

# **An Inside Look at the California Senior Legislature**

**Lauren Rolfe, CSL**

## **Program Summary**

Each October, the California Senior Legislature (CSL) meets in Sacramento in the State Capitol to convene a model legislative session and work with State lawmakers to author priority proposals. As the Assembly member representing PSA 28 (Planning and Service Area), Lauren Rolfe, is able to provide a “behind the scenes” perspective on the work and mission of the CSL.

In 1980, the State Legislature requested the California Commission on Aging to develop a forum through which older Californians could develop their legislative priorities. The California Senior Legislature (CSL) was established in 1981. It is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization made up of 120 elected members. The 40 Senior Senators and 80 Senior Assembly Members are elected by their peers (persons 60 years of age and older) to represent seniors throughout the State.

At the October convening, CSL members participate in hearing testimony, debating issues, and voting to approve or disapprove up to 120 legislative proposals. Senior Legislators seek State lawmakers to author at least 10 of the Session's priority proposals. They then work throughout the year to ensure adoption of these measures. The CSL is not funded by taxes, but by contributions, and operates under the rules of the Bagley-Keene Act of 2004.

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