

County Commissioner
Candidate Questions -2022

Name: Jaha Cummings

Date: July 11, 2022

What role should the County play in economic development?

I believe that the County's role in economic development should be to facilitate a sustainable economy based on free enterprise principles. A key factor in this role is business retention and expansion, which is creating the conditions in which the county's existing businesses can thrive, and attract new businesses needed form viable economic ecosystems in each industry. In addition, the County plays a key role in development of the infrastructure and regulatory environment required for a healthy economy, such as utilities, transportation, and housing.

Do you support the extension of the penny sales tax?

I do not support the increase in sales tax. According to the latest Charlotte County Property Appraiser's Report, Charlotte County experienced 20%+ increase in revenues.

Why are you the right choice for County Commissioner?

I believe that I am right choice for County Commissioner, because I bring the big picture perspective and professional relationships needed to effectively provide leadership for the county at this time, and in the future. At this time, with all the rapid changes that are happening in the county and region, it is important to have someone who is committed to the long-term viability of our community. It has been over 30 years from the time that a City Council Member has gone to the County Commission. During this time, dissension between the county's four governing boards has grown in varying degrees. I will facilitate a strong working relationship between all our community's governing boards: City, County, Airport, and School Board.

In the role of City Councilman, I have represented the City, County, and SWFL interests at the state level and have cultivated strong relationships that have resulted in direct support from state agencies to benefit the residents of Charlotte County, and as well as raising the profile of the benefits of investing in Charlotte County within business circles statewide.

Lastly, there are three areas which I will focus on: Creating an economy in which our youth can reach their full potential, have high paying careers, and successfully grow their own families; In having an abundance of buildable platted land, through a focused will to do so, we can fulfill our community's need for affordable and workforce housing; and being the county with the second oldest population in the country, we have the opportunity be the national model for how communities age in place.

We can do all these things and more Together. It would be the greatest honor to serve the people of Charlotte County in the role of Commissioner.