

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Declares Support for Issue 8

On October 15, 2018, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council passed a resolution in support of Issue 8 on the November 6, 2018 ballot. This issue will renew the existing Summit County Children Services Board 2.25 mill levy and increase it by an additional 1 mill. Summit County Children Services is the local agency mandated by law to protect children from abuse and neglect. For over a century, the agency has been caring for the children of Summit County and promoting child safety, permanency, and well-being. The agency now serves 1 in 12 children in Summit County.

Children Services has not requested an increase to the existing levy in 30 years, while their revenue from the levy has decreased by over \$58 million since 2008. Currently, the State of Ohio provides the lowest funding in the United States for child protection services, placing a large financial burden on local communities like Summit County.

“SCCS Director Julie Barnes and her staff do the extraordinary work of protecting our children every day,” said Executive Shapiro. “Summit County is grateful for their work and on November 6 we must show that gratitude by voting yes on Issue 8. Our kids need our help.”

Since 2012, Children Services has seen a 36% increase in the number of children in custody, due in large part to the opioid crisis. Children have become the silent victims of the epidemic. In 2017, heroin and other opiates were the number one drug concern reported to the agency.

“I have seen this opioid crisis firsthand in my own community and I know that children are suffering the most,” said District 7 County Councilmember Michael Soyars. “The children of parents fighting addiction are facing unimaginable challenges and they need our help. I encourage all Summit County voters to support Issue 8 on November 6.”

The levy provides for approximately 60% of the agency’s operating budget. The increase will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$35 a year, or less than 10 cents a day.

To learn more about Summit County Children Services and Issue 8, visit <https://www.supportsummitkids.org/>.

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