

★ **ACLU of Ohio  
Positions**



**Matthew Ahn (D)**  
CHALLENGER

**VS**



**Michael O'Malley (D)**  
INCUMBENT

**ACLU of Ohio  
Cuyahoga County Prosecutor  
Candidate Profile**

2024 Primary Election

★ **ISSUE 2, MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

Supported Issue 2 and ending the War on Drugs.

No public stance as of February 13, 2024.

No public stance as of February 14, 2024.

★ **DEATH PENALTY**

Supports death penalty abolition.

Opposes use of the death penalty. “Defendants found guilty of serious violent crimes must be held accountable, but the death penalty is a failed policy. By every measure it has not delivered its intended results. It is costly, difficult to enact, and does not deter crime.”

“We have not had a capital case in Cuyahoga County in over four years. But I can tell you this: If we have a mass shooting with mass casualties? My guess is you’d probably see it again.”

★ **CASH BAIL**

Seeks to reduce reliance on cash bail and our broken two-tiered system of justice.

“Cash bail makes us all less safe. The alternative is to decide who is kept in jail before trial by determining if they are a threat to public safety or a flight risk, rather than how much money they have access to.”

In 2019, O’Malley signed a Signed Bail Bond Policy. This policy stated that “This office will not seek cash bonds, nor will the Office object to a non-cash bond, in nonviolent F5 or F4 cases absent information that the offender presents a risk to the safety of individual person(s) or to the community.”

★ **YOUTH BINDER**

Seeks to ensure Ohio’s youth remain in the youth justice system.

Would impose a moratorium on requesting bindovers where not required by law.  
“[I will] provide extensive support structures for traumatized children, instead of sending them to adult prisons.”

Argues that a moratorium “ignore[s] the will of the victims” and would be “a violation of the constitution[.]”  
“These aren’t like kids stealing Hyundais and Kias, these are individuals with guns who are causing havoc and causing a lot of damage in the community.”



**Matthew  
Ahn (D)**  
CHALLENGER

**Education**

- New York University School of Law, J.D.

**Work Experience**

**Current role:**

- Cleveland State University School of Law, visiting professor

**Past experience:**

- Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio
- Appellate Fellow for the Center of Appellate Litigation
- Sinsheimer Children’s Rights Fellow

**Publicly Available Endorsements** (as of 2/13/24)

- [Full list of endorsements](#)



**Michael  
O'Malley  
(D)**  
INCUMBENT

**Education**

- Cleveland Marshall School of Law, J.D.

**Work Experience**

**Current role:**

- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor

**Past experience:**

- Cuyahoga County Assistant Director of Public Utilities
- Parma Assistant Director of Law
- Cleveland Councilman for Ward 16

**Publicly Available Endorsements** (as of 2/14/24)

- [Full list of endorsements](#)

Full methodology is viewable at [ACLUOhio.org/ProsecutorProfiles](https://acluohio.org/ProsecutorProfiles)