6, the staff at The James Madison Institute will continue to engage in the battle of ideas in Tallahassee, across the great state of Florida, and in the corridors of Washington, D.C. While we have seen great strides over the course of the term of President Trump, there are absolutely areas in which we haven't been successful and need to continue the fight.

As we enter the heart of 2018, I continue to be humbled by the engagement of our supporters. Our work here at JMI could not be done without your generosity - through the gifts of your time, your talents, and your treasure. It is through your engagement that we are able to accomplish far more than we could alone. Together, we will continue to stand as a beacon of liberty and freedom for Florida's leaders to reach out to as they chart the next course for our great state. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

J. Robert McClure III, Ph.D.

2018 Legislative Summary

Floridians have a brighter future thanks to tireless work from Governor Rick Scott, Senate President Joe Negron, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, and other legislative leaders. Over the 2018 Legislative Session, a wide range of policy priorities of The James Madison Institute were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in the key areas of education, economic prosperity, and private property rights. The entire team at JMI worked hard to educate and inform state legislators on policies that significantly advance limited government, personal liberty, and economic freedom through written publications, face-to-face meetings, expert testimony, workshops, press conferences, and various other efforts

Update from the J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options



J. STANLEY MARSHALL
CENTER *for*
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS
at The James Madison Institute

The 2018 Legislative Session proved that House Speaker Richard Corcoran wasn't kidding when he set out to make education choice a major part of his lawmaking legacy. A year after championing the groundbreaking "Schools of Hope" initiative, Speaker Corcoran and his legislative allies passed two significant education choice programs that Gov. Rick Scott signed into law. These initiatives topped an impressive list of newly-adopted education reforms, which included:

- **The Hope Scholarship (aka The Student Safety Scholarship).**

This measure gives student victims of bullying, sexual harassment, or violent assault the option of transferring to a different school – public or private – with funding that "follows the student" rather than dictating where it must be spent. Nearly 50,000 Florida students are expected to qualify for this scholarship.

- **Reading Improvement**

Scholarship. This new program, which House Education Committee Chairman Michael Bileca said was inspired by JMI, gives elementary school students who do not yet read well the opportunity to acquire supplemental reading assistance such as tutoring. Importantly, parents will enjoy wide latitude in choosing learning aids to purchase for their child, as this new program is patterned after the highly-flexible (and very popular) Gardiner Scholarship for special-needs children.

- **Computer Science and**

Financial Literacy. These measures give Florida high school students wider access to courses where they can acquire computer coding skills (which are increasingly needed in the marketplace) and to semester-long courses in financial literacy (to help them learn how to manage their personal resources).

- **Dual Enrollment and Summer Course Options.**

These measures give all Florida high school students (not just those attending public schools) free access to dual enrollment courses taught at state

colleges – and allow qualifying students to use their Bright Futures Scholarship to pay for summer courses. Greater student flexibility and improved space efficiency should result, since many classrooms currently sit idle during the summer months.

- **Campus Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity.**

These measures ban so-called "free speech zones" (often no bigger than a postage stamp) on state-funded college campuses – and commission a study designed to measure the viewpoint diversity of college faculty at Florida institutions of higher learning.

- **Bethune Statue.**

This measure provides for the creation of a Mary McLeod Bethune statue to represent the state of Florida in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. In 1904, Dr. Bethune founded the Daytona School for Negro Girls, which grew into what is now Bethune-Cookman University; and she inspired many Florida educators, including JMI's founder, Stan Marshall, who served on B-CU's Board of Trustees, for many years.



Update from the Center for Economic Prosperity



The 2018 Legislative Session in many ways resembled a massive, tall, looping roller coaster we all had to endure as it whipped and rolled for just a hair longer than 60 days. The session began with a very bold, ambitious, and principled set of priorities to advance limited government and economic prosperity for all Floridians. And then, right around the mid-point of session, the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tossed what can only be described as a 10,000-pound wrench in the gears of the legislative process. While JMI does not engage in Second Amendment policy, the impact of the legislature deciding to address the tragedy with a major reform package brought some substantial challenges to the rest of policymaking, including the budget, in the final two weeks of the annual session.

Nevertheless, substantial progress was made on several specific issues of importance to Floridians. Major policy successes occurred in the areas of healthcare reform, criminal justice policy, and labor reform, just to name a few. In addition, in areas where we didn't see actual policy enacted, big strides were seen in the legislative

process. This will bode well for 2019 and a new House Speaker and Senate President. A few of JMI's notable policy wins include:

- **Direct Primary Care.** After four long years trying, the chambers agreed on legislation that enables direct primary care networks (contracts between doctors and patients) to operate without fear of insurance regulations negating them.
- **Teacher Union Recertification.** While Florida is a right-to-work state, the negative impact of the teachers' union monopoly is still felt. Unencumbered by any competitive forces, teachers unions have thrived by cronyism and authoritarian fiat. With the passage of this year's education reform package, any collective bargaining unit that fails to have more than 50 percent of its potential membership as dues-paying members will be required to hold a recertification election. Expect this reform to have a positive impact on teacher unions as a level of competitive force is finally brought to bear.
- **Criminal Justice Reform.** The path for criminal justice reform became much more visible in 2018,

with the passage of a gold-standard data collection package championed by leaders in both the Florida House and Senate. The tool, which will standardize data metrics across all 67 counties and every single judicial circuit, will make Florida a national leader in data-driven reform. In addition, Florida's standout juvenile civil citation program was expanded to adults, providing a one-time opportunity for those committing minor offenses to participate in a diversionary program that has proven to reduce recidivism.

- **Tax Policy.** In November, Floridians will have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional provision that would require a 2/3 majority for any future tax increases. This common-sense initiative would protect the citizens of the Sunshine State from the never-ending push to grow government at the expense of liberty and freedom. By requiring new tax increases to be approved by a supermajority, a valuable check on the power of future legislatures will ensure that Florida's government retains its position as one of the most efficient in the United States.



Update from the Center for Property Rights



While the 2018 Legislative Session was not as strong with regards to private property rights as prior sessions have been, several policy issues were addressed, and some efforts began their paths to reform (which often take several years to reach fruition). While several specific efforts didn't make "the finish line" and to the Governor's desk, there were victories to highlight, including:

- **Private Property Owners and Customary Use.** This issue was one of JMI's top priorities. The Doctrine of Customary Use permits the public to temporarily use private property when such use can be proven as a historical and owner-allowed occurrence. The bill, which was passed, places conflicts over customary use in their proper place – a court of law (where due process can be objectively employed) rather than in a city council or county commission. It also defines the procedure with which a government entity must comply when it seeks to allow the public to use private property. Although strongly opposed

by government lobbyist groups, a real win for property owners was secured.

- **Property Rights and Comprehensive Plans.** In land-use decisions, the comprehensive plans of local governments are mandated to consider nine issues such as the environment, infrastructure, water, etc. Missing from the list is a requirement to consider private property rights. In the 2018 Session, this issue was initiated and a bill was filed to add a tenth mandate or element to consider private property rights. A contentious issue, it will require additional effort in future sessions to see full adoption.

- **Property Owners and Land Stewardship.** A bill was offered that would allow property owners to trim or cut their trees on their own property without government permission. The bill was strongly opposed by environmental and government lobbying groups. The Florida House of Representatives passed the policy through its chamber, and JMI will continue to advance this issue with the Florida Senate in future legislative sessions.

- **Home Sharing.** Over the past several years, JMI has been at the forefront of debate on the innovation economy. In 2018, this debate entered the realm of property rights with the initiation of debate on short-term rental policies. Local governments would like the ability to restrict private property owners from renting rooms in their own homes for short durations. This policy is not only a violation of private property rights, it is also a short-sighted attack on the sharing economy – one destined to ultimately fail. JMI participated aggressively in attempts to educate policy makers on the need to reach a statewide solution that protects private property owners. While the process will continue into 2019, this will be a major issue for JMI in the years to come.

While there were still a number of important issues left undone during the legislative session, JMI will continue to promote the tried and tested principles of free markets and limited government as we look toward the 2019 Legislative Session and beyond.



JMI staff, interns, and campus representatives gather at the 2018 Annual Dinner in Tallahassee.



Special Guest Nigel Farage, Fox News commentator and the man behind Brexit, addresses the crowd at the 2018 Naples Dinner.



Former Speaker of the Florida House and JMI Chairman Emeritus Allan Bense and his family are honored at the 2018 Annual Dinner in Tallahassee.



JMI's Sal Nuzzo and Dr. Bob McClure field questions with Erika Donalds and Byron Donalds at Inside Sources, a behind-the-scenes look at the 2018 Legislative Session and Constitution Revision Commission.



JMI President and CEO Dr. Bob McClure welcomes guests to the 2018 Annual Dinner in Tallahassee.



Constitution Revision Commissioner Erika Donalds and Rep. Byron Donalds with JMI staff at The Columns.



Special Guest Nigel Farage stands with JMI board member Glen Blaich and his wife, Sandra, at the 2018 Naples Dinner.



Sen. Jeff Brandes and author Dick Carpenter discuss the need for occupational licensing reform at a JMI event.



JMI's Dr. Bob McClure discusses free-market reform with Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai.



JMI staff at the Sarasota Regional Breakfast with Dr. Susan MacManus.



JMI staff members volunteer with A Full Summer, which prepared over 60,000 meals for food-insecure children and families.

JMI Events AROUND FLORIDA

Influence



BEFORE IT'S NEWS®

FloridaWatchdog.org



Miami Herald

INVESTOR'S
BUSINESS
DAILY®

The Ledger

Naples Daily News
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

msn. MIAMI
New Times



news-
press
com

Orlando Sentinel

FLORIDA
POLITICS

PENSACOLA
News
Journal

TALLAHASSEE
DEMOCRAT
Tallahassee.com

Tampa Bay
Times
tampabay.com

WLRN
Miami | South Florida

newsmax
INDEPENDENT. AMERICAN.

WGN RADIO
720

Gainesville.com

SunSentinel



Our President and CEO, Dr. J. Robert McClure, speaking at Holland & Knight to West Palm Beach supporters and friends.



J. Stanley Marshall Center Director William Mattox championing school choice on a panel at Broward College.



JMI represented at the United States Supreme Court for the Janus v. AFSCME oral arguments.



J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options Director William Mattox testifying on a school choice bill at a Senate committee meeting during the 2018 Legislative Session.



JMI staffers at The Columns with Congressman Neal Dunn



JMI's Director of Communications and Public Affairs Logan Padgett moderating a "Women in Government" panel at the 2018 Girls State meeting with Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson, Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda and Major Eileen Powell.



JMI's Vice President of Policy Sal Nuzzo in Anchorage, Alaska at the Annual Tax Reform Summit with Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist



JMI Vice President of Policy Sal Nuzzo sitting at Vice President Mike Pence's desk while at The White House to talk with senior staff and the National Economic Council on state-based solutions to healthcare policy challenges.



JMI policy staff participating in a press conference during the 2018 legislative session with criminal justice reform coalition members and Florida House and Senate leadership.



As part of Boys State 2018, J. Stanley Marshall Center for Educational Options Director William Mattox moderates a panel discussion with prominent journalists on the role of the media in politics and government.



AN UPDATE FROM Florida's College Campuses

My name is John Towey and I am a senior studying politics and economics at Ave Maria University (AMU) in southwest Florida. In addition to my studies, I serve as the Campus Representative for The James Madison Institute at AMU. My role as a JMI Campus Representative is to represent The Institute and its core values of limited

government and economic freedom through campus and community events.

In just three years, the JMI Campus Representative Program has already been influential in impacting the culture on Florida's college campuses and has reached more than 60,000 college students. Classes, research papers, and campus involvement can often leave a college student ambivalent, if not indifferent, to





the world of policy and government, but JMI has embraced the challenge of forming a more engaged student body committed to the open inquiry and exchange of ideas required for liberty.

This past semester I had the privilege of bringing along a group of Ave Maria students to a campus free speech symposium in Naples hosted by the William F. Buckley Program at Yale. If not for The James Madison Institute, this opportunity would not have been available to the students of Ave Maria. JMI's Campus Representatives are playing a crucial role on college campuses

throughout the state. By engaging Florida's students, JMI is creating an avenue for the advancement of liberty and economic freedom one campus at a time.



A Conversation with Victor V. Claar, Ph.D.



I am an associate professor of economics in the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) where I hold the BB&T Distinguished Professorship in Free Enterprise. I also serve as an Affiliate Scholar in Economics at the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan. My most popular book is Economics

in Christian Perspective: Theory, Policy, and Life Choices (IVP Academic), which is now in its tenth printing and is also available in Chinese. I arrived at FGCU in time for the 2017-18 school year, and previously taught at both private and public institutions in Arkansas and Michigan.

As the BB&T professor, my duties include teaching our senior capstone course for economics majors, Moral and Ethical Foundations of Capitalism. The class is a Socratic seminar, which means that each time we meet I get to play Socrates and pummel the students with questions regarding the readings. My job isn't to tell them what to think; instead I help them arrive at their own conclusions about the readings through our dialogue. We cover about 2,000 pages of reading each semester, and our authors include Adam Smith, Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich Hayek, and Ayn Rand. One goal of the course is to help students move beyond the data and analytics of economics to think intentionally about the human person in relation to the economic order, including

their own valuable work in the service of others.

My other job that comes with my BB&T professorship is organizing speakers and events throughout the year—most of which are open to the public as well as the campus community. In the Fall of 2017, I gave a lecture about some of my own research about fair trade coffee and whether it really does help the poor as intended. Our Spring 2018 BB&T event was a screening of *Poverty, Inc.* The film was introduced by its director and following the film we had a panel discussion that included Ismael Hernandez from the Freedom & Virtue Institute and Kristina Ribali from FlourishNow—both from Southwest Florida.

JMI plays a critical part in helping policy makers and voters in Southwest Florida think more carefully about the individual human beings likely to be affected by proposed or existing policy initiatives. Just like my own work this year—whether it be thinking critically about the effects of international aid or fair trade coffee upon the lives of individual human beings who each face a unique set of circumstances known best to themselves—JMI communicates clearly that sometimes, despite our best intentions, policy actions can backfire. And often they backfire in ways that adversely affect the very individuals we want most to help, and who are in fragile circumstances already. I am proud to be a partner with JMI in making sure that Florida policy works for all Floridians, and that we constantly work to eliminate existing obstacles that stand in the way of lasting gains for all Floridians.



PUNDITS
on the **PORCH**

HOSTED BY DR. BOB MCCLURE & SAL NUZZO

Freedom, Culture and Florida's Future

The **JAMES MADISON**
INSTITUTE
Proud Mission for a Better Florida

Pundits on the Porch

This spring, JMI's influence expanded into new areas as we launched our very own podcast series. "Pundits on the Porch" with Dr. Bob McClure and Sal Nuzzo is now live! "Pundits on the Porch" features interviews with political and policy "pundits" about freedom, culture, and Florida's future.

Head over to iTunes or the JMI Podcast Page to subscribe and listen!





2018 Annual Dinners

2018 Tallahassee Annual Dinner

In the midst of a tumultuous and unpredictable legislative session, The James Madison Institute and its special guests came together on February 15 for the 2018 Tallahassee Annual Dinner. We celebrated many things, including the successes and leadership of former Speaker of the Florida House and JMI Chairman Allan G. Bense. JMI also welcomed Guy P. Benson and Mary Katharine Ham to the stage, a spirited duo of authors and political commentators, who provided us with laughter and fresh insight. Thanks to our honored guests and attendees, the 2018 Tallahassee Annual Dinner was a success and left us hopeful about Florida's future.

Naples Annual Dinner

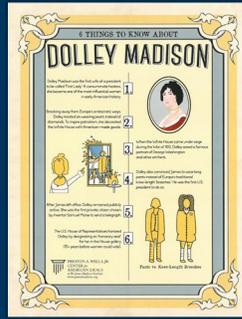
The James Madison Institute had a brilliant night of insight into international policy, American politics, and British comedy on March 8th at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Florida. The 2018 Naples Annual Dinner hosted keynote speaker Nigel Farage. Mr. Farage is a British politician, broadcaster, and political analyst who led the Independence Party of the United Kingdom twice. He is one of the most widely-recognized individuals in Europe and has a dedicated following of fans in the United States where he is often consulted for his views on the changing nature of American politics.

Mr. Farage spoke on the importance of great leadership and educating the future generation in the importance of standing up for their principles. He also mixed in British comedy that had the entire audience laughing throughout the night. Nigel Farage was a delightful speaker and we hope to host him again soon.



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

 PRESTON A. WELLS, JR.
CENTER for
AMERICAN IDEALS
at The James Madison Institute



An Update from the JMI Leaders Fellows



I'm Aramis L. Perez, happily based in my hometown of Miami, the natural crossroads between the United States, Latin America, and Europe. As an independent consultant, I help clients advance their interests by navigating regional dynamics and making critical connections. Building and maintaining strategic relationships with stakeholders has been a constant throughout my business, non-profit, and volunteer experience. Communications management, media relations, public advocacy, and project management are some of the other areas where I've been proud to make contributions to organizations.



Around town, I volunteer for the Catholic Church through Juventutem Miami and Catholic Young Professionals, serve as Vice President of Cuban Cultural Heritage (Herencia), and patronize the arts through South Florida organizations like the renowned vocal ensemble, Seraphic Fire. I hold an A.B. in Government from Harvard and have a strong interest in political philosophy.

The James Madison Institute's Leaders Fellowship Program for professionals under the age of 40 is an

outstanding way to learn more about our great state, a place where Americans from around the country and foreigners alike seek to build their lives and careers, and which also promises a bright future for those of us blessed to be native Floridians. Through the Leaders Fellowship, a unique group of thoughtful and dedicated individuals learn about the issues at the heart of these hopeful prospects, as well as policy solutions intended to make Florida an even better place to live, learn, work, and flourish.

Through the Leaders Fellowship, my love for our home state and the wonderful people in it has grown, as well as my appreciation of what Florida represents for the rest of America and the world: a place of healthy community, growing opportunity, and ordered liberty.

Centers



J. STANLEY MARSHALL
CENTER *for*
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS
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.

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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*
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
at The James Madison Institute

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

.....



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

MISSION: To build a network of supporters, investors, ambassadors, and friends across the Sunshine State who protect and promote the ideas of free markets, economic opportunity and prosperity for every Floridian.



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**LEAVE
A
LEGACY
OF
LIBERTY**

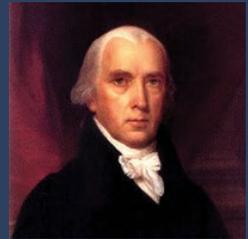


The Publius Society

The James Madison Institute's Publius Society is a group of men and women 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 The Publius Society, please contact Don Orrico at dorrico@jamesmadison.org or call 850-386-3131.



WHY PUBLIUS?

Publius was the pseudonym chosen by James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton, in their original collective writing of The Federalist Papers. The Roman name "Publius" also means "a friend of the people."

These 85 papers from the anonymous "Publius" appeared in newspapers across the country to support the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.