



What is a County Executive?

The Summit County Executive oversees the administration of the county government, including appointing department heads, preparing the budget, and implementing policies. The executive can also issue Executive Orders to declare emergencies and adjust public infrastructure rules.

How long is the County Executive's term?

The Summit County Executive is elected for four-year terms. There are no term limits.

Are County Executive's political actors?

Yes, in Summit County, the executive is a partisan official. Candidates have their party affiliation listed on the ballot. Candidates must live in Summit County.

Does every county have its own County Executive?

No. Only Summit County and Cuyahoga County have a charter form of government, comprising an 11-person county council and one county executive. Ohio's remaining 86 counties operate under a different system, which includes a 3-member Board of County Commissioners elected for a 4-year term. Summit was the first county to create this local government structure, and it's been in place since 1981.

What are the responsibilities of the Summit County Executive?

- **Personnel Management:** The Summit County Executive appoints officers and members of boards, agencies, commissions, and department directors. Suspensions, removals, and other disciplinary actions are also conducted by the county executive. **Legislative Input:** The executive can propose and draft ordinances and resolutions for the county council to consider. The executive also has the power to approve or veto legislation.
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- **Fiscal Operations:** The executive is responsible for drafting the annual county budget, which must include estimated revenues and proposed expenditures for each county department, office, agency, authority, board and commission. The executive also drafts a capital improvements plan to identify major projects needing updated infrastructure and public facilities that require modernization. Additionally, the executive is responsible for conducting collective bargaining regarding wages and benefits for county employees.
- **Intergovernmental partnership:** The executive must work closely with the 11-person Summit County Council, the co-equal branch of government. The executive is also responsible for maintaining regional collaboration with the mayors of Summit County's 31 cities, villages, and townships to align on a host of issues including economic development, urban and suburban planning, and strategic visioning for special city-county projects.

Summit County Executive Resources

- [Meet the current executive](#)
- [Read the Summit County charter](#)