



## Scandal plagued Sid Miller to meet with Trump re: Ag Sec nomination

*Will Trump ask about Miller's hush money payments and the "Jesus Shot"?*

News reports confirm that President-elect Donald Trump [will meet with Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller](#) to discuss Miller's potential nomination as United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Most of the country is unfamiliar with Sid Miller's controversial history as a Texas office-holder. As a State Legislator, a lobbyist, and as Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Miller has been connected to a series of ethics controversies including personal corruption, abuse of state resources, and cronyism. Questions about his suitability to hold public office have been raised by Republicans as well as Democrats.

If nominated, expect Sid Miller to be a lightning rod for ethics concerns and an immediate political liability to the Trump Administration. Any meaningful vetting during Senate confirmation hearings will expose Sid Miller's reckless, ineffective, and consistently unethical public record.

Here are just some of the many scandals associated with Sid Miller that should be revisited if he is nominated for a cabinet position:

- **Hush money and other improper payments to former state employees:** In May, the Lone Star Project (LSP) [asked the Texas Rangers, the State Auditor, and the Travis County District Attorney to investigate](#) a series of questionable payments made by Commissioner Miller and other state officials to former employees no longer on the state payroll. The payments, made with taxpayer funds, appear to provide special treatment to politically connected former employees and,

in some cases, appear to have been designed as hush money to silence disgruntled former employees. Following LSP's request for an investigation of Miller and others, Governor Greg Abbott and Comptroller Glenn Hegar immediately [sent a memo to all state agencies](#) directing them to halt the questionable payments.

- **Revolving door lobbyist:** Miller became a lobbyist immediately after being defeated in a Republican primary for re-election to his Texas State House seat. According to the GOP publication, Red State, Miller [collected over \\$400,000 lobbying in 2013](#) after leaving the State House and before announcing his run for statewide office. Miller's clients included a state vendor who does business with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). In fact, Miller [chaired the Texas House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee](#), the committee charged with oversight over the Department of Public Safety, during the legislative session just prior to becoming a highly paid lobbyist for DPS vendors.
- **State funds used for personal travel and to receive a “Jesus Shot”:** Earlier this year Miller was [investigated for misusing taxpayer funds for multiple out-of-state trips](#) where it appeared that no official state business was conducted. According to news reports, Miller paid for a trip to Mississippi and Oklahoma though his official state account and records showed that little if any state business occurred on the trips. Also, on the [state funded trip to Oklahoma, Miller was supposed to tour the Oklahoma National Stockyards](#), but instead arranged to receive a “Jesus Shot”, which is an injection of vitamins some claim will cure pain for life. Miller [barely avoided criminal charges](#) for his reckless and self-serving use of state funds.
- **Abuse and neglect of show horses:** As Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Sid Miller is responsible for regulating and promoting Texas agriculture and livestock and draws credibility from raising and showing quarter horses. However, Miller [has drawn heavy criticism for mistreating his own competition horses](#). The *Dallas Morning News* reported that Miller received a formal complaint and was warned by the American Quarter Horse Association after tying his horses to the back of a trailer and driving them around in circles. The practice of [so-called “towing horses” can cause serious injury](#), including breaking a horses leg or neck.