



5. Provide an Appropriate Level of Security for the Secretary

Description of issue and how recommending the agency's request furthers the agency's mandates: Threats against Arizona's election personnel escalated during the 2022 election cycle. Thus far in the 2024 election cycle, threats to election personnel, especially AZSOS himself have been high. Regrettably, the Secretary and elections officials likely will face these threats for years to come.

In its FY2024 and FY2025 budget requests, AZSOS requested funding for an appropriate level of security.

Of the \$7.9 million appropriated to the Election Services line item in the FY2025 budget, AZSOS may use up to \$250,000 for direct costs, including security costs. While this provision served as a stopgap, AZSOS still requires ongoing funding to provide security in FY2026 and beyond.

Proposal: Appropriate \$250,000 from the state general fund in FY2026 and thereafter to provide an appropriate level of personal security.

Alternatives considered and reasons for rejection: N/A

Impact of not funding this fiscal year: Not funding this request will mean the Secretary himself, other AZSOS staff, and state property will be at risk of injury, death, or damage while conducting official duties.

Statutory reference: N/A

Equipment to be purchased: N/A

Classification of new positions: N/A

Annualization: \$250,000