

# California Senior Legislature (CSL)



Celebrating 32 Years!



# What we will learn today

- A little about the California Senior Legislature
- How legislative proposals are created
- Understanding the legislative process
- Seeking a legislator to author
- Advocating for the Bill once an author has been identified



# About the CSL



- Introduced by Henry Mello in 1979
  - Created a non-partisan volunteer grassroots organization
- Volunteers are 60+
- Representatives from entire State
- Legislative body comprised of 120 senior volunteers – 40 senior senators & 80 senior assemblymembers



# About the CSL

- Governed by a Joint Rules Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Five Policy Subcommittees:
  - Health
  - Finance & Insurance
  - State & Local Government
  - Housing & Transportation
  - Social & Community Service



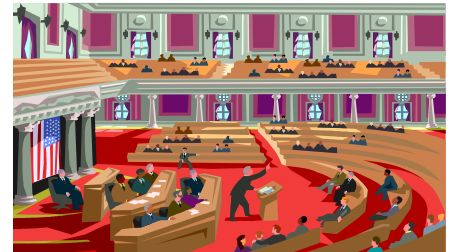
# About the CSL

- Members have three primary responsibilities:
  - Research and write legislative proposals
  - Raise awareness of the CSL that will bring in funds to support the organization
  - Be a member on one of the committees or policy subcommittees



# About the CSL

- Annual session held in Sacramento in October of each year
- A four day event
- Senior Assemblymembers meet in Assembly Chambers
- Senior Senators meet in Senate Chambers



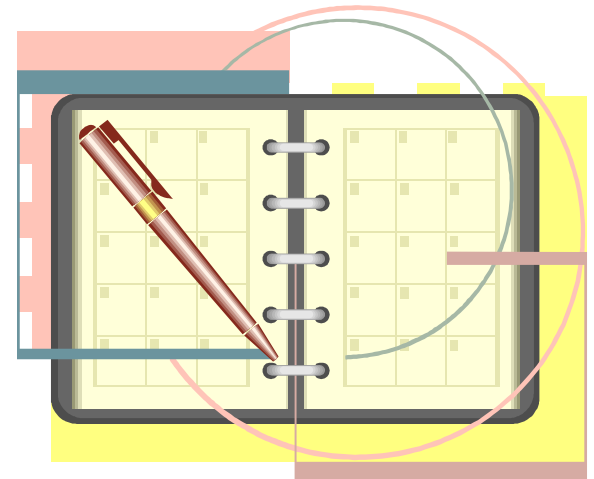
# About the CSL

- Completed Proposals are submitted to CSL office in Sacramento on May 1 each year
- All proposals reviewed by a legislative analyst
- Each proposal assigned to a policy committee based on subject matter



# Session Schedule

- Day 1 – morning:
  - Registration
  - Policy Committee Orientation
  - Volunteer Orientation
  - Break for Lunch





# Session Schedule

- Day 1 – afternoon:
  - General Session
    - Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
    - Welcoming Remarks & Introductions
    - Session Schedule & Protocol
    - Welcome dinner & awards presentations



# Session Schedule

- Day 2 – morning:
- Special breakfast in Lt Governor's office
  - Opening Ceremonies
  - Breal for Lunch



# Session Schedule

- Day 2 – afternoon:
  - Committee Hearings begin (both Senate & Assembly)
    - Finance & Insurance
    - Health
    - Housing and Transportation
    - Social and Community Service
    - State and Local Government
    - Dinner



# Session Schedule

- Day 3 – morning:
  - Legislative floor sessions
    - Conducted in Assembly & Senate Chambers
    - CSL authors present their proposals to entire group



# Session Schedule

- Day 3 – afternoon:
  - Committee Hearings in both the Senate and Assembly
  - Banquet



# Session Schedule

- Day 4 – morning:
    - Legislative Floor Sessions in both the Senate and Assembly chambers
    - Candidates selected from each committee to be on JRC or Legislative Committee (alternating every other year...1 year senate candidates, next year assembly)
    - Balloting for CSL top 10 state and top 4 federal
- 



# Session Schedule

- Day 4 – afternoon:
  - Joint legislative session
  - Introduction of new JRC and Legislative Committee members
  - Adjournment



# Where proposal ideas come from

- Members aware of social issues that need a legislative solution
- Meet with senior organizations to hear their issues
- Ideas sparked by concerns expressed by community advocates and activists (examples: predatory lending practices, elder financial abuse issues)





# Finding an Author

- Legislative Committee meets with each legislator at end of year and beginning of next legislative session in Sacramento
- The committee presents the top 10 and top 4 to these legislators to see if they can spark any interest in authoring



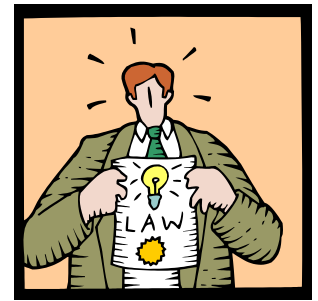
# An Author is Found

- Legislator assigns to a staff member
- Staff may call CSL author to discuss
- Amendments could be applied or a minor change in direction
- Could be that more than one legislator will sign on as a co-author



# We have a Bill!

- The rest of the process is in the hands of the authoring legislator who will present his/her bill in the various committees
- If an “aye” majority vote, the bill moves on
- Ultimate goal is to have bill go through committee without any major opposition
- Final accomplishment would be to have Governor sign into law



# Importance of Advocating

- Advocates are NOT lobbyists!
- Advocates ARE persons and/or organizations who are strong supporters of the bill concept
- Advocates spend time in Sacramento speaking and testifying on behalf of a Bill



# Who funds the CSL?

- Senior Senators & Senior assemblymembers are volunteers
- CSL is not funded by State dollars!!
- Solely supported through voluntary contributions
- All donations are tax deductible





# How to contribute

- A voluntary contribution can be made through the State Income Tax Form
- “The California Fund for Senior Citizens” appears as Code 402 under “Contributions”



# Code 402

## Contributions

CA Senior Special Fund

>499 \_\_\_\_\_

Alzheimer's Disease/Related Disorders Fund

>401 \_\_\_\_\_

**CA Fund for Senior Citizens**

**>402 \_\_\_\_\_**

Rare and Endangered Species

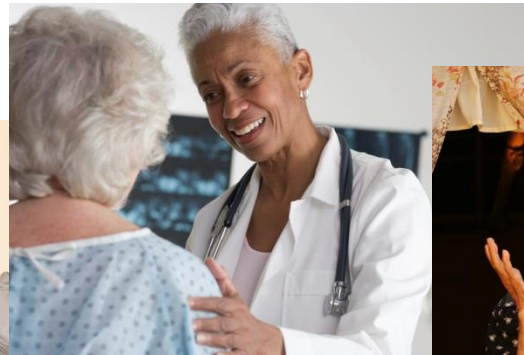
>403 \_\_\_\_\_

Preservations Program

Etc.....



# Support the California Senior Legislature, and you support the future needs of our aging population!







**California Senior Legislature 916 552-8056**