

POLITICS

Washtenaw County prosecutor to repay thousands in gas purchases



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Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit said Friday he'll repay the county government for spending on his fuel for travel across the state [after The Detroit News revealed](#) that some of the government expenditures had directly supported his campaign for attorney general.

Twelve hours after The News Investigation was published online, tying \$838 in gas purchases to campaign events outside Washtenaw County, Savit's campaign released a statement that said the candidate "will be voluntarily reimbursing the county in the amount of any gas purchases he has made since he launched his campaign."

"As a public servant, Eli has always strived to hold himself to a higher standard than simply what is allowed," his campaign's statement said. "And Eli will always strive to maintain the public trust.

"When, upon reflection, he believes a course-correction is necessary to avoid unnecessary questions or concerns, he will do so."

Savit's statement didn't specify the tally of how much he would repay, but it said he would reimburse the county "in the amount of any gas purchases" he made since [launching his campaign on May 13, 2025](#).

That would equal about \$4,644, according to an analysis of county records by The News.

More: [Attorney general hopeful Eli Savit's travel cost taxpayers, records show](#)

On Sunday, Michigan Democrats will gather for a convention in Detroit, where they will decide whether to pick Savit, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald or longtime public defender William Noakes as their nominee for attorney general.

As Washtenaw County's prosecutor, Savit has a county-provided vehicle and a government gas card to buy fuel for the vehicle.

Internal county records that listed the locations of his fuel purchases and a review of Savit's campaign Facebook page showed at least 21 instances when the purchases matched places outside Washtenaw County where Savit was campaigning.

Some of Savit's gas purchases using the county gas card were as far away as Ontonagon and Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula, more than 500 miles away from Washtenaw County.

Michigan law bans government employees from using money or equipment to contribute to a candidate.

Savit, who was first elected Washtenaw County prosecutor in 2020, said his use of the county resources to get him to campaign stops around the state over the last year has been legal because his county compensation package provides him "unlimited use of a county-provided vehicle."

"Expenses related to any personal use ... are tracked and reported as 'personal,'" Savit said Thursday. "The value of those personal trips is part of my personal income."

In his campaign's Friday statement, Savit said the policy of the county prosecutor being allowed unlimited personal travel pre-dated his being elected to the position.

"Though his use of the car for personal reasons is fully consistent with county policies, it is fair to note that this compensation arrangement — which again, predated his tenure — likely did not contemplate the amount of personal travel he has done over the past year as he campaigns for AG," the statement said.

"Prosecutor Savit does not want this to be a distraction from the important issues facing Michiganders. And more importantly, he cares about honoring the spirit of his compensation agreement."

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