

News Release

Summit County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Moody's and Standard & Poor's Affirms Summit County's Aa1 and AA+ Rating and Stable Outlook

On August 5, 2016, international credit ratings agencies, S&P Global Ratings (Standard & Poor's) and Moody's Investors Service affirmed their Aa1 and AA+ ratings on Summit County's outstanding general obligation debt. Both agencies also affirmed their stable outlook for the County.

S&P Global Ratings also assigned its AA+ rating with stable outlook to Summit County's planned \$34.2 million General Obligation Various Purpose Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2016. According to S&P's report, factors in this rating include the County's "very strong management," which in their view indicates "that financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable". S&P also noted that their assignment of a stable outlook "reflects our expectation that Summit County's proactive financial management and maintenance of very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity will continue to mitigate budgetary pressures and a reliance on more economically sensitive sales tax revenue for operations".

Moody's Investors Service also assigned an Aa1 rating and stable outlook to the upcoming Series 2016 bonds. In assigning this rating, Moody's stated that, "The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the County's economic and financial health will continue given the base's economic diversity as well as management's demonstrated commitment and policies to support operations."

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Moody's also credits the County with strengths in the area of a large tax base, maintenance of a healthy reserve and favorable budgeting practices, including the use of multi-year forecasts and a small direct debt burden.

“These ratings are excellent news and reflect positively on the County’s strong fiscal management and pro-active approach to budgeting,” Interim Executive Ilene Shapiro said. “We currently operate at the lowest county sales tax rate in the state and are committed to continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.”

The County anticipates issuing approximately \$34.2 million in general obligation bonds in the fall of 2016, with a portion of the proceeds being used to refund outstanding County bonds at a lower interest rate. Bond proceeds will also be used to upgrade the County and City of Akron’s 800 MHz Regional Radio System into an APCO P25-compliant radio system and will provide funding for elevator improvements at the County Safety Building and funding for the acquisition, build-out and furnishing of an Early Voting Center for the Summit County Board of Elections.

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