

Weather forecast positive for Thanksgiving weekend

LOCAL & STATE, 1B

CORPUS CHRISTI
Caller Times

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DECEMBER RUNOFF ELECTION

Desal issue likely will play a big role



Campaign signs are seen outside of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center on Feb. 17, the first day of early voting in the March primary election, in Corpus Christi. JOHN OLIVA/CALLER-TIMES FILE PHOTO

Candidates are split on Inner Harbor project

Kirsten Crow
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Inner Harbor desalination plant isn't technically on the ballot for the December runoff election, but the future of the long-struggling project will be, by proxy, in the hands of voters as they make their final selections for the candidates who will sit on the Corpus Christi City Council come January.

There's somewhat of a consensus among candidates, sitting City Council members and political experts that the proposed facility influenced what transpired in the November general election.

However, the scale of its impact, and whether it will loom large in the upcoming special election, is a question, especially when considering Corpus Christi's long-established history of low voter turnout in runoffs.

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COMMISSIONERS COURT

Policy changes postponed

Board appointments also tabled until January

Felicity Guajardo
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Nueces County Commissioners Court had full chambers on Nov. 18 as residents pushed back on proposals that some said were meant to shut out the influence of newly elected Democrats before they take office.

The court unanimously voted to table three items until January, when Precinct 2 Commissioner-elect Isabel Noyola-Martin and County Judge-elect Aidee Hernandez, both Democrats, are sworn in. The agenda items included appointments to local boards and a change to the court's policy for board appointments.

Residents spoke out against some agenda items, saying that the incoming Commissioners Court should also have a say in policy changes.

Some also expressed disappointment in the court for a "limited" public comment portion to speak on these items. Court policy states the maximum time allotted for public comment is 30 minutes and that the time shall be divided up equally if more than 10 people have signed up for public comment.

The court also voted 4-1 to abolish the Nueces County Budget Office and consolidate it with the County Auditor's Office. Commissioner Joe A. Gonzalez voted against the consolidation.

Hernandez, the county judge-elect, spoke during public comment, urging the Commissioners Court not to take action on the budget office consolidation until the new court is in place.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Brent Chesney said in an email on Nov. 17 that the consolidation of the budget office would revert budget operations to the way they were before April 9, 2025, when the office was established.

Chesney said the creation of the budget office was due to past issues

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Black Friday hours for retail stores in Coastal Bend

John Oliva
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Plan on doing some in-person Black Friday shopping?

Here's when Coastal Bend retail stores will be open for business on Nov. 27:

Academy Sports + Outdoors

- 5001 S. Padre Island Drive — 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- 1900 U.S. 181 in Portland — 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Barnes & Noble

- 5129 Blanche Moore Drive — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 5425 S. Padre Island Drive — 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 5488 S. Padre Island Drive — 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Best Buy

- 4717 S. Padre Island Drive — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Burlington

- 5425 S. Padre Island Drive — 7 a.m. to midnight

Dillard's

- 5488 S. Padre Island Drive — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DSW

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Target, at 5425 S. Padre Island Drive, is pictured on Nov. 13 in Corpus Christi. Target is open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Black Friday. FELICITY GUAJARDO/CALLER-TIMES

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