



First Coast Manufacturers Association Mayoral Endorsement

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – The First Coast Manufacturer’s Association (FCMA) is pleased to announce our endorsement of Republican LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber for Mayor of the Consolidated City of Jacksonville. After our extensive candidate interviews the Association enthusiastically supports her candidacy for Mayor.

LeAnna’s endorsement was based on her knowledge of how the city can maximize the return of our tax dollars. As a conservative leader she understands manufacturers account for about 15% of our local GDP and increases in taxes directly impact the cost of products made locally. These increases made products less competitive on international markets. Recently she stood against efforts to increase gasoline and fuel taxes proposed by the current Mayor and several of the campaign opponents.

The six cents local option fuel tax was doubled from six to twelve cents. The impact over a thirty-year period is almost \$1 Billion to every person and business. Manufacturers and their employees will be directly burdened with about \$100,000,000.

Manufacturing is very susceptible to the increase in variable costs, and the doubling of the gas tax in May of 2022 makes manufacturing activities in the city and region more expensive than in other areas of the State and Country. Not only manufacturing, but all economic activities are more costly here in Jacksonville as a result of this action. As a City Council Member for District 5, LeAnna Cumber vociferously opposed the gas tax increase by action of the Council favoring to send the measurer to a voter referendum. Her action is consistent in supporting fiscal responsibility in favor of raising taxes.

LeAnna upon being informed of her endorsement stated “I look forward to working with FCMA by elevating the role of manufacturers in creating job growth and opportunity in Jacksonville. I am honored by their endorsement.”

The First Coast Manufacturer’s Association is a Northeast Florida regional association of 200 manufacturers and businesses with an estimated 20,000 employees in our membership. The association was founded in 1989 and has been the voice for manufacturers since that time. You can learn more at www.fcmaweb.com.