

# DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

## FY 2027 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

APRIL 3, 2026





**Delta Regional Authority  
2027 Congressional Budget Justification**

**LETTER FROM THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN**

**April 3, 2026**

On behalf of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), I respectfully submit this letter as formal justification for the agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget.

Congress established the DRA in 2000 as a bipartisan mechanism for joint federal-state collaboration to promote economic development across the lower Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt. The Economic Development Reauthorization Act (EDRA) of 2024, enacted as part of the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-272, Division B, Title II) and signed into law on January 4, 2025, formally reauthorized the Authority through FY 2029.

The DRA serves 255 counties and parishes in eight states—Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee—by investing in transportation and basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and small business development.

By statute, DRA is responsible for creating a regional plan with public input that is approved by our board of governors. Consistent with DRA's Regional Development Plan IV, DRA's FY 2025 investments included nearly \$108 million in critical public infrastructure, which leveraged nearly \$168 million in public and private investment to support nearly 7,000 jobs created or retained, more than 2,000 individuals trained in workforce development programming, and more than 65,000 families positively impacted through access to improved basic public infrastructure. DRA also invested over \$7 million in workforce development training and over \$3 million in strategic planning funds to encourage economic growth and opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corey Wiggins".

Dr. Corey Wiggins  
Federal Co-Chair



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2027 Congressional Budget Justification**

**ABOUT THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

The DRA was established in 2000 as a formal framework for joint federal-state collaboration to promote and encourage the economic development of the lower Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions. DRA invests in projects supporting transportation infrastructure, basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development. DRA works to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of those who reside in the region. DRA's region encompasses 255 counties and parishes in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

**State Members: Board of Governors**

Governor Kay Ivey, State of Alabama  
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, State of Arkansas  
Governor JB Pritzker, State of Illinois  
Governor Andy Beshear, Commonwealth of Kentucky (States' Co-Chair)  
Governor Jeff Landry, State of Louisiana  
Governor Tate Reeves, State of Mississippi  
Governor Mike Kehoe, State of Missouri  
Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee



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2027 Congressional Budget Justification**

**FY 2027 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**Introduction**

The President’s FY2027 Budget proposes the elimination of several agencies, including the Delta Regional Authority. DRA would use \$4 million in unobligated balances to conduct an orderly closeout of the agency in 2027, including legal fees, asset disposal, record-keeping requirements, employee severance packages for departing staff, and other shutdown expenses. The Budget also requests the permanent cancellation of \$30 million in unobligated balances and \$10 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) emergency balances.

The below Budget table presents a summary of the FY2027 shut down budget expenditures from federal unobligated balances:

**FY 2027 Budget Shut Down Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget Expenditure</b>
Salaries, Benefits and Severance	\$3,400,000
Travel and Vehicle Cost	\$10,000
Office Leases, Utilities and Telephone	\$70,000
Office Equipment, Supplies, Printing and Postage	\$12,000
Professional and Contractual Services	\$508,000
Total	\$4,000,000

The administrative funds necessary to shut down in FY 2027 are presented below, to include:

**Salaries, Benefits and Severance**

Cost associated with payroll and benefits for two federal appointed positions and 25 non-federal positions. DRA would reduce staff levels throughout the fiscal year and work to provide incentive pay for non-federal employees throughout the shutdown process and severance pay for non-federal employees upon exit.

**Travel and Vehicle Cost**

Cost associated with the one DRA vehicle, maintained by the federal co-chairman for official business purposes and cost associated with mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotels, airfare, meals and incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of potential trips to the Mississippi or D.C. office for asset disposal, record keeping, or other task associated with shutting down operations.

**Office Leases, Utilities and Telephone**



**Delta Regional Authority  
2027 Congressional Budget Justification**

Cost associated with long-term leases for the regional headquarters in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and the federal office in Washington, D.C., and for internet, business phones, basic utilities, and related items.

**Office Equipment, Supplies, Printing and Postage**

Cost associated with computers, printers, external monitors, accessories, stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related items.

**Professional Services/Contractual**

Cost associated with specialists that provide unique services unavailable to be provided by DRA staff.

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The 2027 President's Budget includes the appropriations language listed below.

Delta Regional Authority

*Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$40,000,000 is hereby permanently cancelled, which shall include \$10,000,000 in unobligated balances from amounts made available under this heading in division J of Public Law 117-58: Provided, That any remaining unobligated balances from amounts previously made available under this heading shall be available only for expenses necessary to carry out the closure of the Delta Regional Authority.*