

Proposed Charter Amendments County of Summit



Issue 41

Currently, certain familial relatives of classified employees earning \$80,000+ per year are prohibited from county employment.

Proposed Change #1: Clarify this only applies to County Charter offices

- Non-charter offices like Summit County Children Services or the Common Pleas Courts are not governed by the County Charter. Therefore, these provisions do not apply to them.
- This has caused **confusion** during the job application & hiring process.

Proposed Change #2: Add “aunt and uncle” to the list of relatives

- The current provision excludes *spouse, sister, brother, child, parent, half-sister/brother, stepchildren, stepparents, grandparents, grandchildren, in-laws, niece, nephew, and first-degree cousins* from county employment...**but not aunt & uncle.**

Proposed Change #3: Remove the \$80,000 salary cap

- The cap was set at this flat rate in 2006. Over the past 18 years, the cost of living has risen and salaries have been increased to maintain competitive wages and attract talent.
 - Today, this salary range often encompasses employees who do not make hiring decisions, especially in critical fields & technical careers like law enforcement and sanitary sewer services.
 - Removing salary figures helps ensure that familial relatives are barred from county employment based on their influence in the hiring process & direction of the agency, as originally intended.
- *This proposed change **does not alter** existing language that prohibits hiring familial relatives of “an elected County official, unclassified County employee, or County employee at the level of Director.”*

Issue 42

Advancements in technology now allow anyone to view Summit County’s budget, estimated revenues, and proposed expenditures 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

All other subsections of the Charter require yearly submission of estimated revenues and proposed expenditures—one time a year.

Proposed Change #1: Standardize our budget practices

- Standardize the language so that all estimated revenues and proposed expenditures are required to be submitted yearly.

Summit County finances can be viewed any time at summitcountyoh.finance.socrata.com

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What is a charter amendment?

Similar to a constitution, a charter is a legal document establishing a local government's structure, highest laws, and powers & duties.

Every 5 years, the Charter Review Commission meets to discuss potential amendments to the Summit County Charter.

- The Commission is made up of nine voters from Summit County.
- No more than 5 members can be of the same political party.
- No more than 2 members may be a county officeholder or county employee.
- Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by County Council.
- County Council then votes whether or not to place the Commission's proposals on the ballot for Summit County voters to decide.

In a bipartisan vote, County Council unanimously approved the following members of the 2024 Charter Review Commission:

James Armstrong, Chair

Jeff Snell, Vice Chair

Dr. Albert Bragg

Sarah Buccigross

Moriah Cheatham-Williams

Henry Johnson, Jr

Dan Rice

Karen Talbott

Mayor Michael Wheeler

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