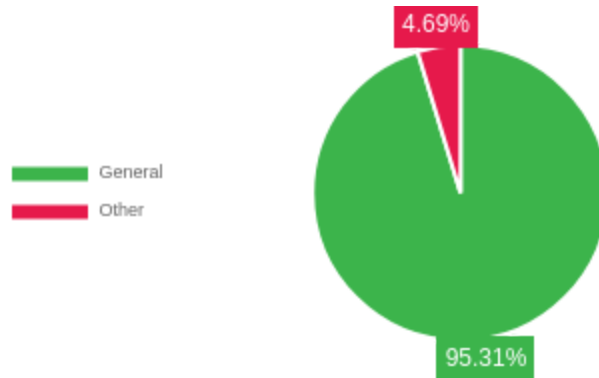


# Legislative Branch

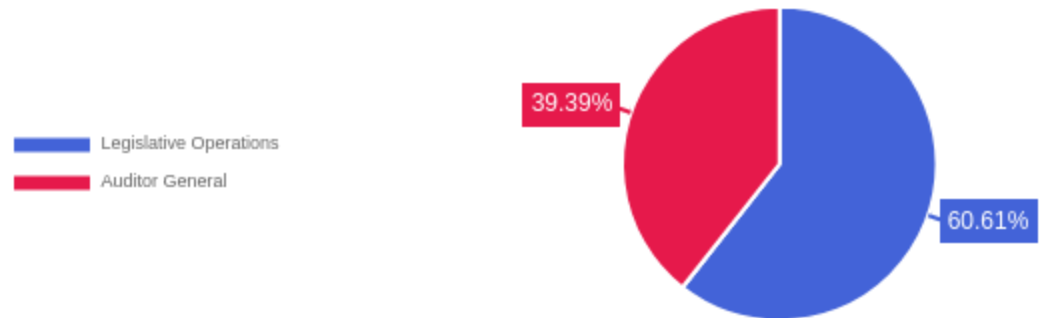
## Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Brief Summary

Information contained in this document is based on the Governor's FY2026 Budget and may not correspond with the final budget adopted by the Legislature.

### Source of Funds



### Distribution of General Funds



### Key Personnel

- Director, John McCullough, Legislative Research Council
- Auditor General, Russ Olson, Department of Legislative Audit

### Mission of the Legislative Branch

To represent the people of South Dakota and protect their general welfare by formulating policies through the adoption and revision of legislation by the state legislature; to perform studies and analyses of state policies through the Legislative Research Council; and, to perform the post-audit functions through the Division of Legislative Audit.

The Legislative Research Council (LRC) is a nonpartisan, joint legislative office, providing legislative services to legislators, committees, and both branches of the South Dakota Legislature—the House of Representative and Senate. The LRC was established by law in 1951. See [SDCL 2-9-1](#). The LRC consists of permanent staff, session-only staff, and "all of the members of the South Dakota Legislature." SDCL 2-9-1.

# Legislative Branch Budget Units

- Legislative Operations (2810)
  - Auditor General (2880)
- Legislative Priority Fund (2815)

## Major Items Summary - Legislative Branch

	Agency Request					Governor's Recommendation				
	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
<b>FY 2026 Base Budget</b>	<b>\$14,848,784</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$755,066</b>	<b>\$15,603,850</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>\$14,848,784</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$755,066</b>	<b>\$15,603,850</b>	<b>79.6</b>
1. Higher Starting Salary for New Hires	\$24,750	\$0	\$0	\$24,750	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
2. Internal Control FTE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	\$319,452	\$0	\$0	\$319,452	2.0
3. Legislative Audit Compensation Plan	\$67,654	\$0	\$0	\$67,654	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
4. Legislator Salary Adjustment	\$172,348	\$0	\$0	\$172,348	0.0	\$172,348	\$0	\$0	\$172,348	0.0
5. Salary Progression, Longevity, and Certification Pay	\$31,938	\$0	\$0	\$31,938	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
<b>FY 2026 Total Budget</b>	<b>\$15,145,474</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$755,066</b>	<b>\$15,900,540</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>\$15,340,584</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$755,066</b>	<b>\$16,095,650</b>	<b>81.6</b>
Change from Base Budget	\$296,690	\$0	\$0	\$296,690	0.0	\$491,800	\$0	\$0	\$491,800	2.0
% Change from Base Budget	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	2.5%

### 1. Higher Starting Salary for New Hires

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$24,750	\$0	\$0	\$24,750	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

Legislative audit requests an increase of **\$24,750** in **general funds** for higher starting salary for new hires and to provide equitable parity adjustments to avoid compaction. Based on a comparative analysis to other governmental audit organizations and state agencies, legislative audit indicates their current starting salary is not competitive with the market. This increase would be in addition to state salary policy.

The Legislature has increased this same request for FY2025, FY2024, and FY2023.

*The governor does not recommend this request.*

2. Internal Control FTE

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$319,452	\$0	\$0	\$319,452	2.00

The governor recommends an increase of **\$319,452** in **general funds** and an increase of **2.0** FTE for internal control FTEs. This request would allow Legislative Audit to hire two higher level FTEs for internal control processes, procedures, and audits.

3. Legislative Audit Compensation Plan

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$67,654	\$0	\$0	\$67,654	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

Legislative audit requests an increase of **\$67,654** in **general funds** for additional compensation plan. Legislative Audit's compensation plan compensates individuals for an increase in knowledge, skills and experience of staff. This additional compensation plan increase would be in addition to state salary policy.

The Legislature has increased this same request for FY2025, FY2024, and FY2023.

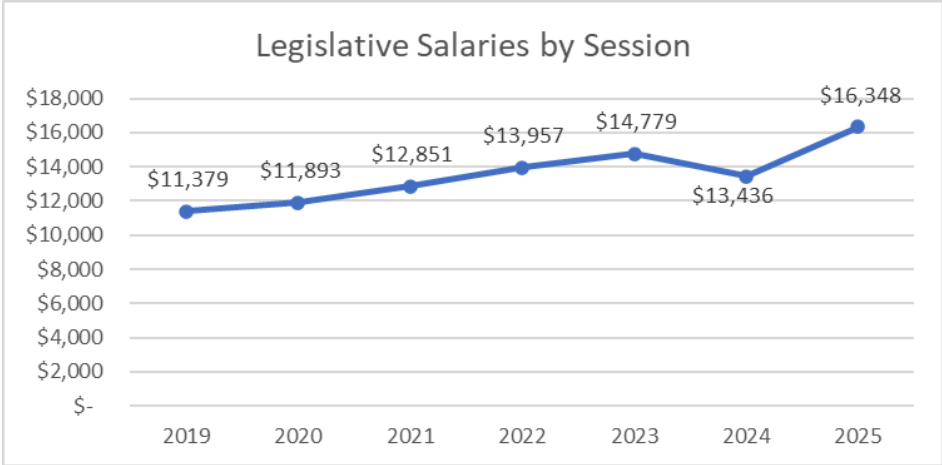
The governor does not recommend this request.

4. Legislator Salary Adjustment

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$172,348	\$0	\$0	\$172,348	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$172,348	\$0	\$0	\$172,348	0.00

The LRC requests an increase of **\$172,348** in **general funds** for legislative salaries. The amounts shown in the graph below shows the legislative salaries by Session paid to each legislator. The South Dakota Median Household income, as report by the U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, is \$81,740 for 2023. One fifth of this amount is \$16,348, which will be the new salary for legislators for the 2025 Session per SDCL 2-4-2.

*The governor recommends this request.*



5. Salary Progression, Longevity, and Certification Pay

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$31,938	\$0	\$0	\$31,938	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

Legislative Audit requests an increase of **\$31,938** in **general funds** for the compensation plan, salary progression for Auditor I's, longevity and certification pay. Legislative Audit indicates the compensation component is necessary in recruiting and retaining staff. This budget request item would be in addition to state salary policy.

The Legislature has increased this same request for FY2025, FY2024, and FY2023.

*The governor does not recommend this request.*

Legislative Branch Budget Request							
By Fund Category	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget Revised	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Agency Request	FY 2026 Governors Recommended	Change From FY2025
General	\$11,989,847	\$13,023,783	\$13,629,138	\$14,848,784	\$15,145,474	\$15,340,584	\$491,800
Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$0
Total	\$11,989,847	\$13,023,783	\$14,384,204	\$15,603,850	\$15,900,540	\$16,095,650	\$491,800
By Program	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget Revised	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Agency Request	FY 2026 Governors Recommended	Change From FY2025
Legislative Operations	\$7,717,509	\$8,484,952	\$8,501,003	\$9,126,278	\$9,298,626	\$9,298,626	\$172,348
Legislative Priority Fund	\$0	\$0	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$755,066	\$0
Auditor General	\$4,272,337	\$4,538,831	\$5,128,135	\$5,722,506	\$5,846,848	\$6,041,958	\$319,452
Total	\$11,989,847	\$13,023,783	\$14,384,204	\$15,603,850	\$15,900,540	\$16,095,650	\$491,800
By Object Expenditure Personnel Costs	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget Revised	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Agency Request	FY 2026 Governors Recommended	Change From FY2025
	\$8,500,172	\$9,418,879	\$9,892,946	\$11,503,069	\$11,799,759	\$11,994,869	\$491,800
Salaries	\$7,093,033	\$7,819,023	\$8,238,372	\$9,466,803	\$9,735,541	\$9,886,548	\$419,745
Benefits	\$1,407,139	\$1,599,855	\$1,654,574	\$2,036,266	\$2,064,218	\$2,108,321	\$72,055
Operating Expenditures	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget Revised	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Agency Request	FY 2026 Governors Recommended	Change From FY2025
	\$3,489,674	\$3,604,905	\$4,491,258	\$4,100,781	\$4,100,781	\$4,100,781	\$0
Travel	\$1,142,816	\$1,152,362	\$1,424,903	\$1,504,307	\$1,504,307	\$1,504,307	\$0
Contractual Services	\$1,945,756	\$1,717,856	\$2,275,363	\$2,293,659	\$2,293,659	\$2,293,659	\$0
Supplies	\$74,416	\$55,489	\$124,161	\$113,161	\$113,161	\$113,161	\$0

Operating Expenditures	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget Revised	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Agency Request	FY 2026 Governors Recommended	Change From FY2025
Grants	\$0	\$5,566	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$326,686	\$673,631	\$666,831	\$189,654	\$189,654	\$189,654	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,989,847</b>	<b>\$13,023,783</b>	<b>\$14,384,204</b>	<b>\$15,603,850</b>	<b>\$15,900,540</b>	<b>\$16,095,650</b>	<b>\$491,800</b>
<b>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	<b>63.54</b>	<b>65.57</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Funding Sources (Governor's Recommended)

	General	Federal	Other	General%	Federal%	Other%
LEGISLATIVE CONTINGENCY FUND	\$0	\$0	\$755,066	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$15,340,584	\$0	\$0	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Governor's Recommend FY22 Supplemental Bill Changes - Legislative Branch

Legislator Salaries

- Increase of **\$172,348 in general funds** for legislator salaries.