

# Speaker Bio

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## Rich Fitzgerald

### *County Executive, Allegheny County*

The county's top elected official, Rich Fitzgerald is completing his second term and recently won re-election to a third and final term as County Executive. Widely recognized for his work ethic, Rich is one of the county's biggest champions and is well known for bringing together people and organizations on regional issues. Under his leadership, the county has concentrated on economic development and job creation and boasts high-quality jobs, a diverse and growing economy, low cost of living, and an excellent quality of life.

During his tenure as County Executive, conservative budgeting with modest increases in line with the cost of living have been the trend. The county has benefitted from a large volume of new construction, allowing the county to support its ongoing needs with no property tax millage increase, bringing stability that businesses and organizations rely on to grow here. Under his leadership, the county's bond rating has been upgraded five times and is at its highest level since 1983.

The region has a diverse economy which includes health care, finance, education, manufacturing, arts and culture, robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, and clean energy. Through unique partnerships, the county continues to build a strong workforce while investing in our infrastructure, collaborating with our municipalities, and providing opportunities for all residents. We know that our quality of life and cost of living also make this county attractive to many. Rich has continued to build upon those attributes by investing in facility improvements, programming and events in our parks that add to the quality of life here.

The county's buildings, facilities, vehicles, and parks are being upgraded and becoming greener. Under Rich's leadership, the county is continuing its investment in our future by reducing reliance on fossil fuels, including renewable resources in our mix of energy, and participating in an energy consortium. Its facilities continue to utilize LED lighting, electric cars are being added to our fleet, and recycling efforts have increased. The county is also moving towards accomplishing a net zero energy park.

Rich has recognized that not everyone is sharing in that success and so has set priorities for his third term that include focusing on workforce development, connecting residents to jobs by improving public transportation and infrastructure, and investing in expanded outreach and services through a newly-renamed Department of Equity and Inclusion. The focus will support an environment of inclusion and an equitable community while expanding services and addressing emergent needs. Rich is also continuing his commitment to increasing diversity through his hires, promotions, board appointments and more.

In addition to his numerous board appointments and memberships as County Executive, Rich also serves as a member of the board of the County Executives of America, the Remake Learning Council, is Vice Chair of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and is part of the National Association of County Officials (NACo) Large Urban County Caucus.

Raised in Pittsburgh's Bloomfield-Garfield neighborhood, Rich graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a business minor. He and his wife, Cathy, a pharmacist, live in Squirrel Hill. They have eight children.