

# 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 approximately 5.5 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, 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature*



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# ORGANIZATION

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

## Officers

- ★ Speaker, Rhonda Rogers, Ark-Tex
- ★ Speaker Pro Tem, Sherry Hubbard, Concho Valley
- ★ Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, Barbara Aydtlett, Bexar
- ★ Secretary, Bobette Doerrie, Panhandle
- ★ Comptroller, Wayne Merrill, Concho Valley

## Legislative Issue Committees & Chairs

- ★ Criminal Justice, Joe Henderson, N. Central Texas
- ★ Health & Human Resources, Paul Stempko, Capital
- ★ Human Services, Barbara Williams, Ark-Tex
- ★ Pensions, Investments, Insurance, and Financial Services (PIIFS), Gary Gerstenhaber, Capital
- ★ Retirement & Aging, Dan Robert, N Central Texas
- ★ Rural-Urban, Sharon Brazeal, Texoma
- ★ State Affairs, Scott Christensen, Brazos
- ★ Utilities & Natural Resources, Jerome Doerrie, Panhandle

## Administrative Committees & Chairs

- ★ Communications, Linda Timmerman, Heart of Texas
- ★ Election & Credentials, Viola Hebert, Harris County
- ★ Finance, Fred Burrell, Jr., N. Central Texas
- ★ Operations, Joann Blackmon, South Plains
- ★ Legislative Action, Sue Wilson, Capital
- ★ Technology, Mike Taylor, Tarrant County

## Support Committees & Chairs

- ★ Ethics, Mary Pat Smith, Capital
- ★ Memorial, Dolores Garcia, South Plains
- ★ Proposed Resolution Review Panel, Pat Porter, Permian Basin
- ★ Strategic Planning, Charles Scoma, Tarrant
- ★ Training, Betty Jo Brown, Harris County
- ★ *Silver Bulletin*, Editor – Vacant
- ★ Awards – Mary Nixon, Southeast Texas
- ★ Parliamentarian, Pat Porter, Permian Basin

# 19<sup>th</sup> TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE



*Speaker*

**Rhonda Rogers**  
**Paris, Texas**

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*Advocating for Older Texans!*

## HISTORY

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was created by the 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature with the adoption of SCR 37, April 3, 1985. The first Session was held in 1986 and has continued for 35+ years. Seniors 60 and over are elected to a 2-year term by their peers from 28 regions 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  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
Bullock Museum, Austin, Texas**

For information contact:  
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[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. A218  
Austin, TX 78746

## PURPOSE/GOALS

### Promote Good Government:

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

### Encourage voice:

Inform and educate older 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.tshl.org](http://www.tshl.org).

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for details on the election/appointment process. To find your local AAA go to:  
<https://txregionalcouncil.org/regional-programs/health-and-human-services/area-agencies-on-aging/>

## TSHL RESULTS

Since inception, over 250 bills have passed the Texas Legislature that were directly influenced by the work of the TSHL. Fifteen TSHL resolutions were accomplished, partially or fully, by laws enacted in the 2021 Texas Legislative Session. A few highlights from past years:

- ✓ Increase and maintain the financial strength of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Employee Retirement System (ERS) benefits
- ✓ Increase personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to \$60
- ✓ Create criminal offense for engaging in financial abuse of older Texans
- ✓ Simplification of re/certification of eligibility for SNAP
- ✓ Expansion of rural broadband services
- ✓ Expansion of medical conditions for prescribing use of low-THC cannabis products and support of medical cannabis research
- ✓ Criminal background check of employees and applicants at special care facilities.
- ✓ Provisions for telemedicine and teledentistry

**Visit our website for a complete listing of the Resolutions adopted by TSHL 2019-2021: [www.tshl.org](http://www.tshl.org)**