President’s Message

As I have watched the events unfold in Hong Kong and other places around the world, I am mindful of the difficult sacrifices that must be made to give birth to this idea we call liberty. Our own nation’s history is replete with examples of those men and women who have defended freedom for all of us who enjoy it today. And yet, watching freedom “break out” around the world and observing the struggles in our own country to provide depth and meaning to terms such as “Capitalism” and “Socialism” reminds us that we must remain ever vigilant in protecting that which we enjoy. As Thomas Paine said, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must...undergo the fatigues of supporting it.”

The James Madison Institute moves continually with great speed to do just that. Our goals have been simple: to educate Floridians on the power and importance of liberty and to promote free-market solutions for the issues that our state and nation now face. As you will see in this edition of The Messenger, we have had a very busy and successful 2019, but understand that 2020 is fast approaching, and we must be prepared.

JMI has raised its voice in the defense of property rights, education choice, limited government through the use of competition and a fairer tax system, healthcare reform and a whole host of other issues. We have published articles, given speeches, and traveled the state to promote sensible free-market solutions to the problems Floridians face. JMI has been given a national platform to work with and brief numerous elected officials in Washington, D.C. serving as a resource for state policymakers, members of the media and more.

Yet the future has many new challenges, offers more opportunity, and holds more promise for JMI to be an even greater resource for free-market remedies. We will offer a strong voice on a host of good issues including occupational licensing, school choice, and criminal justice reform. Likewise, we will hold events throughout the state that emphasize our mission and educate Floridians. Finally, we will continue to speak out for liberty through the use of numerous media platforms, old and new. There is so much more and yet not enough space to share it all with you.

Thank you for your support of JMI and please call or visit our website for more information and invitations to our events all across Florida. Join us on social media. As always, membership is our lifeblood and your support allows us to increase our influence and strengthen our impact. I look forward to seeing you around the state as we continue to promote liberty, keeping in mind those words of Dwight D. Eisenhower, “May the light of freedom coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly, until at last the darkness is no more.”

Sincerely,

J. Robert McClure III, Ph.D.
In the first year of the launch of JMI’s Technology and Innovation Policy Center, we hosted the 2019 Tech and Innovation Summit in Orlando. More than 100 attendees from across the state as well as national policy voices from DC came together for a day to dive into issues like Blockchain, transportation, voting security, telecommunications, data privacy, and others.

With Keynote Speaker, Senator Doug Broxson, JMI hosted a luncheon in Pensacola on the role of military bases & installations in Florida’s economy.

JMI hosted a reception at the Miami Marlins Clevelander to discuss the 2019 Florida Legislative Session.

Dr. Bob McClure speaking about think tanks, public policy, and local development fees and policies at an Argus Foundation event in Sarasota.

Sal Nuzzo and Bill Mattox with JMI member Matt Bucklin for a 2019 Legislative Debrief breakfast in Palm Beach.
JMI
EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA
Influence

For the second year in a row, JMI’s president and CEO, Dr. Bob McClure, was named one of Florida Trend’s “500 Most Influential Floridians,” as well as one of the Miami Herald’s “50 Influencers.” These honors provide JMI with an ongoing platform for educating on policy issues.
Governor Ron DeSantis named Sal Nuzzo as one of his five appointments to the Florida Government Efficiency Task Force. The task force of 15 individuals will spend the next year examining how to make Florida’s government even more effective and efficient by applying conservative principles.

Dr. Bob McClure with Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran after recording an episode of “Pundits on the Porch.”

JMI Vice President of Policy Sal Nuzzo discussing dental therapy at an event at the John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina.

JMI partnering with NFIB and other Florida groups at a press conference in Tallahassee to fight against lawsuit abuse.

The intern crew at JMI digesting, debating, and discerning the words of American Enterprise Institute’s Arthur Brooks’ latest book “Love Your
The Miami Herald, el Nuevo Herald and the Bradenton Herald have launched the second year of “The Influencer Series” to promote discussion about the important issues facing the state of Florida. They have assembled a panel of 50 influential Floridians from a variety of industries and perspectives who will offer their views through the end of the year. Our very own Dr. Bob McClure was chosen a second year in a row as one of the 50 influential Floridians.

As the 2020 election season hovers over us, it is becoming more and more clear that the national conversation is centering on the Sunshine State and JMI’s role in that conversation is extensive. Our policy team continues to be sought after by the White House, Congressional leaders, the Governor’s office, and state legislators. Just a few recent highlights:

- JMI VP of Policy Sal Nuzzo participated in a West Wing meeting with the White House Office of American Innovation to continue to push for patient-centered and market-driven healthcare. In the aftermath of Obamacare’s failures, we are working diligently here in Florida to pursue policy solutions that provide affordable choices for consumers.

- JMI Education Policy Director Bill Mattox participated in a White House briefing on the Administration’s 2020 policy agenda – the Trump administration continues to pursue an agenda that stands on the principles of federalism and promotes the states’ role.

- JMI’s President and CEO, Dr. Bob McClure, was invited to a White House event with President Trump to discuss the principles and accomplishments of the administration’s environmental agenda.

This is a pivotal year for JMI and the state of Florida. We have a new administration, legislature, and cabinet. Consequently, we are renewing the commitment to bring our message to every corner of the state (and beyond) by reorganizing around Regional Leadership Councils (formerly called the Board of Advisors). Each regional council will be comprised of leaders who serve their communities, are focused on the future of the Sunshine State, want to expand their network, help host events, engage with our leadership team, and develop partnership strategies for the liberty movement in each region and across Florida.
The James Madison Institute, in partnership with the Florida Chamber and the Florida Technology Council, hosted the 2019 Tech and Innovation Summit in Orlando. The event began with an evening reception on Tuesday September 24th, followed by a full day of content on Wednesday September 25th.

The event brought together policymakers, business leaders, stakeholder groups, and prominent voices from around the nation. Attendees had an opportunity to meet with experts, engage directly with those on the front lines of policy, and learn how to address the issues of today. Additionally, guests learned how to think about the issues of coming generations, including telecommunications; transportation; data, privacy, and security; blockchain; and the future of work. Numerous policymakers as well as representatives of the DeSantis administration participated as attendees and speakers.
In the last few months, we have released episodes with Mary Mayhew, Secretary of Florida’s Health and Human Services; Richard Corcoran, Secretary of Florida’s Department of Education; Clay Ingram, CEO of Volunteer Florida; Chelsea Murphy, Florida State Director of Right on Crime; Ed Moore, former president of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida; and other notable “pundits.”

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

An Update from Florida’s College Campuses

COURTLAND CULVER
Florida State University Campus Representative 2018-2019

The Campus Representative position at The James Madison Institute allowed me the opportunity to meet many like-minded individuals in the free-market movement, and to be an advocate for conservative principles. This included the opportunity to help the College Republicans of FSU to bring Michael Knowles of the Daily Wire to campus, an event that was attended by well over one hundred people. JMI also enabled me to bring in local real estate mogul DeVoe L. Moore to talk about his experience as a prominent Tallahassee businessman, and how government regulation often got in his way. Mr. Moore also used his time to offer words of advice and inspiration to young entrepreneurs. Finally, JMI allowed me the opportunity to invite Hugo Montesinos, a Venezuelan doctoral student in economics at FSU, to discuss the current economic and political situation in Venezuela.

Being a nonpartisan organization, affiliation with The James Madison Institute allowed me to work with organizations that would typically be hesitant to work with more conservative groups. This included the march to the polls that was organized by the FSU chapter of the NAACP. At this event, I was asked to hand out copies of JMI’s amendment guides so that voters would be more educated in the voting booth. I have long believed that the best way to mend the political divided that has become increasingly worse in this country is more respectful dialogue from people of all political and social beliefs. The Campus Representative Program at The James Madison Institute allowed me the opportunity to facilitate such dialogue.
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.

CENTER for ECONOMIC PROSPERITY at The James Madison Institute

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

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.

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

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 TECHNOLOGY and TELECOMMUNICATIONS at The James Madison Institute

MISSION: To provide meaningful and practical solutions to technology advances currently occurring, while also promoting a policy landscape is conducive to advances that are yet to come.

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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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 us at jmi@jamesmadison.org or call 850-386-3131.

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.