

CLEVELAND

NOVEMBER 4

ELECTION GUIDE

2025



CLEVELAND
VOTES

MESSAGE FROM CLEVELAND VOTES.



“DEMOCRACY ISN’T SOMETHING THAT JUST HAPPENS. IT’S SOMETHING WE DO. SO LET’S DO IT—TOGETHER.”

You’ve likely heard the phrase, “Local elections matter.” But what does that really mean? Every election gives voters a chance to exercise their civic responsibility—to weigh in on the people and policies that directly affect their daily lives.

While politics in D.C. or Columbus may receive more attention, the impact of local elections is more real. When your mayor, your local councilperson, or your local judge make a decision, you feel it right at your doorstep.

At Cleveland VOTES we want you to feel empowered to engage with leaders, and it’s easiest to do at the local level. You can attend a ward club meeting, call your councilperson’s office, or speak during public comment at a city council meeting. You might even run into the mayor at the grocery store! These are real people who have stepped up to represent your interests and your values.

As voters, it’s our job to stay informed and hold our elected officials accountable. Good leaders show a willingness to learn and grow alongside their constituents.



Democracy isn’t something that just happens. It’s something we do. So let’s do it—together. Your vote is the power behind your voice. Let it be heard. Use this Voter Guide to get informed, get ready for the November 4th General Election, and take part in shaping the future of our community.

In power,

CLEVELAND VOTES

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DATES, DEADLINES + RESOURCES



Key Dates

Registration Deadline

Oct. 6

Early In-Person + Absentee Voting Opens

Oct. 7

Vote-by-Mail/Absentee Applications Due

Oct. 28

Last Day of Early In-Person Voting

Nov. 2

Absentee Ballots Postmark Deadline

Nov. 3

Election Day

Nov. 4

EARLY VOTING HOURS

November General Election

October 7-24 (Weekdays) 8am - 5pm

October 27 7:30am - 7:30pm

October 28 7:30am - 8:30pm

October 29-31 7:30am - 7:30pm

November 1 8am - 4pm

November 2 1 - 5pm

November 4 (Election Day) 6:30am - 7:30pm



Check Your Voter Registration



Find Your Polling Location



Vote by Mail



Get a Sample Ballot



Accessible (ADA) Voting Services



Board of Elections

1803 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

MAYORAL RACE

The mayor of Cleveland acts as a chief executive officer for the entire city. They implement policies, supervise city operations, and ensure that municipal services are effectively delivered. They work closely with city council to develop budgets, address community needs, and create strategic plans for the future. The mayor can also represent the city in various capacities, such as at state and national meetings, where they advocate for resources and support.

2025 Candidates



JUSTIN BIBB*

bibbforcle.com



LAVERNE GORE

gore4cle.org

Party: Democrat

Experience: Bibb interned for Barack Obama in 2007. Bibb co-founded Hack Cleveland in 2014 following the death of Tamir Rice and also launched Cleveland Can't Wait in 2009, a nonprofit focused on advancing racial equity and economic opportunity in underserved neighborhoods. Before becoming Mayor of Cleveland in 2022, Bibb worked with public officials, business leaders and community organizations across the country as the Chief Strategy Officer of Urbanova.

Learn about Bibb's current initiatives



Party: Republican

Experience: Gore's career spans public service, finance, and healthcare consulting in Northeast Ohio. A military widow and mother of two West Point graduates, she was the first African American woman appointed Federal Director of Military Recruitment under President George W. Bush. In Cleveland, she has led civic organizations advancing literacy, housing, and leadership. Today, she leads LA Gore & Associates, mentors young leaders, and remains active in politics as a former Republican nominee for Congress (2020–21).

See where Gore stands on the issues



*Incumbent candidate

CITY COUNCIL RACES

City Council is a group of elected individuals who make decisions for your city. Council members are elected every 4 years. Each council person represents one of Cleveland's 15 wards. After being elected, city council members are responsible for addressing the needs of their constituents. They also work with the mayor on decisions like how to spend tax dollars. **NOTE: City Council races are nonpartisan.**

▶ **Not sure what ward you're in? Go to:** clevelandcitycouncil.org/find-my-future-ward-starting-2026

Ward	Candidates	Website
1	Juanita O. Brent	facebook.com/JuanitaOBrent
	Joe Jones*	instagram.com/clevejoejones
2	Kevin L. Bishop*	facebook.com/KevinBishopCLEWard2
3	Deborah A. Gray*	gray4council.com
	Erich V. Stubbs	facebook.com/erich.stubbs.9
4	Kris Harsh*	facebook.com/VoteKrisHarsh
	Rehan Waheed	rehanforthepeople.com
5	Rebecca Maurer*	rebeccaforcleveland.com
	Richard A. Starr*	facebook.com/starrforWard5
6	Blaine A. Griffin*	griff4cle6.com
7	Austin N. Davis	austindavisward7.com
	Mohammad Faraj	mofaraj.com
8	Stephanie Howse-Jones*	stephaniehowsejones.com
	Charlotte Perkins	charlotteperkins4ward8.org
9	Kevin Conwell*	instagram.com/councilmankevin
	Alana Belle	belleforward9.com
10	Anthony T. Hairston*	x.com/HairstonCCC10
	Michael D. Polensek*	facebook.com/michael.d.polensek
11	Andrew Fontanarosa	andrewward11.com
	Nikki Hudson	nikkihudson.com
12	Danny Kelly	dannyforcleveland.com
	Tanmay Shah	shah4council.com
13	Brian Kazy*	briankazy.com
	Gilder Malone (write-in)	instagram.com/truthstandsforgilder
14	Jasmin Santana*	jasminsantana.com
15	Charles J. Slife*	facebook.com/SlifeForCLE
	Terell Bell (write-in)	<i>No website provided</i>

*Incumbent candidate

JUDICIAL RACES

During this election Clevelanders will choose judges for the Cleveland Municipal Court (CMC). The CMC is a court of law with jurisdiction limited to the city. The CMC has the ability to hear and decide specific kinds of cases, such as civil disputes and minor criminal cases. Some of the 2025 judicial candidates are running for the Cleveland Housing Court, a division of the CMC. The Housing Court has a civil component that hears cases, corporations and other entities. These cases most often involve landlord/tenant matters. **NOTE: The judicial races below are nonpartisan.**

Candidates

For Judge of Municipal Court

6-Year Term

In Son J. Loving	loving4judge.com
Heather McCollough	facebook.com/heather.mccollough.2025

For Judge of Municipal Court

6-Year Term

TJ Dow	facebook.com/tj.dow.2025
Khalilah Lawson	klawsonforjudge.com

For Judge of Municipal Court

4-Year Term

Brett Earle Horton	bretthortonforjudge.com
Nikki McGowan	nikkimcgowanforjudge.com
Joseph Russo	<i>No website provided</i>
Christopher Woodworth*	chris4judge.com

For Judge of Municipal Court [Housing Division]

6-Year Term

W. Moná Scott*	reelectjudgescott.com
Cheryl M. Wiltshire	electwiltshireforjudge.com

*Incumbent candidate

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID FOR VOTING IN PERSON IN OHIO

- 01 An Ohio driver's license
- 02 An Ohio state ID card
- 03 An interim identification form issued by the BMV
- 04 A U.S. passport or passport card
- 05 A U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

Ohio Voter Eligibility Requirements

- You are a citizen of the United States
- You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next general election
- You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote
- You are not incarcerated for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States
- You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court
- You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violating election laws

Need a ride to the polls?

Request a free ride today!
booking.rides2vote.com



Still have questions?

Here are some helpful websites:

- clevotes.com/voteractivation
- boe.cuyahogacounty.gov
- ohiosos.gov
- voteriders.org

HAVE A QUESTION ON ELECTION DAY?

Call or text **866-OUR-VOTE** to speak with a trained Election Protection volunteer.

Want to feel more secure *before* you hit the polls?
Visit 866ourvote.org to learn more about the Election Protection resources available to you.



ELECTION GUIDE GLOSSARY

- **General Election** - *An electoral process to choose most or all members of a governing body at the same time, usually held in November*
- **Incumbent** - *Someone who currently holding a specified office (like mayor)*
- **Municipal** - *Of or belonging to a town or city (like Cleveland)*
- **Nonpartisan** - *Not affiliated with a particular political party*
- **Absentee ballot** - *A vote cast by someone who is unable to vote in person at their official polling location on election day (for example, voting by mail)*
- **Ward** - *A division of a city or town, especially an electoral district, for representative purposes*
- **Constituent** - *A resident of a district or member of a group represented by an elected official*
- **Board of Elections** - *A bipartisan administrative body responsible for overseeing and administering elections within a specific jurisdiction, such as a county*
- **Polling place** - *A place where voters go to cast their votes in an election*
- **Write-in candidate** - *A candidate whose name does not appear on the official ballot but who seeks election by having voters write their name on the ballot*
- **Jurisdiction** - *Authority or control, especially when it comes to the right of a court to hear a particular case*

The logo for Cleveland Votes features the word "CLEVELAND" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it is a horizontal bar with three segments: red on the left, blue in the middle, and orange on the right. Underneath the bar is the word "VOTES" in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font.

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