

RE-ELECT

Michael GALLAGHER

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 5



iilikemikein5.com

27 YEARS IN ELECTED OFFICE

31 YEARS IN THE COURTS

32 YEARS IN STRONGSVILLE

Complete Record

Michael J. Gallagher — Cuyahoga County Council, District 5

Twenty-seven years of elected service in the same five communities — sixteen on Cuyahoga County Council and eleven on Strongsville City Council — together with the record that came out of them, the stories behind that record, and the people and organizations who have endorsed this campaign.

01 Snapshot

Delivering Results for District 5

DISTRICT 5

Serving Strongsville, North Royalton, Berea, Olmsted Falls, and Olmsted Township with practical leadership, fiscal discipline, and a record people can see.

Home

Strongsville — 32 years

Children

Alex and Sam — both Strongsville schools graduates

Career

Deputy Administrator, Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals — 31 years (retired)

Chamber

Member, Strongsville Chamber of Commerce

Wife

Sandy (Sakellaris) Gallagher — married 39 years

Education

St. Edward High School, Lakewood
Cleveland State University — B.A.,
Communications

Parish

St. John Neumann — 32 years

02 Biography

Thirty-two years in Strongsville

Mike Gallagher has lived in Strongsville for thirty-two years. He and his wife Sandy — Sandy Sakellaris before they married — have been married thirty-nine of them. Their two children, Alex and Sam, went through Strongsville schools. The family has belonged to St. John Neumann parish the whole time they have been in the city.

He is a graduate of St. Edward High School in Lakewood and of Cleveland State University, where he earned a B.A. in Communications.

Thirty-one years in the courts

Before elected office and alongside it, Gallagher spent thirty-one years at the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, retiring as Deputy Administrator. It is the detail that explains a lot of the rest of the record: three decades inside the machinery of county government, watching budgets and process from the administrative side rather than the political one.

While he was there he coordinated the court's Harvest for Hunger campaign. His office was the smallest in the county and regularly led it in collections.

Twenty-seven years in elected office

Gallagher was elected to Strongsville City Council from Ward 4 in 2000 and served eleven years, the last three as Council President. He left in 2010 on his election to the new Cuyahoga County Council, seated under the county's charter government in 2011, where he has served since — sixteen years and counting, and one of the few founding members still in office.

Twenty-seven years of continuous elected service, across two levels of government, in the same five communities.

03 Elected Service

Cuyahoga County Council, District 5

16 years • 2011–present

An original member of the Council elected under Cuyahoga County's new charter government, and one of the few founding members still serving. From the beginning, a caretaker of every taxpayer dollar, a results-delivering partner of Strongsville, North Royalton, Berea, Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township, a leading advocate of fiscal responsibility on the jail, a siren voice calling out budgetary malpractice, and earning the moniker "Captain of Chaos" from a runaway-spending County Executive. Chairman, Public Safety & Justice Affairs Committee.

Strongsville City Council

11 years • 2000–2010

Elected from Ward 4. Served as Council President for his final three years, and left on election to County Council.

“No new tax without your vote.”

MIKE

04 What He Stands For

Fiscal Responsibility

No taxes without a vote. Stop waste. Basic math governance that protects every taxpayer dollar.

Local Quality of Life

Parks, recreation, safety, and community spaces — things families actually use every day.

Accountability & Transparency

When leadership fails the process, Mike calls it out.

Independent Leadership

A steady, pragmatic voice that works across lines to get results.

05 Record of Accomplishment

AT THE COUNTY

- Founding member of Council and leading voice for responsible spending of taxpayer money, low taxes, accountable leadership.
- Chairman of the Public Safety & Justice Affairs Committee.
- Voted **NO** on extending the quarter-percent sales tax to 2067 without a vote of county residents, and led the opposition to it.
- Delivered more than **\$16.4 million** in investment to District 5 communities — Strongsville Town Center, Coe Lake in Berea, Memorial Park in North Royalton, O.F. River Park in Olmsted Falls, and the trails and dog park in Olmsted Township.

AT THE CITY

- Ran on a promise to widen Pearl Road and build a main fire station in Ward 4 within eight years. Delivered both — the station opened in **2008**, the widening was completed in **2011**.
- Created the Pearl Road widening fund and won a recurring **\$250,000** line item in the city budget — the commitment that drew Columbus's attention and moved the project.
- The Ward 4 station he built is now Strongsville's main fire station — the city's largest and busiest.
- Council President, final three years of his city council service.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Founder**, Strongsville Youth Commission — roughly **\$30,000** raised through golf outings funded its first three years.
- Volunteer mediator, Berea Municipal Court — two years.
- Coordinated Harvest for Hunger at the Eighth District Court of Appeals, where his office regularly led the county in collections despite being the smallest one.
- Volunteer coach — Strongsville basketball and baseball, and South Hills Pee Wee football.
- Past member, Strongsville Rotary. PTA member at every school his children attended. Cleveland Suburban Council and its screening committee — resigned from these on taking county office, for time.

06 The Stories Behind the Record

"Make the kids prove it."

The Strongsville Youth Commission

He noticed a donut hole in the city's programming. There was plenty for seniors and plenty for little kids, and nothing at all for the ones in the middle — the high schoolers. So he founded the Strongsville Youth Commission to pull them into the working life of their own city.

When he asked the city to fund it, the answer came back: make the kids prove it. So they spent three years proving it, on money raised through golf outings — roughly \$30,000 in all. The commission ran its own committees and decided for itself where the money went. Which is how, when the football team needed uniforms, Gallagher ended up having to go back and make his case to the kids. They formed a committee, heard him out, and voted to fund it. They didn't have to. Dobie Moser, then running CYO out of the diocese, helped make it work.

Tuxedos and a jazz band

The Senior Prom

The Youth Commission's kids threw a prom for Strongsville's senior citizens at the Rec Center. They crowned a king and queen. The high school jazz band played. There were refreshments and soft drinks and every one of the kids was in a tuxedo.

What the troops actually asked for

Two Drums of Hard Candy

A friend deployed overseas told him what his unit actually needed: hard candy. The children in the villages had never seen it, and it changed how patrols were met coming through town. The Youth Commission ran a hard candy drive and filled two 55-gallon drums. The Catan family shipped them over. Soldiers handed the candy out to the children. The unit sent back a proclamation honoring the drive.

Every year, without fail

Fill the Food Bank

Before Thanksgiving each year in Ward 4, residents set food out by their mailboxes and the Youth Commission kids came through and collected it. Every year it filled the food bank.

Two years of it

Rock Off on the Square

High school bands came in from all over to compete on Strongsville's square, with the rest of the square filled with things for kids to do. Gallagher helped pay for that too.

And in between

The Rest of the List

The commission's high schoolers tutored their own peers — a resounding success. They painted a veteran's home, with Home Depot donating the supplies and the scaffolding. They took the garbage out for seniors who couldn't manage it themselves.

Promise made, promise kept

Pearl Road and the Ward 4 Firehouse

In his first run for city council he made two promises, both of which everyone told him were impossible: widen Pearl Road, and build a main fire station in Ward 4 — both inside eight years.

Council had been steering money toward the ice rink for years — \$15 million worth. Gallagher leveraged that fund into a \$250,000 line item for Pearl Road every single year instead. That recurring commitment is what caught the state's eye, and the widening moved quickly from there, especially once Mayor Perciak came in. The station opened in 2008 and the widening was finished in 2011 — both inside the eight years he promised. The Ward 4 station is today the city's main firehouse.

"I've learned since not to make too many promises," he says. He still makes one: never to raise your taxes without your vote.

07 Endorsements

Endorsed by the people who serve you, build our cities and protect our families and homes. Democrats, Republicans and Independents all agree.

ORGANIZATIONS

 Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council	 Laborers Local 860	 Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association	 Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio
 Teamsters Local 407	 Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association	 C.A.M.E.O.	 Pipefitters Local 120

ELECTED LEADERS ACROSS DISTRICT 5

Mayor Tom Perciak

Strongsville

Mayor Cyril Kleem

Berea

Garry Thompson

Council President, Olmsted Falls

Tom Cole

Trustee, Olmsted Township

Gordon Short Council President, Strongsville Ward 4	Jim Kaminski Councilman, Strongsville Ward 1
Ann Roff Councilwoman, Strongsville Ward 2	Tom Clark Councilman, Strongsville Ward 3
Jim Carbone Councilman-at-Large, Strongsville	Anthony Zacharyasz, Jr. Councilman-at-Large, Strongsville
Jeanene Kress* Trustee, Olmsted Township	Lisa Zver* Trustee, Olmsted Township
Ann Marie Donegan* Mayor, Olmsted Falls	

* Retired

08 The Campaign

CANDIDATE	Michael J. Gallagher
OFFICE SOUGHT	Cuyahoga County Council, District 5 (re-election)
COMMITTEE	Friends of Michael J. Gallagher
COMMITTEE ADDRESS	16260 Academy Dr., Strongsville, OH 44149
WEBSITE	www.ilikemikein5.com
EMAIL	mike@ilikemikein5.com
FACEBOOK	facebook.com/ilikemikein5
INSTAGRAM	instagram.com/ilikemikein5
VOLUNTEER FORM	tally.so/r/aQgXNE