

Pinal Partnership Session Highlights

Key Outcomes Impacting Pinal Business and Government

Executive Summary

The FY2027 State Budget and related legislation delivered several significant wins for Pinal County. While the budget did not contain a large standalone appropriation directed specifically to the region, the enacted budget and accompanying legislation continue investments in transportation infrastructure, water reliability, workforce development, public safety, housing, and economic development.

Collectively, these measures support Pinal County's continued growth, improve regional competitiveness, and provide new tools to address infrastructure and housing demands throughout the county.

Transportation & Infrastructure

SR 347 Corridor Improvements

The FY2027 budget package continues advancement of improvements along the State Route 347 corridor, one of Pinal County's highest transportation priorities.

Funding and project authority support:

- Widening of SR 347 between Interstate 10 and the City of Maricopa.
- Construction of the Riggs Road grade-separated overpass.
- Improvements to the Casa Blanca Road and Cement Plant Road intersections.
- Right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, environmental compliance, and construction activities.

These investments will improve regional mobility, reduce congestion, enhance freight movement, and support continued residential and commercial growth in western Pinal County.

North-South Corridor

The budget maintains support for the North-South Corridor project, including continuation of the previously authorized \$4 million planning and study appropriation.

The corridor remains one of Arizona's most important long-term transportation investments and will provide critical connectivity between Interstate 10, State Route 24, and future employment centers throughout central Pinal County.

State Route 24 Expansion

The budget preserves funding for right-of-way acquisition associated with future State Route 24 expansion, supporting long-term industrial, logistics, manufacturing, and aerospace development opportunities throughout northern Pinal County.

Florence Infrastructure Improvements

The budget continues funding for the Butte Avenue Bridge replacement project in Florence, improving local transportation connectivity and public safety access.

Housing & Economic Development

HB2999 – State Affordability Infrastructure Districts

One of the most significant economic development measures enacted during the 2026 legislative session was HB2999, which establishes State Affordability Infrastructure Districts (SAIDs).

The legislation creates a new financing mechanism that allows developers and landowners to finance public infrastructure through tax-exempt bonds. Eligible infrastructure includes:

- Roadways and transportation improvements.
- Water and wastewater systems.
- Drainage facilities.
- Utility infrastructure.
- Other public improvements necessary to support residential development.

For rapidly growing regions such as Pinal County, HB2999 provides a valuable tool to finance growth-related infrastructure, accelerate housing production, and improve affordability without creating financial obligations for existing taxpayers or local government general funds.

Water & Environmental Policy

Pinal AMA Groundwater Infrastructure Program

The Environment Budget Reconciliation Bill extends the Pinal Active Management Area Groundwater and Irrigation Efficiency Program through 2030.

The program supports:

- Agricultural well rehabilitation.

- Groundwater infrastructure improvements.
- Irrigation efficiency projects.
- Agricultural transition planning.

Importantly, revenues generated within the Pinal AMA remain dedicated exclusively to projects located within the Pinal AMA.

SB1200 – Effluent Lakes & Water Features

The Legislature also approved SB1200, providing long-term certainty for qualifying effluent-fed lakes and water features located within Active Management Areas.

The legislation is particularly relevant to municipalities, master-planned communities, and property owners that utilize reclaimed water systems and amenity lakes as part of their landscaping and recreational infrastructure.

For several Pinal County communities, SB1200 preserves an important tool for maintaining community amenities while ensuring appropriate water accounting and replenishment requirements are met.

Public Safety

Pinal County Sheriff's Office

The budget includes direct investments supporting county public safety operations:

- \$600,000 for Pinal County Sheriff support.
- \$500,000 for Sheriff's Office records management software upgrades.
- Additional assistance for corrections officer retirement contribution increases.

Reentry Services

The budget appropriates \$2 million to Pinal County for coordinated reentry planning and services.

These resources support workforce reintegration, reduce recidivism, and strengthen public safety outcomes throughout the county.

Emergency Communications & 911 Services

The FY2027 budget addressed a projected statewide funding gap for Arizona's emergency communications system by preserving approximately \$4 million in statewide 911 funding.

These resources support Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), emergency dispatch centers, and Next Generation 911 infrastructure throughout Arizona.

As one of the fastest-growing counties in the state, Pinal County's continued access to reliable emergency communications funding remains critical to supporting residents, businesses, visitors, and first responders.

Workforce Development & Education

Central Arizona College

The FY2027 budget provides approximately \$3.87 million in support for Central Arizona College, including:

Program	Amount
Operating Aid	\$1,261,800
STEM & Workforce Development	\$727,900
Rural County Assistance	\$1,884,700
Total	\$3,874,400

These investments strengthen workforce pipelines supporting advanced manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, construction, public safety, and other industries essential to Pinal County's economy.

Additional Local Government Investments

The budget also includes:

- Funding support through the Major Incident Regional Law Enforcement Task Force.
- Community cleanup and illegal dumping mitigation flexibility for Pinal County.
- Continued opportunities for rural transportation grant funding available to local jurisdictions.

Conclusion

The FY2027 State Budget and related legislation continue to advance many of Pinal County's long-standing priorities.

Key accomplishments include continued investment in transportation infrastructure, new tools to support housing and development, preservation of water management programs, enhanced public safety resources, workforce development funding, and support for statewide emergency communications infrastructure.

Taken together, these investments position Pinal County to continue attracting new businesses, supporting population growth, improving quality of life, and strengthening the region's long-term economic competitiveness.