

# THE PLAIN DEALER

## Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County executive-elect, names leaders of transition staff

By [Andrew J. Tobias, Northeast Ohio Media Group](#)

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Cuyahoga County Executive-elect Armond Budish has announced the leadership team behind his transition into office.



Keary McCarthy submitted

According to a press release, Budish has named Keary McCarthy, who served as Budish's communications director and chief of staff while Budish led the Ohio House Democrats, as the director of his transition staff. McCarthy also worked for outgoing County Executive Ed FitzGerald's transition staff in late 2010.



Marc Byrnes file photo

As co-chairs of the team, Budish named:



Sharon Sobol Jordansubmitted

- Marc Byrnes, the chairman of Oswald Companies, a Cleveland-based insurance company.
- Sharon Sobol Jordan, the president and CEO of the Centers for Families and Children, a non-profit human services organization.



Jerry Sue ThorntonPlain Dealer file

- Jerry Sue Thornton, who recently retired after 21 years as president of Cuyahoga Community College.

Budish defeated Republican County Councilman Jack Schron in this week's county executive election. He will take office on Jan. 1.

Salaries for the team has not yet been determined, according to Dennis Willard, a transition spokesman. **Legislation that council recently passed** makes available \$250,000 for Budish to hire a staff to help him prepare to take the reins of the county government. It also grants Budish and his team immediate access to county facilities and staff.

McCarthy was recently named executive director of Innovation Ohio, a Columbus-based progressive think tank. He has said he hopes to use the group to promote progressive policies among local governments in Ohio.

McCarthy will not take a leave of absence from his job. But starting Monday, he will be working in Cleveland for the immediate future, Willard said.

"I think Armond has tremendous trust in Keary and a lot of confidence, and that was really key to what led to Armond's decision here," Willard said.

Budish on Wednesday announced plans to create three working groups to study three topics -- economic development, quality of life and county operations -- for possible future legislative action.

Among the specific areas the team will explore: business attraction, Lake Erie-related issues, college affordability and government efficiency, according to Budish.

Budish also said he would consider people currently working for FitzGerald, as well as outside candidates, when hiring the cabinet for his county administration.

**Original Article:** [http://www.cleveland.com/cuyahoga-county/index.ssf/2014/11/armond\\_budish\\_cuyahoga\\_county\\_executive-elect\\_names\\_leaders\\_of\\_transition\\_staff.html](http://www.cleveland.com/cuyahoga-county/index.ssf/2014/11/armond_budish_cuyahoga_county_executive-elect_names_leaders_of_transition_staff.html)