

## NUECES COUNTY JUDGE CONNIE SCOTT (R)

| <u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE LEFT</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE RIGHT</u>                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>SLASHED EDUCATION FUNDING IN 2011</u></li><li>• <u>CLAIMED PREDECESSOR MISMANAGED COUNTY, BUT HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANT SCANDALS DURING HER OWN TENURE</u></li><li>• <u>PAC AFFILIATIONS WITH VALERO ENERGY DESPITE VALUATION BATTLE</u></li><li>• <u>ATTENDED TRUMP VISIT TO CORPUS CHRISTI IN FEBRUARY</u></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>SUPPORTED CORNYN OVER PAXTON IN THE 2026 SENATE PRIMARY</u></li></ul> |

### Key Findings Include:

- Scott voted for a controversial 2011 statewide budget that slashed billions in education funding.
- Nueces County has been mired with controversy under Scott and her predecessor's tenure. The county has seen several lawsuits, resignations, and corruption/misconduct allegations across departments.
- Scott was previously endorsed by Donald Trump and is a prominent supporter of Sen. John Cornyn and Gov. Greg Abbott.

### Jurisdiction Summary

Nueces County in southern Texas contains Corpus Christi, Robstown, Driscoll, and Bishop. [\[Texas State Historical Association\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

Nueces County is a majority Hispanic region (63%). White residents represent 28% of the county, while Black and Asian residents make up 4% and 2% of the population respectively. [\[Census Reporter\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

The county swung for Donald Trump (55.23%), Sen. Ted Cruz (51.52%), and Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX-27) (57.48%) in the 2024 election. Republicans won all competitive races in the county. [\[Texas Election Results\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

Sen. John Cornyn outperformed Ken Paxton in Nueces County, receiving 48.93% of votes to Paxton's 38.36%. [\[Clarity Elections\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

Scott won her 2022 race against then-County Judge Barbara Canales (D) by 11.2%. [\[Ballotpedia\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**Democratic candidate for County Judge Aidee Hernandez outperformed Connie Scott in the 2026 primaries, receiving 20,421 votes to Scott's 18,768.** [\[Clarity Elections\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

## **BACKGROUND**

### **PERSONAL LIFE**

**Scott is the incumbent Nueces County Judge, having been elected in 2022.** [\[Caller Times\]](#), 1/1/23]

**Scott became responsible for her two younger sisters at 16.** “At age 16, when her mother couldn’t take any more of her father’s alcoholism, Scott found herself without any parents—and responsible for two younger sisters. “In the process of leaving him and all the turmoil she was going through, [my mother] forgot she had kids,” Scott says. The sisters would have been homeless if it hadn’t been for a supportive community. Scott moved into an Uncle’s trailer home and worked part time with an oil company while she finished school.” [\[Texas Observer\]](#), 4/20/11]

**Scott’s husband, Mike Scott, is a Vietnam War veteran.** [\[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook\]](#), accessed 8/3/2]

### **PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND**

**Before her tenure as County Judge, Scott was the State House Representative for District 34 from 2011 to 2013.** [\[Legislative Reference Library of Texas\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott’s campaign website lists affiliation with several philanthropic organizations, including Wounded Warriors, Veterans of Foreign Wars, St. Jude, and River Hills Baptist Church.** [\[Vote Connie Scott\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott serves as an ex-officio member of the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce** [\[United Corpus Chirsti\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott is affiliated with the South Texas Military Task Force, which increases “awareness of the military and economic value these facilities have in our community.”** “Here in Washington, DC with the South Texas Military Task Force, walking the halls of Congress and meeting with national leaders, including Senators John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz, U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar, and Rep. Michael Cloud and Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, to advocate for Corpus Christi and the men and women of the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD).” [\[United Corpus Christi\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [\[Paulette M. Guajardo Facebook\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott and her husband Mike owned a pipeline construction company for 10 years.** [\[Nueces County Judge\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott previously served as the executive director of the Bay Area chapter of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and vice chairman of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority.** [\[Vote Connie Scott\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [Caller Times, 12/1/21]

#### **INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

**In 1992, Scott pled guilty to a Class C Misdemeanor for issuing a bad check.** [\[Comal County Court Records\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Scott has been fined twice by the Texas Ethics Commission for late campaign finance reports.** [\[TEC Report\]](#), 12/4/2008] [\[TEC Report\]](#), 1/31/2013]

#### **CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND**

**In 2022, Scott ran attack ads against Canales faulting her for several county-wide controversies and scandals.** “A 30-second ad that Scott published on Facebook and that is running on local television stations lists a number of issues the county is facing and how, in Scott’s view, Canales is to blame. She points to the Nueces County Jail failing its state inspection earlier this year, a criminal probe into the medical examiner’s office, the resignation of the county’s first fire marshal and a legal dispute over Padre Balli Park.” [Caller Times, 8/18/25]

**Scott raised \$450,945.65 in her 2022 run for County Judge.** [\[Nueces County Clerk Jan 2022 Report\]](#), accessed 8/3/26] [\[Nueces County Clerk Jul 2022 Report\]](#), accessed 8/3/26] [\[Nueces County Clerk Oct 10 2022 Report\]](#), accessed 8/3/26] [\[Nueces County Clerk Oct 31 2022 Report\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**Scott was sworn in as County Judge in January 2023.** [Caller Times, 1/2/23]

**Scott filed for re-election in November 2025.** [\[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

#### **IDEOLOGY & POLITICS**

**Scott described herself as a “fiscal conservative” when serving in the Texas State House.** “I guess I would describe myself as a kind of Tea Party representative in the sense that I am a constitutionalist. I’m absolutely for fiscal conservatism. I believe in the 10th Amendment.” [\[Texas Observer\]](#), 1/14/11]

#### **AFFILIATION WITH POLITICAL FIGURES/ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Scott attended Sen. John Cornyn’s GOTV event in Corpus Christi during the May primary runoff.** [\[Yahoo News\]](#), 5/22/26]

**Scott said integrity was important to her in Cornyn's Senate race.** "'We have to make integrity matter again,' Scott said, sharing that she was quoting a social media post by friend Dolly Gonzales Trolley, who is a local school board member." [Caller Times, 5/22/26]

**Scott applauded Trump's February 2026 visit to Corpus Christi.** "Corpus Christi, Nueces County officials applaud Trump's visit. Nueces County Judge Connie Scott said that Trump's visit is significant for the community, county, industry and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. The area has major issues in need of attention, Scott said. [Caller Times, 3/3/26]

**Scott was pictured at Trump's visit to the city.** [[Caller Times](#), 2/27/26]



Nueces County Judge Connie Scott at the Port of Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Feb. 27, 2026.

**Scott posted with State Rep Todd Hunter in 2010.** "Very informative lunch today with Representative Todd Hunter at the Nueces County Republican Women's Luncheon" [[Connie Scott Campaign X](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**Hunter sponsored the controversial 2025 redistricting legislation that prompted a Democratic walkout.** "Texas state legislator Todd Hunter, a Republican who sponsored the measure to redraw the map, called it 'a good plan for Texas'." [[BBC](#), 8/4/25]

**Scott posted with Michael Flynn, former National Security Advisor, in 2022.** "Congrats to our local Nueces County CCDF .... 'County Citizens Defending Freedom' on your huge event last night with guest speaker U.S. Army general and former U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Flynn! It was a packed house!" [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]

## PARTISAN POSTS

**Posted at a dinner with Gov. Greg Abbott** [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]



Connie Scott

February 21 · 🌐

...

This week has been nothing short of inspiring and impactful.

I had the honor of attending the Republican Dinner, where we welcomed Governor Greg Abbott as the special guest. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, meaningful conversation, and a shared commitment to the future of our great state and community.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Charity League Style Show — an incredible event that raised more than \$400,000 to support vital community initiatives for the CC Police Athletic League program! The generosity and dedication on display were a true testament to the heart of our community and the power of coming together for a cause greater than ourselves.

To round out the week, I joined many community leaders and residents at the State of Downtown celebration. It was especially meaningful to celebrate Ms. Debbie Noble as she was honored with the prestigious Downtowner of the Year award. Her dedication and lasting contributions to our downtown community make her truly deserving of this recognition.

Grateful for a week filled with service, celebration, and the opportunity to stand alongside so many who are working tirelessly to make our community stronger. co **See less**



**Scott posted with the Nueces County Republicans in November 2025. [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]**

 **Connie Scott**  
November 13, 2025 · 🌐

I am honored to have served as your County Judge. We have tackled numerous challenges and achieved significant victories, but our work is far from over. On Monday, I filed to run for my second term as Nueces County Judge and I am grateful for everyone's support this far and in the years to come. Let us continue working together to make this community and this County exceptional. [See less](#)



**Scott posted with Lt. Col. Allen West, former chair of the Texas Republican Party, in October 2022. [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]**

 **Connie Scott**  
October 31, 2022 · 🌐

Got to visit with Lieutenant Colonel Allen West this week at the South Texas Alliance Dinner!



Scott posted with a man wearing a MAGA hat at a Gov. Abbott campaign event in October 2022. [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]



Posted an attack ad against County Judge Barbara Canales in October 2022. [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]



**Scott reposted a pro-Ukraine sand sculpture in 2022.** [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]

 **Connie Scott**  
April 5, 2022 · 🌐

Absolutely Beautiful!



 **Port Aransas South Jetty**  
April 4, 2022 · 🌐

On the beach in Port Aransas today, Lucinda Wierenga of South Padre Island creates a sand sculpture that carries a message. (South Jetty staff photo by Lee Harrison, © ... [See more](#)

**Scott posted at a “Friends of NRA” banquet in July 2022.** [[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook](#), accessed 8/3/26]

 **Connie Scott**  
July 1, 2022 · 🌐

Corpus Christi Friends of NRA Banquet!



#### CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE

**Scott's former treasurer, Denise Villalobos, is the current Republican representative for the Texas State House District 34.** [\[Nueces County July 2024 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [\[The Texan, 11/6/24\]](#)

**Scott's current treasurer is Denise's husband, Ruben.** [\[Ruben Villalobos Facebook\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

#### ENDORSEMENTS

**Donald Trump endorsed Scott in 2022 during a trip to Corpus Christi.** "During his remarks, he endorsed now-Nueces County Judge Connie Scott and teased his 2024 run for president." [Caller Times, 2/25/26]

**Scott previously received an endorsement from the Conservative Republicans of Texas.** [\[Connie Scott Campaign X\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**Scott previously was endorsed by the Texas Alliance for Life.** [\[Connie Scott Campaign X\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**The Nueces County Sheriff's Officers Association and the Corpus Christi Police Officers Association endorsed Scott.** "I am truly honored and deeply grateful to receive the endorsement of the Nueces County Sheriff's Officers Association and Corpus Christi Police Officers Association for re-election for Nueces County Judge." [\[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

**Scott was endorsed by the Corpus Christi Association of Realtors.** "I'm so thankful for the Corpus Christi Association of Realtors' support and endorsement of my campaign to be re-elected as Nueces County Judge! Thank you!" [\[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**Scott reported having \$199,672.59 in cash on hand in her July 2026 campaign finance report.** [\[Nueces County July 2026 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [\[Nueces County January 2026 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [\[Nueces County July 2025 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/26] [\[Nueces County January 2025 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/25]

**Many of Scott's expenditures are to Anedot, a fundraising platform.** [\[Nueces County July 2026 Filing\]](#), accessed 7/31/26]

| Contributor        | Address                 | Date     | Amount   | Type             |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Linebarger LLP     | PO Box 17428, Austin TX | 4/29/26  | \$5,000  | In-kind/Monetary |
| Wyatt Ranches LLC  | PO Box 10, Realitos     | 11/12/25 | \$10,000 |                  |
| Texas Realtors PAC | PO Box 2246, Austin TX  | 12/29/25 | \$2,500  |                  |

|                                         |                                    |         |         |  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson LLP | PO Box 17428, Austin TX            | 3/20/25 | \$5,000 |  |
| Texas Realtors PAC                      | PO Box 2246, Austin TX             | 3/20/25 | \$5,000 |  |
| MAG Enterprises                         | PO Box 271127, Corpus Christi      | 3/20/25 | \$1,000 |  |
| Rachel Four Investments                 | 1374 Sandpiper, Corpus Christi, TX | 3/20/25 | \$500   |  |
| Valero Political Action Committee       | PO Box 696000                      | 3/20/25 | \$1,500 |  |

**Linebarger LLP, a law firm, sent letters to nearly 42,000 San Antonio residents requesting payment for overdue citations.** “Several people said they thought the letters were scams. However, the City of San Antonio said these letters are real, and it’s an effort the city is working on to get overdue citations paid... With this agreement between the firm and city, the law firm is authorized to collect a 30 percent delinquent fee. According to the city, the fee is added to the original citation amount.” [\[KSAT News, 4/10/26\]](#)

**Wyatt Ranches have donated over \$1,000,000 to organizations and local governments.** [\[KRS TV, 2/26/25\]](#)

**Texas Realtors PAC (TREPAC) has donated \$50,000 to Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows re-election efforts.** [\[Lubbock Avalanche Journal, 4/21/26\]](#)

**TREPAC was the biggest donor for all Plano City Council members in 2022, which was also handling complaints about short-term rentals.** “He said the donations from TREPAC are a conflict of interest. ‘Every single person on city council has received donations from TREPAC. It’s a matter of public record,’ France said. ‘They have to balance the demands of their funders, who’s funding their elections, who have come out and clearly stated ‘do not restrict short-term rentals.’” [\[KERA News, 11/29/22\]](#)

**Valero Energy, who runs the Valero Energy Political Action Committee, filed a lawsuit against Nueces County in 2022 that led to a \$30 million budget shortfall.** ““\$25 to \$30 million is basically a third of our taxable budget,’ Nueces County Judge Connie Scott said. ‘It will be catastrophic for us. So there will be a lot of things cut.’” [\[KRIS TV, 6/30/23\]](#)  
[\[Transparency USA, accessed 7/31/26\]](#)

**Valero Energy has also contributed to Corpus Christi’s catastrophic drought.** “Major industrial companies, which use half the city’s water each day, have recently taken some steps to reduce consumption, like using more internally recycled water and cutting back on fleet vehicle washes, industry representatives said. But city officials said the companies have not made drastic

cuts. Bob Paulison, executive director of the Coastal Bend Industry Association, which represents companies with local footprints like Citgo and Valero Energy, said simply shutting down industry is not a viable option.” [\[New York Times, 5/13/26\]](#)

#### PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

##### Federal.

[See Scott’s full federal giving history here.](#)

**Scott has made 74 federal political donations totalling \$69,872.25** [\[FEC Filings, accessed 7/31/26\]](#)

**Scott has donated a total \$30,400 to Sen. John Cornyn’s campaign, most notably contributing \$5,000 in 2009.** [\[FEC Filings, accessed 7/31/26\]](#)

**Scott has donated \$6,861.87 to Donald Trump’s campaigns, most notably a \$5,600 contribution in 2020.** [\[FEC Filings, accessed 7/31/26\]](#)

| Scott Political Giving History - Federal |                                     |       |                                |              |            |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Contributor name                         | Recipient                           | State | Employer                       | Receipt date | Amount     |
| SCOTT, CONNIE                            | DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. | TX    | HOMEMAKER                      | 08/14/2020   | \$5,600.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE                            | CORNYN MAJORITY COMMITTEE           | TX    | HOMEMAKER                      | 06/30/2009   | \$5,000.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE MRS.                       | JOHN MCCAIN 2008 INC.               | TX    | CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE | 06/25/2008   | \$4,600.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE MRS                        | DEWHURST FOR TEXAS                  | TX    | HOMEMAKER                      | 02/22/2012   | \$3,000.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE                            | CORNYN MAJORITY COMMITTEE           | TX    | HOMEMAKER                      | 03/12/2019   | \$2,800.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE MRS.                       | TED CRUZ FOR SENATE                 | TX    | N/A                            | 01/19/2021   | \$2,800.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE MS.                        | TEXANS FOR SENATOR JOHN CORNYN INC. | TX    | HOMEMAKER                      | 03/12/2019   | \$2,800.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE                            | DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. | TX    | ENTREPRENEUR                   | 01/08/2020   | \$2,800.00 |
| CONNIE, SCOTT                            | TEXANS FOR SENATOR JOHN CORNYN INC  | TX    | CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE | 08/09/2016   | \$2,700.00 |

|                       |                                       |    |                                   |            |            |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCOTT,<br>CONNIE      | TEXANS FOR SENATOR<br>JOHN CORNYN INC | TX | CITIZENS AGAINST<br>LAWSUIT ABUSE | 08/09/2016 | \$2,700.00 |
| SCOTT,<br>CONNIE MRS. | RICKPERRY.ORG INC                     | TX | STATE OF TEXAS                    | 12/08/2011 | \$2,500.00 |

**State.**

[See Scott's full state giving history here.](#)

**Scott has given \$98,810.70 to statewide candidates.** [Texas Ethics Commission Advanced Search, accessed 7/31/26]

**Rose Vela is a former Associate Justice on the 13th Court of Appeals of Texas, who decided not to run for re-election in 2012.** [[Potts Law](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Governor Greg Abbott has threatened to conduct a state takeover of Corpus Christi for its handling of the water crisis.** [[Texas Tribune](#), 3/10/26] [[New York Times](#), 5/13/26]

**Dawn Buckingham is the current Texas Land Commissioner.** [[Texas GLO](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Buckingham was one of several politicians to receive free tickets to a World Cup game in Houston.** “Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham was the only statewide elected official to receive free World Cup tickets from the HCSCC, having been given three tickets to the June 20 match and two tickets to the June 29 match.” [[Texas Voice](#), accessed 7/31/26]

**Sid Miller, the current Agriculture Commissioner, has been criticized for hiring a political consultant who pled guilty to bribery charges as his chief of staff.** “Employees at the agriculture department told state police they were concerned about Smith’s presence at the agency, the hiring of Smith’s family members to agency positions, and his influence on their boss.” [[Texas Tribune](#), 8/25/25]

**Jesse Wainwright appears to be a former Texas Supreme Court Justice who resigned from the Court to join a private practice.** [[Texas Tribune](#), 09/19/21]

| Scott Political Giving History - State |                                                 |       |                    |              |             |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Contributor name                       | Recipient                                       | State | Employer           | Receipt date | Amount      |
| Scott, Connie                          | Associated Republicans of Texas Campaign Fund , | TX    |                    | 05-14-2014   | \$10,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie W.                       | Associated Republicans of Texas Campaign Fund , | TX    | Retired            | 06-12-2015   | \$10,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie and M.D.                 | Texans for Greg Abbott ,                        | TX    | H & S Constructors | 11-13-2013   | \$5,000.00  |

|               |                                                  |    |                          |            |            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Scott, Connie | Vela ,Rose                                       | TX | Citizens Against         | 11-30-2009 | \$5,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Corpus Christi Police Officers' Assn. PAC Fund , | TX |                          | 10-06-2022 | \$4,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Texans for Greg Abbott ,                         | TX | Self                     | 10-21-2024 | \$2,500.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Buckingham ,Dawn C.                              | TX | Nueces County            | 08-30-2025 | \$2,500.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Nueces County Republican Executive               | TX | Nueces County Courthouse | 03-25-2024 | \$2,500.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Miller ,Sid                                      | TX | Retired                  | 09-24-2018 | \$2,500.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Wainwright ,Jesse W.                             | TX | H & S Contruction        | 05-22-2008 | \$2,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Texans for Don Willett (DISSOLVED) ,             | TX | N/A                      | 06-29-2017 | \$2,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie | Texans for Don Willett (DISSOLVED) ,             | TX | State of Texas           | 02-13-2012 | \$2,000.00 |
| Scott, Connie | South Texas Alliance of Republicans ,            | TX | Self                     | 11-04-2022 | \$1,500.00 |
| SCOTT, CONNIE | Nueces County Republican Executive               | TX | Self Employed            | 03-07-2021 | \$1,500.00 |

## ISSUES

### Taxes / Controversial Budget Cuts

**Scott voted for a budget that raised Nueces County property taxes by 7.59% for the 2025-2026 year.** “The budget and tax rate both passed on a 3–2 vote. Judge Scott, along with Commissioners John Marez and Mike Pusley, voted in favor...Judge Scott acknowledged that the tax rate increase could cause frustration for residents, but assured that her office is working on solutions to reduce the burden.” [\[KIII TV, 9/10/25\]](#)

**The controversial 2011 Texas budget cut discounts for businesses who pay their sales taxes early.** “Shrink the discounts for paying sales taxes early. This would save \$152 million by limiting the so-called timely filer discount for businesses that remit taxes on time, and the discount rate for sellers that prepay their sales taxes. [\[Texas Tribune, 1/19/11\]](#)

**Under Scott's leadership, the county's reserves fell below the typical minimum of \$25 million to \$14 million.** "A major concern highlighted during the meeting was the county's reserve funding, which is typically set aside for unexpected costs. According to Judge Scott, the county usually maintains a minimum of \$25 million in reserves, but currently only has \$14 million. 'We know those challenges are there. We know we have to do something,' Judge Scott said." [\[KRIS TV, 8/15/25\]](#)

### **Good Government/Ethics**

**A 2025 forensic audit reported that the county had budget errors and lack of oversight across county departments.** "Other findings include minimal oversight over fuel card purchases, insufficient details for purchase orders, insufficient documentation for gift card purchases, lack of procurement training and noncompliance with county policies and procedures. The county uses gift cards for social services and staff recognition." [Caller Times, 7/23/25]

**Scott said the county employees were at fault for the findings.** "Scott said that the county has policies in place that county employees were not following. 'Let's make sure we don't create more if there's something (already in place) that we need to enforce,' Scott said." [Caller Times, 7/23/25]

**Nueces County lost nearly \$2 million after a phishing cyber attack in August 2025.** "Detectives in the Nueces County Sheriff's Office are investigating an email phishing scam that recently attacked the Nueces County Courthouse, resulting in a loss of about \$2 million...Nueces County Judge Connie Scott said during a phone interview on Aug. 22 that a fraudulent email caused a single check to be transferred from the department to a bank." [Caller Times, 8/29/25]

**Nueces County District Attorney has been accused of blocking the release of information protected under the Public Information Act.** "The Texas Attorney General's office upheld the request three separate times. Former DA Mark Gonzalez sued to block release, but the Third Court of Appeals ruled against him on January 24, holding the names had to be disclosed...However, two days before the mandate ordering disclosure was set to take effect, Granberry, who had since taken office as DA, asked the 205th District Court in Nueces to take the records into its own custody and seal them as confidential personal information. The court granted his request." [\[Texas Scorecard, 6/22/26\]](#)

**Nueces County Medical Examiner Timothy Fagen resigned after allegations of unethical behavior in July 2023.** "One should ask just exactly what he was doing with his time since most of his cases require 60-90 days to close, two to three times longer than his colleagues in the office,' Mitchell wrote. 'Just working more days in the morgue could have saved Nueces County

taxpayers more than \$200,000. We could have provided raises for staff at a zero cost without having to eliminate positions or anyone taking a salary reduction.” [\[KRIS TV, 8/10/23\]](#)

**The newest County Medical Examiner, Rajesh Kannan, resigned in July 2025.** [\[KIII TV, 7/8/25\]](#)

## **Public Safety**

**Scott voted for a \$1.5 billion dollar reduction in public safety and criminal justice initiatives in 2011.** “Public safety and criminal justice would lose \$1.5 billion from current levels, a 12.7 percent drop.” [\[Texas Tribune, 1/19/2011\]](#)

**Scott supported the closure of a justice of the peace in Nueces County.** “Nueces County Judge Connie Scott said that she was at first surprised when Pusley pitched the idea of closing the court, but her research led her to support the motion. Scott listed several Texas counties with a larger population than Nueces County but fewer justices of the peace, including Hidalgo, Travis, Tarrant, Bexar and El Paso counties.” [Caller Times, 10/10/25]

## **Healthcare**

**The forensic audit uncovered \$3.75 million in “unauthorized transfers” to the county health insurance fund.** “County officials recently had to contend with a forensic audit of the county's local government operations that uncovered an elevated fraud risk and \$3.75 million in unauthorized transfers and loans that were made to the health insurance fund without the commissioners' knowledge.” [Caller Times, 8/15/25]

## **Economic development**

**Scott voted for a 2011 budget that cut billions from business and economic development.** “The House proposal chops \$3.3 billion from the business and economic development section of the budget, a 14.3 percent drop.” [\[Texas Tribune, 1/19/2011\]](#)

## **Housing & Development (affordable housing, zoning, data centers)**

**Scott utilized government housing in a time of need.** “Scott relied on government housing after a divorce left her alone caring for her two young daughters. ‘Everyone needs help sometimes,’ she admits, reflecting on those times.” [\[Texas Observer, 4/20/11\]](#)

**While Scott was in office, the Texas legislature cut \$20 million in funding to the Homelessness Housing and Services Program.** “In 2011, the Legislature cut \$20 million in general revenue allocated to support the Homeless Housing and Services Program, which started

in 2009. Other grants and programs that support homelessness initiatives also lost funding. Most organizations found ways to work around the reduced funding by seeking support from private sources — but further cuts would make it difficult for many service providers to continue offering the same level of resources, some organization leaders said.” [\[Texas Tribune, 10/8/12\]](#)

**The Nueces County Commission unanimously voted to sue the Corpus Christi Housing Authority in September 2025 over controversial housing purchases.** “The deals involve 13 high-end apartment complexes valued at approximately \$350 million that could have removed \$7.4 million annually from local tax rolls. The Nueces County Appraisal District denied tax exemption requests for the properties in July 2025, as first reported by KRIS 6 News.” [\[KRIS TV, 9/10/25\]](#)

**Although the County’s lawsuit ended when the CCHA voided the purchases, the turmoil has resulted in housing instability for several families.** “‘If we were removed from this program, there are at least 65 families that would no longer qualify to live at the Summit and we would have to non renew and displace them at the end of their lease term,’ Hayes said.” [\[KIITV, 1/6/26\]](#)

**NVIDIA has reportedly invested \$50 billion into the HutPoint8 data center in Nueces County.** “The announcement comes as Nueces County sits under stage 3 water restrictions, edging toward the most severe "stage 1" emergency. Local leaders have warned that by December the region could struggle to meet water demand.” [\[KRIS TV, 6/9/26\]](#) [\[Data Center Frontier, 8/3/26\]](#)

**Scott said the data center would be profitable for the county.** “Because Beacon Point AI Data Center Campus sits just outside Robstown city limits, it doesn't fall under city or county permitting authority for approval. Hut 8 declined to answer if they have requested or received any tax abatements, and the County Judge Connie Scott says they could not have given any as Nueces County's abatement policy was out of date at the time. Even so, she projected: ‘We're looking at hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue within the community.’” [\[KRIS TV, 6/9/26\]](#)

## **Environment / Land Management**

**Scott criticized then-Judge Canales for failing to handle a land development dispute over Padre Balli land.** “I've been criticizing Barbara Canales’ mishandling of this for weeks or months and at first she repeatedly denied that it happened and now has said she did nothing wrong. Now Barbara Canales is trying to undo what she claims she never did in the first place. Barbara is simply compounding the problem by filing more invalid documents without court approval. We are still in jeopardy of losing public access to this park that families have enjoyed since the 1950s and we may be losing an enormous economic development project because of

Barbara Canales. If that happens taxpayers could be on the hook for millions of dollars in damages and legal fees combined if the developer sues the county for reneging on the agreement. Whether it is incompetence or corruption we have to do better. We are truly a county in chaos!” [\[Connie Scott Campaign Facebook\]](#), accessed 8/3/26]

### **Infrastructure (roads, parks, water and utilities, bike paths)**

**Scott and the Nueces County Commission approved a \$2 million agreement to demolish the old county courthouse.** “County Judge Connie Scott said the total cost likely will exceed the \$2 million contribution. ‘Coming into downtown Corpus Christi, I think (the courthouse is) the first thing anybody sees,’ Scott said. ‘I think it is in everyone of us here today’s best interest to go ahead and get that building demolished.’” [San Antonio Express-News Online, 5/7/26]

**Scott and the County Commissioners Court declared a state of disaster in response to the Corpus Christi water crisis.** “The county will follow city of Corpus Christi recommendations not to water greenery and yards, use reclaimed water for law enforcement car washes and complete a full review of all water usage in county facilities.” [Caller Times, 5/3/26]

### **Education**

**Scott said she did not want to cut K-12 education in a 2011 interview.** “I would not want to cut education. I think K-12 public education is a constitutional duty. I think government, really, and state agencies—they need to streamline, to work more efficiently with less.” [\[Texas Observer\]](#), 1/14/11]

**Scott voted to cut \$8 billion from public schools in the 2011 state budget vote.** “Of course, Scott also hopes the impact of the cuts might not be as bad as many fear. ‘Funding education is still a priority,’ she argues, pointing to bills that could decrease some education costs by removing classroom regulations. ‘I don’t think you can say we’ve really taken away from education,’ she says of a House budget that cuts education funding by 18 percent.” [\[Texas Observer\]](#), 4/20/11]

### **Elections/Voting Access**

**Nueces County recently updated their voting precinct boundaries to comply with the state’s redistricting efforts.** “County officials said the changes were necessary after new congressional district boundaries left some voting precincts split between two congressional districts. Federal election law does not allow split precincts, requiring the county to adjust precinct lines to match the updated congressional maps.” [\[KIII TV\]](#), 7/29/26]

## **Affordability / Cost of Living**

**Scott said everyone needed to have a “belt-tightening” mentality in 2011.** “Even as she laments the budget cuts, Scott says she believes that same mentality is necessary in dealing the budget shortfall. “We’re in a recession,” Scott says, “Whether you are the wealthiest of the wealthiest or the poorest of the poor, we all have to do with less.” [\[Texas Observer, 4/20/11\]](#)

**Scott said she was considering cuts to Medicaid in 2011.** “Medicaid: “I’m not sure if you would consider it cuts, but I think that’s something that will have to be very closely looked at. I think some of the projections of the future show that if we don’t make some changes, that Medicaid and education are the only things the state budget’s going to be able to fund in the future.” [\[Texas Observer, 1/14/11\]](#)

## **Ideology, Rhetoric & Extremism Signals**

No findings of note for this issue area.

## **Military**

**Scott and the South Texas Military Task Force urged Sen. Cornyn to “accelerate the completion of [Corpus Christi Air Depot’s] engine and powertrain repair facility.”** [Caller Times, 2/11/26]

## **Social Media Links:**

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