



P.O. Box 837
Sells, Arizona 85634

**TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH**

Telephone: (520) 383-2470
Website: <https://tolc-nsn.org/>

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: All Members and Districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation

FROM: /s/ Wavalene M. Saunders, Chairwoman
wavalenem.saunders@tonation-nsn.gov

Marlakay Henry, Vice Chairwoman
Marlakay.Henry@tonation-nsn.gov

CC: Legislative Council Representatives
Legislative Branch Staff

DATE: November 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on Legislative Branch Replacement Building Funded by ARPA

In 2022, the Tohono O'odham Nation was awarded American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funding to address the wide-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these funds were also authorized for construction projects on the Nation, including for replacement buildings. Resolution No. 22-311, [22311.pdf](#).

The Legislative Council approved ARPA allocations to each of the Nation's districts, to the Nation's Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches, and to some of the Nation's entities including the Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority and Tohono O'odham Utility Authority. The Legislative Branch was allocated ARPA funds for the demolition of the former Legislative Council chambers and Legislative and Executive administrative offices, and for the construction of replacement buildings, and for a temporary office. Resolution No. 24-433, [24433.pdf](#).

Since the "white house" was demolished in early 2025, the Legislative Branch has not had a central location for its offices, and Legislative Branch staff have been scattered in various

home offices and some leased office spaces. Resolution Nos. 24-264, [24264.pdf](#) and 25-034, [25034.pdf](#).

The Legislative Branch followed an ARPA-required competitive procurement process to award contracts to architects and a general contractor to design and construct a Legislative Branch replacement building and install all necessary infrastructure. Resolution No. 25-019, [25019.pdf](#). Construction was delayed when the original contractor was unable to provide bonds that are required by ARPA. Earlier this year, the Branch entered a contract with a replacement general contractor, Rytan LLC, and amended the Rytan LLC agreements earlier this month. Resolution No. 25-157, [25157.pdf](#) and Resolution No. 25-389, [25389.pdf](#).

We look forward to steady progress toward the completion of this building and a permanent Legislative Council chambers with greater public access for conducting Legislative Council sessions.

At the same time, the Legislative Branch administration made multiple proposals to site temporary office space on the Main Reservation. Due to a lack of support for these options, we were ultimately forced to look for staff and administration office space off reservation. Resolution No. 25-388, [25388.pdf](#). This hasn't been an ideal solution, but it is necessary to centralize our operations and improve communication and efficiency.

While the Legislative Council has appropriated some supplemental funding for governmental construction projects, the majority of the funding for Legislative Branch, and other Nation's and district projects, comes from federal ARPA funds, which must be expended by December 31, 2026.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.