



Cleveland-Based Experts

Racial Equity, Social Justice & Criminal Justice

- [Blaine Griffin, Cleveland City Council](#), bgriffin@clevelandcitycouncil.org, 216.664.4234. Councilman Blaine A. Griffin represents one of Cleveland's most diverse wards and is chairman of council's Health & Human Services Committee. Blaine has led efforts to improve inter-group relations and correct actions that violate civil rights, overseeing police/community relations and youth initiatives. He was one of the primary sponsors of the resolution to declare racism a public health crisis.
- [Cleveland Community Police Commission](#), 216.505.5920. The all-volunteer Commission consists of civilian and police association volunteers that work to provide community input on needed policing reforms from the many diverse communities in Cleveland.
- [Ronnie Dunn, Cleveland State University](#), Associate Professor of Urban Studies. As an expert in urban and social policy, race relations and racial profiling, Ronnie can provide insights on racial inequality issues, the Black Lives Matter campaign, race relations in Cleveland and how the community has worked to address the challenges it faces. In 2015, he was appointed by Governor John Kasich to the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations. Contact William Dube, w.dube@csuohio.edu, 216.650.5598.
- [Tony F. Sias, Karamu House](#), President & CEO, tsias@karamuhouse.org, 216.795.7070, ext. 248. Tony leads the country's oldest African American producing theater, and conceptualized Freedom After Juneteenth a series designed to celebrate, educate, heal and activate communities. The original productions are streamed online and feature an artistic response to the recent murders of Black Americans through music, dance and spoken word. Also Contact: Ann Barnett, abarnett@karamuhouse.org, 330.687.8385.
- [Andrew D. Genzler, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry](#), President and CEO. As head of an organization committed to faith-based community advocacy and social justice issues, Andrew can discuss violence, social change, housing, and hunger issues. Contact: Jessica Starr, jstarr@lutheranmetro.org 216.402.0524
- [Danielle L. Sydnor, NAACP Cleveland Branch](#), President, sydnordanielle@gmail.com, 216.910.9014. Danielle was elected president of the Cleveland NAACP in February 2019, and utilizes an expansive and unique network, proven leadership and innovative thinking to lead at this critical time and turn conversations about inclusion and equity in the city into action.
- [Zach Schiller, Policy Matters Ohio](#), zschiller@policymattersohio.org, 216.272.9072. A former reporter for *Business Week* and *The Plain Dealer*, Zach has been research director for more than 15 years and can address how the Cleveland and Ohio economies have been performing, foreclosures, job growth, unemployment, tax policy and other issues. He is a member of the board of managers of the Ohio Poverty Law Center.



- [Ricky Smith](#), [Random Acts of Kindness Everywhere \(R.A.K.E.\)](#), Founder, ricky@rakenow.org. R.A.K.E.'s mission is simple: to support the community in a positive way by enriching lives, encouraging kindness and promoting the act of "paying it forward." Ricky's passion for charitable actions has spread, and R.A.K.E. is actively supporting communities every single day.
- [Cecil Lipscomb](#), [United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland](#), Executive Director, clipscomb@unitedblackfund.org, 216.682.5175. For nearly a decade Cecil has led UBF and increased access to funding for 80+ organizations and agencies serving the African American and impoverished communities.
- [Marcia Mockabee](#), [Urban League of Greater Cleveland](#), President and CEO mmockabee@ulcleveland.com, 216.622.0999. A native Clevelander, Marcia is the first female to lead the Cleveland affiliate of the national organization dedicated to empowering African Americans through education, research, advocacy and service.

Election Integrity, Ohio Voters

- [Karen Beckwith](#), [Case Western Reserve University](#), Professor. Karen specializes in women and politics, social movements and can address the candidates' chances, the women's vote, and the impact of convention protesters. Contact: Bill Lubinger, wxl289@case.edu, 216.368.4443
- [Richard Perloff](#), [Cleveland State University](#), Professor, R.PERLOFF@csuohio.edu, 216.687.4632. The author of *The Dynamics of Political Communication: Media and Politics in a Digital Age*, Richard can address campaign tone and how is it mimicking voter anger and what Trump must do to "move to the middle" without antagonizing his supporters. Contact William Dube, w.dube@csuohio.edu, 216.687.2257.
- [Danielle Coombs](#), [Kent State University](#), Professor, dcoombs@kent.edu, 330.672.8876. Author of the book *Last Man Standing: Media, Framing, and the 2012 Republican Primaries*, Danielle can address how media frames impact election coverage and what frames have been detected in this election season
- [Ryan Claassen](#), [Kent State University](#), Professor, rclaasse@kent.edu, 330.672.2060. Author of the book *Godless Democrats and Pious Republicans*, Ryan specializes in religion and politics, public opinion, party activism, interest group representation, and how well the public follows news about politics.
- [Chance York](#), [Kent State University](#), Assistant Professor, cyork8@kent.edu, 330.672.7509. Specializing in media socialization (developmental processes by which we learn how to use media), political advertising, and political incivility, Chance can address media's influence on young voters and whether advertising works.
- [John Green](#), [University of Akron Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics](#), green@uakron.edu, 330.972.5182. As Institute Director, John leads a bipartisan research and teaching institute dedicated to the nuts and bolts of practical politics. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and co-authored the book *Mormons and American Politics*.



Cleveland's Economy & Continued Revitalization

- [Mayor Frank Jackson, City of Cleveland](#), communications@city.cleveland.oh.us, 216.664.2220. Mayor Frank G. Jackson took the oath of office for his historic fourth term in January 2018 – which makes him the City of Cleveland's longest serving Mayor. During his time in office, Mayor Jackson has been an advocate for building equity and opportunity for all Clevelanders in all neighborhoods.
- [Ronn Richard, Cleveland Foundation](#). As President and CEO of one of the largest community foundations in the country (granting more than \$95 million to Cleveland nonprofit organizations each year), Ronn can address the role of public-private partnerships, collaboration among anchor institutions and philanthropy in Cleveland's renaissance. Contact: Kimberly Sabo, 216.685.2001.
- [Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive](#), 216.443.7181. County Executive Budish's vision is to make Cuyahoga County a vibrant region where everyone thrives, and all things are possible, with a focus on job creation, aligning skills training of residents with job opportunities, growing start-ups and attracting new businesses. Also contact Mary Louise Madigan, mlmadigan@cuyahogacounty.us, 216.698.2521.
- [David Gilbert, Destination Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission](#) David Gilbert took over the top spot at Destination Cleveland, the region's convention and visitors bureau, in 2011. He simultaneously serves as president and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, which pursues amateur athletic events. He also serves on numerous boards, including for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and the Greater Cleveland Film Commission. Contact: Emily Lauer, elauer@destinationcle.org, 216.224.3624
- [Joe Marinucci, Downtown Cleveland Alliance](#), President & CEO, jmarinucci@downtowncleveland.com, 216.736.7799. Under Joe's leadership, DCA has helped bring hundreds of businesses to downtown, connect downtown to the lakefront, revitalize the central business district, and create a downtown where people work, live and play. Also contact: Heather Holmes, hholmes@downtowncleveland.com, 216.325.0944
- [Joe Roman, Greater Cleveland Partnership](#), jroman@gcpartnership.com, 216.621.3300. As president and chief executive officer of one of the nation's largest metropolitan chambers of commerce with more than 10,000 members, Joe is focused on enhancing public education, supporting downtown and lakefront development, small business growth and inclusion in the employer community, and preserving competitive air service. Also contact Dena Cipriano, 216.592.2328.
- [Brian Hall, Greater Cleveland Partnership Equity & Inclusion Division](#), 216.592.2229. An entrepreneur with more than 30 years of experience, growing businesses to the Black Enterprise Top 100 listing several times, Brian helped found the Presidents Council that includes major and minority corporate CEO's in the region, training entrepreneurs and students for greater success and leadership in the African-American community. Also contact Dena Cipriano, 216.592.2328.



- [Michael Jeans](#), [Growth Opportunity Partners](#), Michael.jeans@growthopps.org, 440.462.0640. As President of this JumpStart company, Michael focuses on helping promising healthy small businesses located in the low to moderate income communities secure the credit structure they need for growth. He can discuss urban economic development issues.
- [Luis Cartagena](#), [Hispanic Business Center](#), Business Advisor, lcartagena@hbcenter.org, 216.854.4093. Luis is an expert in small business startups and strategic growth initiatives. In his previous role as Inclusion Officer for Cuyahoga County, he focused on providing diversity outreach to vendors, potential vendors, stakeholders, and the community. Cartagena also provided support internally and externally regarding the County's inclusion initiatives.
- [Ethan Karp](#), [MAGNET](#), President and CEO, ekarp@manufacturingsuccess.org, 216.391.7002. A scientist by training, then a business consultant, Ethan is focused on creating a preeminent center for manufacturing innovation by providing technical and growth support to small manufacturers. Also contact: Matthew Feldman, MAGNET, mfieldman@manufacturingsuccess.org, 216.432.5306.
- [William "Bill" Koehler](#), [Team NEO](#), CEO, bkoehler@teamneo.org, 216.363.5420. As Chief Executive Officer of Team NEO, Bill Koehler is focused on seeing Northeast Ohio grow and thrive. With more than 20 years of banking experience behind him, Bill puts his knowledge and expertise to work as he collaborates with our partners to grow the region's economy.
- [Jacob Duritsky](#), [Team NEO](#), jduritsky@teamneo.org, 216.363.5424. As VP Strategy and Research, Jacob coordinates research and the use of data to sustain region-wide economic growth and attract new business by providing meaningful information including the cost of land or buildings, the transportation infrastructure, the quality of the labor force and the local taxes.
- [Will Friedman](#), [Port of Cleveland](#), william.friedman@portofcleveland.com, 216.377.1339. As the Port's president and CEO, he can discuss the importance of shipping to the Cleveland economy and the decision to initiate the Great Lakes' only direct, scheduled service to Europe.