



4. Off-year Election Costs

Description of issue and how recommending the agency's request furthers the agency's mandates: Historically, AZSOS receives funding solely for general and primary election expenses in odd-numbered fiscal years. However, recent statutory changes to election dates, timelines, and election processes have introduced significant costs in even-numbered fiscal years in support of elections. Securing funding for these off-year election requirements is essential to ensure that our election processes remain seamless and effective throughout the entire election cycle. These costs include logic and accuracy testing for the primary election, hiring and training temps for ballot initiative petition signature verification, and receiving and reviewing candidate petition signatures which all occur before July 1, 2026.

Proposal: Appropriate \$500,000 from the state general fund in FY2026 for expenses related to preparatory activities that occur within FY2026 for the 2026 primary and general elections. These include:

1. State-wide Logic and accuracy testing of tabulation equipment: As required by ARS 16-449, necessary for ensuring voting machines and software correctly count the votes cast for all offices ahead of early voting which begins 27 days before of the primary election date.
2. Temporary staff hiring and training: Required for ballot initiative petition signature verification, which must be completed before the election cycle officially begins.
3. Petition signature review: An essential process to ensure that candidate petitions meet legal requirements for ballot placement.

This appropriation will allow the agency to meet its obligations, maintain the integrity of Arizona's elections, and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Alternatives considered and reasons for rejection: N/A

Impact of not funding this fiscal year: N/A

Statutory reference: Titles 16 & 19.

Equipment to be purchased: TBD

Classification of new positions: N/A

Annualization: N/A