



SILVER HAİRED LEGİSLATURE

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature was formed in 1982, created by an act of Congress in 1969. This is a unicameral legislature composed of 125 representatives, one from each county with the exception of the larger counties having five additional. Representatives must be 60 or older and elected from their county of residence. Johnson County has six representatives. Elections are conducted by the Area Agency on Aging every two years.

Our purpose is to advocate for seniors and provide a voice at the state level with emphasis in educating our seniors about issues and steps to take for information on bills and resolutions; to advocate for the concerns of the older adults in the community; to provide seniors ways to become involved for meaningful issues.

The responsibilities of our members include:

- Advocating for seniors through our KSHL members to enlighten the Kansas Legislature about issues promoted by our Kansas Silver Haired Legislature;
- Testify at hearings about KSL advocated legislation;
- Meet with our county seniors about issues affecting seniors.

In mid-summer, we meet to define the issues presented by the eleven statewide PSA's and select those to be presented to the elected state Legislature. Since this is a statewide organization, not all issues pertain to all areas.

Our SHL statewide meeting is held in Topeka each October. We finalize resolutions and bills to present to the Kansas Legislature in January. We also review bylaws, policies and procedures, election credentials and relevant senior issues.

Johnson County Delegation

Katy Hoffman, Chair

Mary Calhoun

Norman Kahn

Mary Penrose

Gary Scott

David Wood



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The issues to be presented to the 2024 legislature are:

- Support Medicaid expansion;
- Establish a medical cannabis advisory board to explore and make recommendations regarding the expanded medical use of cannabis;
- Support the voting rights of seniors and all other registered voters by ensuring accessibility to the polls;
- Expand the existing Grandparents as Caregivers Act to provide financial assistance to other relatives providing care to children;
- Support elimination of the tax cliff and increase income thresholds to qualify for an exemption of social security benefits from state income tax;

Our Johnson County delegation works closely with the County Area Agency on Aging to support aging needs. We have many seniors in our county. Let's continue to support us. Seniors Count!!!

JOHNSON COUNTY SILVER HAIREd LEGISLATORS - PSA 11

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