

Transforming Cuyahoga County Government

FROM THE TRANSITION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Cuyahoga County voters adopted a charter establishing an Executive/Council form of government, eliminating the Board of County Commissioners and all elected offices except for the Prosecutor, fully effective January 2011. This fact kit contains the basic information that residents and others need to know about the efforts taking place to meet the goals and spirit of the new charter. Complete, up-to-date information is always available at charter.cuyahogacounty.us, and we invite you to follow and participate in the transition process.

THE CHARTER'S OPENING LINES:

We, the people of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, desire a reformed County Government to significantly improve the County's economic competitiveness. With it, the taxpayers of Cuyahoga County can have: (1) focused, effective and accountable leadership; (2) job creation and economic growth as a fundamental government purpose, thereby helping the County do a better job of creating and retaining jobs and ensuring necessary and essential health and human services; (3) collaborative leadership with Cleveland, suburbs and others within the public and private sectors; (4) an improved focus on equity for all our communities and citizens; (5) long-term regional and global competitiveness; and (6) significant taxpayer savings by streamlining and eliminating unnecessary elected offices.

Desiring to secure for ourselves and for our successors the benefits of self-determination as to local matters that are afforded by the assumption of home rule powers for this County and the establishment of a county government that provides for the separation of administrative and legislative powers and for a more representative and accountable form of governance for this County, We, the people, adopt this Charter of Cuyahoga County.

What you need to know about the people, places, and timelines involved in the county transition process.

Fact Kit

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WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT A CHARTER FORM OF GOVERNMENT?

The charter adopted by Cuyahoga County voters makes two major changes to our government structure:


- The charter establishes an Executive/Council form of government, eliminating the Board of County Commissioners. That means instead of three commissioners, county government will have one County Executive and an 11-member County Council, representing districts (see map, page 4).
- All elected offices, except for the County Prosecutor, become *appointed* offices. That means that officers like the Treasurer and Sheriff will now be appointed by the County Executive and subject to confirmation by the Council.

Also, the charter has a strong focus on economic development. As part of the transition process, volunteers are examining ways some government functions can become more efficient, so that savings from efficiencies can be directed to economic growth.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE COUNTY TRANSITION EFFORTS?

- Recommend efficiencies in county government that will lead to reductions in total county government general fund expenditures of 15%, in addition to the 11% reductions that were implemented in 2009
- Identify and invest \$50 million per year of realized savings into job creation and economic growth in Cuyahoga County
- Shift a greater percentage of overall expenditures and the balance of savings toward direct services to communities and taxpayers
- Recommend enhanced capacities, streamlined structures and operating procedures for the effective functioning of our new form of county government

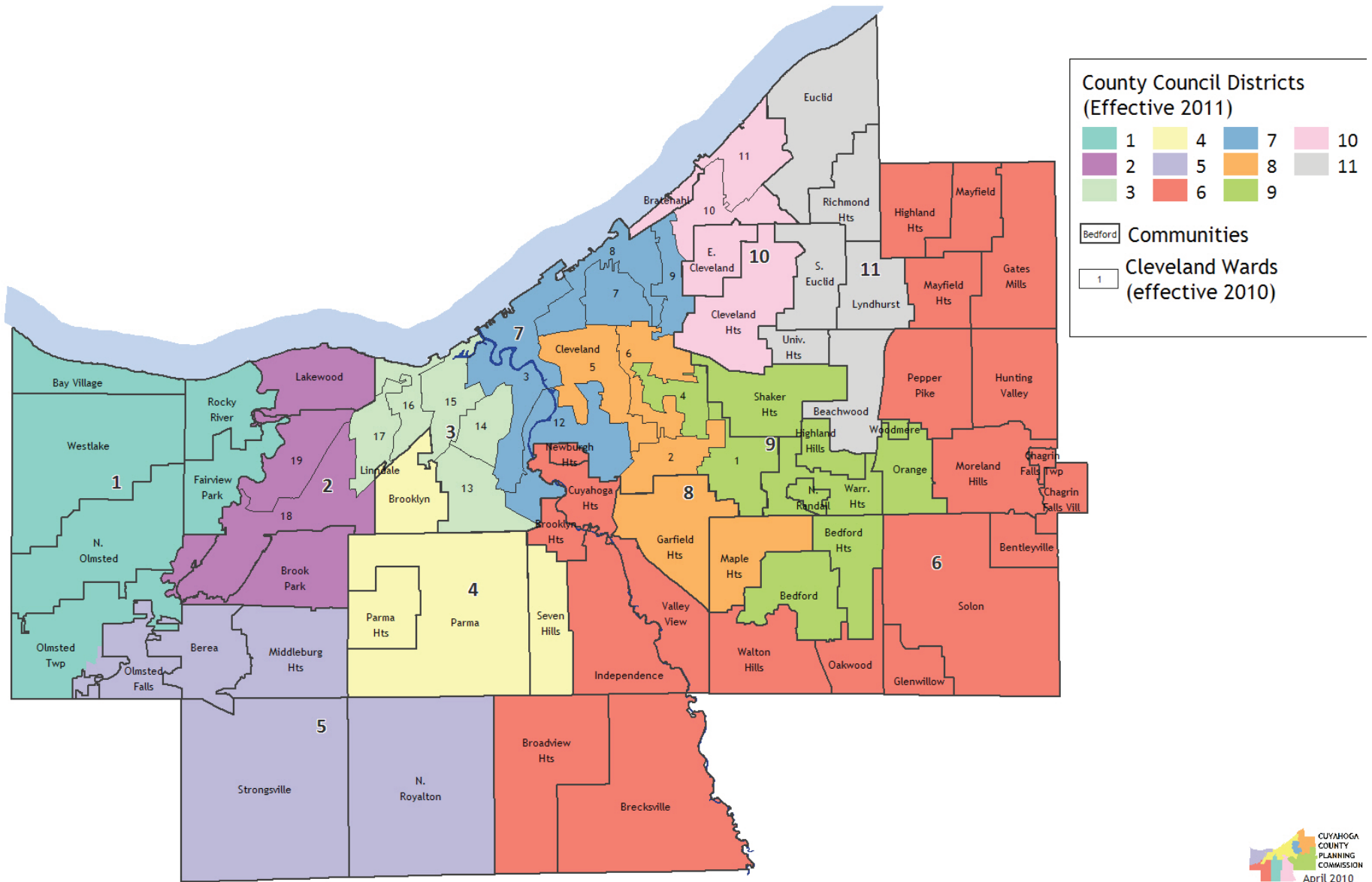
Goals



November 2009	December 2009 – January 2010	January – Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	November 2010	January 2011
<p>11/3/09: Voters adopt the Charter</p> <p>11/19/09: Transition Advisory Group (TAG) is appointed</p> <p>Late November: Community representatives organize transition efforts, and planning begins</p>	<p>Ongoing organizational meetings are held, resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure/ Leadership, Volunteer/ Workgroup Expectations • Transition Team Objectives • Initial Workgroup Charges 	<p>1/28/10: 1st Executive Committee meeting held, followed by meeting with all workgroup co-chairs</p> <p>2/17/10: 1st Public Forum conducted, seeking ways to involve 1000+ volunteers</p> <p>Workgroups begin process of developing recommendations for the orderly and efficient transition to charter government, in their topic areas</p>	<p>6/24/10: Candidates for Executive and Council must meet this filing deadline</p> <p>7/14/10: TAG sponsored an all-candidate briefing on county and transition process. More than 75 candidates attended.</p> <p>Public Forums will occur in various locations, to be announced at the charter website</p> <p>Workgroups will give recommendations to Executive Committee</p>	<p>9/7/10: Primary election for Executive and Council</p> <p>Executive Committee will review recommendations and then send them to the TAG</p> <p>TAG will review the recommendations</p>	<p>11/02/10: General Election for Executive and Council</p> <p>TAG will offer recommendations to Executive and Council</p> <p>Elected Officials In-Service will be conducted</p>	<p>County Executive & Council sworn in</p> <p>Commissioners offices terminate when new Executive and Council terms commence</p> <p>Other Current Elected Officials hold office until they are replaced by an appointed official (Prosecutor remains)</p> <p>Decisions on immediate recommendations made by Executive and/or Council</p>

Transition Timeline

Voters will elect 11 County Council members on November 2, 2010. These are the districts those council members will represent.



COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICTS:

The map above was called “Appendix A: Initial County Districts” in the charter, and it shows the geographic locations of the districts that the members of the new County Council will represent.

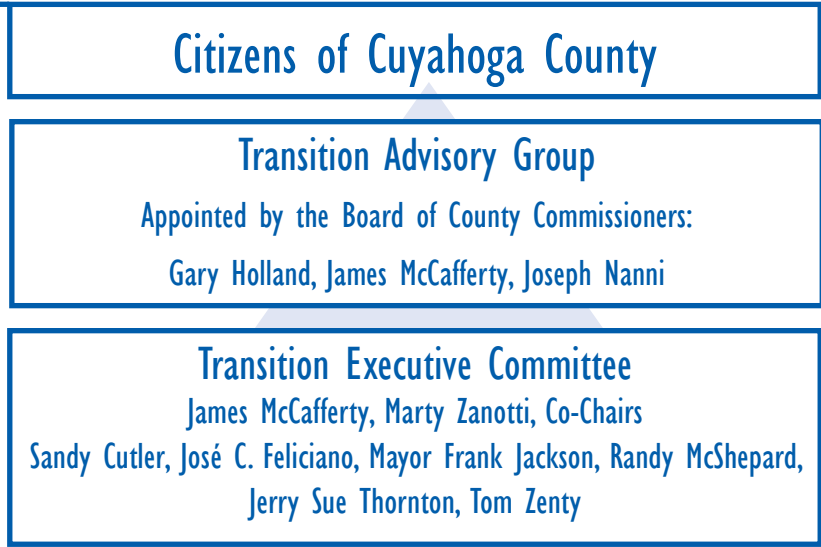
Find your city in the list below to learn your district number.

- District 1: The cities of Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River, and Westlake, and Olmsted Township, all except Precinct D
- District 2: The cities of Brook Park, Lakewood, and city of Cleveland Wards 18 and 19
- District 3: The city of Cleveland, Wards 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17
- District 4: The cities of Brooklyn, Parma, Parma Heights, Seven Hills, and the village of Linndale
- District 5: The cities of Berea, Middleburg Heights, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, and Strongsville, and Olmsted Township Precinct D
- District 6: The cities of Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Highland Heights, Independence, Mayfield Heights, Pepper Pike, and Solon, and villages of Bentleyville, Brooklyn Heights, Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga Heights, Gates Mills, Glenwillow, Hunting Valley, Mayfield, Moreland Hills, Newburgh Heights, Oakwood, Valley View, and Walton Hills, and Chagrin Falls Township
- District 7: The city of Cleveland Wards 3, 7, 8, 9, 12
- District 8: The city of Cleveland Wards 2, 5, and 6, and the cities of Garfield Heights and Maple Heights
- District 9: The cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Cleveland Wards 1 and 4, Shaker Heights, and Warrensville Heights, and the villages of Highland Hills, North Randall, Orange, and Woodmere
- District 10: The cities of Cleveland Wards 10 and 11, East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights, and the village of Bratenahl
- District 11: The cities of Beachwood, Euclid, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights

County Council Districts

COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT TRANSITION is available at: charter.cuyahogacounty.us.

Transition Leadership



Related Workgroups



Functional Workgroups



Organizational Chart

TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) – Gary Holland, James McCafferty, and Joseph Nanni were appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, to meet the charter requirement for three senior county administrative officials to act as a Transition Advisory Group. The TAG is responsible for developing recommendations for the orderly and efficient transition to charter government. Over 1000 citizen volunteers have signed on to develop those recommendations, so that the people of Cuyahoga County are directly and actively engaged in the positive-change process.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 8 members, public and private stakeholders, representing the community

- Guide/lead the process to achieve transformational realignment and realize efficiencies in county government;
- Ensure inclusion of entire community in transition process;
- Recommend/seek support for technical assistance/consulting in strategic areas
- Oversee the workgroups; ensuring adherence to timelines for work and written recommendations;
- Review/approve workgroup recommendations; forward to the Transition Advisory Group for review, approval and submission to the newly elected County Executive and Council by November 2010.

WORKGROUPS – All workgroups are expected to review the existing operations of charter-impacted departments and agencies under their area; recommend organizational and operational structures and best practices in their areas to achieve efficiencies and transformational realignment where possible.

Workgroups are comprised of volunteers. 1000+ volunteers signed up on the website, charter.cuyahogacounty.us, and an additional 50 to 100 county employees and others were asked to offer their expertise in a specific area. Workgroups are led by at least one county administrator and one community

partner with expertise in an area. They are given the flexibility to organize work and engage volunteers as they see fit. Also, the county office of budget and management has assigned a budget analyst to each workgroup.

Related Workgroups

- County Government Collaboration Workgroup: reviews county interaction with political subdivisions: programs, service delivery, and dollars; recommends systematic plan for continuing and improving interaction;
- Public Engagement Workgroup: ensures volunteers are actively engaged; ensures broad community access to information and opportunity for input; champions transparency;
- *Special workgroup: Campaign Finance Reform*
 - *Not specifically mentioned in the charter, the topic of Campaign Finance Reform is being addressed outside of the transition process by the County Prosecutor.*
- *Special workgroup: Code of Ethics*
 - *The Executive Committee asked citizens to develop this group, which will be linked to County Council Planning.*

Functional Workgroups

- The ‘functional’ workgroups reflect functional or topical areas noted in the charter, and were created to assess and make recommendations about the function of these areas under the new form of government.

External Assistance

- Project Coordination is provided pro bono by the Greater Cleveland Partnership and COSE (Council of Smaller Enterprises).
- An organizational consultant, Public Financial Management (PFM), has been engaged in the transition process to support the Executive Committee and the functional workgroups.

Roles & Responsibilities

COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT CUYAHOGA COUNTY’S GOVERNMENT TRANSITION is available at: charter.cuyahogacounty.us.

WAYS TO LEARN MORE

VISIT...

the charter website at charter.cuyahogacounty.us.

FOLLOW...

transition activity on Twitter @CuyahogaCharter and Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Cuyahoga-County-Charter-Transition/320781349825

REQUEST...

a speaker to present to your community group by contacting:

216.443.5611

[transition@cose.org](mailto:transition@ cose.org)