

## 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. 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)

Publications available on [www.txshl.org](http://www.txshl.org)  
*Silver Bulletin*, official quarterly newsletter;  
*TSHL Legislative Report*, published biennially;  
*TSHL Official Documents Handbook*, 2017-2019  
*TSHL Committee Chair's Handbook*,  
*TSHL Strategic Plan*, updated biennially;  
*TSHL Training Plan*, updated biennially;  
*TSHL Town Hall Meetings Report*.  
*TSHL Directory*, biennially

## ORGANIZATION

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

- ✓ Speaker, Walter Graham, Cisco
- ✓ Speaker Pro Tem, Mona Bailey, N. Richland Hills
- ✓ Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, Joe Henderson, Pottsboro
- ✓ Secretary, Mary Collins, Snyder
- ✓ Comptroller, Rhonda Rogers, Paris

### Legislative Issue Committees & Chairs

- ✓ Criminal Justice, Bill Bailey
- ✓ Education, Trini Garza
- ✓ Health & Human Resources, Sue Wilson
- ✓ Human Services, Mary Pat Smith
- ✓ Insurance, Richard Garnett
- ✓ Retirement & Aging, Don Murphy
- ✓ Rural-Urban Affairs, Ken Arterbury,
- ✓ State Affairs, Irma Cauley
- ✓ Utilities & Natural Resources, Louise Butler

### Administrative Committees and Chairs

- ✓ Communications, Sherry Hubbard
- ✓ Election & Credentials, Barbara Aydlott
- ✓ Finance, Wayne Merrill
- ✓ Operations, Ted Hubert
- ✓ Legislative Action, Linda Parrish

### Special Committees & Chairs

- ✓ Training Committee, Jeanine Blankenship
- ✓ Technology, Pat J. Porter
- ✓ Ethics, Nancy O. Hardin
- ✓ Strategic Planning, Myron Meier
- ✓ Awards, Jane Blay
- ✓ Proposed Resolution Review Panel, Pat Porter
- ✓ Documents Review, Richard Garnett

### Executive Committee

Officers, Immediate Past Speaker, Committee chairs, and area representatives

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



*Speaker*

**Walter Graham**

451 CR 154  
Cisco, Texas 79601

**254-631-8783**

**wcgbg@txol.net**



*Aging? It Takes a Lifetime.*

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

*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, more than 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, 2018-2019

TSHL Executive Committee meeting,  
April 22, 2018  
TSHL Executive Committee meeting,  
July 26, 2018  
TSHL Executive Committee meeting,  
October, 2018\*  
TSHL Leadership training, Oct, 2018\*  
File for election to 18th TSHL, Jan 2 - Feb  
28, 2019  
**TSHL Foundation & Legislative Dinner, Feb  
11, 2019**  
Senior Day at the Capitol, Feb 12, 2019\*  
TSHL Election Day, April 26, 2019  
Deadline to file for TSHL State Office,  
June 28, 2019  
18th TSHL Orientation, July, 2019  
Election of TSHL State Officers, July, 2019

\*tentative date

## 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 as 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, 1986-2018.**

- 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 more than \$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 Resolutions adopted by TSHL 1986-2018**