

County Executive Ilene Shapiro became the fifth Summit County Executive in August 2016 and was re-elected for a third term in 2024. As Executive, she manages a budget of over a half billion dollars and ten departments including: Administrative Services, Administration and Public Information, Community and Economic Development, Finance and Budget, Human Resources, Job and Family Services, Law and Risk Management, Public Safety, Sanitary Sewer Services and the Medical Examiner. She is the first woman in Ohio to serve as county executive.

Since becoming Executive, Shapiro has overseen a number of innovative projects and initiatives that have positioned Summit County and its 31 municipalities to succeed. Under her leadership, the county has negotiated financial settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors, attracted new and existing business investment, improved security conditions at the county jail, implemented cost saving measures for a new, state of the art consolidated 9-1-1 dispatch system and increased workforce diversity. While leading the county forward, she has been a champion of strong financial management practices and has maintained Summit County's strong credit rating.

Executive Shapiro has most recently led Summit County through the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the county's direct allocation of federal CARES Act funds, Executive Shapiro and her team created and supported a range of programs to aid the residents, businesses and non-profit organizations of the county.

Executive Shapiro previously served on Summit County Council for ten years, three of those as Council President. She served on various committees during her tenure on Council, including serving as the Chair of Planning and Economic Development Committee for seven years. Prior to her career in public service, Executive Shapiro worked in the corporate business world and was a small business owner.

Shapiro currently serves as a board member for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Akron Community Foundation, the University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF), the Summit County Land Reutilization Corporation, United Way of Summit and Medina, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments and is a member of the Greater Akron Area ATHENA PowerLink governing body. She is an alumnus of both Leadership America and Leadership Akron. She is a past President of the Women's Network and is a founder of the Women's Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation.

In recognition of her distinguished work, Shapiro was awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration Women's Business Advocate for the State of Ohio and the Judith A. Resnick Woman of the Year Award for Inspiration. In 2007, she was recognized with a Women of Professional Excellence Award from Women's Network Inc. And in September 2008, Shapiro was honored as the 2008 Northeast Ohio Athena Award Recipient sponsored by ATHENA International and Inside Business Magazine. In 2011, the Akron Urban League awarded Ilene the distinction of being named as a Pioneer at their annual Pioneer and Protégé's recognition event. In 2015, she received the Harold Stubbs Award for Government. In 2019, Executive Shapiro was named a Crain's Cleveland Business Woman of Note. Most recently, Executive Shapiro received the 2020 Regional Economic Development Champion for her leadership on the Elevate Greater Akron strategy and the 2020 Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities Harvey L. Sterns Lifetime

Achievement Award for her work to support older adults in Summit County.

Executive Shapiro lives in Akron.