



★ FLORIDA ★

FLORIDA

PUTTING FLORIDIANS *FIRST*

AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE

Named for the lushness that Spanish explorers associated with its sabal palms and red mangrove shorelines, Florida is one of the oldest continuously inhabited parts of our country, and the state's swamplands are much as they were 200 years ago.

When Henry Morrison Flagler finished the railroad from Jacksonville all the way down to the Florida Keys, connecting the entire Florida east coast, more northerners soon realized the benefits of its wintertime climates and warm oceans.

Florida begins with its untamable qualities. They run as an undercurrent for those who have increasingly found themselves drawn to the unfettered liberty that this state has come to invoke. It is a land where a great many people come from somewhere else and a land that has always been greater than the sum of its parts, from Little Havana to the Gulf Coast and from the beaches of Panama City to Everglades National Park.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida was a leader in promoting policies that prioritized individual liberty, promoted personal responsibility, and respected freedom. The New Yorkers and Californians who moved to Florida in record numbers did not move simply to escape the cities or the pandemic. They came not just because of the low taxes and business-friendly, vibrant economy that contrasts sharply with their own mismanaged, big-government states. They came because they wanted the way of life—a kinship to an American dream that no longer seems tenable in other parts of the country. The idea of Florida attracted them and has captured the imagination of our country.

The hallmarks of America First governance in Florida are its responsiveness to real-life concerns and a belief in expanding opportunity for all. The America First Policy Institute (AFPI), a nonprofit, non-partisan research institute that educates lawmakers and the American public on the policies that put America first, has founded a new state chapter in Florida. Building on AFPI's America First Agenda, AFPI-Florida helps ensure that Florida remains at the forefront of liberty and freedom.

We base our work on the following policies:

Taming the Rising COST OF LIVING

Florida is ranked as one of the top states in the Nation for economic performance, and since 2020, Florida has witnessed explosive growth that defies trends in many other parts of the country. Unfortunately, rising housing costs and insurance premiums are causing more Floridians to feel financial pressure. On top of that, the policies coming out of Washington, D.C., have proven to be both inflationary and anti-growth, driving up prices everywhere. Florida can lead the way in restoring affordability by reining in frivolous and fraudulent insurance claims, removing artificial obstacles to housing development and energy production, and advancing policies that help every Floridian find a fulfilling and well-paying job.

Prioritizing HEALTHCARE for Florida Families

Like the rest of the country, Florida has experienced constantly rising healthcare costs and an influx of deadly fentanyl pouring into the state. The state's significant retirement community also creates unique challenges. By increasing price transparency, pursuing licensing recognition to attract more healthcare professionals to the state, and providing solutions to the fentanyl crisis, Florida can ensure that all of its citizens have the healthcare they need and deserve.

Making FLORIDA SCHOOLS WORK for All Floridians

Florida has been a trailblazer in expelling divisiveness and ideology from the classroom while empowering parents, enriching students, and promoting school choice. By expanding graduation pathways, exploring performance-based funding, advocating for teacher training reform, and making sure the state's teachers are seen as an asset, Florida can continue to create a bright future for the next generation.

Protecting PUBLIC SAFETY and Combating Human Trafficking

Florida is a state that respects law enforcement and expects prosecutors to enforce the laws on the books. However, the state has not been immune to the crime wave that has swept the country for the last few years, and it continues to have the third-highest human trafficking rate in the Nation. By continuing to fund law enforcement fully and focusing on real solutions to crime, along with investing in programs that focus on prevention, mental health, and rehabilitation services, Florida can keep its people safe.

For more information and policy recommendations, check out AFPI's website today!

[LEARN MORE](#)

A Strategic Approach for Florida

AFPI-Florida brings key partners together who can help build out these policy prescriptions. Florida is home to numerous freedom-oriented thought leaders, including academic institutions, think tanks, civic groups, and religious organizations. Together, we can continue to establish Florida as an example for the rest of the Nation.

WE WILL BUILD THE *AMERICA FIRST* MOVEMENT FOR FLORIDA THROUGH:

Engagement

By connecting with Florida communities, we will strengthen alliances and foster new relationships.

Policy Development

We are building out an agenda that develops Florida-specific policies that serve as a model for the rest of the country, tapping into best practices from academic experts, policy practitioners, and other thought leaders.

Research Partnerships

By bringing together like-minded Floridians, we work as a force multiplier for each other's work so that all our assets go even further.

Events

By regularly convening speakers and meetings across Florida, we will reinforce the message that there are still many hardworking, honest, and thoughtful Floridians who want to continue building up the state as a national public policy leader.

By mobilizing these efforts, we are expanding upon the America First Agenda and addressing the needs of hardworking Floridians. This state is a national leader for good governance. **LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

For an in-depth understanding of our work, please visit

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