

“Big Sandy Becomes Safe Haven for Unborn”

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(founder of the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative)

BIG SANDY, Texas—On Tuesday, the city council of the City of Big Sandy (pop. 1,343), passed an “Ordinance Outlawing Abortion, declaring Big Sandy a Safe Haven for the Unborn” in a unanimous 4–0 vote.

The vote made the City of Big Sandy the 58th city in the State of Texas and the 75th city in the nation to pass an ordinance prohibiting abortion.

After the vote, Mayor Linda Baggett shared, “I am blessed to serve with a city council that is brave and stands together to protect our precious babies and their mothers. My prayer is that more communities take the same action making all of Texas *a safe haven for the unborn*.”

Big Sandy is the third city in Upshur County to pass such an ordinance and the 14th city in the Tyler-Longview Area Region to pass such an ordinance.

Other cities in the region to have passed such ordinances include the following.

- Athens (pop. 13,503)
- Lindale (pop. 6,923)
- Rusk (5,664)
- Gilmer (pop. 5,216)
- Waskom (pop. 2,190)
- Naples (pop. 1,378)
- Omaha (pop. 1,021)
- East Mountain (pop. 899)
- Wells (pop. 853)
- Murchison (pop. 606)

■ Avinger (pop. 371)

■ Gary (pop. 335)

■ Poynor (pop. 314)

■ Out of all of the cities to have passed the ordinances in Texas, Omaha is the only city to have recanted its ordinance.

Big Sandy's ordinance is enforced in the same manner as the Texas Heartbeat Act—through a private enforcement mechanism.

The ordinance reads, "Any person, other than the City of Big Sandy, and any officer or employee of the city, has standing to bring and may bring a civil action against any person or entity that: violates any provision" of this ordinance. The ordinance does not penalize the mother of the unborn child.

There are six provisions of the Big Sandy Safe Haven for the Unborn ordinance.

1. Prohibit performing an elective abortion and aiding or abetting elective abortions within the city limits of Big Sandy.
2. Prohibit elective abortions on residents of Big Sandy—regardless of where the abortion takes place
3. Prohibit abortion trafficking through the City of Big Sandy.
4. Prohibit the mailing of abortion-inducing drugs into the City of Big Sandy.
5. Prohibit criminal organizations from doing business inside the city limits of Big Sandy.
6. Prohibit through or in the City of Big Sandy the transportation and disposal of the remains of unborn children who have been killed by an elective abortion across state lines and carried into Texas by waste-management companies.

In addition to providing protections for pregnant mothers and their unborn children, the ordinance also educates about the "Thriving Texas Families Program and directs people to the "Texas Pregnancy Care Network" website and "The Pregnancy Network" website operated by Human Coalition to be connected to these services.