



Preparing for the 87th Legislative Session

SILVER BULLETIN 18TH TSHL 4Q2020

FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

I'm certain we can all agree that 2020 has been a daunting year and TSHL members have risen to the challenge! Many of us have been working far outside of our comfort zones to assure that our efforts on behalf of older Texans continue – and for that I am grateful.

We were hoping that our October Executive Committee could be held in Lubbock, and the Lubbock delegation was working hard to host us. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has not relinquished its grip on our State, so we must, again, turn to technology:

TSHL Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 15 – 2 p.m.
FreeConferenceCall.com

Please make plans to join us. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy this issue of *Silver Bulletin*.

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

www.txshl.org

As of the writing of this edition of the *Silver Bulletin*, the 2020 Legislative Reports and TSHL Directories are in the final stages of printing and mailing to each member of the Texas Legislature, the Directors of the 28 Area Agencies on Aging, and each member of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (with the exception of those members who stated that an electronic copy was sufficient). So...the pressing question is: “what do we do now?”

As part of our Executive Meeting on October 15, Paul Stempko and Scott Christensen, Legislative Action Committee Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, will lead a discussion centered on how to get our Resolutions turned into bills for consideration by the Legislature. This will be a very informative discussion, so please plan to attend virtually!

In the meantime, Scott Christensen has provided the following helpful tips which can get you started:

1. Determine which Resolution(s) you want to support. You were emailed an electronic copy of the report. The Legislative Report can also be found in the TSHL Lounge on Facebook. You will need to print the Resolution(s) from the Report, scan the printed document, and then attach it to your testimony.
2. Look up the Committee Chair for your Resolution (Goggle Texas Legislature On-Line or look in your Texas Legislative Handbook for the names of Chairs) and email the TSHL Resolution to the Chair with comments urging the committee to give consideration to the Resolution. You might also want to copy the Legislator's Chief of Staff. Email formats are:
 - a. Senate: firstname.lastname@senate.texas.gov
 - b. House: firstname.lastname@house.texas.gov
3. Follow-up with a phone call to the Legislator or Chief of Staff in 7-10 days.

The House also has a site where they are requesting information (i.e., written testimony):

<https://capitol.texas.gov/Committees/RequestsForInformation.aspx?Chamber=H>

If the House has requested information on a Resolution you are pushing, make sure that your testimony includes reasoning or statistics that you were not able to fit into the one-page Resolution, any new supporting information not in the Resolution, and any additional ways to amplify your case for the Resolution.

Watch your emails for more in-depth information from LAC and attend the virtual meeting on October 15 for more tips!

Report from Chair of Elections & Credentials

Committee:

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature has 123 Representatives who are elected from across Texas. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) boundaries serve as the political boundaries for TSHL representation. In addition, the AAAs assist TSHL during the election process by serving as the local focal point for distribution and coordination of election notices and candidate forms, and the election itself. Twenty-two of the AAA regions can each elect 4 representatives. The remaining six AAA regions located in the metropolitan areas of Bexar County (6), Capital Area (6), Dallas County (6), Harris County (6), Houston/Galveston (5), and Tarrant County (6) can elect additional representatives as indicated in parenthesis.

There is great need for more older adults to become involved in TSHL. Currently, we have only 89 Representatives in TSHL. I hope that many of the current Representatives will return, though some may not be able to return due to personal reasons, family commitments, or poor health. A few of the AAA areas currently do not have any representatives: Golden Crescent, Middle Rio Grande, North Texas, and South Texas AAAs. Many of the other AAA areas have only 1 or 2 representatives. I call upon all of you to work on recruiting candidates from the underserved areas. I have asked the same of the AAA Directors across the state.

The TSHL Election Kit detailing the election process and forms, and candidate requirements, forms, and expectations has been revised for the 2021 election. Both hard copy and e-file formats of the TSHL Election Kit have been sent to the Directors of the Area Agencies on Aging.

Just a reminder – all current TSHL members who wish to remain involved with TSHL must file for re-election for their current positions.

Important Dates for Candidates for TSHL Election:

January 4, 2021	AAA to post notice for TSHL Election
February 26, 2021	Deadline for candidates to file for election, turn in required forms to AAA
April 30, 2021	Election Day (if election is needed)
May 3, 2021	Elected and Appointed Candidates will receive required forms to complete
May 19, 2021	Deadline for members to submit the required forms
July 19 – 23, 2021	19 th TSHL Orientation Session (<i>Come Austin or Bust!</i>)

TSHL Officer Election Information

As a reminder, the requirements for candidates for TSHL Officers were amended this year, as follows. Candidates for the office of Speaker must be members in good standing of TSHL and must have served at least two full terms as a TSHL member. Candidates for Speaker must also have served one of these terms as a LIC or Administrative Committee Chair or TSHL officer prior to declaring for office of Speaker. Candidates for the offices of Speaker Pro Tem, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, Secretary, and Comptroller must be members in good standing of TSHL and must have served at least one full term as a TSHL member.

June 30, 2021	Deadline for candidates to file for election to TSHL Office; forms sent to TSHL Secretary, Bobette Doerrie
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Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Pat Gleason-Wynn, E&C Chair, with questions, requests, or comments related to the TSHL election. Phone: 817.680.2236 Email: tshlpatgleason@gmail.com.

REV-UP! Texas Launches Their 'I Vote Early' Campaign

The November 3 election presents an opportunity for voters with disabilities to make their voices heard on issues important to them. [REV UP Texas](#) is a non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering Texans with disabilities by giving them the information they need in order to access their voting location. They recently launched their **I VOTE EARLY** campaign, which encourages Texans with disabilities to make sure they are aware of key voting deadlines and other important information on fully accessible voting. Read on for more information.

Voting Deadlines

Unsure if you are registered to vote? Check your status with the Secretary of State's ['Am I Registered?' application](#)! If you are not registered, you must do so by **Monday, October 5th** in order to vote in the November 3rd election.

- You can request a voter registration application from the [Texas Secretary of State](#), your [County Registrar](#), or [other sites](#).

Eligible to vote by mail? Request a mail-in ballot from the [Texas Secretary of State](#). In order to be eligible, you must:

- be 65 years or older;
- be sick or disabled;
- be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance; or
- be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible.

Remember, your request for a mail-in ballot must be **received** by **Friday, October 23rd**. Your completed post-marked ballot must be received no later than **5pm Wednesday, November 4th**. If you choose to deliver your mail-in ballot in person, it must be received by your county no later than **7pm Tuesday, November 3rd**.

In-Person Voting Dates

Early Voting Dates: **Tuesday, October 13th** to **Friday, October 30th**

- During early voting [you may vote at any polling location](#) in your county!

General Election: **Tuesday, November 3rd**

- If your county participates in the [County Wide Polling Place Program \(CWPP\)](#) you can vote at any location in your county. If not, you must vote at your designated precinct location- you can find this information using the Texas Secretary of State's ['My Voter Page'](#). This page will be updated with voting site two days before the general election.

Voting with a Disability

The Texas Secretary of State's website has extensive information on your [rights to accommodation as a voter with a disability](#). If you have questions or encounter problems registering to vote or voting, [Disability Rights Texas](#) runs a special toll-free voter rights hotline that can be reached at 1-888-796-VOTE (8683).

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

- ✚ WAYNE MERRILL was elected Comptroller of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
- ✚ SCOTT CHRISTENSEN accepted the appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Action Committee
- ✚ VIOLA HEBERT has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Elections & Credentials Committee by members of the committee

We sincerely appreciate these individuals for stepping up to assume these leadership positions.



Speaker: Rhonda Rogers, Paris
Speaker Pro Tem: Sherry Hubbard, Junction
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem: Barbara Aydlett, Aquilla
Secretary: Bobette Doerrie, Booker
Comptroller: Wayne Merrill, San Angelo

UPCOMING DATES FOR TSHL

Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual) October 15, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – February 2021, Austin, TBD

Senior Day at the Capitol, March 2, 2021 (Tentative)

Executive Committee Meeting – April 2021, TBD

Executive Committee Meeting – July 18, 2021, Austin

19th TSHL Orientation Session – July 19-22, 2021, Austin

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JOIN US OCT. 15 FOR THE EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Download –

[FreeConferenceCall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) to your PC, laptop, or tablet – follow the prompts on the screen as you download the application. You will be asked to create a username and password.

We have found that joining the conference through the FreeConferenceCall app works better than just clicking on the link that will appear in the email invitation. So, you are strongly encouraged to install the app on your device.

Practice –

Ask your AAA Delegation, family members, friendly neighbor, etc. to join you in a virtual meeting during the next week or so. Just “play around” with it – we promise, you won’t break it!

Don’t be intimidated by the technology!

Find a way to participate. Our Oath says we will serve older Texans. As Speaker Rogers says, “the fact that we are still here tells me that each of us still has a purpose on earth. This is the only way we can have these meetings this term. Our State Legislators and older Texans are depending on each one of us.”