TexasVoices
FOR REASON AND JUSTICE

REASON • EVIDENCE • RESEARCH
SAFER COMMUNITIES

A safer Texas is a goal we all share. Texas Voices supports policies that ensure meaningful accountability, provide strong support for victims, and advance effective efforts to prevent sexual abuse. Registry reform is an opportunity to review current policies, direct resources where they can best protect communities, and remove barriers to successful rehabilitation. By letting evidence guide improvements, lawmakers can strengthen public safety and create a system that is effective, efficient, and responsive to risk.

Sound Research / Smart Reform / Safer Texas

100,000+*

PEOPLE LISTED ON THE TEXAS SEX OFFENSE REGISTRY

There are over 100,000 people currently listed on the bloated Texas Public Sex Offense Registry. Texas pours ***millions*** of taxpayer dollars into an ineffective registry rather than strategies that actually protect children, prevent sexual abuse, and provide robust services for victims.

* Parents for Megan's Law / Crime Victims Center, Texas registry statistics (June 2026).

THE TEXAS SEX OFFENSE REGISTRY:



- Costs millions of taxpayer dollars annually without any notable benefit
  Source: Texas Legislative Budget Board, Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report (2011).
- Drains substantial law enforcement resources across Texas
  Source: NIJ, Law Enforcement Perspectives on Sex Offender Registration and Notification (2016).
- Fails to improve public safety
  Source: Agan & Prescott (2021), Offenders and SORN Laws, Cambridge University Press.
- Does not deter new sex offenses
  Source: Zgoba & Mitchell (2023), J. Experimental Criminology, 19, 71–96. DOI: 10.1007/s11292-021-09480-z.

90 to 95%

Of NEW SEXUAL OFFENSES involve someone already known to the victim.



Source: CDC, Child Sexual Abuse (2024); BJS, Sex Offenses and Offenders (1997).

More than 95%

Of NEW SEXUAL OFFENSES are committed by someone NOT on the registry.



Source: Sandler, Freeman & Socia (2008), Psychol., Public Policy & Law, 14(4).

Two different measures: relationship to the victim and registry status.

We should be investing in what works, not maintaining what doesn't.

BEFORE PASSING ANOTHER SEX-OFFENSE LAW,

HOW DO YOU KNOW?
ARE YOU SURE?

Every proposal should be able to answer these questions:

1. By what exact MECHANISM will it prevent sexual victimization?
2. What evidence shows that mechanism works?
3. How will we know what data to look at to see whether it worked?
4. Is this proposal driven by evidence of effectiveness?

Good intentions are not enough. If public safety is the goal, policy should be based on measurable outcomes, not assumptions.

WHERE RISKS ACTUALLY EXIST

Real prevention requires an honest understanding of where risks actually exist—not the false belief that society can be neatly divided into "dangerous people on a list" and everyone else.

Families need to understand that while they are searching through the registry for people who may harm their children, they are missing the most obvious—it will almost always be someone they already know and trust—NOT someone on the registry.

ON REGISTRATION LAWS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS

"The result, convincingly documented, is that these laws actually undermine public safety, the exact opposite of what lawmakers and the public so confidently assume they accomplish."

— American Law Institute, Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses, §213.11, Executive Summary

TEXAS VOICES
FOR REASON AND JUSTICE

texasvoices.org
877-215-6688
info@texasvoices.org

THIS INFORMATION WAS SHARED WITH YOU BY:

Name: _____

Email / Phone: _____

Additional notes:

_____