

AGING ADVOCACY

What to Expect in 2025 and
How to Make an Impact with Legislators

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Government Solutions

Overview

- **Review of the 2024 Legislative Session**
- **Recent Developments in Aging Issues**
- **On the Horizon for 2025**
- **How to Make an Impact with Legislators**

General Session Overview

- 2024 legislative session defined by fighting amongst factions in the Republican Party amid heightened election year politics.
- Ongoing conflict resulted in record low number of bills crossing the finish line and making it to the Governor's desk for final approval.
- The super-majority party failed to pass several caucus priorities, including IP reform.
- Notable legislation that passed includes making it easier for families to claim tax credits on private school tuition, raise in min. teacher pay, and incentives for business development and rural investment.
- This was the last session for ARPA funding

General Session Overview

2024 Statistical Breakdown

House:

- Bills Filed: 1,733 (Including 18 Appropriations bills)
- Bills Third Read: 128 (Including 18 Appropriations bills)
- Bills Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed: 29 (Including 18 Appropriations bills)

Senate:

- Bills Filed: 874
- Bills Third Read: 45
- Bills Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed: 16

Total:

- Bills Filed: 2,607
- Bills Third Read: 173
- Bills Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed: 46
- **Signed by Governor: 45 (Including 18 Appropriations bills)**

Key Aging Issue Passed: SB 756

- **SB 756** - Clarifies the language of SB 190 (passed last year) for political subdivisions when providing property tax relief to seniors by adjusting eligibility and how counties administer these credits
 - Now, eligible individuals must be 62 years or older instead of just qualifying for Social Security benefits.
 - Updates the definition of the "initial credit year" for determining how property tax credits are applied.
 - If a senior makes improvements to their home, the increased property value due to new construction will be reflected in their tax liability.
 - Counties that offer this tax relief must also inform local political subdivisions of the credit amounts applicable to them by November 30 of each year.

Aging Issues Not Passed

- **Circuit Breaker Tax Credit**
- **Tax-related issues:** assessment freezes, personal property tax, etc.
- **SNAP Restaurant Meals Program**
- **In-home care provider rate increase**

Recent Developments in Aging Issues

VOYCE released the report, [A Framework for Advancing Missouri's Response to Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation: Defining a Path Forward](#) which provides a shared vision of how to serve Missourians better.

They identified nine crucial areas to change by listening to those working in the field and survivors.

1. Centering survivors by improving the **Survivor Experience** through all parts of the justice system
2. Building awareness and prevention by enhancing **Public Awareness** for professionals and community members
3. Ensuring abuse ends for all Missourians through **Prevention**
4. Enhancing service delivery by coordinating a robust, responsive network to respond to **Service & Resource Needs**
5. Reducing confusion, delay, and repetition by developing a **Coordinated Reporting and Response System**
6. Preparing well-resourced and qualified response team members through **Workforce Recruitment and Development**
7. Growing the network of those affected by and interested in adult abuse through **Stakeholder Engagement**
8. Reducing underreporting and increasing the field's understanding of the enormity of this problem through improved **Data Management**
9. Creating consistency, closing gaps, and reducing unintended consequences through **Legislation**

Recent Developments in Aging Issues

In December 2023, Northview Village, the largest nursing home in St. Louis, abruptly shut down **displacing around 170 residents**. The closure **happened without warning** to the residents, their families, or the staff. The facility had been a **critical safety net**, providing care to seniors, disabled individuals, and those with behavioral health needs, **many of whom relied on Medicaid**.

- The situation escalated when **staff learned they would not be paid**, causing many to walk out, leaving residents without proper care or knowledge of where they would be relocated.
- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services intervened, but the **evacuation was chaotic**.
- Some residents ended up at other facilities without proper medical records, while **others were unaccounted for for days**. One individual with schizophrenia was found wandering several days later.
- Despite calls for accountability, the facility's **owners received only a \$56,000 fine** from federal authorities. Northview Village had faced numerous violations in the years leading up to its closure, raising broader concerns about the oversight of nursing homes, particularly those owned by out-of-state companies

Upcoming Dates

September

11

2024

**Veto
Session**

November

5

2024

**Missouri
General
Election**

December

1

2024

**First Day of
Bill Filing**

January

8

2025

**First Day of
Legislative
Session**

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On the Horizon for 2025

- Rate funding for Home & Community Based Services
- Master Plan on Aging
- Protecting established programs and services
- New legislative member education
- Lower budget numbers than in the past several years

On the Horizon for 2025

In 2024, 21 of the 34 Senate seats and all 163 House seats will be contested in the state legislature.

Missouri Senate

- **Total Seats:** 34
- **Seats Up for Election:** typically 17 seats (odd-numbered districts), plus four vacancies
 - a. Senator Greg Razer (D) of District 7 resigned on April 25, 2024, Senators Karla Eslinger (R) of District 33 and John Rizzo (D) of District 11 resigned in June 2024, and Lauren Arthur (D) of District 17 resigned in July 2024
 - b. Therefore, there are 23 Republicans and 7 Democrats at the time of the 2024 election (plus four vacancies).
- **Term Length:** 4 years

Missouri House of Representatives

- **Total Seats:** 163
- **Seats Up for Election:** All 163 seats are up for election every two years.
 - a. Forty-six incumbents will not seek re-election. Five incumbent representatives, all Republicans, were defeated in the August 6 primary election.
 - b. Last election resulted in 111 Republican and 52 Democrat Representatives in Missouri.
 - c. In the 2020 Presidential Election, Donald Trump won 108 Missouri House districts, while Joe Biden won 55.
 - d. Going into the 2024 Missouri House election, Republicans hold five districts where Biden won. Conversely, Democrats hold two districts where Trump won
- **Term Length:** 2 years

How to Make an Impact with Legislators

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Why Advocate?

#MOLEG NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

- **Term-limits and high turnover** in the Missouri General Assembly, create the need for constant education of legislators.
- **Legislators rely upon trusted persons** to help shape policy.
- To **protect the interests** of the aging population.

How You Can Make a Difference

WAYS TO ENGAGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

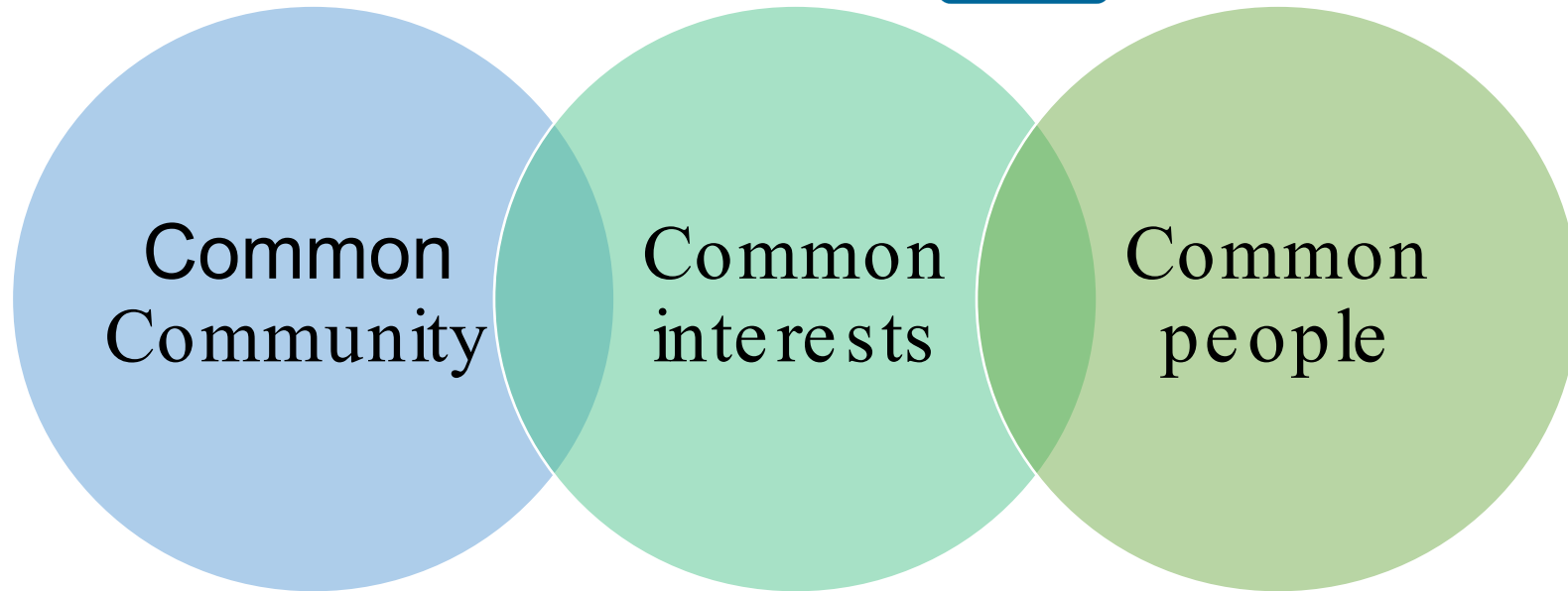
1. **VOTE** for candidates who support aging issues.
2. **ATTEND** legislator sponsored district events.
3. **INVITE LEGISLATORS** to meet and learn about aging issues that matter in their district.

WAYS TO ENGAGE DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION (JANUARY – MAY)

1. **PARTICIPATE IN** Ma4 Advocacy Day at the Capitol
2. **TALK TO LEGISLATORS** about legislation that impacts you and those they serve.
3. **JOIN** Ma4 Advocacy Committee Meetings

Create Common Bonds

Linked 



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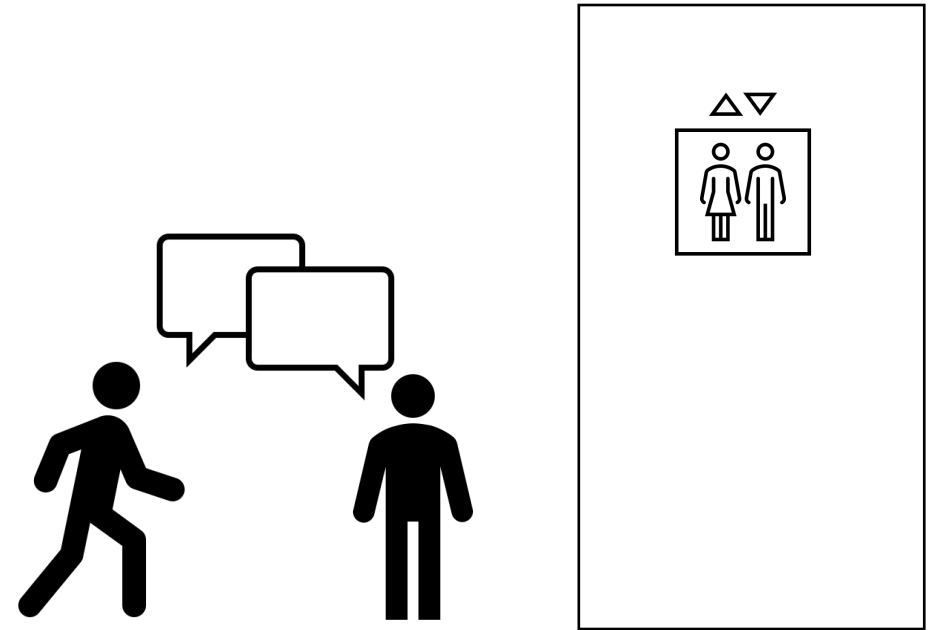
Is Your Message Being Heard?

- Hundreds of different issues/pieces of legislation
- Competition for attention
- Interest in topic
- Political will
- Political timing



Expect the Unexpected

- Elevator meetings
- Stalling...Not a tactic to slow the process
- Pulling them off the floor
- “The Senator is on the floor. Is there something I can help you with?”



SURVEY

Which of these have you experienced when meeting with Legislators in the Capitol?
(raise your hand for all that apply)

A) Canceled meetings


B) Hallway meetings/ pulling the Legislator off the floor

C) Meeting with staff instead of the Legislator

D) Shorter meetings than expected

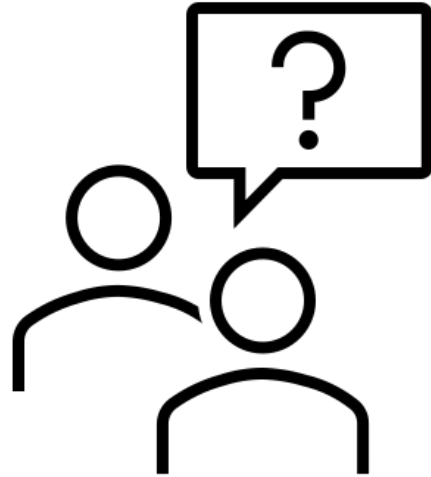
No More Than...

2  Minutes

2  Points

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Questions?



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