

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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County receives national recognition for budget for 24th consecutive year

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Finance and Budget received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 24th consecutive year. Established in 1984, the award encourages and recognizes state and local governments that produce high-quality budget documents.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award recognizes budget documents that reflect nationally recognized standards and best practices in budgeting. To receive the award, a budget must excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications tool.

"I am very proud of the exceptional work produced by our Department of Finance and Budget," said Executive Shapiro. "Director Phil Montgomery and his team continue to demonstrate what it means to be good stewards of public dollars, and this award is a reflection of their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the residents of Summit County."

This latest recognition builds upon another significant milestone for Summit County. In 2026, the County earned its first-ever GFOA Triple Crown Award, an honor presented to governments that receive all three of the association's highest financial reporting awards in the same year. The Triple Crown recognized the 2024 Operating Budget and 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report prepared by the Department of Finance and Budget, along with the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report prepared by Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise.

In addition to these national recognitions, the Department of Finance and Budget continues to make financial information readily available to the public through its Open Finance platform, which provides real-time updates to the County's budget. Together, these resources provide residents with clear, accessible information about revenues, expenditures, and budget priorities while reinforcing Summit County's commitment to transparency and good governance.

Summit County's 2026 budget is available to view at <https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/24810/file/2026-summit-county-final-operating-budget.pdf>.

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