

From: Ari Ioannides scgop-summitcountyutgop.org@shared1.ccsend.com
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To: amx@reagan.com



SUMMIT COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

The Case for Balance and Accountability

Summit County has drifted into one-party rule. Park City's political machine and its well-connected "king makers" now shape nearly every major decision, from who runs for office to how our tax dollars are spent. The result is predictable: budgets that outpace inflation, new taxes layered on top of old ones, and a shrinking circle of insiders making the calls.

This year's local races show how deep the coordination runs. The three Park City candidates -- Ryan Dickey, Tana Toly, and Diego Zegarra -- all hired the same campaign consultant, a Democratic operative, in what are supposed to be non-partisan contests. The county Democratic Party openly endorsed them, while its chair is simultaneously running for mayor in Coalville. That is not "non-partisan." That is consolidation of power!

Meanwhile, taxpayers are being asked to shoulder more:

- Basin Recreation wants a fifteen-percent property-tax hike even though nearly a third of its twelve-million-dollar budget already goes to administrative overhead.
- Summit County is already signaling another budget expansion to \$100 million, up more than 63 percent since 2019, funded by more sales taxes just after this year's half-cent "emergency services" sales tax was supposed to prevent future tax hikes.
- The North Summit Fire District just announced another Truth in Taxation increase. This comes after voters were told last year's half-cent sales tax (Prop 18) would fund emergency services and a 400 percent property tax increase the district imposed just two years ago.

It's a pattern. The same political circle raises the same arguments for more money, then funnels those resources through the same consultants and committees. There is no check, no balance, and no serious debate.

What Needs to Happen Now

Vote for independence. Support the candidates who are not backed by the Park City machine: **Lynn Wood for Coalville Mayor, Jeremie Foreman for Francis Mayor, Kay Richins for Henefer Mayor, Jack Rubin for Park City Mayor, and Jeremy Rubell for Park City Council.** Every municipal vote matters, and these are the people who will control budgets, zoning, districting, and spending priorities for years.

Volunteer and contribute. Our local Republican Party is the only organized counterweight in the county. We've already funded digital campaigns, voter outreach, and candidate support. We also fought to establish five county council districts, giving every part of Summit County, from

North Summit to Snyderville Basin, a real voice. That success proves what focused effort can accomplish. However, the other side has vast financial resources and extensive networks; we need more people and additional resources to build on that momentum.

Hold officials accountable. Attend budget hearings. Ask where the Prop 18 sales-tax money actually went. Demand justification for every proposed tax increase.

Prepare for 2026. The other side is already raising money, hiring consultants, and locking in their candidates. We can't wait and play catch-up next year—we need the resources now to recruit, train, and fund our local candidates early. Every dollar contributed today goes directly toward building the ground game we'll need to win in 2026.

The Bottom Line

This election is about restoring accountability. When one faction controls every seat, every budget, and every consultant, taxpayers lose. We've already shown we can change the map, literally, with the new districting plan. Now we need to change the leadership. Balance isn't partisan, it's common sense. Join us as we work to take our county back to open debate, fiscal restraint, and responsible government.

Summit County Republican Party
www.SummitGOP.org

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