



2022 County Executive Election

Knowledge is Power.

The Cuyahoga County Executive is responsible for overseeing county personnel, working with local governments and mayors, introducing legislation to City Council, and submitting budget and improvement plan. The overarching mission of the county executive creating a unified vision for the region and maximize regional efficiencies. The election for this position will take place on November 8th, 2022.

The Issues	Chris Ronayne (D) 	Lee Weingart (R) 
Website	https://www.chrisronayne.com/	https://www.weingart2022.com/
Creating Affordable Housing	<p>Supports an affordable housing fund and will initiate a housing department or division in the county. He wants to build partnerships with for-profits, nonprofits, and foundations to expand affordable housing access, build new housing and ensure that the current housing stock is safe for residents. Finally, he plans to increase affordable housing options for seniors to ensure they aren't priced out of their homes or forced to choose between housing and basic necessities.</p>	<p>Plans to champion a \$600 million program to fund the acquisition, construction, and renovation of 10,000 private homes by Cuyahoga County citizens by 2026. To help seniors, he plans to expand the PASSPORT Program (keep seniors in their homes longer instead of nursing homes); Expand funding for meals, transportation, home supportive services, and senior centers throughout the county.</p>
Ending Homelessness	<p>Plans to improve services for those that are unhoused by providing more bed support for emergency homelessness, temporary and transitional housing support and additional wrap-around services. Supports access to rent assistance for seniors to make sure they don't have to choose between paying their rent or mortgage and basic necessities.</p>	<p>Lee believes that his 10,000 home initiative will promote family and neighborhood stability because families will have homes (and will not need to constantly look for new rental properties), and homeowners tend to stabilize neighborhoods.</p>

The Issues	Chris Ronayne	Lee Weingart
Fixing the County Jail	<p>When asked about his thoughts on the plan for a \$600 million new county jail, Ronayne told clevescene.com, "For me, it's a fix-it first mentality. Fix what we've got, because there are needs that need to be addressed." Ronayne has stated that he will conduct a thorough investigation of the county jail and its current operations, making sure oversight of the jail is consistent and transparent to maintain safety for its occupants.</p>	<p>In response to the plan for the new county jail, Weingart has opposed this proposition and told clevescene.com "I say no more than 1,200 capacity, certainly not on a contaminated site, and no more than \$300 million." Weingart wants to invest in diversion alternatives to pre-trial incarceration for non-dangerous arrestees and people with addiction and mental health challenges. He also wants to prioritize safely reducing the county jail population and focusing on rehabilitation of offenders as the focus on criminal justice reform.</p>
Easing Reentry	<p>According to Chris' website, "first and foremost, our justice system needs to emphasize diversion, reentry and rehabilitation before incarceration for nonviolent offenses." To do this, Chris will work with judges to examine bail reform alternatives to decrease inequities in our justice system and expand access to expungement and other community support programs.</p>	<p>"We need better strategies to support offenders who have served their state prison time. First, we must ensure they have state-issued ID cards so they can qualify for benefits. Second, where appropriate, the county should partner with the Secretary of State to register them to vote. Third, we must help them find employment opportunities. He also adds that he would like to implement record expungement as it can have the greatest impact on the life of an ex-offender.</p>
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>Ronayne wants to remind voters to remember the core values of Democrats as being the party of justice and equality that unifies. Reform takes time, and he says he's committed to investing in it. "I guess I see an opportunity to take what we learn in matters like this and apply deep, broad-based reform," Ronayne said. "Everybody has to own this all the way through -- it's a community conversation, it's community action, and it's community solutions, in the long run."</p>	<p>Weingart considers himself a believer of the old Republican party, and would like to see the party get back to its historic roots, supporting civil rights for all people. He also calls himself pro-police and pro-police reform, meaning that he believes in having a strong police force that respects and treats people with dignity. He acknowledges that the outer suburbs in the county are in pretty good shape, and the challenges are in the urban core. He believes that "the local government's function should be to help those who have not, not those who have"</p>