

County AVID Reimbursement Funding in the FY2026 State Budget

The FY2026 state budget fully contemplated reimbursement of counties for their share of AVID costs, and the funding for that purpose already exists within the CD7 Special Election line item.

Background:

The Active Voter Information Database (AVID) operates under a cost-sharing model in which the State and Arizona's counties each pay 50 percent of operating costs. AVID's FY2026 operating cost is approximately \$2 million.

State Share:

The FY2026 budget, Laws 2025, Chapter 233, Section 83, appropriated \$999,500 to the Secretary of State (SOS) to cover the State's share of FY2026 AVID operating costs. Those fund are now expended.

Laws 2025, Chapter 233, Section 83, Page 84

5	Sec. 83.	DEPARTMENT OF STATE – SECRETARY OF STATE	
6			<u>2025-26</u>
7		FTE positions	144.1
8		Operating lump sum appropriation	\$ 14,826,500
9		Special election expenses	8,000,000
10		Access voter information database	999,500

County Share:

While not explicitly referenced in the FY2026 budget, the Governor's Office has confirmed that, during FY2026 budget negotiations, the Senate Majority agreed that the county share of AVID costs would be funded through the CD7 Special Election line item.

Laws 2025, Chapter 233, Section 83, Page 85

28	expenses line item. Reimbursement of expenses incurred by a county for	
29	the administration of the special elections may not exceed:	
30	1. Cochise county	\$ 139,500
31	2. Maricopa county	\$ 906,900
32	3. Pima county	\$5,347,700
33	4. Pinal county	\$ 66,100
34	5. Santa Cruz county	\$ 240,600
35	6. Yuma county	\$ 349,200

Amount in the CD7 Special Election line item:	\$8,000,000
Amount authorized to reimburse counties for CD7:	\$7,050,000
Amount remaining:	\$ 950,000

This residual \$950,000 aligns with the estimated county share of FY2026 AVID operating costs, demonstrating legislative intent to fund county reimbursement through CD7.

Additionally, the SOS lacks statutory authority to compel counties to pay their AVID invoices, and prior experience suggests that some counties may be unable or unwilling to do so.