



Welcome to the  
**August 2014 Cuyahoga  
County E-Newsletter**

Dear Friend,

As this summer draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment and update you on some of the things we're working on here in Cuyahoga County.

### **Protecting Lake Erie**

As you know, the City of Toledo imposed a drinking water ban earlier this month as a result of contamination that's believed to have been caused by the presence of toxic algae in Lake Erie. This crisis highlighted the importance of protecting our state's most important natural resource and also raised questions about how we can ensure the same thing doesn't happen in Northeast Ohio.

That's why I took the lead to convene a summit of [stakeholders and policymakers](#) to discuss a regional strategy to ensure the continued sustainability of Lake Erie and the economic benefits it provides our state. This meeting built on the work we first started one year ago by establishing [LakeStat](#) to bring every level of government together to work towards a comprehensive solution. In the months ahead, we're going to continue leading the effort to protect our Great Lake for generations to come.

### **Fighting Heroin Abuse**

Communities across the nation have seen a surge in heroin abuse over the past few years. While the measures we've implemented so far have helped bring the [number of overdose deaths](#) down from last year, there's still more work we can do.

I joined Cuyahoga County Sheriff Frank Bova, Medical Examiner Thomas Gilson, and other leaders this week to announce a new effort to provide naloxone, a life-saving antidote, to first responders in our Westshore communities. We need to continue stepping up efforts like these in order to permanently roll back the toll heroin takes on our communities. [Click here](#) to watch this announcement and then [visit my Facebook](#) page to share your thoughts on how we can maintain the progress we've made so far.

### **Fuel Quality**

Did you know that Ohio is one of only three states that don't test fuel quality at gas stations? That means consumers across our state have virtually no protections when it comes to scam artists who sell substandard fuel at the pump.

My administration is making an effort to end this practice in Cuyahoga County. This week, we introduced [legislation](#) to the County Council that will formally establish a fuel quality program through the County's Department of Consumer Affairs. I am hopeful that Council will move swiftly to enact this commonsense protection for commuters in Northeast Ohio.

### **Gay Games**

Cleveland was proud to host the 2014 Gay Games, and I was especially honored to speak with participants and spectators at the [closing ceremonies](#). This event brought approximately 8,000 athletes from around the world to compete in our city and provided significant economic benefits for our city. The Gay Games demonstrated once again that Cleveland is coming back today stronger than ever before, and I am incredibly proud of the work Cuyahoga County has done to support this renaissance.

### **Linking Downtown and Our Lakefront**

Elected officials in Cleveland have discussed proposals to link our downtown center with the lakefront for decades now, but this month we took a big step towards this dream when [we submitted legislation](#) to County Council to approve an agreement with architect Miguel Rosales and the firm Parsons Brinckerhoff to design a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge that will open by summer 2016. This project is a critical piece of our long-term strategy to reinvigorate downtown Cleveland, and I am especially grateful for the hard work that's also been done by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and the Group Plan Commission in order to achieve this goal.

### **Voting Rights**

There is no more fundamental right in our democracy than the right to vote. During my time as County Executive, I have stood up several times to oppose restrictions on voting in Cuyahoga County. Earlier this year, when Governor John Kasich and Secretary of State Jon Husted acted to limit early and evening voting opportunities, I directed my Law Department to take action to stop them.

And just this month, County Council approved my Voting Rights Amendment that would assert in our County Charter that the right to vote is fundamental and authorize the County to take necessary actions to promote and protect the right to vote. This proposal will now be placed on the November ballot, and I am confident that Cuyahoga County voters will send a clear message that their right to vote is sacrosanct.

As always, my office is here to serve you. If there is anything we can do, please call (216) 443-7178 right now.

My best always,

*Ed FitzGerald*

Cuyahoga County Executive

P.S. You can also follow my work via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **Connect with Cuyahoga County**



[Contact Us](#)

Office of County Executive Edward FitzGerald  
2079 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
[www.onecuyahoga.com](http://www.onecuyahoga.com)

