

The Council Ledger

Spring-Summer 2022

New Members Named to Fill District 6, At-Large Seats on Council

On Tuesday, June 7, Christine Wiedie Higham and Erin Dickinson were selected by the Summit County Democratic Party to serve as the Summit County Council District 6 and At-Large representatives, respectively. The seats were vacated following the death of former Summit County Councilman Jerry Feeman (District 6) and the retirement of Councilman Clair Dickinson (At-Large).

Ms. Higham, currently director of Human Resources and Administration for Mustard Seed Market & Café, was formerly deputy director of Human Resources for the County of Summit under the late County Executive Russ Pry. A resident of Tallmadge, she holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kent State University and a master's degree in Business Administration from Tiffin University.

She will run for election in November to complete the unexpired term on Council through 2024.

Ms. Dickinson has spent her career as a business litigation attorney. When not working to raise her four young children, she advocates for safer communities through her role on the Community Legal Aid Board. A resident of Hudson, she holds a bachelor's degree in English and



History from Vanderbilt University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. She will run for reelection in November for a full four-year term.

"We are excited to welcome Christine and Erin to Summit County Council. Both women bring impressive professional experience and a passion for public service. We need leaders who can work together to achieve the shared goals for our community and Summit County government. Christine and Erin will do just that," said Summit County Council president Elizabeth Walters.

District 6 includes the City of Tallmadge and part of the City of Akron. At-Large members represent all the cities, townships, villages and municipalities in Summit County.



New Councilwomen Christine Wiedie Higham (District 6) (left) and Erin Dickinson (At-Large) joined Summit County Council for their first meeting on June 13th.

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Councilwoman Sims Hosts 2nd Let's Move Bike & Hike



Photos from top: Councilwoman Sims (center) with Buchtel CLC Cheerleaders and Football Team. Councilmembers Gloria Rodgers (left) and Jeff Wilhite and Veronica Sims (right) with Carole Starks, Elaine Brown and Cindy Wilhite; Council President Liz Walters and Let's Move Coordinator Kent Starks on bikes.

For complete event photos go to the Council webpage at <https://council.summitoh.net>.

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Summit County Council Member **Veronica Sims (District 5)** hosted the 2022 Let's Move Summit County Bike & Hike at Summit Lake Community Center on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

More than 100 pre-registered bike riders and 150 walkers participated led by Let's Move volunteers included Summit County Council President **Elizabeth Walters (At-Large)** and Council Members, **Gloria Rodgers (District 3)** and **Jeff Wilhite (District 4)**, Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, Summit County Executive Deputy Chief of Staff Greta Johnson, Akron City Council Member Russell Neal (Ward 4), State Senator Vernon Sykes and State Representative Tavia Galonski.

Riders kicked off the event at 8 a.m. following a 6 mile loop route that began at the Summit Lake Community Center, heading south to the Nesmith Lake trailhead at Manchester Road on the Towpath Trail and returning to Summit Lake.

Walkers began their hike on the Towpath at 11:00 a.m. They followed a 3 mile route around Summit Lake that started at the Summit Lake Community Center, heading north toward downtown before turning west and proceeding south along the west shore of the Lake, passing the former Margaret Park School location, winding through the neighborhood along Summit Lake Blvd and crossing a bridge at Kenmore Blvd back onto the Towpath passing the new MetroParks Summit Lake Nature Center before returning to Summit Lake Community Center.

New to the event this year was a group of more than 50 Buchtel High School cheerleaders, football players, parents and coaches. They walked the route beginning at 10:40 a.m., volunteered at the lunch station throughout the day and encouraged other walkers and riders on their journeys. All participants received a FREE t-shirt and sport-pack bag when they checked in and a light boxed lunch upon their completion of the route. Music was provided throughout the event by DJ Chaka.

"We had an absolutely gorgeous day on the lake providing a healthy, fun and family friendly bike ride and walk for everyone," said Councilwoman Sims. "Let's Move Summit County" has hosted healthy events for the community each year for the past decade, and I'm proud to keep that annual tradition going in District 5. The Summit Lake Towpath is a hidden "gem" in our community and every year we get more people to get out to ride and walk and just enjoy the outdoors on a safe and scenic route. We appreciate all our sponsors, partners and volunteers who made it possible."

The 2022 Bike and Hike Event was sponsored and supported by:

Summit County Council; County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive; City of Akron, Dan Horrigan Mayor; Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition; Summit County Fiscal Office, Kristin Scalise CPA, CFE; CareSource; Acme Fresh Market; Summit Metro Parks; METRO RTA; Cleveland Clinic Akron General; Summa Health; Summit County Public Health; Community Action Akron Summit; Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority; Sandra Kurt, Summit County Clerk of Courts; Akron Children's Hospital; Key Bank; Summit County Children Services; ADM Board; Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home; Summit DD; Summit County Prosecutor Sheri Bevan Walsh; Akron Children's Museum; University of Akron Student Recreation & Wellness Services; Akron Area YMCA; Akron Urban League; Oriana House; Project LEARN; Dreams Academy; Spark Ohio and United Way of Summit and Medina Counties.

Councilman Jerry Feeman Passes Away

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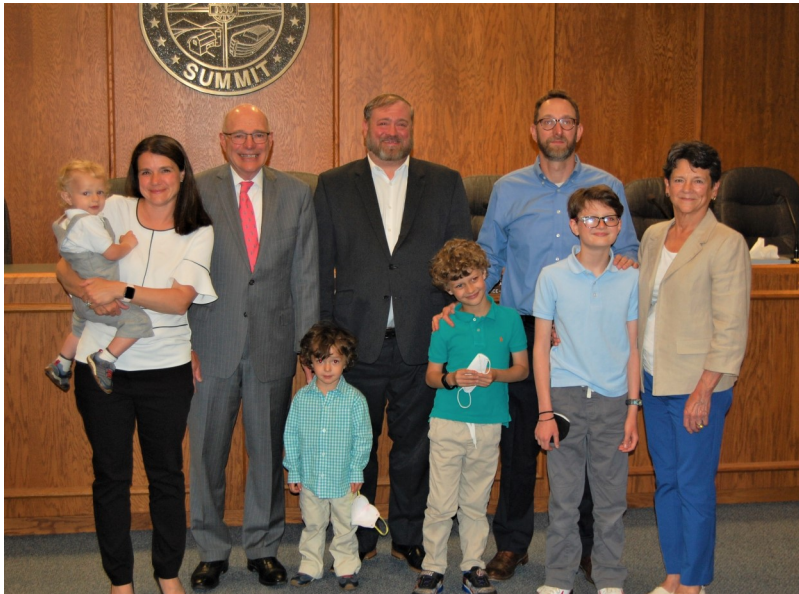


Summit County Council Representative Jerry Feeman (District 6) passed away on Sunday, May 8, after a long illness. He was 66.

Feeman was elected to County Council in 2008, representing District 6, serving the constituents of Tallmadge and neighborhoods in southeast Akron. He served as Council President for three consecutive years and most recently chaired the Public Works Committee. Prior to his time with the county, Jerry served on Tallmadge City Council for several years, including six years as its President. Jerry worked professionally in the real estate industry as an appraiser and realtor for the majority of his life.

“Jerry was a dedicated public servant and cherished member of Council. He will be greatly missed,” said Summit County Council President Elizabeth Walters.

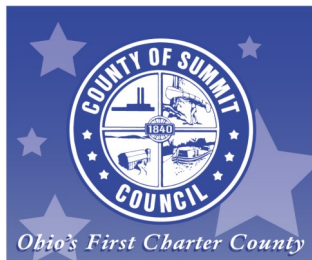
Councilman Clair Dickinson Retires



Summit County Council member **Clair Dickinson (At-Large)** announced his retirement at the May 2 Summit County Council meeting. Dickinson resigned his seat effective May 31. His final Council meeting was May 23. Dickinson's term expires Dec. 31 and he did not file for re-election. “It’s been a great honor to serve on Council and a pleasure to see how the Summit County Charter has evolved over that time.”

Dickinson was chair of the Public Safety Committee and Council vice president. He previously served as Council president three times. He served on Summit County Council three different decades, from 1989 to 1993, 2003 to 2007 and 2017 until his retirement. He left Council in 1993 to serve as a judge on the Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals for a decade. He will continue as of counsel with Brouse McDowell. “I decided it was time to retire from Council at this time. “I am getting to the point where my wife and I are traveling more in the summer,” he concluded.

Dickinson was honored with Commendation from Summit County Council and a crystal award from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. (CCAO) for his dedicated public service. He is pictured above with his family (top left) and with CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz (top right).



Summit County Council

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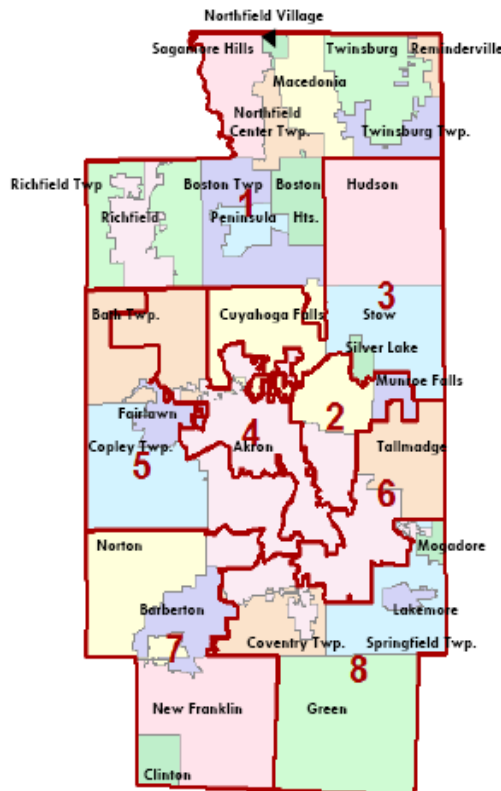
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2022 Council Meeting Calendar

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|--------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| June 27 | Council /Committee Mtg. | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| July | COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS | | |
| July 4 | COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY | | |
| August 1 | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| August 8 | Council Committee Mtg. | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| August 15 | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| August 22 | Council Committee Mtg. | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| August 29 | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| September 5 | COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY | | |
| September 12 | Council Committee Mtg. | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| September 19 | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| September 26 | Council Committee Mtg. | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| October 3 | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| October 10 | COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY | | |

2022 County Council Members

- *Elizabeth Walters**
President
At -Large
- *Veronica Sims**
Vice President
District 5
- Rita Darrow**
District 1
- John Schmidt**
District 2
- Gloria Rodgers**
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**
District 4
- Christine Wiedie Higham**
District 6
- Bethany McKenney**
District 7
- Anthony DeVitis**
District 8
- John Donofrio**
At -Large
- Erin Dickinson**
At -Large



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The Council Ledger is also available online.

For this edition and past issues go to: www.co.summit.oh.us

Click on "County Council" then select "News" and then "Newsletter" from the menu.