



What is a County Council?

The Cuyahoga County Council serves as the legislative branch and taxing authority of the Cuyahoga County government. The Council consists of 11 elected officials, each representing a district within Cuyahoga County.

How long are Councilmembers' terms?

County Councilmembers are elected for four-year terms. Representatives are elected on a rotation basis, meaning that only five or six seats are up for election at one time. This prevents the entire County Council from being replaced during a single election.

Does every county have its own County Council?

No. Only Cuyahoga County and Summit County have a Charter form of government, comprising of County Councils and a 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. Cuyahoga County changed over from a Board of County Commissioners into a full Council in 2011.

What are the responsibilities of the Cuyahoga County Council?

- Collaborating with Executive Branch: County Council is a co-equal branch with the executive branch, which includes the [County Executive](#), in Cuyahoga County.
- County District Impact: County councilmembers represent their own specific district within Cuyahoga County, requiring them to serve as a liaison between their constituents and Council. It is critical for council members to understand the interests and concerns of their respective communities.
- Public Policy: The Cuyahoga County Council is tasked with making policy decisions pertaining to the functioning of the County Government. In addition to legislation, policy may include Resolutions, Ordinances, and Motions.
- Committee Membership: Cuyahoga County Councilmembers belong to various committees that focus on important legislative topics, such as Community Development & Housing, Finance & Budgeting, Public Safety, and Public Works, among others. Committee members are responsible for meeting to review new legislation, hear public comments, and discuss policy matters referred to the committee.
- Government Agencies: Councilmembers serve as a link between [government departments](#) and the public. This helps ensure citizens are able to access the resources they need, maintaining the all-around effectiveness and efficiency of County Government.

Can members of the public attend Council and committee meetings?

Yes, Council and committee meetings are open to the public, with recordings available online afterwards. Members of the public are also able to provide comments in person or through written testimony submitted prior to the meeting.

Cuyahoga County Council Resources

- Cuyahoga County Councilmembers
- Council and Committee Meetings [calendar](#)
- [Rules of Council](#)
- [Procedures](#) for Providing Public Comment