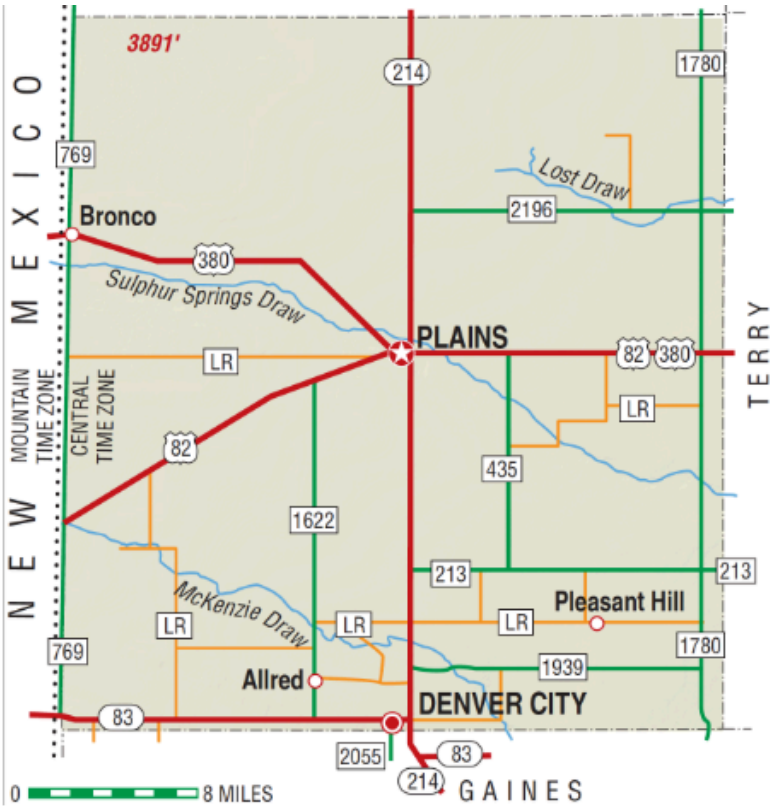
PLAINS & YOAKUM COUNTY SCFTU GUIDESHEETS

Thursday, October 16, 2026

Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Since June 11, 2019, a total of 100 cities and 24 counties across 7 different states have passed local ordinances going as far as they can to prohibit abortion within their jurisdiction. 83 of these cities and 22 of these counties are in the State of Texas. On Monday, August 17th, Denver City (pop. 4,911) adopted the Sanctuary City for the Unborn (SCFTU) ordinance – becoming the 99th city in the nation and the 82nd city in Texas to adopt the lifesaving measure. The only other city in Yoakum County that could adopt such a measure is the City of Plains (pop. 1,355). Yoakum County (pop. 7,694) could also adopt a 'Sanctuary County for the Unborn' ordinance covering the unincorporated area of the county. If the City of Plains were to adopt a 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinance covering the incorporated area of the city and Yoakum County were to adopt a 'Sanctuary County for the Unborn' ordinance covering the unincorporated area of the county, then every square inch of Yoakum County would have the same legal protections available for pregnant mothers and their unborn children found in Denver City, Brownfield (pop. 9,976), Wellman (pop. 205), and in counties like Cochran (pop. 2,547), Lubbock (pop. 317,561), Lynn (pop. 5,956), Dawson (pop. 12,130), and others.

What is the difference between a 'Sanctuary County for the Unborn' ordinance outlawing abortion and a 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinance outlawing abortion? All 'Sanctuary for the Unborn' ordinances adopted in cities and counties over the past three years have been identical in substance. The difference between the two is the coverage area addressed by the ordinance. The county has the ability to adopt a 'Sanctuary County for the Unborn' ordinances outlawing abortion covering the unincorporated area of the county, while the cities have the ability to adopt 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinances outlawing abortion covering the incorporated area of their cities. 'Sanctuary County for the Unborn' ordinances do not cover the incorporated areas of the cities and 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinances do not cover the unincorporated areas of the county.



What would a 'Sanctuary for the Unborn' ordinance accomplish? The proposed SCFTU Ordinances put into place six provisions. These ordinance would: **(1)** prohibit performing elective abortions and aiding or abetting elective abortions within the jurisdiction of the political subdivision, **(2)** prohibit elective abortions on residents of the political subdivision – regardless of where the abortion takes place, **(3)** prohibit abortion trafficking through the political subdivision, **(4)** prohibit abortion-inducing drugs being mailed or brought into the political subdivision, **(5)** prohibit criminal organizations from doing business inside the political subdivision, and **(6)** prohibit the transport and disposal of the remains of unborn children killed by an elective abortion by abortion providers outside of the State of Texas from being brought through or disposed of in the political subdivision.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAINS & YOAKUM COUNTY

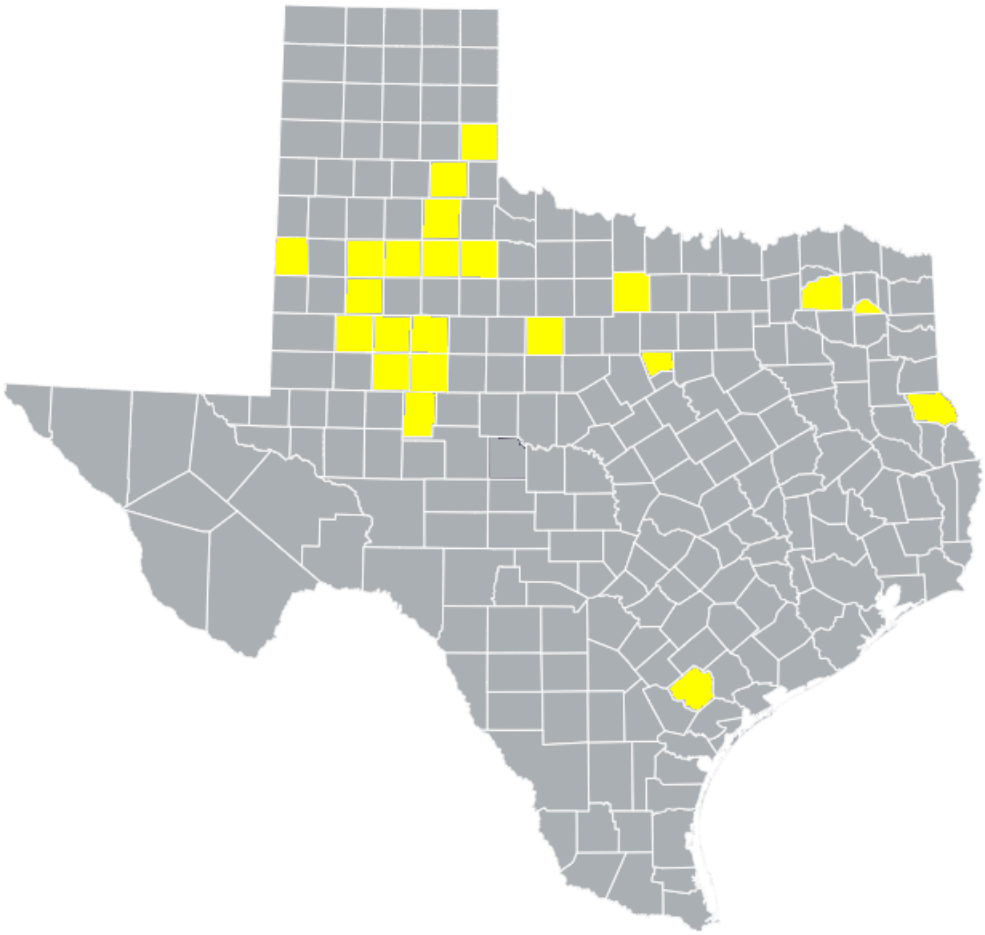
Texas-New Mexico border cities like Plains are extremely important in the fight against abortion trafficking. When *Roe v. Wade* (1973) was overturned in June 2022, Hobbs, New Mexico, was the primary target for the relocation efforts of one of Texas most notorious abortion giants -- Whole Woman's Health. When operating in Texas, the abortion provider had facilities in Fort Worth, McKinney, Austin, and McAllen. While Whole Woman's Health was prevented from setting up an abortion facility in the City of Hobbs through a more limited New Mexico version of the ordinance, Whole Woman's Health is still targeting the area and killing baby Texans in Albuquerque. When the majority of the abortions that are happening in New Mexico are on Texas residents, a city like Plains and a county like Yoakum simply cannot ignore the problem of abortion trafficking – especially when it includes minors being trafficked from Texas to New Mexico for abortions without parental consent.

In an **October 28, 2022** story in Reuters the article highlights Amy Hagstrom Miller, the CEO of Whole Woman's Health which is *"one of the nation's largest independent providers of abortion,"* and her response to Clovis or Hobbs, New Mexico, considering 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinances. The article reads, *"After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and its federal abortion protections in June, Hagstrom Miller, the CEO of Whole Woman's Health, was forced to shut down the group's abortion clinics in Texas. Hagstrom Miller said she will open clinics in New Mexico and is considering opening a facility in Clovis or Hobbs, in large part to serve women arriving from Texas. But the possibility of 'sanctuary' ordinances has given her pause about operating in eastern New Mexico."*

In a **March 23, 2023** story in Reckon, Amy Hagstrom Miller gives us some insight as to why the New Mexico-Texas border was being targeted. The article reads, "*The New Mexico-Texas border, according to Hagstrom Miller, was identified early by her team in the aftermath of a 2021 Texas law that banned abortion at six weeks, a legal harbinger for the Dobbs Supreme Court ruling nearly a year later. 'New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas are serving this part of the country,' Hagstrom Miller says, and the outpouring of patients from Texas is a massive factor. 'Texas had like 55,000 abortions in 2020, and New Mexico had like, I don't know, somewhere like 4,000 or 5,000. It's a huge difference.'"* Ultimately, after both Hobbs and Clovis adopted New Mexico versions of the 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn' ordinances, Amy Hagstrom Miller abandoned their pursuit of the Cities of Hobbs and Clovis and decided to open up her Whole Woman's Health abortion facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In a **June 23, 2023**, story from KUT News, Amy Hagstrom Miller shared that *"Nearly all of the appointments made at Whole Woman's Health in Albuquerque have been made by Texans."* This did not go unnoticed in Texas. However, when Cochran County became the first Texas county bordering New Mexico to adopt an ordinance outlawing abortion trafficking, New Mexico took notice. In an **October 3, 2023** news story by KOAT 7 Albuquerque, titled *"Texas county abortion ordinance impacting New Mexico,"* KOAT 7 Albuquerque legal expert John Day weighed in on Cochran County's ordinance. When asked if there was anything New Mexico could do about Cochran County's Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance, Attorney Day stated, *"The issue is if you're in the state of Texas, you're subject to Texas laws. And there's nothing that New Mexico could do to provide immunity for anyone who's caught up in this issue in Texas."* Abortion facilities in New Mexico felt the impact.

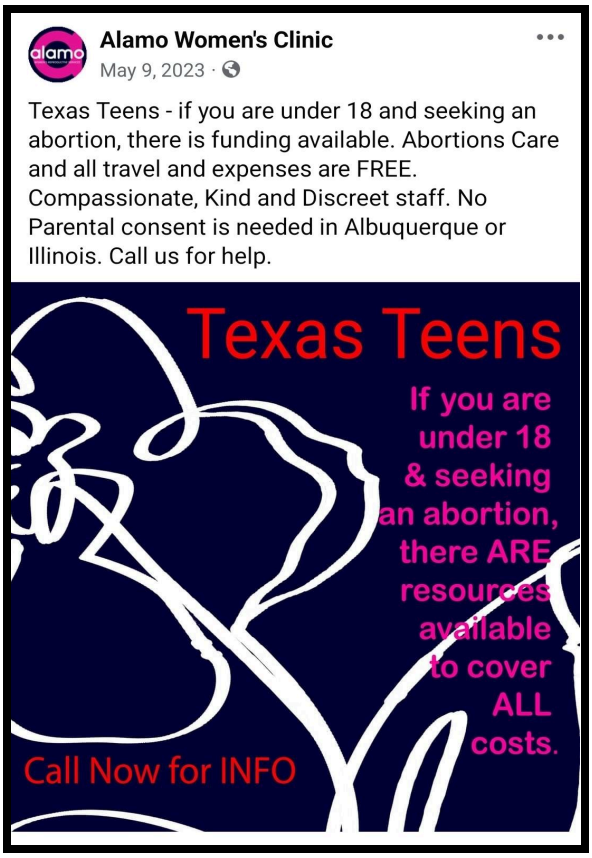
In an interview with National Public Radio published **January 23, 2024**, it was reported that 85% of abortion provider Alan Braid's business at Alamo Women's in Albuquerque, New Mexico, comes from the State of Texas. Braid told the news outlet that abortion travel bans like the one passed in Lubbock County were having an impact on clinics throughout New Mexico. According to Braid, *"They're having higher no-show rates because people are afraid to drive through Lubbock..."* as a result of such measures. On **September 10, 2024**, The Texas Observer reported, *"The chilling effect has already deterred patients. Amy Hagstrom Miller, who ran a network of abortion clinics in Texas before relocating her Whole Woman's Health centers to New Mexico and other states after Roe was overturned, said she has already seen the impact on her patients. When news broke that Lubbock County would be considering an abortion travel ban, every patient from Dallas canceled their appointments at the Albuquerque clinic."*

THE PROBLEM OF ABORTION TRAFFICKING



Abortion trafficking, which is the taking of a pregnant mother across state lines for an elective abortion, is being prohibited in cities and counties across the State of Texas. If the City of Plains were to pass the proposed Sanctuary for the Unborn Ordinance, they would not be standing alone but joining over 100 political subdivisions in Texas in having some of the strongest measures in the state and the nation to help protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children from the violence of abortion and the abortion trafficking industry. This measure is extremely important because abortion facilities in New Mexico utilize a variety of abortion trafficking organizations located in Texas to help pregnant mothers get to their state. Among those include: the Lilith Fund, Texas Equal Access (TEA) Fund, and Fund Texas Choice. These organizations provide financial support for Texas residents who are traveling outside the State of Texas for an elective abortion. Abortion trafficking organizations often assist with everything from flights, bus tickets, ride shares, and hotel stays to cash for gas, food, rental car fees, and anything else relating to their abortion travel experience. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, Senator Charles Perry, and 18 other Senators and Representatives raised awareness of this problem in their letter when they stated: "*Currently there are over 50 political subdivisions in Texas which have passed local ordinances prohibiting abortion within their jurisdictions. As elected officials who voted for state legislation allowing these local actions, we are thrilled to see this wave of pro-life action at the local level and hope to see these ordinances continue to spread across our state – even in a post-Roe Texas.* ***While it is true that abortion is outlawed in the entire State of Texas, from the point of conception, our work is far from over.*** *Right now, throughout the State of Texas, women are being trafficked across our borders by abortion traffickers funded by abortion trafficking organizations still operating in our state. As a result, these women are being abused and traumatized by abortion across our Texas–New Mexico border and sent back to Texas for our cities and counties to deal with the aftermath taking place in our homes, our schools, our churches, and our hospitals. The Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinances seek to protect these institutions by putting safeguards in place to protect men, women, and their children for years to come.* ***These ordinances, which seek to close as many loopholes as possible,*** *do not penalize women who seek or undergo abortions, but places the penalty on the party who most deserves it – the abortionist and the industry profiting from the unjust procedure, including abortion traffickers."*

The Abortion Trafficking of Minors In New Mexico and Illinois, abortion trafficking organizations like Alamo Women's Clinic have even helped Texas minors obtain abortions without parental consent. (*See Alamo Women's Clinic advertisement.*) They are not the only facility either. On Tuesday, March 12, 2026, an undercover video from November 26, 2025, was released by the NM Sentinel showing a conversation that took place inside Valley Abortion Group in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a late term abortion facility providing abortions up to 34 weeks. In the video, the abortion facility employee shares that 90% of their clients are Texas residents. The video depicts a man posing as an uncle from Texas attempting to help his 14-year-old niece get an elective abortion. The abortion provider explains that New Mexico law allows for minors to obtain an elective abortion without parental consent and that there is funding that will most likely pay for the entire process, including travel from Texas to New Mexico.



The Trafficking of Abortion-Inducing Drugs In addition to the problem of abortion trafficking, there is also the problem of the mailing of abortion-inducing drugs into Texas. Deadly abortion-inducing drugs are being sent to Texas residents from all over the nation, sometimes even from other countries through groups like Aid Access and Plan C. A recent study published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center found that about 11% of women (10.93%) *"experience sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or other serious or life-threatening adverse events following a mifepristone abortion."*

The Trafficking of Aborted Babies While abortion trafficking Texas residents outside of our state and abortion-inducing drugs being trafficked into our state are both horrible, the dead bodies of unborn children are also being trafficked into our state by Texas waste management companies and ending up in our local landfills.

Currently, there are no Texas laws prohibiting the hauling of fetal remains into Texas and disposing of those remains. In 2017, Texas passed a fetal burial law. Unfortunately, that law has a massive loophole. While state law addresses the disposal of remains of unborn children from medical facilities within the state of Texas in §697.004 of the Health and Safety Code, state law does not address: (1) the transportation of the remains of unborn children who have been killed by an elective abortion from an abortion provider in another state, and (2) the disposal of the remains of an unborn child killed by an elective abortion outside the State of Texas at a waste management facility inside the State of Texas. In one report, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, Inc. in California reported giving Oncore Technology, LLC $166,255 for medical services. Organizations like Oncore Technology must stop assisting the baby killers in this work. The Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinances prohibit Texas businesses from treating babies as trash while traveling through and doing business in cities and counties that have passed these measures.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What would the proposed Plains SCFTU Ordinance do? The Plains SCFTU Ordinance puts into place six provisions. The proposed Plains SCFTU ordinance: **(1)** prohibits performing elective abortions and aiding or abetting elective abortions within the city limits of the City of Plains, extending the protection of the private enforcement mechanism found in the Texas Heartbeat Act from the point of a detectable heartbeat to the point of conception, **(2)** prohibits elective abortions on residents of the City of Plains – regardless of where the abortion takes place, **(3)** prohibits abortion trafficking through the City of Plains – which is not limited to, but includes the abortion trafficking of minors across state lines without parental consent **(4)** prohibit abortion-inducing drugs being mailed or brought into the City of Plains, **(5)** prohibit criminal abortion organizations from doing business inside the City of Plains, and **(6)** prohibit the transport and disposal of the remains of unborn children killed by an elective abortion by abortion providers outside of the State of Texas from being brought through or disposed of in the City of Plains.

How would the proposed Plains SCFTU ordinance be enforced?
The proposed Plains SCFTU ordinance is enforced the same way the Texas Heartbeat Act is enforced, through a private enforcement mechanism allowing private citizens to file a lawsuit against anyone in violation of the ordinance. If anyone were to be sued or threatened with suit, it would be the abortion facilities outside the state of Texas or the organizations or individuals in Texas working with the out-of-state abortion facilities trafficking pregnant mothers across state lines. The ordinances are clear that civil actions may not be brought against the mother of the unborn child. Just as our statewide laws do not penalize mothers of unborn children seeking an abortion, SCFTU ordinances also do not penalize mothers of unborn children seeking an abortion.

Is this ordinance similar to other ordinances? This ordinance is identical in substance to ordinances adopted by 29 political subdivisions in 2025 and 17 political subdivisions so far in 2026, including the West Texas cities of: Snyder (pop. 11,251), Brownfield (pop. 9,976), Wolfforth (pop. 9,600), Muleshoe (pop. 5,158), and Denver City (pop. 4,911). The measure provides the strongest level of protections for pregnant mothers and their unborn children from the tragedy of abortion. This is not a meaningless resolution, or a repetition of already existing laws, but a meaningful ordinance addressing loopholes in our State's pro-life laws seeking to protect women and their children from the violence of abortion.

According to the proposed ordinance, what is an abortion? Under "Definitions," the ordinance gives the guiding definitions for the proposed ordinance. Abortion is defined to mean *"the act of using, prescribing, administering, procuring, or selling of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the purpose to terminate the pregnancy of a woman, with knowledge that the termination by any of those means will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of an unborn child."* The definition goes on to say, *"The term does not include: In vitro fertilization or fertility treatments of any type; the use, prescription, administration, procuring, or selling of Plan B, morning-after pills, intrauterine devices, or any other type of contraception or emergency contraception; or an act performed with the purpose to: Save the life or preserve the health of the unborn child; remove a dead unborn child caused by spontaneous abortion; or remove an ectopic pregnancy, the implantation of a fertilized egg or embryo outside of the uterus."*

Do Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinances penalize the mother of the unborn child? According to the proposed Plains SCFTU Ordinance: *"Notwithstanding any other law, a civil action under this section may not be brought: against the woman upon whom the abortion was performed or induced or attempted to be performed or induced in violation of this ordinance, or against a pregnant woman who intends or seeks to abort her unborn child in violation of this ordinance."*

What does the ordinance do to support alternatives to abortion? On the very first page of the ordinance there is a finding educating the public about the Texas Alternatives to Abortion program (now known as Thriving Texas Families Program) funded by the State of Texas. The finding reads, in part, *"In addition to the life-affirming services which are already being provided by organizations in Dawson County, the Texas Alternatives to Abortion program is in place, which promotes childbirth and provides support services to pregnant mothers and their families, adoptive parents, and parents whose lives have been affected by miscarriage or loss of a child."* The finding describes the program and lists the website for two different pregnancy care networks linking those in need to a variety of different resources.

Does the ordinance violate the right to travel? No. The ordinance seeks to protect unborn children by prohibiting the trafficking of pregnant women across state lines for the purpose of procuring an elective abortion, while protecting the right of pregnant women to travel across state lines for any purpose in accordance with the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States. The federal Mann Act has long prohibited the trafficking of women across state lines for an immoral purpose, and this does not infringe the constitutional right to travel because it penalizes those who traffic other individuals across state lines and imposes no penalty on the woman being trafficked, who remains free to travel through the city of Plains and across state lines as she wishes. Prohibitions on abortion trafficking no more infringe the constitutional right to travel than prohibitions on sex trafficking. See 22 U.S.C. § 7102(12).

Why is Plains considering this issue if the Supreme Court of the United States said this was a matter for each individual State to decide? The Supreme Court of the United States did not say that the issue of abortion was only to be dealt with at a state level. On June 24, 2024, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization,

> *"The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."*

Notice that the Supreme Court did not say that the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the States, but they said the authority to regulate abortion is returned *"to the people and their elected representatives."* That is at all levels of government: local, state, and federal. Amos 5:15 reads, *"Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."*

If abortion trafficking is happening on our roads and abortion-inducing drugs are being mailed into our city, it is not just a state problem but a local problem as well. Thankfully, the State of Texas saw this coming. Even before the Supreme Court's ruling, Texas made it clear that cities like Plains can regulate or prohibit abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as the laws of Texas. Section 5 of the Texas Heartbeat Act amended the Texas Code Construction Act to include the following provision:

> *"A statute may not be construed to restrict a political sub- division from regulating or prohibiting abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as the laws of this state unless the statute explicitly states that political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion in the manner described by the statute."*

This can be found in Texas Government Code § 311.036(b), which is referenced in the ordinance. This explicitly allows municipalities to restrict abortion in ways that go beyond the current state laws of Texas. This was added to the laws of the State of Texas, in part, to allow cities and counties to help close "loopholes" found in the abortion laws of the State of Texas between legislative sessions.

What if the City of Plains is sued for passing the ordinance? The likelihood of the City of Plains getting sued for the passage of the proposed ordinance is slim. The last time a political subdivision in Texas was sued for passing an ordinance outlawing abortion was the City of Lubbock on May 17, 2021. That lawsuit lasted two weeks and the City of Lubbock not only won, but made history. In *The Story of Abortion in America: A Street-Level History 1652–2022*, published by Crossway in 2023, Marvin Olasky and Leah Savas wrote,

> "*The day the ordinance went into effect, a federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, ruling that Planned Parenthood could not sue the city of Lubbock because the city had no role in enforcing the ordinance. To challenge the constitutionality of the ordinance, the abortion business would have to first violate the ordinance and then wait for a lawsuit, which could be costly. So Planned Parenthood complied with the ordinance and halted the abortions in Lubbock. [Attorney Jonathan F.] Mitchell later noted that it was the first time since Roe v. Wade that an abortion ban had survived a court challenge.*"

In *Roe:History of a National Obsession*, published by Yale University Press in 2023, Roe v. Wade historian and law professor Mary Ziegler explained the Lubbock victory:

> "*District Judge James Wesley Hendrix, whom Donald Trump had nominated in 2019, agreed with Lubbock that federal courts had no jurisdiction to hear the case because abortion providers lacked standing to sue. 'Like the defendants in Okpalobi,' Judge Hendrix wrote, 'the city and its officials have no authority to prevent a private plaintiff from invoking the ordinance or to tell the state courts what cases they may hear.*"

The Lubbock victory soon paved the way to a victory with the Texas Heartbeat Act. The state law, which went into effect on September 1, 2021, used the same private enforcement mechanism found in the Waskom and Lubbock SCFTU Ordinances. The law was the first *statewide* pre-viability abortion ban in the nation to go into effect under *Roe v. Wade* – and was upheld before the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

Lubbock was the 24th city in Texas to adopt a SCFTU Ordinance. Since Lubbock passed their ordinance, 57 cities and 21 counties in Texas have passed ordinances outlawing abortion and not a single one of them have been sued.

However, if a lawsuit were to be filed against the city, former Texas Solicitor General Attorney Jonathan F. Mitchell has provided a letter to the City of Plains offering to represent the city at no cost to the city and taxpayers for any litigation that may arise from the passage of the proposed ordinance.

What is the passage / fail rate for Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinances in Texas? While the majority of Texas political subdivisions (cities and counties) that took a final vote on the SCFTU ordinances adopted the measure, a small minority of cities and an even smaller minority of counties did not. That has almost always been the result of local leadership having a pro-choice majority or acting on bad advice from attorneys whose beliefs and values were not aligned with conservative Texas values. The breakdown of the numbers is as follows:

> **82.54%** (104) of all political subdivisions in Texas that took a final vote on the ordinance adopted it and kept it, while 17.46% (22) rejected it and still reject it.
>
> When looking only at cities in Texas, **80.39%** (82) adopted and kept the measure, while 21.57% (20) rejected it and still do.
>
> Among counties in Texas, **91.67%** (22) adopted the measure and kept the measure, while 8.70% (2) rejected the measure and still reject the measure.

Which cities in Texas have considered Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinances as a result of a Citizen Initiative Petition Process? To date, thirteen cities in Texas have considered Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinances as a result of a successful citizen initiative petition process. Seven city councils decided to go ahead and adopt the measure and prevent the additional cost of a citywide election. The seven city councils that adopted SCFTU ordinances as a result of a successful citizen initiative petition process are:

1. **Slaton** (pop.6,235): Instead of the ordinance going to the May 7, 2022 ballot, the Slaton City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a unanimous vote on December 13, 2021.
2. **Lindale** (pop. 6,730): Instead of the ordinance going on the November 8, 2022 ballot, the Lindale City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a unanimous 4-0 vote on March 24, 2022.
3. **Brownfield** (pop. 9,976): Instead of the ordinance going on the November 3, 2026 ballot, the Brownfield City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a 5-3 vote on May 7, 2026.
4. **Muleshoe** (pop. 5,158): Instead of the ordinance going on the November 3, 2026 ballot, the Muleshoe City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a 4-1 vote on May 11, 2026.
5. **Ranger** (pop. 2,469) Instead of the ordinance going on the November 3, 2026 ballot, the Ranger City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a unanimous 4-0 first reading vote on May 26, 2026 and a unanimous 3-0 second and final reading vote on May 28, 2026.
6. **Denver City** (pop. 4,911): Instead of the ordinance going on the November 3, 2026 ballot, the Denver City Council **adopted** the ordinance in a unanimous 6-0-1 vote on August 17, 2026.
7. **Snyder** (pop. 11,251): Instead of the ordinance going on the May 2027 ballot, the Snyder Council **adopted** the ordinance in a unanimous 6-0 first reading vote on September 14, 2026 and a unanimous 5-0 second and final reading vote on October 5, 2026.

Out of the thirteen cities, six of those cities saw the measure placed on a citywide ballot. Out of those six votes, only one city rejected the measure. The six cities that considered a SCFTU ordinance on a citywide ballot are:

1. **Lubbock** (pop. 266,878): **Adopted** by voters on the May 1st, 2021 ballot with 62% voter approval.
2. **Athens** (pop. 13,503): **Adopted** by voters on the Nov 8th, 2022 ballot with 58% voter approval.
3. **Abilene** (pop. 129,403): **Adopted** by voters on the Nov 8th, 2022 ballot with 53% voter approval.
4. **San Angelo** (pop. 101,612): **Adopted** by voters on the Nov 8th, 2022 ballot with 56% voter approval.
5. **Plainview** (22,343): **Adopted** by voters on the Nov 8th, 2022 ballot with 69% voter approval.
6. **Amarillo** (202,408): **Rejected** by voters on the Nov 5th, 2024 ballot with 59% of voters rejecting.

Can the City of Plains, Texas place the proposed ordinance on a November or May citywide election? Texas does not authorize General Law cities the ability to place an ordinance on the ballot through a citizen initiative process. The City of Plains is a General Law Type A city. The reason why some cities have been able to is because they are Home Rule cities with city charters giving them that authority.

THE LEGALITY & CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SCFTU ORDINANCES

The Texas Legislature On Political Subdivisions Passing Ordinances Outlawing Abortion

During the **86th Legislative Session**, the State of Texas prohibited any political subdivision in the State of Texas from using taxpayer dollars to fund any abortion provider or any affiliate of an abortion provider. In the prohibition the State Legislature made clear that the law may not be construed to restrict a municipality or county from prohibiting abortion. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 2273.005. (*"This chapter may not be construed to restrict a municipality or county from prohibiting abortion."*) During the **87th Legislative Session**, the State of Texas explicitly allowed municipalities and counties to outlaw and prohibit abortion, and to establish penalties and remedies against those who perform or enable unlawful abortions. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 311.036(b) (*"A statute may not be construed to restrict a political subdivision from regulating or prohibiting abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as the laws of this state unless the statute explicitly states that political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion in the manner described by the statute."*)

A Legal Challenge When the City of Lubbock adopted a Sanctuary City for the Unborn Ordinance in May 2021, Planned Parenthood sued the City of Lubbock before the ordinance went into effect. The case went before Federal District Judge Wesley Hendrix of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas Lubbock Division. Judge Hendrix invited **Texas Attorney Ken Paxton's Office** to give their opinion on the matter. In a May 31, 2021 letter to Judge Hendrix, Solicitor General Judd Stone wrote to *"express the Office of the Attorney General's views on the questions of Texas law presented by Planned Parenthood's second and third claims in this case."* Solicitor General Judd Stone argued, *"The thrust of Planned Parenthood's allegations is that Lubbock's ordinance is preempted because it is more "stringent" than state law . . . Planned Parenthood has not identified a statute that "explicitly states that political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion"—let alone one that prohibits the type of regulations at issue here . . . This section of SB 8 does not alter state abortion regulations; instead, it* ***guarantees local authority*** *in a particular regard—the regulation of abortion—unless another state law "explicitly states" that a political subdivision is prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion in a specific way. ECF 42-1 at 16 . . . SB 8 is "highly persuasive" evidence that pre-existing statutes should only be understood as preempting local regulation or prohibition of abortion to the extent they explicitly do so. Calvert, 389 S.W.2d at 158. Planned Parenthood's claim to the contrary is without merit."*

In his June 1, 2021 ruling in ***Planned Parenthood v. the City of Lubbock (2021)***, Federal Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas Lubbock Division weighed in on the question of our Legislature's clarity on the matter of both cities and counties prohibiting abortion. Judge Hendrix opined, *"Contrary to plaintiffs' argument, the Texas legislature has issued multiple statutes indicating that the [Lubbock City] ordinance is not preempted. In 2019, the state legislature modified the Texas Government Code as follows: '[t]his chapter may not be construed to restrict a municipality or county from prohibiting abortion.' Tex. Gov't Code § 2272.005. This provides some indication that the state did not intend to preempt municipal action like the ordinance with 'unmistakable clarity.'"*

In July 2023, **Mitchell County** became the first county in Texas to pass a Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance. Upon hearing of the passage of the measure, Representative Dustin Burrows shared, *"I am proud that Mitchell County is the first county to declare itself a sanctuary for the unborn. This is a huge victory for the pro-life movement in Texas. Thank you to all of the grassroots advocates who worked tirelessly to make this a reality, and for the commissioners who showed political courage to vote this into law."*

In August 2023, Senator Charles Perry, Representative Dustin Burrows, and 18 other Texas Senators and Representatives penned a letter in support of cities and counties passing ordinances outlawing abortion across the State of Texas. The **letter, addressed *"To Texas City Councils, County Commissions, and Local Officials"*** read:

> *During the 2019 Legislative Session, a bill was passed (Senate Bill 22) which prohibited tax dollars from funding abortion providers and their affiliates at the state and local level and included an amendment specifically clarifying that the bill does not prohibit cities and counties from banning abortion. Taking their cue from this amendment, on June 11, 2019, the City Council of Waskom, Texas, passed an ordinance banning all abortions within their city limits and prohibiting any abortion provider from doing business within the town's jurisdiction. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature made it even more clear that cities and counties could pass ordinances outlawing abortion when they passed Senate Bill 8 - also known as the Texas Heartbeat Act. This bill prohibited an abortion being performed on any child which is found to have a detectable heartbeat, but also included a section addressing the authority cities and counties have at prohibiting abortion in their jurisdiction. The law states in Texas Government Code § 311.036(b), "A statute may not be construed to restrict a political subdivision from regulating or prohibiting abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as the laws of this state unless the statute explicitly states that political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion in the manner described by the statute."*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WHY MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE CONSIDERED AND PASSED SCFTU ORDINANCES

The City of Whiteface: In March 2020, the City of Whiteface became the 13th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was 3-2. During the meeting, Whiteface Alderman Stephanie Nunn shared how she had become pregnant after she had been drugged and raped at a party that she attended earlier in her life. After experiencing some pregnancy complications doctors encouraged her to abort her child, but she refused to do so. When she was told by a doctor that her unborn child had died, a nurse who was moved with compassion decided to bypass the doctor's order and performed an ultrasound. The nurse found a heartbeat! Speaking of her daughter, Alderman Nunn shared, *"Every time I look at her I'm reminded of God's grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness for being in a place that I never should have been . . . This little girl has made me more than a mother. She's made me stronger in my walk with God. She's in the top of her class. Soon, she'll graduate with honors. She's my beauty from ashes, and forever grateful for my choices to not choose abortion."* After the passage of the measure, Alderman Nunn stated, *"I think it is important for municipal leaders to stand against the expansion of the abortion industry at a local level because if we do not take a stand for our kids and our community then who will? God calls us to stand for what is right in the Word of God and if we don't we will answer for that on judgment day."* Whiteface Alderman Delilah Ann Kern stated, *"If you have the strength to stand up for your personal rights, then why can't you stand up for an unborn child's right to live? It is important that not only the adults, but the children of your community see that you are willing to make the hard, unpopular decisions as well as the day to day that keep your town running. It is important that they see you choose to stand up and protect cities' right to say, 'NO! We will not let you kill children in our town!'"* Mayor Judy Deavours was in agreement with Aldermen Nunn and Kern and encouraged municipal leaders to not be afraid to do what is right. She stated, *"I would say you need to speak out. Yes, this is a very scary thing to do but, before God, we don't have a choice. We have to speak out for the unborn babies that do not have a voice. This is a matter of right and wrong. Psalms 139:13-16 says… God knew us while we were in our mother's womb. What right do we have to destroy someone that God already formed in the womb? What right do I have to play God? We don't do things perfectly, but He does. He said in Psalms that he knew us before we were born into the world."*

The City of Morton: In October 2020, the City of Morton became the 16th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. Prior to the vote, Mayor Kim Silhan echoed her support for the action. *"I believe that we are all created by God and that no one has the right to take a life. That life begins at conception…. Science backs up my beliefs, and aren't we preached to daily by the media to listen to science? It's not excusable to stay silent and not speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."* Councilman Buckie Dobson agreed. *"My faith in God has led me to believe that life is the most important thing we have and that we should protect our children, especially the children that can't speak for themselves."* Councilman Dobson continued, *"We are staking the ground here right now. That we will not stand for something like this to come into our community…. We are putting a barrier, a fence around our town here, saying, 'This will not happen in Morton.' We will stand up for the kids in this town. We will stand up so they can grow up and become adults and become future leaders of this town, this state, and of this nation."*

The City of Grapeland: In January 2021, the City of Grapeland became the 18th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was 4-0-1, four voting for the measure, zero voting against, with one abstaining. According to Mayor Mitchell Woody, Grapeland residents had approached him wanting to see abortion outlawed in the city. *"It caught me off guard at first,"* he said. *"But I was elected as the mayor of Grapeland to listen to the people."* From there, Woody said he was put into contact with Right To Life of East Texas, where he heard about how 17 other cities throughout Texas had all passed similar ordinances. Wanting to hear from some of the other mayors himself, Woody contacted Mayor Angela Raiborn of Rusk, which is located about 32 miles northeast of Grapeland and is the closest city to have outlawed abortion. Next, Woody contacted Mayor Jesse Moore Waskom, over 120 miles northeast of Grapeland, which was the first city in the nation to outlaw abortion. Last but not least, Woody contacted Mayor Shannon Thomason of Big Spring, over 415 miles west of Grapeland and the largest city to have outlawed abortion at that time. *"Each one of them, all having*

passed the ordinance a year or more ago, has no regret for passing the ordinance," Woody said. After talking to the three mayors, he ran the ordinance by Grapeland's city attorney, who is said to have seen no problem with it.

The City of Gorman: In March 2021, the City of Gorman became the 21st city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. When the ordinance was put to a vote, the City Commission did not hold back about their thoughts regarding the ordinance. *"This is a no-brainer,"* said City Commissioner Vicki Brown. *"I think we don't have a choice. This is what we do. This is what we have to do. For the good of this town. For the good of the students. For the good of this community and the people who are around us."* While Commissioner Brown expressed appreciation for Attorney Jonathan F. Mitchell's offer to represent the city at no expense to the city or taxpayers for any litigation that may arise from the passage of the ordinance, Brown was quick to let the packed city hall know who she was ultimately counting on in the end. *"So many people seem to be so worried about lawsuits and I appreciate the fact that we have been given a lawyer free of charge, but I think the best lawyer that we have is God and I think He is going to be the one who is going to be the final decision maker in this matter."* Mayor David Perry was in full support of his four City Commissioners' vote to ban abortion. Mayor Perry shared, *"I feel it is very important for small towns like Gorman to pass this Sanctuary City ordinance simply because of the message it sends to the people outside of the community, but especially to all of the children and the citizens of the community."*

The City of Abernathy: In May 2021, the City of Abernathy became the 25th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. Abernathy Mayor Ron Johnson shared, *"May 10th of 2021 is etched in my memory forever for two reasons. It was my first meeting presiding as mayor, but most importantly Abernathy, Texas, became a Sanctuary City for the Unborn!"* Prior to the passage of the ordinance, Councilman Mike Cummings from Joaquin, Texas, the fourth city to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion, testified in favor of the City Council of Abernathy adopting the same measure. *"My city outlawed abortion in September of 2019 and we have no regrets. We were even sued by the ACLU. The lawsuit brought by the ACLU lasted three months. The ACLU ended up withdrawing their lawsuit and, to this very day, abortion remains outlawed in Joaquin, Texas,"* Cummings said, adding, *"You may hear that this ordinance is going to cost your city or taxpayers a whole lot of money. I am here to testify that it did not cost the city of Joaquin or our taxpayers one cent. As I said before, we have no regrets for outlawing abortions in Joaquin, Texas."*

The City of Levelland: In June 2021, the City of Levelland became the 27th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. While Councilman Jim Myatt made the motion to adopt the ordinance with Councilwoman Breann Buxkemper seconding the motion on the first vote, Councilman Michael Stueart made the motion to adopt the ordinance with Councilwoman Buxkemper seconding the motion on the second and final vote. The votes at both meetings were unanimous in favor of the ordinance, 4-0. Councilman Jim Myatt addressed the packed city council chambers: *"I talked to Mark a year and a half ago . . . couldn't get any traction going, but God's timing was right . . . Thank God we got it done. This council and you all, the citizens."*

The City of Sundown: In June 2021, the City of Sundown became the 28th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. The vote passed 4-1. City Councilman Dennis Heatherly shared, *"The time has now come for all conservative Christians of Texas and the nation to stand up and let their voices be heard against the dark forces that now surround us."*

The City of Nazareth: In October 2021, the City of Nazareth became the 36th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was unanimous, 3-0. Mayor Marlin Durbin shared, *"In the ever changing world we live in, we think it's important to remain vigilant and be proactive in supporting and respecting all life. It's time for us to take a stand for our pro-life beliefs."* Mayor Marlin Durbin continued, *"The ordinance shows the importance our citizens place on the sanctity and sacredness of all life, especially*

the unborn, who have no voice," Durbin said. *"All life must be protected and respected from conception 'til natural death. Today's decision allows the 'faith in God' that our community professes to be put into action for generations to come, by taking a stand for life."*

The City of Odessa: In a special run-off election held December 2020, the voters of Odessa cast their votes for mayor and two city council positions. The winners of the run-off races ran on a platform promising to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion within the city of Odessa. Javier Joven was elected as Mayor of Odessa with 63% of the vote, Denise Swanner was elected as City Council Member At-Large with 71% of the vote, and Mark Matta was elected as City Council Member of District 1 with 64% of the vote — a landslide victory for each one of the openly pro-life candidates for office. When asked why she wanted to see abortion outlawed in the City of Odessa, newly elected City Council Member At-Large Denise Swanner shared her personal involvement with adoption. *"My daughter's birth-mother placed my daughter in my arms 25 years ago,"* she said. *"I will never forget when my daughter's birth-mother quoted 1 Kings 3:26 to me and how the Lord had placed that verse heavy upon her heart. After she quoted this verse, she said to me, 'Rather than kill my child by abortion, I give her life,' as she placed her daughter in my arms."* At that time, newly-elected Mayor Javier Joven shared, *"Odessa is a city full of people who value all human life, both born and unborn. We are a city with a pregnancy resource center right across the street from our City Hall and that facility, which is called The Life Center, stands ready and willing to help any mother who finds herself in an unexpected pregnancy,"* shared Joven. *"We want what they stand for within the walls of the Life Center across the street to be what we stand for within the walls of our City Hall. We want the City of Odessa to be a city that stands for life."* Despite having a mayor and two council members in support of the measure – at least one more vote was needed to pass the measure. In November 2022, three new council members were elected and the Odessa SCFTU ordinance was adopted as law in December 2022. The City of Odessa became the 49th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The second and final vote was 6-1 in favor of the ordinance. Mayor Javier Joven shared, *"It took two years, but we finally did it. We are finally a 'Sanctuary City for the Unborn.'"* Mayor Joven encouraged citizens everywhere, *"If you do not have the votes on your city council to protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children by keeping abortion out of your community then do your part to get the right people into office who will protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children by keeping abortion out of your community."*

The City of Big Sandy: In May 2025, the City of Big Sandy became the 58th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. 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."*

The City of Douglassville: In August 2025, the City of Douglassville became the 60th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. The vote was unanimous, 5-0. Councilwoman Kay Gilbert said, *"If in 10 years this ordinance saves just one life, then it was worth it."*

The City of Como: Just two days after Douglassville outlawed abortion, the City of Como became the 61st city in Texas to outlaw abortion. After the unanimous 3-0 vote in favor of the measure, Mayor Radney shared: "*It is a great honor for the City of Como City Council to be part of something bigger than us. I believe the Lord guides us and has purpose for our lives. It reminds me of when we had a bad accident here in our city a few years back, and it cost someone their life. Putting a red light at that intersection was an urgent priority to prevent further loss of life. And now the passage of this measure is of that same heart and mind – to do everything we can do to further protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children."* After the meeting, one of the members of the Como City Council shared his "almost abortion" story and why he had to vote in favor of the life-saving measure. The city commissioner shared about how, when he was 18, he and his girlfriend decided they would go to Houston for an abortion. *"I skipped school, withdrew the funds from my savings account, and we drove to the abortion clinic,"* he said. "I stayed in the waiting room when the staff at the facility took her to the back room." He shared that the only people in the waiting room, besides him, were several women across the room – each one talking about how many abortions they had in their lifetime: "*One said this would be her first abortion, another said this was her second abortion, and another stated that it was her third time. The last woman to respond said this was her fifth abortion! After she said that, one of the ladies said, 'Wow, you're the winner!' as the ladies laughed at that remark. I didn't understand how several women would think of it as something to laugh about! All but one of these ladies had gone through multiple abortions and even referred to the one there for her fifth abortion as 'the winner'! I*

didn't understand how any of those women could consider one of them the winner! They were using abortion for birth control! It didn't seem right, it didn't feel right, and it didn't sound right in my young mind. The casual way they talked about it bothered me a whole lot." When his girlfriend returned to the waiting room, she was overwhelmed by the cost for a second trimester abortion. At that point, having been influenced by the discussion that he had overheard just moments before, he asked his girlfriend, "Why don't we just have the baby?" He added: "*From that time onward, whenever I heard news stories mentioning abortion, I paid close attention. I wanted to learn more about it. I came to the conviction that human life begins at conception, abortion was the killing of an unborn child, and abortion was very, very wrong. But most of all, I was very, very thankful that we had not gone through with it that day. Years later, I realized that God had saved me from making the worst decision of my life. Today, that almost aborted child is now an adult and has blessed me with a grandson — all because we decided not to go through with the abortion that day. God is good!*"

The City of Clyde: On the same day that the City of Annona outlawed abortion, the City of Clyde became the 64th city in Texas to outlaw abortion. The vote was unanimous, 3-0. Clyde Mayor Paul McGuire shared: "*I placed this ordinance on the agenda and helped move this ordinance forward because I am against unborn children being killed, and I wanted to do something to help protect both them and their mothers. As someone who is a Christian and who is Pro-Life, I had to do my part to stand up and protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children from the harm caused by abortion.*"

The City of Tira: In December 2025, the City of Tira became the 74th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. After the Tira City Council passed the measure, Tira Mayor Allen Joslin and his wife, Tira Councilwoman Tami Joslin, shared: *"We believe this to be the most important item that has come across our forum to vote on, which truly empowers the residents of the Tira community in the battle to protect the unborn. We gladly put our name to this ordinance and encourage other cities and communities to do the same."*

The City of O'Donnell: In April 2026, after the O'Donnell City Council passed the ordinance outlawing abortion and abortion trafficking in a unanimous 5-0 vote, City of O'Donnell Mayor Max Mendieta told the Lamesa Press Reporter, *"Mainly, I think to myself, 'It's the right thing to do. Why kill unborn babies?'"* O'Donnell City Councilman Bruce Vaughn shared, *"It was the right thing to do. It just was the right thing to do. If there's trafficking going on, nobody in their right mind would vote against it. You got to have faith that God is going to tell you what to do when you need to do it and this is one of those times."* O'Donnell is the 78th city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion.

The City of Denver City: In August 2026, Denver City became the 82nd city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was a unanimous 6-0-1 vote. After the passage of the measure, Denver City Councilman Brad Irons – who abstained – called the presentation by Right to Life Across Texas "powerful" and shared that the people who spoke in favor of the ordinance during public testimony touched his heart. Councilman Irons expressed gratitude to Right to Life Across Texas both for the opportunity to ask the "hard questions" and for how each question was handled. Councilman Irons shared:

> *"I still had questions before the vote, but you definitely changed my 'no' to an 'abstention' so I could get more information. Too many people are just saying no without asking questions and getting past the misinformation. If they don't have enough information to say 'yes,' how do they have enough information to justify automatically voting 'no'? If they don't know, then they need to get out of the way."*

Councilman Irons expressed that the discussions afterward were even better than the discussions that took place during the meeting and helped him understand even more. In the weeks following the vote, Denver City Mayor Ronald Weir shared in a story for *The Washington Times* the reasoning for his decision:

> *"I am pro-life because I believe all life is given by God and every life has value. We understand that the circumstances surrounding a pregnancy can sometimes be incredibly difficult, but we do not believe ending the life of a child resolves those difficult circumstances. Every baby, regardless of how he or she was conceived, has a right to life and deserves our protection."*

The City of Snyder: In October 2026, Snyder became the 83rd city in Texas to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion. The vote was a unanimous 5-0 vote. After the meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Sarah Jamison shared,

> *"As I sat in the council meeting tonight, I thought back to conversations with our previous mayor [Tony Wofford] about the importance of Snyder becoming a Sanctuary City for the Unborn. I was proud to cast my vote in support of this ordinance and of Snyder becoming the 100th city in the nation to take this stand. As council members, we have a responsibility to act within the authority given to our city and to consider lawful safeguards that protect the most vulnerable among us.*
>
> *For me, that responsibility is also deeply rooted in my Christian faith. Scripture teaches that God created every life with value and purpose. Psalm 139 tells us that God forms us in the womb, and Proverbs 31:8 calls us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Protecting unborn life must also include compassion and support for mothers and families- which is why this ordinance goes out of its way to educate about the Thriving Texas Families Program.*
>
> *I am proud to stand with a council who is willing to lead with courage, compassion, and faith."*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WHY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS HAVE CONSIDERED AND PASSED SCFTU ORDINANCES

In September 2023, **Cochran County** Commissioner Eric Silhan shared, *"I'm 100% pro-life and I am here to stand with the people who can't stand for themselves."* He stressed, *"Punish the rapist, punish the person committing incest, but why do we kill the innocent when they are not guilty?"* When it came time for a vote on the ordinance, Commissioner Roberts shared, *"I've had no question about it. I was ready to vote for it ten or thirty minutes ago."* The motion was made by Commissioner Silhan, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and voted on for adoption by all four county commissioners.

In April 2024, after **Jack County** passed the ordinance outlawing abortion and abortion trafficking in a unanimous 5-0 vote, Jack County Judge Brian Keith Umphress praised his community, his county, and the leadership of his Commissioners. *"I am so proud of our community and our county in making this decision today. It sets a standard. By us being bold in our faith and our belief of what is right, I hope that other communities will take the lead and feel comfortable that they are going to stand and be a voice for the unborn."* Judge Umphress continued, *"We have an obligation to protect that right and protect those who have no voice. I am very proud of the Commissioner's Court today and their actions to pass this ordinance that will protect the unborn."* Weighing in on the passage of the ordinance, Commissioner Kenny Salazar shared, *"I think today's decision in Commissioners' Court in Jack County was a very good decision to be made for the ones who cannot speak. I know ours is just a small part in the big picture, but every little part helps to make the big picture."* Commissioner Terry Ward, who made the motion to pass the ordinance, shared, *"I think it was the right decision."*

In April 2025, **Shackelford County** adopted a Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance in a unanimous vote. Regarding the vote, Judge John Viertel shared, *"It is gratifying to me for our county, for its citizens to embrace the action taken by the Commissioners of Shackelford County on the 15th of April, 2025. In a matter that might have been controversial, though it's hard to imagine why, there is only support expressed. The matter has to do with moral obligation and Constitutional guarantees and the high ground is protecting innocent life. As Mr. Dickson stated, 'We are experiencing a cultural shift…' and the painful adjustment back to sanity means that we should harken back to a value system rooted in the faith foundations on which our society currently rests, though for many decades now quite precariously."* Judge Viertel continued, *"No better example of the moral confusion gradually engrained into us can be seen than in the presumably 'impossible' scenario presented to me in recent days. The question was asked of me, 'When*

considering the empowering of ordinary citizens to confront the perpetrators of these crimes and accessories to crimes, suppose it was a neighbor of yours who had elected to 'have an abortion. Could you file a civil suit against that person or an accessory?' First off, I have to say that I believe the one glaring inconsistency in this local statute is its exemption given to the criminality of the mother of the unborn child. And that exemption makes my response seem disingenuous. Nevertheless, I did respond as if the mother was responsible – since she IS the primary actor in the decision to end the life growing within her. I said, 'If YOU were to learn that YOUR neighbor had murdered her or his three-year-old daughter, would you hesitate to do your part to bring justice to bear? Now explain the difference if you believe that life begins with conception. So . . . YES, it would be hard. But it would be RIGHT.' And that demonstrates just how much moral ground we have surrendered to this point. No further." Judge Viertel concluded, *"All that aside, and it is not insignificant, but setting that aspect of the issue aside, we have a duty to strike at the commercial aspect of this deplorable and evil practice, to render the monetary gain as not worth the risk of withstanding the righteous application of our Constitution and the moral conviction of our people. So our four Commissioners stepped up. I had several talking points to make if needed. But they were unnecessary. These men were already on board. I extend thanks to Mark Lee Dickson for his tireless dedication to his vision through years of focused work, learning, refining, continually learning and applying improved strategies and relying on tested ones. And for Rodney Casey's commitment to bringing this County and our cities into the mix. It is a righteous band. Texas HEAR US!"*

When **Camp County** unanimously passed the ordinance in April 2025, Camp County Judge A.J. Mason shared, "*I am so proud of our commissioners court for the strong position taken on protecting the unborn. I can think of no greater cause to be a part of than defending those who can't defend themselves. This is a great day."* Upon hearing the news about the passage of the ordinance in Camp County, **State Representative Cole Hefner** wrote:

> "*While I couldn't be there in person due to session in Austin, I'm incredibly proud to celebrate some powerful news out of Camp County this morning. With a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Commissioners' Court passed an ordinance officially making Camp County a Sanctuary County for the Unborn — the first in East Texas, the eighth in our state, and the tenth in the entire nation to do so. This bold step not only outlaws abortion within the unincorporated areas of the county, but it also prohibits abortion trafficking and the aiding and abetting of elective abortions—even when those efforts begin or pass through Camp County."*

When the **Hood County** Commissioners' Court considered the SCFTU Ordinance in February 2026, Hood County Commissioner Nannette Samuelson shared her heart on the issue: "*While Texas has passed strong pro-life bills over the past several legislative sessions, the protection of the unborn, the tiniest and most vulnerable human beings, is not yet complete. Please refer to the letter that we received from the House of Representatives in Austin, Texas, which states that 'Right now, throughout the state of Texas, women are being trafficked across our borders by abortion traffickers funded by abortion trafficking organizations still operating in our state.' Please also refer to another letter from the New Mexico Legislature . . . stating, 'we have seen over a thousand abortions per month come into the state of New Mexico from the state of Texas.' The intent is clear. The ordinance prohibits the abortion trafficking of pregnant mothers and unborn babies, seeking to love them both and protect them both from the tragedy and violence of abortion. These pregnant mothers are being targeted. They should not be targeted. Their unborn children should not be killed. Not in New Mexico, not in Colorado, not in Kansas, not anywhere. This ordinance is a deterrent. The ordinance is not enforced by law enforcement, but is enforced by allowing private citizens to file a civil right of action against the abortion industry, just like we have seen in the historic Texas Heartbeat bill . . . If this ordinance saves one pregnant mother and her unborn child, it will be more than worth it."*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: COUNTY AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ON SCFTU ORDINANCES

In September 2023, when **Cochran County** Commissioner Morin asked the County Attorney if the ordinance was legal to pass. Cochran County Attorney Amanda Martin stated that she believed the ordinance was legal, due to the provision passed within the Texas Heartbeat Act which specifically allows for cities and counties to further restrict abortion. During the meeting it was also mentioned that if Cochran County faces any litigation over their ordinance, former Solicitor General of Texas and architect of the Texas Heartbeat Act, Jonathan F. Mitchell has agreed to represent the county at no cost to the county and their taxpayers. Before the end of the meeting, the ordinance passed in a unanimous 4-0 vote.

In December 2023, the ***Dawson County*** Judge and County Commissioners considered a Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance identical to the one passed by Cochran and Lubbock County. When asked to weigh in on the matter, Dawson County Attorney Steven Payson shared, *"It's just a way of saying, 'Don't do it in our county.'"* Payson continued, *"It's a great way of saying, 'That's all, Boys, go get them,' but it's somebody else's fight. We don't have any risk. To me, it's really a non-issue, when it comes to the county's possible liability. It's not a criminal law. It's a lawsuit."* Before the meeting was all said and done, the ordinance was passed in a unanimous 4-0 vote by Commissioners Mark Shofner, Ryan Webb, Nicky Goode, and Russell Cox, with Judge Foy O'Brien presiding over the meeting.

When **Shackelford County** passed their SCFTU Ordinance in April 2025, District Attorney Isaac Castro, who represents the 259th Judicial District that includes Jones and Shackelford County, celebrated the action, stating, *"Proud of all the leaders of Shackelford County who continue the fight to protect the rights of the unborn! I stand with you to save the babies!"*

Shelby County considered their Sanctuary County for the Unborn ordinance in July 2025. When asked by County Commissioner Stevie Smith if he was comfortable with the Commissioners moving forward with adopting the measure, Shelby County Attorney John Price gave his blessing based on the content of the presentation and the documents which had been presented to the Commissioners' Court. After close to an hour of discussion, Judge Allison Harbison asked if there was a motion to be made. Commissioner Tom Bellmyer made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevie Smith. The measure passed in a unanimous 4-0 vote by County Commissioners Roscoe McSwain, Shannon Metcalf, Stevie Smith, and Tom Bellmyer.

In November 2025, **Dickens County** considered the measure. In May 2021, about an hour away from Dickens County, voters in the City of Lubbock passed their measure in a landslide election with 62% of voters voting in favor of their Sanctuary City for the Unborn Ordinance. The question was asked if Dickens County could do the same thing. While the laws of the State of Texas allow certain "home rule" cities the ability to place such measures before their voters through a citizen initiative process, County Attorney Aaron Clements stated that the laws of the State of Texas did not give the County the ability to place such a question before their voters. After a time of discussion, County Commissioner Chris Horn made a motion to pass the measure. Commissioner Horn stated that because the Texas Legislature gave counties the authority to pass such measures, and the measure aligned with his beliefs and values, he felt comfortable adopting the measure. The Judge and the majority of the commissioners agreed, resulting in a 4-1 vote adopting the measure as the law of Dickens County.

In February 2026, **Hall County** considered the measure. Prior to their meeting, Judge Ray Powell received an opinion from Attorney Jim Allison from Austin, Texas, who serves as General Counsel for the County Judges and Commissioners Association. Allison's opinion had been circulated throughout Texas as a result of an inquiry on the constitutionality of the measure from Hockley County Judge Sharla Baldridge. In his opinion Allison argued that *"counties do not have the statutory authority to adopt these ordinances."* While Allison recognized that Texas law states that *"nothing in state law shall be construed as prohibiting a city or county from adopting provisions that are consistent with state law on this subject,"* Allison took the position that *"this is not a grant of authority for counties to adopt such local ordinances,"* arguing that *"counties can only adopt orders or ordinances*

with specific authorization from the legislature." Alison concluded, *"The statute stating that such ordinances are not prohibited is not sufficient to invest the commissioners court with the authority to adopt such ordinances."* In response, the founder of the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative dismantled the attorney's arguments by making the case that the plain-reading of the law did make it clear that counties in Texas may prohibit abortion, and that the intent of the legislature was unmistakably clear. Convinced that the passage of the ordinance was the right thing to do in Hall County, Precinct 2 Commissioner Terry Lindsey made a motion to adopt the ordinance outlawing abortion and declaring Hall County a Sanctuary County for the Unborn. The motion was seconded by Precinct 1 Commissioner Ronny Wilson. By the time of the vote, County Judge Ray Powell, Precinct 3 Commissioner Gary Proffitt, and Precinct 4 Commissioner Troy Glover all cast their votes in favor of the ordinance as well, making the vote a unanimous 5-0.

Prior to Hood County's unanimous passage of their SCFTU Ordinance, their county attorney was asked to weigh in on the legality of the ordinance. Hood County Attorney Matthew Mills stated:

> "I*t doesn't create, as they said, a cause of action for the county or county officials, either criminal or civil. It purports to create a civil cause of action for private citizens in very narrow circumstances that are not covered by existing abortion laws . . . There are a couple of kind of generic provisions in the government code that seem to give local government the ability to extend state abortion laws . . . it has the support of a number of legislators, including the Speaker of the House, to kind of greenlight local governments to do it, so that would seem to indicate legislative intent for support. I don't know if the lawyer's letter is binding. In other words, if we got sued, if we could really hold his feet to the fire to make him represent us, but he did say that he would represent us if we ever got sued -- but I can't really see us getting sued, because we're not the ones doing anything. Right? It would be a private cause of action, not a county action. So, I don't know if it's going to be truly enforceable if it were really pushed all the way in court, but I don't see liability for the county, either. And, I do see some provisions in the government code that seem to be backed up by legislative intent that it would be okay to move forward on this. So, I don't really have an objection, legally, to voting for it."*

The Hood County Commissioner's Court adopted the measure in a unanimous 5-0 vote.

The measure was first presented before the **King County** Commissioners' Court at their February 2026 meeting. At that meeting, Judge Duane Lee Daniel invited discussion on the proposed King County SCFTU ordinance. After advocates in favor of the measure shared about the ordinance, Judge Daniel referenced an opinion from Attorney Jim Allison from Austin, Texas. When asked about Attorney Jim Allison's opinion, Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Representative Ruth York shared that Allison was a *"Democrat with a history of opposing these measures."* The statement appeared to resonate with King County's leadership. King County is considered the third-most Republican county in Texas. In the 2024 presidential election, an overwhelming 95.56% of voters in King County voted for Republican Donald J. Trump, while only 4.44% voted for Democrat Kamala Harris. While all members of the court supported the ordinance, the measure was tabled to give County Attorney Poage more time to research it further. At their March 2026 meeting, the King County Commissioners' Court reconvened and reconsidered the ordinance outlawing abortion and abortion trafficking in their county. After hearing a presentation from Right to Life Across Texas, King County Judge Duane Lee Daniel asked the Commissioners if they had a motion to bring forth on the measure. Precinct 1 Commissioner Landon Lorance made a motion to adopt the ordinance outlawing abortion and declaring King County a Sanctuary County for the Unborn. The measure was seconded by Precinct 3 Commissioner Dwayne Green. Upon a vote, Commissioners Lorance and Green, along with Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris McCauley and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay Hurt, all voted in favor of the measure, making the ordinance's passage a unanimous 4-0. After the vote, County Attorney Trey Poage shared: *"In my opinion, from a legal standpoint, SCFTU has been very thorough in drafting the ordinance they proposed. I believe, as do many others, that it will stand up to scrutiny in court should it be challenged."*

YOAKUM COUNTY VOTER DATA

How conservative are the voters of Yoakum County? In the 2024 Presidential Election, 85.21% (2,039) voted for Donald J. Trump while only 14.29% (342) voted for Kamala Harris.

How pro-life are voters in Yoakum County? During the **2018 Republican Party Primary**, voters had the opportunity to vote on proposition #7. This proposition gave voters the chance to voice their opinion if they were "In Favor" or "Against" the following statement: *"I believe abortion should be abolished in Texas."* **In Yoakum County, out of 1,071 votes, 73.67% (789) voted in favor of the pro-life proposition, while 26.98% (289) voted against the pro-life proposition.** During the **2022 Republican Party Primary**, voters had the opportunity to vote on proposition #5. This proposition gave voters the chance to voice their opinion if they were "In Favor" or "Against" the following statement: *"Texas should enact a state constitutional amendment to defend the sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, from fertilization until natural death."* **In Yoakum County, out of 1,052 votes, 86.50% (910) voted in favor of the pro-life proposition, while 13.50% (142) voted against the pro-life proposition.**

During the **2026 Republican Party Primary**, voters had the opportunity to vote on two pro-life propositions. Proposition #4 stated, "Texas should require its public schools to teach that life begins at fertilization." **In Yoakum County, out of 1,279 votes, 84.68% (1,083) voted in favor of the pro-life proposition, while 15.32% (196) voted against the pro-life proposition.** Proposition #5 stated, "Texas should ban gender, sexuality, and reproductive clinics and services in K-12 schools." **Out of 1,287 votes, 85.70% (1,103) voted in favor of the pro-life proposition, while 14.30% (184) voted against the pro-life proposition.**

During the **2026 Democratic Party Primary**, voters had the opportunity to vote on Proposition #3. This proposition gave voters the chance to voice their opinion "Yes" or "No" on the following statement: *"Texans should have the right to make their own healthcare decisions, including reproductive rights."* **Out of 79 votes, 97.47% (77) voted in favor of the pro-abortion proposition, while 2.53% (2) voted against the pro-abortion proposition.**

The Republican Party of Texas 2026 Party Platform Several provisions found in SCFTU Ordinances are in full alignment with pro-life planks found in the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Party Platform.

Plank #216(j). Pro-Life: *Abortion is not healthcare, it is homicide. Until the abolition of abortion is achieved, we support laws that restrict and regulate abortion, including but not limited to . . .*

> ***(j) Extending the private cause of action used in the Texas Heartbeat Act to all pro-life laws and policies in Texas.***
>
> ***(l) Supporting the right of Texas political subdivisions to protect mothers and their preborn children in their communities by passing enforceable city and county ordinances that further ban abortions within their county or city limits, closing loopholes in state abortion laws.***
>
> ***(m) Prohibiting private entities from using funds, benefits, reimbursements, transportation, lodging, or organized logistical support to facilitate travel for the purpose of obtaining an elective abortion; and supporting appropriate civil enforcement mechanisms against organizations and individuals who knowingly assist in organized efforts to circumvent Texas laws protecting unborn children.***

At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 State Convention in Houston, **97.41%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank and subplanks.

Plank #58. Prohibit Abortion Trafficking Across State Lines: ***We support legislation to prohibit the use of any private or government funds, as well as the abortion trafficking of pregnant women across Texas state lines, by land, water, or air, for the purpose of procuring an elective abortion*** *and for the provision of* ***a private right of action against all persons and organizations who aid and abet in the harming of the woman, and the killing of her preborn child.*** At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Convention in Houston, **93.40%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

Plank #156. Trafficking and Disposal of Fetal Remains…: We support legislation **prohibiting and criminalizing the trafficking of the remains of preborn children killed by abortion facilities outside the State of Texas, picked up by Texas-based waste management companies, and brought back to Texas to be treated and regarded as trash to be disposed of in Texas landfills…** At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Convention in Houston, **95.12%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

Plank #157. Support for the Sanctity of Life: The Republican Party of Texas **supports programs that provide assistance to pregnant women and promote the sanctity of life.** At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Convention in Houston, **96.36%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

Plank #159. Preventing Any Death by Abortion: *. . . We support protecting preborn children and their mothers by* ***stopping abortion pill distributors from sending and trafficking these lethal and illegal drugs into Texas*** *and holding those accountable who break State Pro-Life laws by selling and trafficking illegal abortion pills.* At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 State Convention in Houston, **90.04%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

Plank #160. Medical Emergencies within Pro-Life Laws: We support the ***current medical emergency exception laws, which include the management of confirmed ectopic pregnancies, which are not to be considered abortions. We do not support inaccurate arguments against abortion, which occur due to false and misleading rhetoric. The abortion law does not need to be altered, but implementation does need to be addressed. We urge the Legislature and health agencies to educate and inform medical professionals and the public about the law of medical emergency exceptions. The mother's life remains the primary consideration in providing emergency care exceptions in the management of ectopic pregnancies and complicated preterm premature rupture of the membrane (PPROM).*** At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Convention in Houston, **93.61%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

Plank #161. Planned Parenthood: We support legislation ***completely eliminating public funding for, or contracts with, Planned Parenthood, other abortion providers, or any of their affiliates. We oppose their digital or physical presence in our schools and other public institutions, as well as the expansion of their facilities in our neighborhoods.*** At the Republican Party of Texas 2026 Convention in Houston, **96.53%** of Republican delegates from across the State of Texas voted in support of this plank.

For more information, visit www.sanctuarycitiesfortheunborn.com. Mark Lee Dickson can be contacted by phone at 806-598-1919, by email at markleedickson@gmail.com, or through his website www.markleedickson.com.