



What is a County Executive?

The Cuyahoga County Executive oversees the administration of the county government, including appointing department heads, preparing the budget, and implementing policies. The executive can also issue Executive Orders to declare emergencies and adjust public infrastructure rules.

How long is the County Executive's term?

The Cuyahoga County Executive is elected for four-year terms. There are no term limits.

Are County Executive's political actors?

No. Eighty-six out of eighty-eight counties elect County Commissioners. The two counties without County Commissioners, Summit and Cuyahoga, have County Councils which take on a similar structure to city councils. To learn more about the County Council's in Summit and Cuyahoga counties, check out our Power of County Council resource for more information.

Are County Commissioners political actors?

Yes, in Cuyahoga County, the executive is a partisan official. Candidates have their party affiliation listed on the ballot. Candidates must live in Cuyahoga County.

Does every county have its own County Executive?

No. Only Cuyahoga County and Summit County have a charter form of government, comprising of an 11-person county council and one county executive. Ohio's remaining 86 counties operate under a different system, which includes a 3-member Board of County Commissioners elected for a 4-year term. Voters in Cuyahoga County approved this structure in 2009 to "enhance efficiency and accountability" by having a clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative co-equal branches of government.

What are the responsibilities of the Cuyahoga County Executive?

- **Personnel Management:** All countywide positions are appointed by and report to the County Executive, including the Fiscal Officer, Medical Examiner, Clerk of Courts, Director of Public Works, Director of Law, County Treasurer, and – unique to Cuyahoga County – the Sheriff. Suspensions, removals, and other disciplinary actions are also conducted by the county executive.
- **Legislative Input:** The executive can propose and draft ordinances and resolutions for the county council to consider. The executive also has the power to approve or veto legislation.
- **Fiscal Operations:** The executive is responsible for drafting the annual county budget, which must include estimated revenues and proposed expenditures for each county department, office, agency, authority, board and commission. The executive also drafts a capital improvements plan to identify major projects needing updated infrastructure and public facilities that require modernization. Additionally, the executive is responsible for conducting collective bargaining regarding wages and benefits for county employees.
- **Intergovernmental partnership:** The executive must work closely with the 11-person Cuyahoga County Council, the co-equal branch of government. The executive is also responsible for maintaining regional collaboration with the mayors of Cuyahoga County's 57 municipalities and two townships to align on a host of issues including economic development, urban and suburban planning, and strategic visioning for special city-county projects.

Cuyahoga County Executive Resources

- [Meet the current executive](#)
 - [Read the Cuyahoga County charter](#)
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