

## O'Malley denies offering job to ex-mayor

Posted by [Joseph L. Wagner](#) April 27, 2008



Plain Dealer file photo  
Former North Royalton mayor Cathy Luks says County Recorder Patrick O'Malley offered her a job -- if she dropped out of the race for county recorder.

Shortly after filing in January to run for Cuyahoga County recorder, Cathy Luks said incumbent Patrick O'Malley offered her a \$50,000-a-year job in his office if

she dropped out of the race.

Luks, a former North Royalton mayor, said O'Malley invited her to lunch at Shula's, a popular political hangout in Independence, and pitched the deal midway through their 75-minute meeting.

"If you decide to work for me . . . if you drop out of the race, you've got to do it by Tuesday," O'Malley can be heard saying on an often inaudible tape that Luks said she made with a recorder hidden in her pocket.

O'Malley declined to talk about the recording, but he denied offering Luks a community-outreach position to get her out of the race. The recorder recalled that his lunchtime conversation with Luks focused on how to keep a mutual friend out of the middle of their race.

Under Ohio law, offering something of value to affect an election is a felony. A conviction could result in a candidate being forced off the ballot or being barred from taking office.

Henry Eckhart, spokesman for the government watchdog group Common Cause-Ohio, said an incumbent offering a job to get rid of a challenger would be a "dumb thing to do."