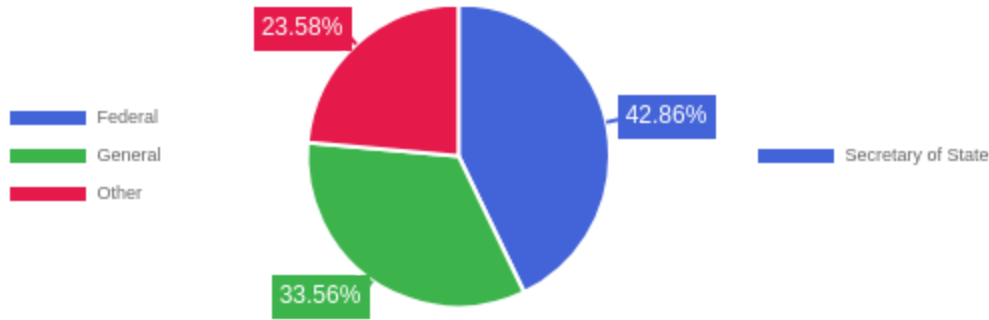


Secretary of State

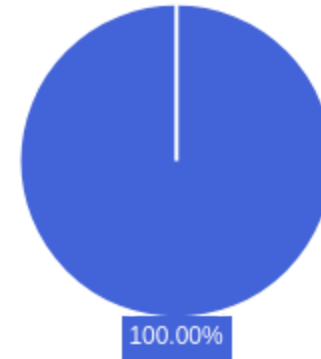
Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Brief Summary

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

- Monae Johnson, Secretary of State
- Thomas Deadrick, Deputy Secretary of State
- Rachel Soulek, Director, Division of Election Services

Secretary of State

The overall mission of the Secretary of State's Office is to provide leadership for the taxpayers of South Dakota in business services, elections, and general services through superior customer service and efficiency.

Business Services Division: its mission is to provide an efficient, professional, and customer-oriented filing experience for, among other kinds, corporate filings, annual report filings, "Doing Business As" filings, and Uniform Commercial Code filings.

Elections Division: its mission is to promote and preserve the right to vote by providing a transparent, efficient, successful, and fair voting experience for every eligible citizen in the State of South Dakota. Services provided include constituent services (answering phone calls, emails, etc.), campaign finance reporting, federal grant management, voter registration system management, approval and validation of ballot questions, certifying ballot tabulation equipment, and various forms of election assistance to counties.

General Services Division: provides services including lobbyist registration and expense reports, notary public commissions, apostilles and authentications, executive filings, legislative session document filings, and issuance of concealed carry pistol permits.

Secretary of State Budget Units

- Secretary of State (3101)

Major Items Summary - Secretary of State

	Agency Request					Governor's Recommendation				
	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
FY 2026 Base Budget	\$1,583,950	\$1,988,788	\$778,083	\$4,350,821	15.6	\$1,583,950	\$1,988,788	\$778,083	\$4,350,821	15.6
1. Business Services Platform Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$325,000	\$325,000	0.0
2. Credit Card Transaction Fees	\$62,000	\$0	\$0	\$62,000	0.0	(\$100,000)	(\$1,500)	(\$113,500)	(\$215,000)	0.0
3. FTE for Business Office	\$117,065	\$0	\$0	\$117,065	1.0	\$0	\$0	\$117,065	\$117,065	1.0
4. FTE for Elections Division	\$91,051	\$24,076	\$0	\$115,127	1.0	\$91,051	\$24,076	\$0	\$115,127	1.0
5. Office Supplies	\$5,440	\$191	\$4,729	\$10,360	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
6. Postage	\$9,321	\$90	\$8,319	\$17,730	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
7. Staff Attendance of Professional Conferences	\$36,292	\$0	\$0	\$36,292	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
FY 2026 Total Budget	\$1,905,119	\$2,013,145	\$791,131	\$4,709,395	17.6	\$1,575,001	\$2,011,364	\$1,106,648	\$4,693,013	17.6
Change from Base Budget	\$321,169	\$24,357	\$13,048	\$358,574	2.0	(\$8,949)	\$22,576	\$328,565	\$342,192	2.0
% Change from Base Budget	20.3%	1.2%	1.7%	8.2%	12.8%	(0.6%)	1.1%	42.2%	7.9%	12.8%

1. Business Services Platform Maintenance

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$325,000	\$325,000	0.00

The governor recommends an increase of **\$325,000** in **other fund** expenditure authority for maintenance of the Business Services platform.

The Office intends to upgrade its existing Business Services platform. This upgrade is three release versions more modern, written in a different coding language, and is cloud-based instead of server-based. It is from the same software vendor, Tecuity, who will also provide maintenance services. According to the SOS Office, improvements from the upgraded business platform would include:

- The ability to save partially filled out documents
- Increased security for business filings
- Allowing staff to make internal platform updates for statutory changes
- Enabling dashboard features for the SOS Office
- Enhancing connectivity with other state agencies

The requested \$325,000 increase in ongoing other fund expenditure authority is for annual maintenance on the new platform.

The fund source for this authority is the Financing Statement and Annual Report Filing Fee Fund (Company 3013).

2. Credit Card Transaction Fees

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$62,000	\$0	\$0	\$62,000	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	(\$100,000)	(\$1,500)	(\$113,500)	(\$215,000)	0.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$62,000** in **general funds** for paying credit card transaction fees. These fees pertain to online business filings: initial filings, annual reports, and Doing Business As (DBA) filings. Currently, the Office itself pays the credit card fee when a filer uses a credit card. The increase in general funds is being requested due to the increase in the volume of transactions and amount of the fees.

The governor recommends a decrease of **(\$100,000)** in **general funds**, a decrease of **(\$1,500)** in **federal funds** and a decrease of **(\$113,500)** in **other fund** expenditure authority. This recommendation corresponds to the SOS Office redirecting the credit card companies' fees to the card users, thus eliminating the need for an appropriation in its ongoing budget to pay those fees.

3. FTE for Business Office

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$117,065	\$0	\$0	\$117,065	1.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$117,065	\$117,065	1.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$117,065** in **general funds** and an increase of **1.0** FTE for a Business Services Specialist. The SOS’s Business Office has seen a substantial increase in its workload over the last five years due to an increase in the number of new business filings and filing amendments and of questions related to those processes. For example:

Business Filings
57,100 in 2022 vs. 73,240 in 2024

The above totals do not include UCCs, trademarks, or other miscellaneous filings.

Phone Calls
24,502 direct calls in 2024

The Office requests an additional FTE to help manage this workload. The duties of this FTE would include the Uniform Commercial Code, media and public relations, revising online forms as statutes change, indexing old images, responding to emails, and answering telephone calls.

*The governor recommends an increase of **\$117,065** in **other fund** expenditure authority and an increase of **1.0** FTE. The fund source for this authority is the Financing Statement and Annual Report Filing Fee Fund (Company 3013).*

4. FTE for Elections Division

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$91,051	\$24,076	\$0	\$115,127	1.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$91,051	\$24,076	\$0	\$115,127	1.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$91,051** in **general funds**, an increase of **\$24,076** in **federal funds** and an increase of **1.0** FTE for a Voter Education and Communications Coordinator.

This FTE is being requested in response to what the Office reports to be an unprecedented strain on the resources of the Elections Division, illustrated by statistics such as:

Election Office Emails
1,451 in 2019 vs. 16,010 in 2024

Phone Calls
16,097 in 2024

Media and Public Information Requests
190 in 2023 vs. 361 in 2024

The Office plans the following responsibilities for this FTE:

- Outreach activities: increasing workshops, webinars, and informational sessions tailored to voters, as well as to county auditors, city finance officers, and school business managers.
- Public and media relations: creating and maintaining election social media communications, creating training videos, responding to public inquiries, and working with media outlets and community organizations to ensure accurate information is widely accessible.
- Enhancing voter education: developing and disseminating instructional materials on registration, voting procedures, and ballot measures.
- Overall: reducing voter confusion, increasing participation, and building public confidence and trust in the electoral process.

Currently, this work is divided among senior members of the elections team.

If this FTE is approved, the Office would use \$91,051 of its compensation toward the matching requirements for a \$1 million Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Election Security Grant that the Office has been awarded.

*The governor recommends an increase of **\$91,051** in **general funds**, an increase of **\$24,076** in **federal funds** and an increase of **1.0** FTE.*

5. Office Supplies

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$5,440	\$191	\$4,729	\$10,360	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$5,440** in **general funds**, an increase of **\$191** in **federal funds** and an increase of **\$4,729** in **other fund** expenditure authority for office supplies. The Office is requesting a 10% increase for all supplies line items, excluding postage, due to increased filings and rising printing expenses. The table below shows the Office’s expenditures on supplies (excluding postage) and printing since FY2022.

Expenditures on supplies and printing				
FY	General	Federal	Other	Total
2022	\$33,846	\$14,380	\$33,745	\$81,971
2023	\$84,283	\$210	\$40,099	\$124,592
2024	\$80,112	\$6,438	\$41,085	\$127,635

The governor does not recommend this request.

6. Postage

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$9,321	\$90	\$8,319	\$17,730	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$9,321** in **general funds**, an increase of **\$90** in **federal funds** and an increase of **\$8,319** in **other fund** expenditure authority for postage. The Office requests an 18% increase for its postage line item due to increased filings and the rising cost of postage. The table below shows the Office’s expenditures on postage since FY2022.

	Expenditures on postage			
FY	General	Federal	Other	Total
2022	\$31,746	\$36	\$19,542	\$51,324
2023	\$25,342	\$2	\$24,153	\$49,497
2024	\$65,261	\$0	\$31,013	\$96,274

The governor does not recommend this request.

7. Staff Attendance of Professional Conferences

	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
Agency Request	\$36,292	\$0	\$0	\$36,292	0.00
Governor's Recommendation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

The agency requests an increase of **\$36,292** in **general funds** for staff attendance of professional conferences.

This increase would enable 1) two staff members to attend the summer and winter National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) conferences and 2) two staff members to attend the International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA) conference.

In the past, the staff attending these conferences have been:

- NASS: Secretary Johnson (and at times Deputy Deadrick)
- NASED: Director Soulek (and at times Deputy Deadrick)
- IACA: Deputy Deadrick and a member of the business staff

The summer 2026 NASS conference will be hosted in Rapid City. The Office credits the state’s securing of that bid to Secretary Johnson’s engagement with NASS, including attendance of its conferences.

The governor does not recommend this request.

Secretary of State 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	\$1,292,642	\$1,403,012	\$1,552,093	\$1,583,950	\$1,905,119	\$1,575,001	(\$8,949)
Federal	\$5,063,540	\$411,205	\$1,323,430	\$1,988,788	\$2,013,145	\$2,011,364	\$22,576
Other	\$694,882	\$678,414	\$744,368	\$778,083	\$791,131	\$1,106,648	\$328,565
Total	\$7,051,065	\$2,492,630	\$3,619,891	\$4,350,821	\$4,709,395	\$4,693,013	\$342,192
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
Secretary of State	\$7,051,065	\$2,492,630	\$3,619,891	\$4,350,821	\$4,709,395	\$4,693,013	\$342,192
Total	\$7,051,065	\$2,492,630	\$3,619,891	\$4,350,821	\$4,709,395	\$4,693,013	\$342,192
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
	\$1,067,835	\$1,231,599	\$1,366,713	\$1,449,093	\$1,681,285	\$1,681,285	\$232,192
Salaries	\$831,915	\$964,594	\$1,050,926	\$1,122,659	\$1,302,659	\$1,302,659	\$180,000
Benefits	\$235,920	\$267,005	\$315,787	\$326,434	\$378,626	\$378,626	\$52,192

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
	\$5,983,230	\$1,261,031	\$2,253,178	\$2,901,728	\$3,028,110	\$3,011,728	\$110,000
Travel	\$16,612	\$29,870	\$22,076	\$22,228	\$58,520	\$22,228	\$0
Contractual Services	\$831,009	\$605,131	\$651,828	\$965,475	\$1,027,475	\$1,075,475	\$110,000
Supplies	\$170,084	\$223,910	\$202,084	\$202,084	\$230,174	\$202,084	\$0
Grants	\$4,848,664	\$234,994	\$1,309,990	\$1,691,141	\$1,691,141	\$1,691,141	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$116,861	\$167,126	\$67,200	\$20,800	\$20,800	\$20,800	\$0
Total	\$7,051,065	\$2,492,630	\$3,619,891	\$4,350,821	\$4,709,395	\$4,693,013	\$342,192
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	12.73	12.81	15.6	15.6	17.6	17.6	2.0

Funding Sources (Governor's Recommended)

	General	Federal	Other	General%	Federal%	Other%
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$1,575,001	\$0	\$0	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SECRETARY OF STATE OTHER FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$1,106,648	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA)	\$0	\$2,011,364	\$0	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%

Governor's Recommend FY22 Supplemental Bill Changes - Secretary of State

2024 Post Election Audit

- Increase of **\$59,006 in general funds** for the 2024 post-election audit. These funds will be used to reimburse counties for expenses incurred auditing the results of the 2024 primary (\$23,537) and general (\$35,469) elections.