



# **SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

## **SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

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## **Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh to Retire**

AKRON, Ohio (January 9, 2024) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that she will retire effective February 16, 2024, ending a record setting career as county prosecutor.

Walsh, 63, will undergo heart surgery later this month to combat the effects of heart failure related to contracting the COVID-19 virus.

“My hope was to be able to continue serving the residents of Summit County. However, because of recent events, I realized I was not going to be able to provide the high level of devotion this job needs, and Summit County deserves. I’m still very passionate about fighting for victims, keeping the community safe, and holding criminals accountable. I am also very passionate about protecting children and our community’s seniors. I just cannot continue at the pace the position of County Prosecutor requires,” said Prosecutor Walsh.

Prosecutor Walsh added, “I am so pleased to have served the Summit County community for over 23 years. I sincerely thank all those who helped me on my mission to make Summit County a better and safer place to live.”

Shortly after February 16, the Summit County Democratic Party Precinct Committee will vote to appoint an acting prosecutor to complete the current term, which ends January 5, 2025.

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“It is my hope the committee will appoint Elliot Kolkovich, my current Outreach Prosecutor. He is the most experienced and best person to lead the office moving forward,” said Prosecutor Walsh.

First elected in 2000, Walsh leaves office after serving six consecutive terms as Summit County Prosecutor, the longest tenure in Summit County history.

As of December 31, 2023, Prosecutor Walsh’s Child Support Enforcement Agency reached a major milestone, collecting \$60 million dollars from criminal non-support cases since the Criminal Non-Support Unit was created in 2001.

As Summit County Prosecutor, Walsh has received dozens of awards and honors including:

2017-2023 – Best Overall Performance, Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency  
2021 – Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association Outstanding Prosecuting Attorney of the Year  
2021 – Matt Patrick Foundation SandboxStrong Award for Exemplary Faith, Strength, and Service to Others  
2019 – Marsy’s Law for Ohio – Victims’ Rights Champion Award  
2017 – Summit County Victim Assistance Program Bernard Rosen Community Service Award  
2016 – Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Models of Justice Prosecutor of the Year  
2012 – Summit County Children Services’ Public Service Award for Commitment to Protecting Children  
2011 – Ohio Public Images “Elected Official of the Year” for being a community leader who consistently champions causes for people with developmental disabilities  
2007 – National Association of Social Workers’ Public Official of the Year Award  
2006 – Prosecutor of the Year presented by the Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association  
2005 – Received National Child Support Enforcement Agency Award for Most Improved Child Support Program in the Country  
2004 – Received Mothers Against Drunk Driving Red Ribbon Award for Aggressive Prosecution of Drunk Drivers

Walsh’s career showcases her desire to make the justice system less intimidating and imposing for crime victims. Under her leadership, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office became the first Prosecutor’s Office in Ohio to have a facility dog to assist crime victims and their families. Brought to the office in 2013, Avery worked with close to 300 victims in nearly 240 cases during his decade with the office. In 2023, Prosecutor Walsh once again set a first for Ohio by bringing in a second facility dog to the Prosecutor’s Office. Adam arrived in August of 2023 and has the same primary job as Avery – to provide emotional support to children who are crime victims and witnesses, as well as children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Among her other accomplishments, Walsh created the Prosecutor’s Office Victim Services Division in 2001 to keep crime victims informed and comforted throughout their journey in the justice system. In 2019 Walsh began a Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure the fair conviction of those found guilty of committing a crime.

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As Summit County Prosecutor, Walsh worked with the Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree and her predecessors to develop the Take Me Home program, a safety tool for people who have family members living with conditions which make it more likely for them to wander from home and make it difficult for them to communicate, such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Alzheimer's, and dementia. The Take Me Home program has close to 3,000 people in its secure database, accessible only by law enforcement. In the event a person wanders from their home, law enforcement can instantly put their information in the database to help quickly reunite that person with their loved ones.

Walsh began her career in the City of Akron Prosecutor's Office in 1985. Early in her career, Walsh was the victim of a violent crime, attacked by a serial rapist. Because of a self-defense class she took in college, Walsh was able to fight off her attacker. This incident left a lasting impact on Walsh, who vowed to help inform other women in the community of ways to be safe and minimize their chances of becoming victims of crime. As Summit County Prosecutor, Walsh began holding monthly FREE self-defense classes in 2008. Since starting these self-defense classes, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has provided vital safety information and training to thousands of women.

Throughout her career, Prosecutor Walsh has spoken to hundreds of local organizations and groups, specifically seniors, with tips to stay safe, including ways to avoid being scammed. Thousands of people have attended these safety speeches through the years, learning important details of how thieves work.

Prosecutor Walsh's other accomplishments include:

2001-Present – Executive Committee Member, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

2010 – President, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

2014-2017 – Vice-President, National Association of District Attorneys

2013-2014 - Ohio State Director of the National District Attorneys Association