

BECOME A SENIOR LEGISLATOR

FROM SANTA BARBARA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES

If you are passionate about issues facing older Californians and their families, you may want to consider running for the California Senior Legislature!

What is the California Senior Legislature?

The California Senior Legislature is a volunteer body whose primary mission is to gather ideas for legislation at the state and federal levels, craft the ideas into formal proposals, prioritize the proposals, present them to members of the Legislature or the Congress, and advocate for laws implementing the ideas.

How are Delegates Elected to the CSL?

40 Senior Senators and 80 Senior Assembly Members are selected in elections supervised by the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils in the 33 Planning and Services Areas in California which were established by the federal Older Americans Act of 1965. The elections are in even-numbered years and the terms of office are four years.

Two Senior Assemblymembers are needed to represent the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

Each October, the CSL meets in Sacramento to convene a model legislative session in the chambers and hearing rooms of the State Capitol. The CSL members participate in hearing testimony, debating issues, and voting to approve or disapprove legislative proposals. The purpose of the Annual Session is to develop legislative proposals at both the State and Federal level.

Prior to the Annual session, ideas are researched and made into proposals. Following the session, the top ten state proposals and top four federal are taken to state legislators or members of Congress who are asked to author and carry appropriate bills in the Legislature or Congress.

The Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council will elect the three (3) delegates at their meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023.

Who is eligible to be a CSL candidate?

Any person who is fifty-five (55) years of age or over, is a registered voter and resides in the county for which the election is held.

What is the Process to Become a Candidate?

Individuals must submit a nomination petition application (Application for Candidacy, CSL Nomination petition, CSL Statement of Commitment, CSL Code of Ethics, a Personal Resume, Volunteer Agreement, and Waiver of Liability requiring candidate's signature and date) via e-mail to the office of the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging, in Santa Maria at seniors@centralcoastseniors.org by March 24, 2023. Forms can be obtained directly from CSL at www.4csl.org/forms. For additional information and/or help in obtaining forms, contact the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging office at 1-800-510-2020 or via e-mail seniors@centralcoastseniors.org.

Other Information

Costs of the delegates to attend the annual session, if held, of the California Senior Legislature in Sacramento are reimbursed by the California Commission on Aging.

For more information about the California Senior Legislature, check their website at www.4CSL.org.