

The logo for April Freeman for Congress is set against a dark blue background. It features the name 'APRIL FREEMAN' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. 'APRIL' is positioned on a red rectangular background, while 'FREEMAN' is on the dark blue background and includes a white five-pointed star in the final letter. Below this, the words 'FOR CONGRESS' are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

APRIL FREEMAN
FOR CONGRESS

Freeman-omics

The Bold Plan for a Brighter Future

**April Freeman for Congress
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MEMO

First, in Part I, I am going to tell you about the jobs we can create and then, in Part II, I am going to tell you how we are going to pay for those jobs. This practical, achievable plan will increase border security, reform the tax code, better protect the environment, improve education and medical care, and create jobs. It will also advance a veterans and women's agenda.

PURPOSE

To increase generated revenue by 10% each year-over-year.

To create thousands of jobs for Southwest Floridians.

FREEMAN-OMICS: THE BOLD PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Bold Plan is an economic agenda to increase revenues by 10% each year-over-year. In the first year, the State of Florida would generate \$2.5 billion more than the year before. In the second year, we would generate \$2.75 billion. And this addition keeps getting bigger because it is a 10% growth from the previous year.

We can achieve this by amending public health law, tax law, and business law at the state and federal level.

While I'm very conscious of the federal deficit and think about it every day, Southwest Florida must be our priority as well as caring for the rest of the state. By adopting this plan, we can increase revenues and shrink both the state and federal deficits while avoiding imposing new burdens on taxpayers.

PART I

BORDERS

Fortifying border security creates thousands of jobs.



By Water

Fort Myers Beach already houses a Coast Guard Station with 75 Active Duty Guardsmen. Currently, the station creates a slight economic impact to Southwest Florida. The current station is a sub-station through St. Petersburg, resulting in slower than normal emergency response times.

Create a Joint Interagency Law Enforcement Coastal Station.

My plan would increase the footprint for our current station by creating a Joint Interagency Law Enforcement Coastal Station. A perfect location for the station would be Bodwitch Point on Estero Island. An alternative location with a deep enough channel would be in the north end of the district on Boca Grande. Either location will effectively service all parts of Southwest Florida and our nation.

This station would provide a state of the art facility where federal, state and local law enforcement share resources, while working together. This new station would house the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC), Coast Guard, Lee County Sheriff, and Fort Myers Beach Police.

In doing so:

- The Coast Guard would no longer be a sub-station, but instead a full functioning station with faster emergency response times.
- Our local agencies would benefit from resources that would not normally be available.

- We are creating greater economic impact for our local businesses through the purchase of supplies, equipment and support services for the facility.
- A single shared location would drastically cut the costs while saving taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, making Fort Myers Beach a Coast Guard City through Congressional Action would bring additional revenue through tourism, create greater economic impact and the symbolic impact would be tremendous.

As your representative in Congress I will seek the appropriations necessary to fund this initiative, sparing local taxpayers any burden.

I will also support the United States Coast Guard as a representative.

By Air

The United States Air Force (USAF) and Air National Guard (ANG) are essential and vital components to homeland security, playing a key role in strengthening our borders and I support their work and growth.

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) upcoming approval for drone technology could bring Southwest Florida to the forefront of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) technology. We can use UAV technology to bolster border security.

My plan will utilize the grounds surrounding Regional Southwest International Airport (RSW) for a new Air National Guard base for the purpose of UAV testing while also providing additional border security.

Cuba

The Bold Plan strengthens diplomatic relations, while incrementally lifting the embargo on Cuba.

Currently, Guantanamo Bay does not employ Cuban nationals, but many used to work there every day. These Cuban employees earned U.S. currency, made a better living than most, and were pillars of their local economy.

By establishing strong diplomatic relations, hiring local employees back to Guantanamo Bay, and beginning to lift the embargo against Cuba, we can levy millions of dollars in revenue through tourism, exports and imports. Additionally, this plan provides Cuban nationals a legal and strictly regulated pathway to enter our county—strengthening our borders.

These measures, of course, will also be tied to improved human rights and greater freedoms in Cuban society, providing an incentive for Cuba to become freer and more democratic society as well. Once elected, I will be a tireless advocate for greater freedom and democracy in Cuba, implemented in a way that benefits both Cubans and Americans.

This plan to strengthen our borders and lift the embargo against Cuba will create thousands of jobs:

- Hundreds of National Guard jobs
- Hundreds of Coast Guard jobs
- Hundreds of Civil Service jobs.
- Hundreds of jobs in the shipping industry.
- Hundreds of jobs in tourist industry.

TAX CODE REFORM

The tax code needs a page-one rewrite.

As Apple CEO, Tim Cook said, “Apple has always believed in the simple, not the complex. You can see it in our products and the way we conduct ourselves. It is in this spirit that we recommend a dramatic simplification of the corporate tax code.”¹

- My only special interest: Southwest Florida families.
- We need to simplify the tax code.
- Create tax credits for veteran and women owned businesses.
- We need to close loopholes for corporations and special interests.
- We need to eliminate all corporate tax expenditures.
- We need to implement reasonable corporate income tax rates.
- We need to implement a reasonable tax on foreign earnings.
- We need to sunset the federal estate tax also known as the death tax.
- We need to levy taxes in new areas of industry.
 - See Part II



¹ Cook before the permanent U.S. Senate subcommittee on investigations accessed at <http://images.apple.com/pr/pdf/timcookopeningstatement.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT

Let's create thousands of green jobs, maximize our solar potential, and generate millions of dollars in revenue.



Solar

Given our unique tropical location, Southwest Florida should be spearheading the solar industry.

Right now, most of the United States' solar technology is made in China.

- Let's create hundreds of jobs in the energy sector.
- Let's create hundreds of jobs in research and development.
- Let's maximize our solar potential
- Let's make sure Florida residents who have reached the age of 65 never pay a power bill again.

Water

The Water Resources Reform Development Act is a good start, but implementing Plan 6 is what creates jobs while restoring our environment.

Plan 6 stops the destructive discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries and restores the Everglades "River of Grass."

The Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) appropriated \$7.8 Billion for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). CERP included Plan 6 in 1994. But a restudy by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers resulted in CERP that was adopted in 2000. The new version of CERP has only 68 components of the 1994 plan and does not contain Plan 6.

The original Plan 6 calls for moving the water south, out of Lake Okeechobee, between Miami Canal and North New River Canal, to create a new "flow way" through to the Everglades.

This connection from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades creates the "missing link" needed to restore the "River of Grass" and stop the destructive discharges to the northern estuaries.

Plan 6 should have never been a component removed from CERP. In fact, it is one of the only commonsense components.

Plan 6 creates jobs and can be implemented with the already appropriated funding.

This makes Plan 6 a perfect match for Freeman-omics.

High-speed rail

Cutting-edge, high-speed rail, period.

- Reduce our emissions
- Make our roads safer
- Connect key locations
- Create hundreds of jobs



Green space

We need to create a green space village area in Northern Cape Coral where the road and bridge infrastructures are deteriorating. This area will contain:

- Shops
- Free street parking
- Parks
- Housing



Source: Dr. Margaret E. Banyan, FGCU. El Paso, TX vs. Concept art for El Paso, TX.

And an appropriately placed interstate exit would be convenient, too!

Renewable energy:

- We need to stop dumping trash, and Southwest Florida needs to push for a number of facilities just like the Lee County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility.
- These facilities process approximately 1,836 tons-per-day of solid waste while generating up to 57.3 megawatts of clean, renewable energy.

EDUCATION

Southwest Florida's educational system should be among the best in the world.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, each coming generation of Americans was more likely to graduate high school than the one before it. This upward trend in education resulted in an increase of worker productivity, economic growth and standard of living. However, during the past quarter century, the rate of high school graduation has declined. Today, the high school graduation rate is a major indicator of the strength of the American population and the aptitude of its forthcoming generation.

Depending on the sources, definitions, and methods used, the U.S. high school graduation rate is currently estimated to be about 78.2% (U.S. Department of Education). Florida State weighs in below the national average at 75.6% and the estimated rate of graduation for select minorities in Florida is hovering around 65% (Florida Department of Education). Here at home in Southwest Florida, Collier County is pulling the average up at 81.3%, but Lee County is pulling it down at 74%.

Upon comparison to those who graduate high school, individuals who drop out are associated with extremely high costs to the economy over their lifetime. This is in terms of:

- Lower tax contributions.
- Higher dependencies on welfare and Medicaid.
- Increased incidences of crime.

Sword in the Stone

Sword in the Stone (SITS) is a pilot program designed for Florida. The program is named for the 1939 novel penned by T.H. White. It is the story of a young boy who would have never succeeded or known his true destiny had he not had the guidance of his mentor. SITS is a mentorship program focused on keeping students in high school and enhancing students' performance in order to increase the high school graduation rate.

The goal of the program is to increase the high school graduation rate of Florida State by 9.4% to achieve an overall goal of 85% while boosting the national average.

Schools would identify students most likely to drop out between grades 7-12. Upon identification, students would then be placed into SITS until they are determined to no longer be risks or graduate. SITS will alleviate the stress of performance standards on teachers and schools. Students placed in the SITS program would be exempt from the rigorous performance standards and SITS Mentors would be responsible for the academic performance of his or her respective mentee.

College students or successful young professionals would apply or be recruited to be SITS Mentors for potential dropouts. Those selected would have to make a four or five year commitment resembling the Peace Corps or Teach for America commitment. They would do so in exchange for an incentive such as student loan forgiveness or stipends. The SITS Mentor will be directly responsible for the academic performance of the mentee, but encouraged to be involved in the mentee's life like getting the mentee involved in organized sports or getting the mentee a summer job.

With the successful implementation of SITS we can expect:

- Higher tax contributions.
- Lower dependencies on welfare and Medicaid.
- Better overall health.
- Decreased occurrences of crime.
- Teachers can worry less about performance standards.
- SITS Mentors can be relieved of the burden of student loans.
- SITS Mentees will be on a guided path to success.

Schools

- We need to build public learning institutions that inspire a passion for knowledge.
- We need hundreds of more teachers and smaller class sizes.
- Teachers should be paid like federal legislators.
- Students should be given all the tools they need to learn, including arts programs and recess.
- The neediest students should be provided with all the support they require – nutritional, social and tutorial.

The Arts

In Lee County alone, the non-profit arts and culture industry generate \$68.3 million in annual economic activity in 2010. It supported 2038 fulltime jobs and generated \$9.4 million in local and state government revenues.

Additionally, arts are an export industry. United States exports of arts goods grew to \$72 billion in 2011, while imports were just \$25 billion—a \$47 billion arts trade surplus. Resource: www.ArtInLee.org



MEDICINE

Southwest Florida needs additional cutting-edge medical facilities.



Hospitals & Ambulances

- With state of the art medical facilities in Lee and Collier, we will attract top medical practitioners.
- This will create hundreds of jobs in the medical industry.
- We **NEED** hundreds more life-saving first responders and faster response times.

We can always do better. We must do better. And we will do better. And we can start with our veterans.

Veterans

Veterans should be our top priority. The Veterans Administration is substandard—the system is broken.

Currently, Cape Coral houses a state of the art VA Healthcare Center with enough surrounding land to expand into a full-service, cutting edge medical facility.

Veterans in need of immediate medical or mental rehabilitation need to be seen on the same day, and at the very least, the same week, but a month long waiting period coupled with lists that are off the books is reprehensible.

Additionally, our veterans right here at home should not be forced to drive to the Bay Pines facility in Saint Petersburg.

When serving and representing the People of Southwest Florida, I will propose rapid funding for such a facility. Our veterans deserve the best there is to offer and we can start right here at home.

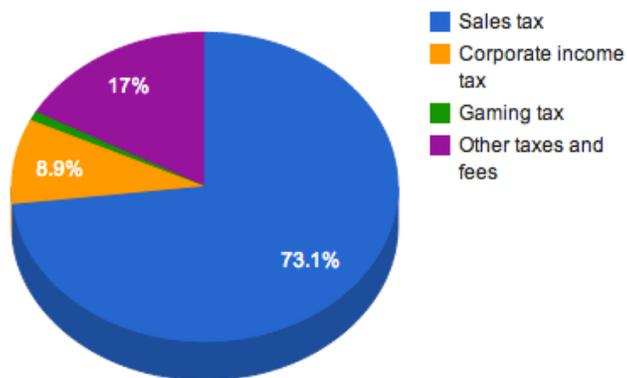
In doing so:

- We deliver the health care we owe to our heroes.
- And we create jobs.

PART II

You might ask, “How are we going to pay for these jobs in areas like border security, education, and medicine?” Here is how we are going to pay for it:

Florida: General fund revenue sources (FY 2013)



Source: National Association of State Budget Officers

First, we are going to levy taxes on medical marijuana. Overwhelming approval from Florida voters, it would be irresponsible to not consider the extra revenue this untapped industry will create.

Second, if we allow for a sensible number of high-quality casino gaming hotels and resorts, then we can expect more revenue from the gaming tax and the green slice of the pie chart will substantially grow.

Speaking of growing...

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Allowing patients with serious medical conditions to treat with marijuana is the compassionate thing to do and it creates thousands of jobs and generates millions of dollars in revenue.

Thousands of Floridians are suffering from serious medical conditions and they may benefit from the medical use of marijuana. Marijuana has been proven to stimulate the appetite in patients suffering from loss of appetite due to a host of illnesses. The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine concluded in a 1999 report that "nausea, appetite loss, pain and anxiety all can be mitigated by marijuana."

There are two active ingredients in marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD). Since 1986, THC has been approved for medical use by the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Agency, but in pill form. And since 2011, the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute has cited studies that suggest CBD has antitumor effects.

Florida has the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of states like Michigan and Connecticut. It can be done safely and intelligently, and it's the right thing to do. Plus, the state and federal government can levy taxes while providing patients with compassionate care.

Legalizing marijuana for medical use also creates booms in other industries like:

- HVAC
- Electric
- Real estate

Creating thousands of jobs in the building trades and real estate industries.

CASINO GAMING

Allowing casino gaming increases tourism and creates thousands of jobs and generates millions in revenue.



The proposed reform would allow the state legislature to authorize up to 5 casinos in Florida for the purposes of promoting job growth, increasing aid to public education, and generate millions in revenue.

Casino gaming has the potential to be a major economic engine for Southwest Florida. The fact is, gaming already exists throughout the state, but the state is unable to fully capitalize on it. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has several casinos in the state, and Florida state legislators' previous attempt to ban gaming failed, resulting in the accidental outlawing of smartphones and computers.

States that have legalized casino gaming are the beneficiaries of the tourism, revenue, and good jobs that could be right here in Florida.

It is estimated that over \$1 billion of economic activity can be generated from casino gaming.

Southwest Florida is already a tourist destination; let's compete with Forbes top Casinos. Architecturally brilliant casino resorts can create:

- Hundreds of service jobs.
- Thousands of jobs the building trades.
- Plus, occupied resort space means a boost in the bed tax, and millions in extra revenue.

The millions in revenue generated from these bold proposals can be used to:

- Fortify our borders.
- Create thousands of jobs.
- Strengthen our educational and health care systems.
- Boost and safeguard programs like Social Security.

And for all of the thousands of jobs I just listed, women need equal pay for equal work.

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