

## 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 4.6 million seniors 60 years and older living in Texas today. These older Texans 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*

[www.txshl.org](http://www.txshl.org)

TSHL offers courses to older Texans, aging network professionals and the public.

Curriculum includes:

- ✓ Realities of the Third Age
- ✓ Living a Good Third Age
- ✓ Advocacy for Older Texans
- ✓ TSHL: Call for Leadership

Publications available on [www.txshl.org](http://www.txshl.org)

*Silver Bulletin*, official quarterly newsletter;  
*TSHL Legislative Report*, published biennially;  
*TSHL Official Documents Handbook*, 2015-2017;  
*TSHL Committee Chair's Handbook*, 2011;  
*TSHL Strategic Plan*, updated biennially;  
*TSHL Training Plan*, updated biennially;  
*TSHL Town Hall Meetings Report*.  
*TSHL Directory*, biennially

*Ageing? It Takes a Lifetime.*

## ORGANIZATION

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

- ✓ Speaker, Walter Graham, Cisco
- ✓ Speaker ProTem, Mona Bailey, N. Richland Hills
- ✓ Deputy Speaker ProTem, Bruce Davis, Abilene
- ✓ Secretary, Judy Ward, Houston
- ✓ Comptroller, Rhonda Rogers, Paris

### Legislative Issue Committees & Chairs

- ✓ Criminal Justice, Bill Bailey
- ✓ Education, Joe Henderson
- ✓ Health & Human Resources, Warren Moore
- ✓ Human Services, Mary Pat Smith
- ✓ Insurance, Rene Wallace
- ✓ Retirement & Aging, William Carey
- ✓ Rural-Urban Affairs, Robert Pfister,
- ✓ State Affairs, Chris Kyker
- ✓ Utilities & Natural Resources, Louise Butler

### Administrative Committees & Chairs

- ✓ Communications, Jamie Larson
- ✓ Election & Credentials, Barbara Aydlett
- ✓ Finance, Wayne Merrill
- ✓ Operations, Ted Hubert
- ✓ Legislative Action, Carlos Higgins

### Special Committees & Chairs

- ✓ Training Committee, Joe Henderson
- ✓ Technology, Chris Kyker
- ✓ Ethics, Carol Peters
- ✓ Strategic Planning, Don Lively
- ✓ Awards, Jane Blay
- ✓ Resolution Review Panel, Albert Campbell
- ✓ Documents Review, Jene Liaci

### Executive Committee

- ✓ Officers, Immediate past Speaker, Committee chairs, and area Representatives

[www.txshl.org](http://www.txshl.org)

## 16<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE



*Speaker*

**Walter Graham**

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Cisco, Texas 79601

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*Better Lives for Senior 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 TSHL Legislative Session was held in 1986 and has continued for 30 years prior to the Texas Legislature's Regular Sessions. Seniors 60 and over are elected to a 2-year term by their peers from 28 districts in Texas. Since 1985, 684 seniors have been elected legislators.

### The TSHL Foundation

The founders established 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. TSHL is a total volunteer group with no paid staff or office. TSHL Foundation Officers are: Walter Graham, President; David Marwitz, Vice President, Bruce Bower, Secretary; Mark Sanders, Treasurer.

#### Calendar 2016-2017

Executive Committee meeting, Feb 3, 2016, Abilene  
San Antonio town hall, Jan 27, 2016  
Abilene town Hall, Feb 4, 2016, ACU campus  
Tarrant County town hall, Feb 19, 2016  
Garland town hall, March 16, 2016  
16<sup>th</sup> TSHL Legislative Session, April 4-8, 2016  
TSHL Executive Committee meeting, July 21, 2016  
TSHL Foundation Board meeting, July 21, 2016,  
TSHL Foundation Board meeting, Oct 27, 2016  
TSHL Executive Committee meeting, Oct 27, 2016  
TSHL Leadership training, Sept 16-17, 2016  
File for election to 17<sup>th</sup> TSHL, Jan 2 - Feb 28, 2017  
**TSHL Foundation & Legislative Dinner, Feb 6, 2017**  
Senior Day at the Capitol, Feb 7, 2017  
TSHL Election Day, April 28, 2017  
Deadline to file for TSHL State Office, June 30, 2017  
17<sup>th</sup> TSHL Orientation, July 2017  
Election of TSHL State Officers, July 2017

## PURPOSE

1. To promote good government for all Texans through active participation in public affairs
2. To provide an avenue through which older citizens may serve as a resource to public & private sectors, boards and commissions that shall complement other senior citizen groups, organizations and agencies.
3. To develop a nonpartisan forum for older Texans to discuss senior citizen issues, debate those issues and establish legislative priorities for the Texas Legislature to consider.
4. To provide advocacy training enabling TSHL members to continue their role within the community
5. To provide older Texans an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the legislative process through involvement.

#### TSHL members' duties are:

- ➔ Represent older constituents
- ➔ Advocate for issues adopted by TSHL
- ➔ Take the Oath of Office administered by state official
- ➔ Attend all TSHL Sessions
- ➔ Serve on at least two committees
- ➔ Abide by TSHL Code of Conduct
- ➔ Support TSHL and TSHL Foundation fund raising efforts



Better Texas Through the Ages

[www.txshl.org](http://www.txshl.org)

## TSHL RESULTS

**These are a few of the aging policy issues addressed by TSHL that have become law by Texas Legislature, 1986-2016.**

- Freeze city, county and Jr. College districts taxes for elderly and disabled homeowners.
- No eminent domain used for private gain.
- Increase personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to \$60.
- Provide \$250,000 cap for non-economic damages awarded for malpractice lawsuits.
- 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.
- Medical use of low THC-marijuana.
- Assure no fewer than 28 area agencies on aging in Texas.
- Disposition of unclaimed cremains of veterans.
- Criminal background check of Employees and applicants at special care facilities.
- Create the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging
- Bill of Rights for Wards under Guardianship

**Visit website for listing of the 859 Resolutions adopted by TSHL 1986-2016**