



# Missouri SHL Bulletin

August 2024

*A Newsletter for those who promote conscientious legislative advocacy for Missouri's older adults.*

## Good News on Senate Bill 756 The “Fix” for Senate Bill 190

By Thomas Eyssell, SHL Treasurer, and Chair, Aging Ahead Delegation, SHL Publications and Education Committee



The words “Good News!” and “Taxes” rarely go together, but this time they do! You may recall that the Missouri legislature overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 190 two years ago. Senate Bill 190 provided for counties to freeze seniors’ real estate taxes in order to keep seniors from being taxed out of their homes.

Unfortunately, some of the wording of Senate Bill 190 was ambiguous, which slowed its adoption in counties across the state. BUT – on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Governor Parson signed Senate Bill 756, widely known as the “Senate Bill 190 Fix.” SB 756 mandates that any county that implements a Senior Real Estate Tax Freeze (a) must set the age for qualification to **62**, and (b) cannot add arbitrary restrictions such as property value caps or income limits. In a nutshell, this means that, in those counties that choose to implement a freeze, the freeze must be “clean” (i.e., free of county-specific limiting language). Legal experts suggest that this also means that Missouri’s two largest counties – Jackson County and St. Louis County – must rewrite their freeze ordinances to remove the property value caps that they had imposed.



Bottom line: State law now provides that the Senior Tax Freeze has the potential to benefit all of Missouri’s senior homeowners and removes one of the many dangers to our future well-being! Good news indeed!

# Please Complete the Survey by Aug. 13—Your Voice Counts

By Kayla Curry, Community Relations, Office of Constituent and Emergency Services, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

**D**id you know that within ten (10) years, older adults in Missouri will outnumber children for the first time in our history?

In order to prepare for this aging population, Governor Parsons signed executive order 23-01, Missourians Aging with Dignity. Work has been happening on this plan since February 2023. DHSS has partnered with the Missouri Area Agencies on Aging to contract with Polco to develop a statewide needs assessment survey. **The survey is open through Aug. 13!**

We need you to complete the survey and share the opportunity with all of your colleagues, friends, and family. We need as many Missourians as possible to complete the survey to ensure that their voices are heard in the development of the Missouri Master Plan on Aging. The survey takes about twenty (20) minutes to complete but will give the state the information needed to ensure the plan will meet the needs and wants of as many Missourians as possible.

We are all aging and are, or will be, caregivers in our lives. The Master Plan on Aging is being designed to ensure that Missouri can plan for the aging population. Please share the attached document widely with your coworkers, clients, associations, family, friends, etc. We need your support to make Missouri the best place to age.

You can take the survey at <https://polco.us/missouri24> or by using this QR code in the graphic. The survey will only be open until August 13<sup>th</sup>, so please share the information quickly and be sure to take the survey yourself. Assistance in taking the survey is available to anyone needing it by calling Polco at 855-773-0665. Paper copies of the survey can be requested by emailing [survey@polco.us](mailto:survey@polco.us). The survey is also available in multiple languages, and others can be added upon request.

You can learn more about the Missouri Master Plan on Aging by visiting [www.health.mo.gov/aging](http://www.health.mo.gov/aging).

**Time to Give Your Two Cents Worth!**

The Master Plan on Aging Statewide Needs Assessment gives you the opportunity to **voice what needs you think are important as we age.**

Visit [polco.us/Missouri24](https://polco.us/Missouri24) or capture the QR Code below.

The survey closes on August 13, so don't wait!

**AGING WITH DIGNITY**  
Missouri's Master Plan on Aging

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

SCAN ME

# SHL Board and Bills Committee Identifies 20 Bills To Prioritize as “Top 5” at the Annual Conference

On July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the SHL Board of Directors and Bills Committee members met in Jefferson City for their annual meetings. Together, they worked diligently to prepare a docket of 20 bills that concern

legislation and positively affect Missouri’s older adults. Among the proposed bills that SHL will support are legislative issues concerning health, social service, consumer affairs, and taxation. The 20 bills are in the graphic to the right organized by committee.

All Silver Haired Legislators meet annually in the autumn of the year for two days to conduct a model legislative session at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. The Annual Conference of the Silver Haired Legislature will take place on October 15, 16, and 17, 2024. After spirited debates in the Legislative chambers, the delegates in attendance will choose their Top Five Priorities and then formulate plans to advocate for senior issues during the coming legislative session.

Missouri’s Silver Haired Legislature (SHL)



was founded in 1973 as the Nation’s first model after the Older Americans Act was amended to include advocacy groups. The SHL is composed

of fifteen volunteers, age 60 or older, from each of the ten statewide Area Agencies on Aging. These 150 senior activists, elected by their peers, identify and advocate for issues critical to older Missourians.

For more information or to become a member, please visit:

[www.health.mo.gov/silverhaired](http://www.health.mo.gov/silverhaired).

## 2024 SHL Proposed Bills by Committee

### Consumer Affairs

1. Increase excise tax on tobacco products to benefit AAA transportation fund.
2. Increasing funding to support minor home repair programs that allow seniors to remain safely in their homes. (Budget)
3. Rate increase on Medicaid Home Delivered Meals. (Budget)
4. Increased oversight and accountability for nursing home inspections. (Budget)
5. Staffing the Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 24/7.

### Health

6. Increase funding for the MO Rx Program to include all eligible Medicare beneficiaries. (Budget)
7. Foot care funding. (Budget)
8. Increase funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. (Budget)
9. Increase funding for the current Hearing Aid Distribution Program for non-Medicaid eligible individuals. (Budget)
10. Hearing aid & cochlear implants for eligible MO HealthNet individuals.

### Judiciary/Taxation

11. Improve the MO Property Tax Credit aka Circuit Breaker and add annual indexing.
12. Increase accessibility to public buildings for individuals with disabilities.
13. Property tax exemption for 100% of disabled veterans.
14. 5% of the 3% collected and deposited in GR from internet sales and vendor.
15. Tax incentive for volunteer drivers for qualified organization.

### Social Services

16. Increase appropriations for the personal needs allowance and add annual indexing.
17. Raise the Aged and Disabled Waiver from 85% of the FPL to 133% of the FPL, as it is for MO HealthNet expansion.
18. Establish a commission to assist grandparents raising grandchildren.
19. Increase Medicaid asset level.
20. Correcting critical senior transportation issues.



# Senior Day

Missouri State Fair

August 14, 2024

Mathewson Building's Exhibition Arena



Dance contest!



BINGO!



Good times!

## Agenda

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Vendor exhibits and booths - open on Exhibition Arena Floor Register for the dance contest on Aug. 14 near Center Stage from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or pre-register at <a href="https://Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday">Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday</a>
10:00 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	Free BINGO (Prizes awarded)
11:15 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.	Line dancing lessons provided
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Pre-show: special guests, Ms. Missouri Senior and other entertainment
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Dance contest (Must be 60+ to participate)
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Awards presented

## Special Guests:

Paula F. Nickelson, Director, Department of Health and Senior Services; Melanie Highland, Director, Division of Senior and Disability Services; Lana Johnson, President of Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (ma4) and Darla Behlmann, Ms. Missouri Senior America 2024

## Dance Contest:

Five dance categories: Missouri Waltz, Polka, Jitterbug, Two-Step and Line Dancing

Pre-register for the dance contest at [Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday](https://Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday) or on Aug. 14 near Center Stage from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Prizes to the dance contest winners for each category:  
\$100 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$75 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$50 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

For more information, contact:  
Kathy.Craig@health.mo.gov or 573.751. 2413  
[Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday](https://Health.Mo.Gov/seniorday)



# Your Vote Matters This Election Season

By Joanie Van Rees, a Master of Social Work student at the University of Missouri. She spent her summer practicum placement at Aging Ahead in greater St. Louis.



**Y**our Vote Matters! The Silver Haired Legislature encourages everyone to get out and vote. Here is a quick guide outlining ways and days that you can vote in the general election as well as some other useful information.



1. Vote In-Person on Election Day with your Voter ID – November 5, 2024

2. Early In-Person Voting – Begins October 22, 2024

You can vote in-person at your local election authority with a Voter ID beginning two weeks before the election. You do not need to fill out an absentee ballot. Check with your local County Election Office for times.

3. Absentee Voting – Begins September 24, 2024; Application Deadline October 22, 2024

You need a reason to cast an absentee ballot (some examples: outside of jurisdiction on election day, illness, disability, religious conflict, working at election location or as a first responder, etc.). Apply for an absentee ballot by mail or in-person. The deadline to submit the absentee ballot application is two weeks prior to election day. You may vote with the absentee ballot beginning six weeks before the election date. Absentee ballots may be delivered in-person with a Voter ID. Ballots that are mailed in require notarization (with the exception of incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability). Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on election day.

4. Permanently Disabled List

If you are unable to vote in person because of any difficulties it poses for you, please request to be put on the permanently disabled list by contacting your county election office. Once you are on this list, you will be mailed an absentee ballot application prior to each election. When you are on this list your ballot does not need to be notarized.

## Acceptable Forms of Voter ID

- ✓ A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license.
- ✓ A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card.
- ✓ A nonexpired U.S. passport.
- ✓ Another nonexpired photo ID issued by the U.S. or the state of Missouri.



The Missouri Secretary of State office and your local County Election Offices are there to help! Contact the Secretary of State at [www.sos.mo.gov/elections](http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections) or (800) 669-8683 to check your voter registration and find contact information for your local County Election Office.

# Age Positive

## Ideas for an Age-Friendly Future



May 7-8, 2024



Kauffman Foundation Conference Center

Submitted by Glenda Meachum-Cain, SHL Publication and Education Committee Member.

**A**ge Positive: Ideas for an Age-Friendly Future was held May 7 and 8 in Kansas City. The two-day event attracted more than 250 attendees.

The ninth annual Age Positive once again offered a forum for those who provide programming to older adults, but with a twist this year: a half-day preconference session that offered advocacy strategies and ways to build a unified message across the field of aging. That session shared information on advocacy training, field building and a panel discussion on best practices for cross-sectional partnerships.



On the second day, experts in the field provided workshops on a variety of topics unified around the theme “Age as an Asset.”

Nicole Garner and Dr. Danielle Binion, both with the Center for African

American Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center, brought a diversity, equity and inclusion focus to the conference with their morning keynote address, “Unlocking the Power of Age: Embracing Aging as an Asset.”

Afternoon keynote speaker Rachel Kail, an educator with Marigold, had everyone on their feet participating in activities during her inspiring closing address “Aging is an Asset... as are YOU.”



Source: [MARC News www.marc.org/news/aging/2024-age-positive-conference-stresses-aging-asset](http://www.marc.org/news/aging/2024-age-positive-conference-stresses-aging-asset)

# Make a difference. Make the Call

**M**issouri's Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline responds to reports of abuse, bullying, neglect, and financial exploitation. If you suspect someone is being abused, bullied, neglected or exploited, call the hotline at 800-392-0210. The hotline operates 365 days per year from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may utilize Relay Missouri by calling 1-800-735-2466. You can report online at [health.mo.gov/abuse](http://health.mo.gov/abuse).



## Sign up today!



### For Public Advocacy E-Newsletter

To subscribe, go to <http://agingahead.org/missouri-shl>

All SHL delegates are encouraged to become subscribers and to recruit others to subscribe.

### Use these links to contact your legislator(s) to advocate for legislation impacting Missouri Seniors.



<https://house.mo.gov>  
<http://senate.mo.gov>

<https://www.mo.gov>  
<http://www.govtrack.us>



From the links you can track bills, committee hearings, contact legislators, and more.

Also subscribe to the SHL Advocacy update at: <https://www.agingahead.org/missouri-shl/>

Published Bi-Monthly (April, June, August, October, December, February). Contributions due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to SHL Publication and Education Chair, Karma Metzgar, [metzgark@outlook.com](mailto:metzgark@outlook.com).

For more information: [Silver Haired Legislature | Health & Senior Services \(mo.gov\)](#) or <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/silverhaired/>