



April 17, 2014



Welcome to the
April 2014 Cuyahoga
County E-Newsletter

**Town Hall Meeting with
Ed FitzGerald**
Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Monday, April 21
6:30PM

Dear Friend,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the start of spring and the long overdue end of this year's winter. This week, I wanted to take some time to share a few updates on the work we're doing here in Cuyahoga County.

Protecting Voting Rights

As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly passed, and Governor John Kasich signed into law, several new restrictions this year that will make it more difficult for working men and women to cast absentee, early, or provisional ballots during the 2014 election.

This is wrong. With our state facing so many urgent challenges today, the last thing we need is for politicians in Columbus to make it harder for middle class families to make their voices heard.

That's why I introduced a bill that the Cuyahoga County Council passed last week; the [Cuyahoga County Voting Rights Law](#) will ensure that registered voters in our county continue receiving mail ballot applications even if the state government refuses to send them out. I spoke with MSNBC's Ari Melber shortly after we passed this new protection for voting rights. [Click here](#) to watch my interview now and then visit my [Facebook page](#) and share your thoughts about our work to promote voter participation here in Cuyahoga County.

Global Center for Health Innovation Update

On March 17th, Saint Patrick's Day, I was proud to welcome Ireland's Minister of Health, [Dr. James Reilly](#), to the new Global Center for Health Innovation in downtown Cleveland, where we discussed how Northeast Ohio is helping create jobs in the health care field while also developing new, more effective treatments for patients.

In the weeks and months ahead, we're going to continue working with Dr. Reilly and other Irish officials to continue strengthening ties between Ireland and Cuyahoga County to promote our shared interests in economic development, health care, and other fields.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

A few weeks ago, I joined Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon, and the Gund Foundation to announce [the new PRE4CLE program](#) that will expand access to pre-kindergarten education for children in Cleveland. I have directed the county government to provide \$1 million to support this critical initiative, and I am looking forward to continuing our work to promote universal pre-kindergarten in Cuyahoga County.

Quality early childhood education is one of the most important factors to ensure that young people are prepared to succeed in the classroom and when they move on to college or enter the workforce. We've worked hard to promote quality, affordable education during my time in office, and later this spring we'll be establishing college savings accounts for every kindergarten student in Cuyahoga County.

State of the County

I delivered my fourth annual State of the County address earlier this year at the new Cleveland Convention Center. During this speech, we highlighted the progress Cuyahoga County has made over the past few years, as well as some of the things we're going to get done during my last year in office.

You can watch some video presentations my staff prepared to underscore our progress in [economic growth](#), [downtown development](#), [public safety](#), and [education](#). And then [click here](#) to visit my Facebook page and share your thoughts on the working we're doing.

My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or would like more information about the services available to you and your loved ones, please call 216-443-7178 or send me an email by visiting <http://executive.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Contact.aspx>.

My best always,

Edward FitzGerald

Cuyahoga County Executive

P.S. [Click here to follow my work on Facebook](#) and share your thoughts about our work to strengthen Cuyahoga County.

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