

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: July 1, 2021

Contact: Greta Johnson
Director of Communications & Assistant Chief of Staff
Office of Executive Shapiro
gjohnson@summitoh.net
330-643-2656

County Executive thanks Governor DeWine, legislators for broadband reconciliation

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Earlier today, Governor DeWine signed the state’s two-year budget into law. The final version of the budget did not include an amendment, added by the Ohio Senate, which proposed extreme restrictions on existing municipal broadband networks, like Fairlawn Gig and Hudson Velocity, and would have stymied Summit County’s plans to improve broadband for its residents and businesses. The amendment, added at the last minute and without public comment, sparked robust debate about the need for better broadband options in Ohio.

“Summit County thanks Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted and the many state lawmakers who spoke out against this amendment and advocated on behalf of local communities seeking to improve broadband options and access,” said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “While we believe we still have work to do in other public policy areas not addressed by this budget, we appreciate the advocacy of our state leaders in regard to broadband. High quality and affordable broadband is as essential as utilities like water and sewers. We must work together to provide better services.”

###