

THE WARD 13 CONSTITUENT

COUNCILMAN BRIAN KAZY | SUMMER 2026 | WWW.CLEVELANDCITYCOUNCIL.GOV



A Message From Councilman Brian Kazy

Dear Resident,

I LOVE summer on the west side of Cleveland! I always have.

Sure, this year has had weeks where it's been uncomfortably hot. And yes, we've once again had to deal with wildfire smoke from Canada. But from fireworks to friends and family, summer pulls us out of our homes and brings us together like no other time of the year.

I'm happy to add to the fun every summer. We had the Fourth of July parade, and we've organized cookouts in parks across the ward. **We're once again holding our Jefferson Rocks West Park concert series every Wednesday in August at Jefferson Park.** Our annual Ice Cream Social is on August 6. If you can't find fun in Ward 13 this summer, you aren't looking hard enough.

I also love working to make our neighborhoods even better places to live and our commercial corridors more interesting and successful. Since my last newsletter, so much has happened. Pure Supermarket has opened on W. 130th Street, and we've seen new businesses open, including Chiquis Florist, Cravings Café, Paradise Cakes, El Mercadito Latin Supermarket, and Arepazo y Pupuseria Latin Bar and Grill, to name a few.

We're finishing the renovations at Jefferson Park and preparing to begin work at Terminal Park. We're repaving roads and planting trees. There's a flurry of activity in Ward 13. You can read more about some of it inside this newsletter.

On top of all this, I've been working on city, state, and national issues—fighting with First Energy to keep our power from going out, with the state to keep our electric prices down, and with the federal government to keep them from changing grantmaking rules that could cost Cleveland hundreds of millions of dollars.

The work never stops, but neither does life in Ward 13. And just so you don't think summer's the only time of the year I love, mark your calendars. **Haunted Hallow is coming up on October 30, and our annual Christmas Party is on December 18.**

Enjoy the rest of your summer! And as always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Brian Kazy, Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 13

Councilman Brian Kazy Criticizes FirstEnergy's Proposed Rate Increase



Cleveland City Council's Utilities Committee met on on June 25, 2026 to hear a presentation from FirstEnergy on its proposed three-year rate increase.

Filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in May 2026, the plan would raise bills for Illuminating Company customers by an average of 2.6% annually for 3 years, about \$5.15 more per month each year for a typical residential customer. FirstEnergy says the increase would fund grid modernization, reliability upgrades, vegetation management, pole and wire replacement, and expanded customer assistance programs.

As the Utilities Committee Chairman Councilman Brian Kazy openly shared his criticism of FirstEnergy's proposal.

"Just when you're sure they couldn't stoop any lower, FirstEnergy says, 'Hold my beer,'" Kazy said. **"For 25 years, FirstEnergy has repeatedly demonstrated its bottomless contempt for its ratepayers and put all Ohioans at risk. Now, FirstEnergy is once again shamelessly asking for more money from Clevelanders and other Ohioans whose budgets are already stretched to their limits."**

The More Alike Than Different Mural Expands

Last year, Councilman Kazy unveiled Phase II of the "More Alike Than Different" mural located at W. 160th Street and Puritas Avenue. The expanded mural continues the project's mission to **highlight and celebrate individuals with different abilities.** It will stand as the largest permanent mural of its kind in Ohio and among the largest in the nation. In addition to celebrating those with different abilities, organizers hope the mural will help beautify this industrial corridor and discourage graffiti at a corner long affected by tagging.

Scan here to watch Councilman Kazy speak about the new additions to the mural.

Or visit: tinyurl.com/cle13mural



Ward 13 EXPUNGEMENT & LEGAL CLINIC

Saturday, August 8

8:30 A.M. – Registration
(until noon)

St. Paul's AME

4118 Brookside Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio 44135

This event is open to the public and will include:

- Expungement Services
- Arrest Warrant Removal
- Driving Privileges Restoration Assistance
- Remove Criminal Record



Ward 13 Councilman
Brian Kazy

OFFICE: 216-664-2942
clevelandcitycouncil.gov/ward-13



WARD 13 Spotlight



The Lantern

12160 Triskett Rd, Cleveland, OH 44111

The Lantern is a nonprofit recovery center that provides hope and support to those battling addiction. It has helped many individuals build the foundation for lasting sobriety and continues to be a light for people on their journey to recovery.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction and is ready to make a change, contact The Lantern at (216) 941-5005. Help and support are just a phone call away.

What's New in Ward 13

All Locally Owned Businesses



Cravingz Ice Cream & Dessert Cafe

Cravingz is Ward 13's newest destination for ice cream, desserts, and irresistible treats! From **creamy ice cream** and **decadent desserts** to **delicious specialty creations**, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Visit Cravingz today at 15633 Puritas Avenue.

Paradise Cakes and Frappe Artesanal

Paradise Cakes and Frappe Artesanal combine their talents in a shared space in the Jefferson neighborhood. Their menu features **fruit, sweets, coffee, and a variety of dessert-inspired smoothies**, as well as refreshing açai bowls. Treat yourself to a drink, a slice of cake, or both at 13342 Lorain Avenue.



Chiquis Floral Studio

Brighten someone's day with fresh flowers from Chiquis Floral Studio! Discover **beautiful floral arrangements, handcrafted bouquets, and stunning designs** for every occasion—from birthdays and anniversaries to weddings, celebrations, and just because. Find the perfect blooms at 12222 Lorain Avenue.



Pure Supermarket

Pure Supermarket is a community-centric grocery store proudly serving the west side of Cleveland with **fresh, high-quality foods and a wide range of products**. From everyday necessities to international delights, Pure Supermarket is enhancing access to affordable and convenient grocery shopping in the area.

More than just a grocery store, it stands as a reliable community hub committed to quality, value, and outstanding service. Shop today at 4281 W 130th Street.

El Mercadito Latin Supermarket

El Mercadito Supermarket brings a wide selection of traditional Latin groceries, as well as fresh fruits, vegetables, and quality meats. As an extension of the market, Arepazo y Pupuseria Latin Bar and Grill features authentic Salvadoran dishes that are sure to satisfy. This business is an exciting addition to the neighborhood, **offering specialty products and vibrant dining experiences**. If you're craving delicious cuisine, visit them at 4606 West 130th Street.



2026 SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Thomas R. Krist Sr.

Councilman Brian Kazy honored Mr. Thomas R. Krist, Sr. as the Ward 13 Senior of the Year. He recognized Mr. Krist as a lifelong member of the Ward 13 community. Mr. Krist often expresses his appreciation for each day and remains grateful to call Cleveland home.



Councilman Brian Kazy Raises Alarm about Political Takeover of Federal Grantmaking Process

On July 13, 2026, Cleveland City Councilman Brian Kazy sent a three-page letter to OMB Director Russell Vought opposing proposed changes to the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance, which governs \$1.1 trillion in federal grants.

“The OMB’s proposed changes are a political takeover of the federal grantmaking process,” Kazy said, explaining his rationale for issuing the letter. “They would give presidential political appointees complete control over federal grantmaking.”

“This is a dangerous proposal,” Kazy warned. “Federal grants support critical projects in science, education, and infrastructure. Do we really want political appointees overriding doctors and canceling clinical trials or telling physicists how to manage nuclear waste?”

“America has been working for decades toward building a merit-based grantmaking system that funds good projects doing important things with high chances of success,” Kazy added. “These proposals would erase that progress and make politics and ideology once again the driving forces behind federal funding of local projects.”

“It’s terrifying that we’re spending more time talking about the reflecting pool than we are about possibly allowing more than a trillion dollars in federal grants to be distributed according to political whims.”

In his letter to Vought, Kazy praised the few changes in the proposal that would streamline the federal grantmaking process and make it more transparent. However, he strongly objected to most of the proposal’s provisions, including those:

- Putting political appointees in charge of grant funding within federal agencies.
- Letting those political appointees arbitrarily control how funds are spent, even after grant awards have been made.
- Giving agencies the power to suspend, cancel, or change any grant at any time without warning or justification.
- Limiting free speech by requiring that grantees do nothing to significantly damage the reputation of the awarding federal agency and the federal government.
- Letting agencies consider a “history of questionable practices”—however the agency defines it—when determining a possible grantee’s eligibility.

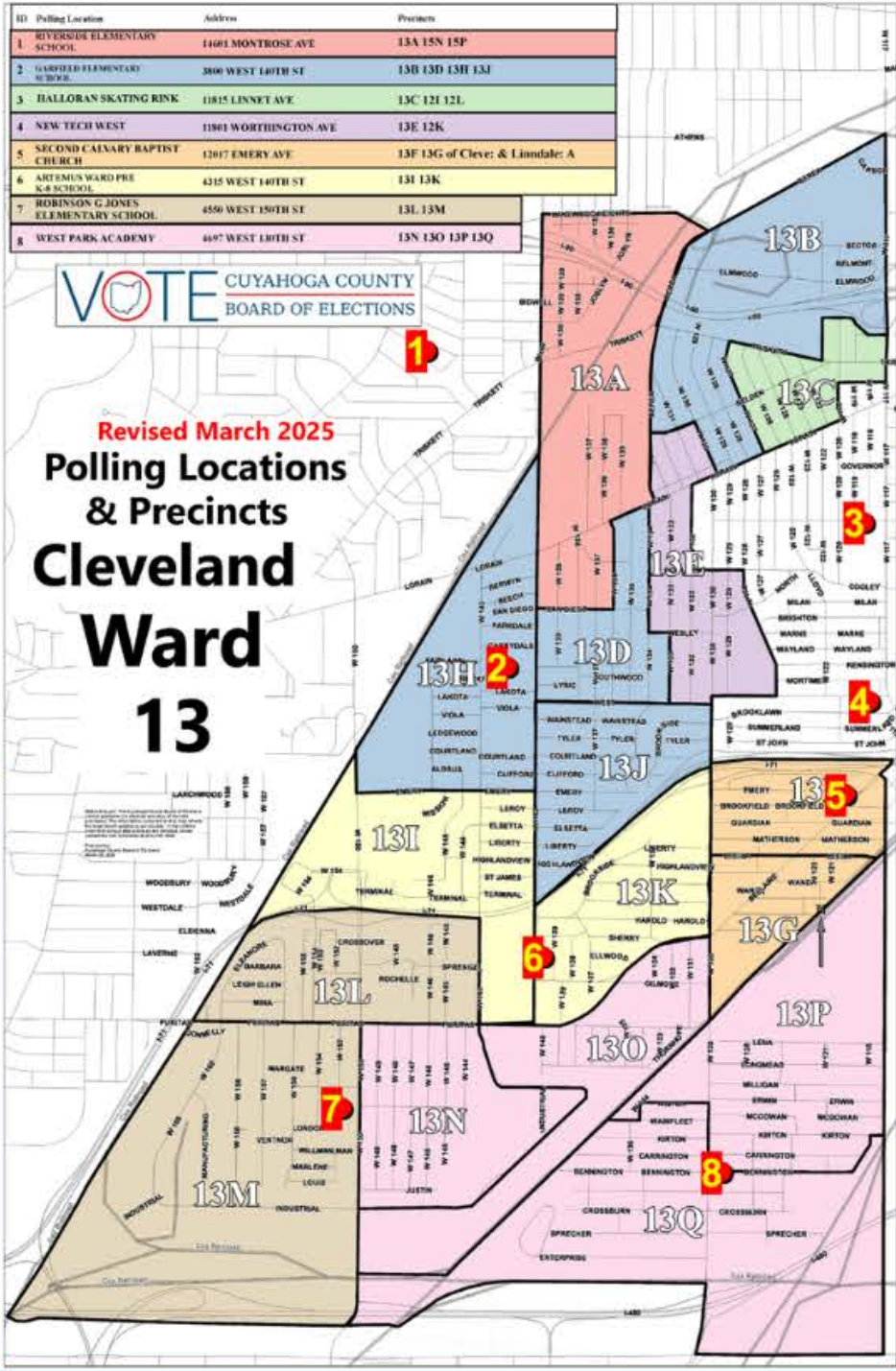
“This gives the President enormous power to choose what should and shouldn’t be funded, regardless of the will of Congress,” Kazy said. “We need federal funding to address critical needs in our city. This proposal would effectively end local control and threaten the funding eligibility of programs that have been adapted to Cleveland’s situation.”

Kazy took a dim view of the motivation behind the proposed changes. “They’re railroading us to get this done before anyone notices,” Kazy said. “They gave us 45 days to comment on the proposal and 79 days to implement it once the comment period closed.”

HAS YOUR POLLING LOCATION CHANGED?

Know before you go to the poll! Check the Ward 13 map below before Election Day to see if your polling location has changed.

The voter registration deadline for the November 3, 2026 General Election is **Monday, October 5**. The start of absentee voting is **Tuesday, October 6**.



For more election information visit: boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/

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THE WARD 13 CONSTITUENT



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MEET OUR WARD 13 TEAM



Linda Litto
Executive Assistant to
Councilman Kazy

Linda oversees all business operations and serves as the primary point of contact for all calls. She keeps our ward running efficiently, ensuring daily operations are organized, responsive, and as smooth as possible.



Lily Mihelich

Executive Assistant of
Community Engagement

Lily will support all Ward events, help coordinate community activities, gather community feedback, and improve community engagement.

JEFFERSON Rocks WEST PARK

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST

Jefferson Park • W. 132nd & Lorain Avenue

OPENING ACTS • 6:30 P.M.
MAIN ACTS • 8 P.M.

AUGUST 5
BRONX COUNTRY
OPENER: ERASERHEAD

AUGUST 12
COLIN DUSSAULT
OPENER: ROB SAMAY

AUGUST 19
DISCO INFERNO
OPENER: CIRCUS

AUGUST 26
CARLOS JONES
OPENER: DJ KAZY

BEER GARDEN!
GREAT FOOD!
BOUNCE HOUSE!
FREE FUN!



WARD 13 COUNCILMAN
BRIAN KAZY

