Kansas Silver Haired Legislature

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) is a unicameral legislature composed of 125 representatives. All are over 60 and are elected from their county residence. Wyandotte, Johnson, Shawnee and Sedgwick counties have five additional delegates. The legislature provides an educational experience in the political process and provides an opportunity to identify priority concerns of Kansas senior citizens. The SHL develops bills and resolutions which are presented to the Kansas Legislature and the Governor as recommendations for state policy.

What is the Purpose of Silver Haired Legislature?

To advocate for older adults and provide a voice for the older community at the state and federal level. Emphasis is on the following:

• To Educate – Provide information to the community about issues and steps to take to advocate for bills and resolutions.

• To Advocate - Actions of the SHL inform the public and the Kansas Legislature about concerns of the older adults in the community.

• To Involve - The SHL provides thousands of older adults a way to become involved at the local, state and federal level by encouraging them to advocate for issues meaningful to older adults.

How are Silver Haired Legislators Elected?

Silver Haired Legislator elections are conducted by the Area Agencies on Aging across the state every two years. Any Kansan aged 60 and over who is a registered voter may file for candidacy. The term of office is two years and elections take place every two years. Members may be re-elected. Candidate registration forms, petitions and filing instructions are available from any Area Agency on Aging. For individuals interested in filing in Johnson County call the Area Agency on Aging at 913-715-8860.

What are the responsibilities of a Silver Haired Legislator?

• To advocate for legislation introduced by the SHL.

• Testify at hearings on SHL legislation.

• Meet with older adults in their county/district on SHL legislation affecting the community 60 years of age and older.

Be an Advocate for Aging Issues!!

To locate your state elected officials go www.kslegislature.org or call 1-800-432-3924.