



What is a County Council?

The Summit County Council serves as the legislative branch and taxing authority of the Summit County government. The Council consists of 11 elected officials.

How long are Council Members' terms?

County Council Members are elected for four-year terms. Eight members of Council are elected representing their own district, with the final three Council Members serving as at-large members, elected by the county as a whole.

Does every county have its own County Council?

No. Only Summit County and Cuyahoga County have a Charter form of government, comprising of county Councils and a 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 County moved from a three-commissioner system to a County Council and Executive in 1979.

What are the responsibilities of the Summit County Council?

- **County District Impact:** Eight of the eleven County Council Members represent their own specific district within Summit County, requiring them to serve as a liaison between their constituents and Council. It is critical for council members to understand the interests and concerns of their respective communities.
- **Public Policy:** The Summit County Council is tasked with making policy decisions pertaining to the functioning of the County Government. In addition to legislation, policy may include Resolutions, Ordinances, and Motions.
- **Committee Membership:** Summit County Council Members belong to various committees that focus on important legislative topics, such as Health & Human Services, Public Safety and Justice, Finance, and Public Works, among others. Committee members are responsible for meeting to review new legislation, hear public comments, and discuss policy matters referred to the committee.
- **Government Agencies:** Council Members serve as a link between government departments and the public. This helps ensure citizens can access the resources they need, maintaining the all-around effectiveness and efficiency of the County Government. Council Members can also establish departments and divisions or sections within departments under the supervision of the County Executive.
- **Financial Oversight:** Council Members are responsible for adopting and amending the annual tax budget and operating budget. Members may also conduct budget analyses and review results of the various departments or entities using funds appropriated or approved by the County Council.

Can members of the public attend Council and committee meetings?

Yes, Council and committee meetings are open to the public, as well as livestreamed online. Recordings are also available online afterwards. Members of the public can submit a request to provide comments in person at a meeting.

Summit County Council Resources

- Summit County [Council Members](#)
 - Council and Committee Meetings [calendar](#)
 - [Rules of Council](#)
 - [Share an issue](#) with Summit County Council
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