

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy, and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, and involvement in legislation and governmental affairs.

There are 5.2 million seniors 60 years and older living in Texas today. They are our constituents. TSHL identifies the issues and problems of our peers, develops problem-solving solutions, and advocates for adoption of these solutions by the Texas Legislature.

That's the mandate to us from the Governor and Legislature of Texas SCR 37, 69th Texas Legislature



ORGANIZATION

Officers are elected from the membership for a two-year term.

Officers

- ★ Speaker, Rhonda Rogers, Paris
- ★ Speaker Pro Tem, Sherry Hubbard, Junction
- ★ Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, Barbara Aydlett, Aquilla
- ★ Secretary
- ★ Comptroller, Barbie Butler-Johnson, Hearne

Legislative Issue Committees & Chairs

- ★ Criminal Justice, Johnny Waldrip, Burleson
- ★ Education, Nancy Byler, Brownwood
- ★ Health & Human Resources, Sue Wilson, Austin
- ★ Human Services, Lynda Mitchell, Tehuacana
- ★ Insurance
- ★ Retirement & Aging, Irene Andrews, Nolanville
- ★ Rural - Urban, Sharon Brazeal, Van Alstyne
- ★ State Affairs, Mike Sandoval, Kingsland
- ★ Utilities & Natural Resources, Wayne Merrill, San Angelo

Administrative Committees & Chairs

- ★ Communications, Linda Timmerman, Streetman
- ★ Elections & Credentials, Mike Meier, Gatesville
- ★ Finance, Pat J. Porter, Big Spring
- ★ Operations, Joann Blackmon, Lubbock
- ★ Legislative Action, Scott Christensen, Hilltop Lakes

Special Committees & Chairs

- ★ Ethics, Nancy O. Hardin, San Antonio
- ★ Memorial, Dolores Garcia, Lubbock
- ★ Proposed Resolution Review Panel, Linda Parrish, Driftwood
- ★ Strategic Planning, Paul Furukawa, San Antonio
- ★ Training, Joe Henderson, Pottsboro
- ★ *Silver Bulletin*, Editor – Linda Timmerman, Streetman

18th TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE



Speaker

Rhonda Rogers
Paris, Texas

903-874-3839

rrogersmaj@gmail.com



Better Lives for Senior Texans!

HISTORY

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was created by the 69th Texas Legislature with the adoption of SCR 37, April 3, 1985. The first Session was held in 1986 and has continued for 30+ years. Seniors 60 and over are elected to a 2-year term by their peers from 28 districts in Texas. Since 1985, more than 700 seniors have been elected legislators. TSHL is a total volunteer group with no paid staff or office; TSHL is not supported by State Funds.

The TSHL Foundation - The founders established the TSHL Foundation in 1985 as a non-profit (501(c)(3) agency to raise funds to support TSHL. Other resources come from individual members who finance their travel and other expenses. The Foundation actively solicits tax-deductible gifts, grants, and donations that will support the operational expenses of the TSHL Legislature for its training and orientation meetings and its research and policy-development activities.

**Sponsorships are available for the
TSHL Foundation & Legislative Dinner
February 8, 2021
Bullock Museum, Austin, Texas**

For information contact:
Dr. Elise Brazier, President, TSHLF
[Email: Elise.Brazier@concordia.edu](mailto:Elise.Brazier@concordia.edu)
Cell phone: 512-313-5308

To donate send a check or money order to:
TSHLF Bookkeeper
c/o Stockwell & Whitfield, CPAs
3006 Bee Cave Road, Ste. C250
Austin, TX 78746

PURPOSE/GOALS

Promote Good Government:

Motivate, engage, and educate older Texans in the legislative process

Encourage Voice:

Inform and educate senior Texans to become viable political voices and forces

Provide Opportunity:

Offer the avenue to serve as a resource to public and private sectors on aging issues and concerns

Model Legislative Forum:

Develop a non-partisan forum for discussion, debate, and prioritization of issues facing aging Texans

Develop Advocates:

Educate the Texas Silver-Haired Legislators to advocate for adoption of aging resolutions submitted to the Texas Legislature



Interested in Becoming a Texas Silver-Haired Legislator?

Qualifications for election are found on our website: www.txshl.org.

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for details on the election/appointment process. To find your local AAA:

Call 1-800-252-9240 or go to apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/aaa.cfm

TSHL RESULTS

Since inception, over 200 bills have passed the Texas Legislature that were directly influenced by the work of the TSHL. Thirteen TSHL resolutions were accomplished, partially or fully, by laws enacted in the 2019 Texas Legislative Session. A few highlights from past years:

- ✓ Freeze city, county, and junior college districts' taxes for elderly and disabled homeowners
- ✓ Increase and maintain the financial strength of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) defined benefits
- ✓ Increase personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to \$60
- ✓ Create Silver Alert for missing seniors.
- ✓ Establish penalties for theft of a military grave marker
- ✓ Allow grandparent caregivers to enroll grandchild in school & provide access to State programs
- ✓ Expansion of rural broadband services
- ✓ Medical use of low-THC cannabis products
- ✓ Criminal background check of employees and applicants at special care facilities.

Visit our website for a complete listing of the Resolutions adopted by TSHL 1986-2019



www.txshl.org