

Mainz auf die 1!

Local election priorities 2024

„Mainz auf die 1!“ – This is our aim, with you!

Mainz is an attractive city that is constantly growing. We Liberals see the challenges and opportunities to transform Mainz into the most modern, innovative and sustainable city.

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Urban development

Mainz is developing - opportunities and challenges

Mainz is developing. The city is growing, new companies and Research facilities are settling here and the citizen's needs are changing. This dynamic offers great chances, but also presents us with major challenges, which we now have to shape.

- **Biotech-Hub Mainz engine of urban development**

The success of the Mainz biotechnology sector and health research is a stroke of luck for the city. The planned biotech campus on the university extension site will create an international beacon, that will attract new companies and specialists.

- **Areas for growth and innovation**

In addition to biotechnology, we also have to offer local companies in other sectors room for growth. There is a great demand for commercial space and we must find innovative solutions to meet this need, especially in light of the limiting centre concept and the outdated development plans, which need to be overhauled.

- **Sustainable urban development and climate protection**

Urban development must go hand in hand with the protection of our environment. We are committed to sustainable urban development that is based on climate friendly mobility energy-efficient construction and the preservation of green areas.

- **More living space for everyone**

The growing urban population requires more living space. We need a general concept, that takes into account both, the need for affordable housing and the need for an attractive and liveable city.

- **Vibrant city center – diversity and attractiveness**

The city center is the heart of Mainz. To preserve its attractiveness and to strengthen it, we need to revitalize and design it more diverse. Thereto we need to support the retail sector needs, create more quality of time and promotion of culture and gastronomy.

This includes:

- contemporary retail concepts, a diverse gastronomy, handicraft, service providers and residential areas with a diverse mix of use to harmonize living and working.
- barrier-free meeting places where social life can unfold. Shopping, enjoyment, entertainment and relaxation should become an overall experience.
- an efficient infrastructure and networked mobility solution. The city should be equally easy to reach for citizens, commuters, guests and suppliers. Cleanliness and safety must be ensured.
- new green and recreational zones (e.g. banks of the Rhine, Bürgerpark, castle, redesign of the town hall square with open staircase to the Rhine.
- development of a smart parking guidance system, intelligent traffic light circuits, the expansion of local public transport, including tramways and cycle routes in order to improve the accessibility of the city center and create a contemporary, traffic planning to meet the diversity of traffic situations.
- consider the demands of all the different generations when developing the city center.

- **Ludwigsstraße New neighborhood with potential**

The development of Ludwigsstrasse offers the opportunity to modernize the city center and to upgrade it. We are committed to targeted cooperation with the owners and users in order to rapidly develop this neighborhood as soon as possible.

- **Renovation of the town hall and castle: preservation and further development**

Mainz Town Hall and the Electoral Palace are important identifiers of the city. We support the upcoming redevelopment measures, which will modernize the Buildings and at the same time preserve their character. Particularly in the case of the renovation of the town hall, the benefits for the citizens take precedence over considerations of monument protection law.

- **Nightlife and leisure: offers for all generations**

Mainz is a young city with a vibrant nightlife. We want to improve the general conditions for clubs and other evening leisure activities.

- **Government district: A new open space for citizens**

The redevelopment of the government district offers the opportunity to create an attractive and green open space for citizens. We do also consider the requirements of local residents, employees and visitors of authorities and courts.

Urban development is an ongoing task. We want a city that offers an attractive and liveable home for everyone.

Create more living space!

Mainz is a growing city worth living in; however more living space is needed, both in the inner-city area as well as in the suburbs to meet the demand. We see the need for an **overall concept for the structural development of** a growing city, instead of acting in small steps to meet the existing and growing demand for housing.

New jobs create a **need for more housing**. Social housing must also be developed simultaneously to cover the demand to a greater extent.

Where possible, brownfield sites in inner-city areas should be redeveloped for residential use and legal options for adding stores to existing buildings (including food retailers) and redensification should be created without reducing the quality of life in these districts and the climate targets that have been set.

- With a concept for unsealing and the creation of additional green spaces quality of life can be improved and overheating can be counteracted. Due to the existing infrastructure, these inner-city areas are suitable for short-term realization for more living space.
- Densification can be implemented with little land sealing, but is only one of many building blocks for expanding the housing supply. Modern concepts such as "Vertical Cities" also offer the opportunity to combine height and nature instead of building in width. The adjacent districts around the old town and in particular Neustadt and peripheral zones would be predestined.

At the same time, **urban development** must also take place in **the districts**, while preserving the urban and local character of these districts.

In the long term, Mainz needs a **new climate-friendly urban extension** in order to meet the demand for apartments. Special attention must now be paid to a connection to the transport network, especially public transport, cycle lanes, fiber-optic network and energy supply, in order to reconcile this.

The **land use plan and the development plans** - especially those from the 1960s to 1980s - are to be scrutinized and replaced by new construction plans that correspond to today's times and needs. Priority has environmentally friendly, organic growth opportunities for the districts.

Integration

We are committed to shaping an active and successful integration policy in Mainz!

The challenges of refugee movements, triggered by wars, poverty and climate change, as well as the difficulties of a fair distribution of refugees within Europe, cannot be solved in Mainz. Nevertheless, we are feeling their specific impact here. precise terms. The provision of suitable accommodation, the integration of children and teenagers in schools and daycare and the support and care of refugees are ongoing tasks that our city has to deal with.

We are experiencing a great deal of solidarity, support and openness for refugees in Mainz. We want to use this positive force to make the integration of refugees a success.

When setting up temporary accommodation, it is important to ensure that no new social injustices are created that end up leading to rejection; families and pensioners can hardly afford housing in the city, and the city must not become a price driver in the housing market through its actions.

Faster decisions and better prospects

In order to speed up integration we demand:

- **Faster decisions on asylum applications:**
The federal and state governments must ensure that decisions on residence status are made and implemented swiftly.
- **Integration right from the start:**
Refugees who have the prospect of staying must be given the opportunity to integrate immediately. This includes language courses in the languages commonly spoken in the labor market, integration training and a wide range of education and training opportunities to help them get into work more quickly. Entry into employment may not be refused by the authorities due to a lack of language skills if the person has sufficient language skills for the chosen occupation.
- **Facilitate the immigration of professionals:**
We are recruiting skilled workers. Refugees with suitable qualifications should also be integrated into the labor market quickly and easily.

The integration of refugees is a task for society as a whole. We want to invite everyone in Mainz to participate in this process and offer refugees support and a welcoming culture

Modern administration and citizen service

Wir stehen für eine moderne, effiziente und bürgernahe Verwaltung, die den Herausforderungen des 21. Jahrhunderts gewachsen ist.

Verwaltung digitalisieren – den Bürgerservice stärken

Für Bürgerinnen und Bürger sowie Unternehmen muss der „Weg zum Amt“ die Ausnahme sein. Wir fordern für Mainz eine zügige Umsetzung des Onlinezugangsgesetz (OZG), das Behörden auf allen Ebenen verpflichtet hatte, schon bis Ende 2022 alle Dienstleistungen auch digital anzubieten. Digitale Dienstleistungen entlasten die an Personal knappe Verwaltung und geben Raum, den **Service für die Bürger in den Mittelpunkt** zu stellen.

- The aim is to ensure that it is no longer necessary to visit an authority in person for any administrative procedure. When applying for ID Cards for example, similar services can be used for authentication instead, like they are already being used for opening bank accounts. The collection of official documents can also be replaced by sending them by post, of course.
- Nevertheless, there must still be a range of services available in the town hall and in local administrations. However, the digitalization of processes will greatly relieve workload on these offices, allowing them to focus even more on people with special advisory and support needs. At the same time, it must be possible to obtain all government services at each of these service points. In a digitalized city, there is no reason why people should only be able to use a single point in the city to apply for a new driver's license.
- The benchmark for all digital administrative services must be settled commercial service providers. Our aim must be to use digital administrative services just as easily as we shop in an online store.
- At the same time, comprehensive digitalization also makes it possible to make work easier in many areas of administration and save working time, which is then available for more important tasks for citizens. The aim of digitalization is to counteract the shortage of skilled workers, work effectively with existing staffing levels, simplify processes and minimize administrative activities.

- Since all municipalities have the same tasks to perform, it makes little sense for each municipality to tackle all the challenges of digitalization on its own. As the capital of the state and the largest city in Rhineland-Palatinate, we expect the city of Mainz to lead the way by actively seeking cooperation and passing on experience from which other municipalities can benefit.

Furthermore we request:

- **Digitalization and process optimization** by streamlining and simplifying administrative procedures, introducing AI-supported systems, digital application and administrative processes and central storage of citizen data
- **Cooperation and inter-municipal exchange** by sharing resources and expertise and developing standardized solutions
- **Data security and cyber defense** and the highest security standards for citizens' data, regular audits and penetration tests and precautions in the event of a cyber-attack. Data protection must be perceived in the citizens' interest and not as an obstacle.
- **Citizen service means service for citizens**, through digital accessibility in the form of online services 24/7; multilingual services, video consultations.
- **Personal advice** provided by local contact points with alternating opening hours opening hours, avoidance of waiting times.

Traffic – Traffic must flow!

Efficient transport routes and attractive transport services are the central basis for individual mobility, economic dynamism and prosperity. We are committed to a modern and future-oriented traffic concept that is fair to all road users and protects the environment

Our transportation concept is based on the following guidelines:

- **Free choice of transport:** People should be free to choose which means of transport they want to use.
- **Promotion of local public transport:** Local public transport should be expanded to be more attractive and more efficient..
- **Improve the cycling traffic:** The cycle path infrastructure should be expanded and become safer, but not to replace individual local public transport.
- **Safety for pedestrian traffic:** Free movement and traffic safety for pedestrians must be guaranteed.
- **Maintenance of road infrastructure:** Existing roads need to be renovated and maintained and be fitted with modern, noise-reducing road surfaces.
- **Digitalization:** Modern traffic technologies should be used for traffic flow and its planning.

Traffic is essential!

- The entire length of the **Mainzer Ring** must be widened to 6 lanes in order to cope with the traffic volumes forecast for the future.
- The **A643** and the connection to the Schiersteiner Brücke must also be widened to 6 lanes so that traffic from the city center can be redirected. Noise barriers and wildlife crossings are of great importance.
- The Rheinhessenstraße is to be widened to 4 lanes in order to improve the connection of Rheinhessen to the Mainzer Ring. The possibility of a tram connection should be considered in the planning.
- The construction of a new **Rhine bridge** in Mainz should relieve the traffic situation in the city center.

- **Parking fees** are to be kept moderate and parking space management is to be made more customer-friendly.
- **Park & Ride areas** on the outskirts of the city should offer commuters the opportunity to switch from their cars and use public transport.

Attractive local public transport!

- **The public transport and tram network** need to be expanded and densified to reach more people.
- The **bus fleet** is to be gradually converted to **electromobility**.
- **Public transport** must be adequately jointly funded by the **Federal Government, federal states and local authorities**

Safe bicycle traffic!

- The **cycle lane network** needs to be expanded and made significantly safer. Older existing cycle lanes must be preserved and maintained.
- The safety and flow of cycle traffic needs to be promoted with **cycle lanes and cycle zones** but without crowding out other modes of transport.

Digitalization creates relief!

- **Smarter traffic systems** should be used to optimize the flow of traffic.
- **A mobility app** should be offered to provide citizens with all relevant information regarding transportation.

We are convinced that the traffic concept presented will create the basis for sustainable and future-oriented mobility in Mainz.

Giving citizens a voice!

We demand **the rights of the local councils to be strengthened** to ensure citizen-oriented administration. The local councils are an important link when it comes to forming political opinions, as the advocates of the district's interests and the direct point of contact for residents and citizens. The **local councils' work as advocates of the district's interests** must be upgraded so that resolutions from the local councils are promptly submitted to the committees for discussion by the administration and can thus be passed by the city council. We are therefore calling an amendment to the City Councils' rules of procedure so that, if requested by the ORB and passed with a 2/3 majority, selected requests from the local councils can be dealt with and decided on in the municipal committees, i.e. not - as has been the case to date - exclusively at departmental level.

We also need to give citizens a voice beyond elections through **public participation**. To this end, we demand:

- **Early and detailed information:**
 - Announcements and invitations to forums in due time
 - Easy access to procedures and results
 - Transparent planning processes
 - Involvement of all possible parties and affected groups
- **Diverse participation formats:**
 - Forums, workshops, online participation
 - Consideration of different interests
- **Digital offerings**
 - Facilitate participation for everyone
 - Increasing the circle of participants
- **Appreciation of citizens' suggestions:**
 - Weigh up all suggestions, including those that contradict the administrative opinion
 - Justification of decisions
 - Plausibility check of the results for the decision

Finances – Securing solid finances now for the long term!

In the years to come, the solid financial situation must be secured in the long term.

- **No increase in municipal taxes:**
We are committed to preserving the **solid financial situation** of the city. To maintain this, municipal taxes must not be increased. The trade tax reduction in 2022 has had a positive impact on Mainz as a business location and has led to more businesses from a wide range of industries settling in the city, which will lead to higher tax revenues in the long term.
- **Appropriate reduction of the property tax rate:**
The promise of revenue neutrality regarding the property tax reform must be kept! **The assessment rate for property tax B must be reduced appropriately** in a timely manner in order to avoid a disproportionate additional burden on citizens, which is already becoming apparent in urban areas.
- **Mid-term expenditure management:**
We are committed to mid-term expenditure and risk management in association with modern project management to prevent the city of Mainz from falling into debt again. In the construction and renovation sector, for example, such an instrument can ease the burden on the municipal budget.
- **No new debt:** We are committed to generational justice and are opposed to new debt.

Economic and location development – for an expanding economy!

We support the most diverse sectors of the SME economy and are committed to **creating a favorable economic environment**. A prospering economy secures the financial situation of the city in the long term.

We must **review the center concept** in terms of its relevance, need and proximity to citizens, also with regard to its effect on services of general interest in the districts.

Economic development

As an organizational unit of the city administration, business development must be the link between the administration and local businesses. We are committed to **well-equipped and professional business development**. There is no need for municipal staff to provide further training, guidance or business management advice to companies. Successful companies and their service providers can do this much better themselves; they do not need a watchdog from the city. Rather, as an organizational unit of the administration, economic development is committed to ensuring that companies find good framework conditions in terms of taxes and infrastructure. This is the most important task of business development.

When it comes to political decisions, active business development brings the necessary framework conditions for successful business into the decision-making processes of the administration. For Mainz, it is particularly important that **economic development becomes an advocate for investment by companies and research**. Approval processes, in particular building inquiries, building applications and urban development contracts, as well as the associated planning processes for commercial uses in development plans, must be streamlined, digitized and accelerated.

We are vigorously campaigning for **sufficient industrial, research and development areas** in Mainz, particularly in the context of an ecological economy, in order to achieve market leadership and develop cutting-edge technologies. We want to further expand our cooperation with the surrounding municipalities, as is already the case with Ingelheim on the Layenhof.

We particularly support the further development of universities, university medicine and our research institutes. Suitable commercial spaces in our city are essential for these tasks.

Creating new commercial space in Mainz

Action is needed to create commercial space: In the years to come, there would be no more areas for handicraft businesses and SMEs to settle and expand in Mainz if we do not act now.

- We perceive an **urgent need for action in the creation of new commercial space**. The city of Mainz must act now, otherwise there will be no more areas for tradespeople and SMEs to settle and expand in the next few years
- **Small and modern business parks for local development:** New, small and modern business parks are needed to support existing companies.

Strengthen Mainz as a tourism location

Positive effects of tourism: tourism increases the attractiveness of the city, revitalizes the city centre and the economy, and creates and secures jobs.

- **Expansion of the Great Wine Capital brand:**
We recognize the great potential of Mainz as a tourist location and want to strengthen and expand the Great Wine Capital brand in terms of tourism.
- **Mainz as a year-round destination:**
The attractiveness of Mainz as a tourist destination should be strengthened throughout the year.
- **Fastnacht (carnival):**
Fastnacht is more than just an important cultural ambassador for the city of Mainz, it is also a significant economic factor; our aim is to promote Fastnacht (carnival) culture. For example, when safety requirements exceed the financial capacity of the clubs..

Strengthening local agriculture

We support strong and sustainable agriculture in our city. We are proud of our fruit and wine growers and farmers who provide regional, fresh and high-quality food. They contribute significantly to supplying the population of Mainz and maintaining our cultural landscape.

We want to strengthen local agriculture in the following areas:

Maintain and promote agricultural businesses:

- **Fair prices for agricultural products:**
Our aim is to ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their products that cover their production costs and provide them with an adequate income.
- **Direktvermarktung der Landwirte:**
We want to facilitate farmers being able to sell their products directly at markets, at the farm shop or via vending machines and not be hindered by bureaucratic hurdles.
- **Less bureaucracy:**
We want to relieve farmers of unnecessary bureaucracy so that they can concentrate on their core tasks.
- **Investment in infrastructure:**
We support investments in infrastructure that make farmers' work easier, e.g. in modern irrigation systems or in the development of new sales markets.
- **Protecting farmers from external influences:**
 - **Crop conservation management:** we demand a communal crop conservation management system that supports farmers in combating pests, rooks and other external influences.
 - **Promotion of innovative crop protection methods:** We support the development and use of innovative crop protection methods which are environmentally friendly and at the same time protect crop yields.

Strengthening regional marketing:

- **Regional products in public institutions:**
We call for more regional products to be offered in public institutions, such as schools and hospitals.
- **Promotion of regional value chains**
We support the development and promotion of regional value chains in order to keep value creation in the region.

Education and information:

- **Agriculture in schools:**
We want to integrate the topic of agriculture into school lessons in order to teach children and young people about the importance of agriculture for our society.
- **Public relations work:**
We advocate increased public relations work to inform consumers about the importance of regional agriculture.

We are convinced that strong and sustainable agriculture makes an important contribution to the quality of life in our city. We will therefore commit ourselves wholeheartedly to implementing the goals set out in this chapter.

Improving schools and education

Education is the foundation for the future of our city.

We are committed to high-quality, future-oriented education which opens up the best opportunities for all children and young people.

Diversity and integration:

- We promote and maintain the broad diversity of facilities, providers and different pedagogical concepts of schools and kindergartens.
- Integration and cooperation between municipal and private providers needs to be improved.

Digitalization

- We promote the **digitalization of educational concepts** and are committed to ensuring that the topic of digitalization plays an important role in education in all types of schools, since these are the opportunities for the future.
- From our point of view, **the second chance of education** in particular should be simplified and digitized so that all citizens have the opportunity to continue their education alongside a full-time job. The entire life is influenced by further education, and education creates opportunities that we want to make possible for everyone.

International School:

- In view of the influx of qualified specialists from Germany and abroad, an international school that leads to an **internationally recognized qualification needs to be set up quickly.**
- Cooperation with internationally oriented companies in Mainz should be striven for.
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Handwerker-Gymnasium:

- In order to promote **careers in the craft sector** more strongly and to prepare interested students for a career in the craft sector in the best possible way, we want to establish a so-called "Handwerker-Gymnasium" as an additional school branch at the Berufsbildende Schule 1 (BBS1).

Reducing staff shortages:

- We want to actively reduce the staff shortage in daycare centres and schools, both through organizational support, hiring additional qualified professionals and through competitive pay, including during teacher education.

Transparency in daycare vacancies:

- The allocation of daycare vacancies must be transparent so that parents can reliably prepare for any waiting times.

Language support:

- In addition to early childhood education, there is also a need for **more specific language support** to ensure that children have the skills to be prepared for school at the transition to school.
- In addition to the German language, attention should also be paid to **promoting foreign languages**.

Refurbishment and equipment:

- Refurbishment and hygiene deficits in schools must be quickly identified and rectified.
- The technical equipment, especially in vocational schools, must be modernized and kept modern in the long term through appropriate reserves.

School expansions:

- **Schulerweiterungen sind zukunftssicher** zu gestalten. Da der nachträgliche Aufwand für notwendige weitere Erweiterungen viel größer ist, als gleich größer zu planen, sollen Schulerweiterungen mit größerem Puffer für steigende Schülerzahlen, größeren Flächenbedarf für neue pädagogische Konzepte oder ausgeweitete Ganztagsangebote geplant werden.
- We attach great importance to **equal treatment of all school types and educational pathways**.

More flexibility for schools:

- We demand more **financial flexibility** and free budgets for small purchases in day-to-day operations that are below tender thresholds.
- Teachers and school management should be relieved of superfluous administrative tasks.

Strengthen dual training:

- Dual training must be strengthened through free master craftsman examinations.
- We will promote dual training and the establishment of specialist tradespeople through **subsidies and start-up bonuses**.

Social environment orientation:

- Daycare centers are increasingly opening up to the social environment and involving parents, families and the social environment in their work.
- In order to master the associated challenges, a consistent view of the social environment is necessary, based on the entire living environment and situation of the children.
- We support the administration in the measures taken to date and are demanding a corresponding intensification.

We are convinced that these measures will strengthen education in Mainz and improve the opportunities for the future of all children and young people.

Safety for all Mainz residents

We stand for a city in which everyone feels safe and comfortable. For us, this means:

Prevention and safety in public spaces:

- **Improving lighting:**
Adequate lighting on school routes and at focal points (e.g. station forecourt, Kaiserstrasse), avoidance of "dark corners" through targeted lighting concepts
- **Removal of stumbling blocks on sidewalks:**
Quick response to reports from citizens and regular checks by the public order office
- **Strengthening the presence of the public order office:**
Visible presence in hot spots and at peak times to increase the population's subjective perception of safety

Innovative solutions for more security:

- **Project study on ad-hoc lighting and video recording:**
 - Use of modern technology to avert danger
 - Strengthening the individual's ability to act in emergency situations
- **Promotion of neighborhood initiatives and security cooperation:**
 - Strengthening cohesion and mutual support
 - Promotion of civic engagement

Protection of vulnerable groups:

- **Expansion of women's shelters and drop-in centers for children in need:**
 - Protection from violence and support in difficult situations
 - Creation of more safe shelters
- **Raising awareness of issues such as domestic violence and child abuse**
 - Education and prevention measures
 - Strengthening support services for those affected

Consistent traffic monitoring:

- **Focus on safety-relevant locations:**
 - Focus on dangerous traffic situations (e.g. schools, daycare centers, retirement homes, etc.)
 - Punishment of traffic violations that endanger safety

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- **Use of modern traffic monitoring technology:**
 - Increasing the efficiency and precision of road safety checks at dangerous spots; focusing less on generating revenue
 - Improving road safety, especially in mixed traffic.

We are committed to an active safety policy that takes everyone into account. With innovative solutions and a strong focus on prevention, we want to make Mainz an even safer city for everyone.

Mainz Cultural Institutes - for Mainz

We are committed to a **diverse and vibrant cultural landscape** in our city. Culture is an important location factor and contributes to the quality of life of all residents in Mainz. We therefore want to strengthen and further develop the cultural institutes in Mainz.

Establishment of a municipal enterprise for culture and further education

We call for the establishment of a municipal enterprise for culture and further education. All of the city's cultural institutions should be brought together in this company, including the Scientific City Library, the Anna Seghers Public Library, the Peter Cornelius Conservatory, the Gutenberg Museum, the Natural History Museum, the City History Museum, the City Archive and the Adult Education Center.

The municipal enterprise is intended to ensure a balanced relationship between cutting-edge and mainstream culture as well as established and independent cultural institutions. It is to draw up its own business plan and is therefore no longer subjected to the constraints of the municipal budget.

Transformation of the municipal cultural department into a cultural office

The municipal cultural department is to be transformed into a cultural office as part of the cultural enterprises. The cultural office should act as a moderator, promoter and service provider for cultural projects and initiatives.

Reorganization of the sponsorship of the Gutenberg Museum

Due to its national and international significance, the sponsorship of the Gutenberg Museum is to be reorganized. This could either be a foundation or a limited liability company in which the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the city of Mainz would each hold a half share.

Relocation of the City History Museum

The City History Museum is to move to Rheinallee 3 B after the Scientific City Library has moved out. The listed building is to be upgraded together with the city archive as a center of Mainz's city history.

Strengthening the visual arts

The visual arts in public spaces are to be promoted through the purchase of contemporary works of art and an increase in funding for the maintenance of works of art. Particular attention should be paid to the expansion of the Rheinufer-Galerie. The municipal art collection in the Iron Tower is to be relocated to a more suitable building, e.g. to the current rooms of the City History Museum in Building D on the Zitadelle, once these have become vacant after a relocation of the museum.

Promotion of the independent cultural scene

The independent cultural scene in Mainz should be strengthened through the creation of open spaces and the interim use of vacant commercial premises.

We are committed to a strong and diverse cultural landscape in our city. With our proposals, we want to strengthen the cultural institutes in Mainz and improve the conditions for an active and vibrant cultural scene.

Sports is more than just exercise

We are committed to Mainz as an active and diverse city of sports. Sports are much more than just exercise and physical training. It promotes health, integration, inclusion, volunteering and cohesion in our society. We therefore want to improve the framework conditions for sports in Mainz and offer all citizens the opportunity to participate in sports.

Our specific goals:

- **Swimming lessons for all children:**
The number of swimming instructors and swimming courses has fallen during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are therefore calling for the construction of another swimming pool in Mainz. In addition, access to swimming pools should be free of charge for the volunteer fire department and the DLRG (German Lifeguard Association).
- **Making sports facilities accessible for everyone**
Sports facilities must be barrier-free so that people with and without disabilities can exercise together.
- **Promote sports clubs and volunteering:**
Sports clubs are the backbone of sports in Mainz. They make an important contribution to integration, inclusion and social interaction. We therefore want to strengthen the sports clubs in Mainz and make it easier for them to access sports facilities, halls and events.
- **Supporting new sports such as e-sports**
E-sports are a dynamic and growing sport that inspires many young people. We therefore want to promote e-sports by offering media skills, high-speed internet and an accompanying scientific evaluation.
- **Refurbish or build a new ice rink:**
Mainz needs a modern and contemporary ice rink. We are therefore campaigning for the renovation or construction of a new ice rink in Mainz.

- **Promote sports in natural areas:**

Hiking, walking and cycling are popular leisure activities that also promote health. We therefore want to expand and better mark the hiking, walking and cycling trails in Mainz.

- **Create sufficient teaching opportunities for sports teachers:**

Physical education is an important part of education. We are therefore calling for all approved teaching positions to be filled, especially those for PE teachers.

We are convinced that these measures will make sports in Mainz even more attractive and diverse. We want a city in which everyone - regardless of age, gender, origin or disability - can participate in sports and experience the joy of movement.

Living diversity - in all situations

The FDP Mainz - for a free and diverse society in which all people feel welcome and valued.

We are committed to a society in which all people can live freely, self-determinedly and safely - regardless of family type, sexual orientation or age.

- **We want to expand the "family-friendly Mainz" program:**

- Increase the employment rate in daycare facilities to ensure high-quality and secure care;
- Accelerate the construction of schools and daycare centers; increase the number of daycare places
- transparent and centralized allocation of places,
- flexible childcare options to accommodate the different working hours of working parents,
- more support in reconciling family and career through a wider range of advice, care and support services.

- **Free spaces for young people:**

- Youth centers are an important place for meeting and exchanging ideas; we seek to maintain them and support their quality,
- Promote exercise gardens in all districts and cooperation with clubs for modern, attractive offers.
- We want to establish and offer mental health protection for children and young people through prevention services, advice centers and low-threshold help.

- **LGBTQ+:**

- We support a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community in schools and other institutions; queer youth work with the aim of integration. We promote education and anti-discrimination work in all areas of life.
- We see a need for further and advanced training courses on LGBTQ+ topics for those working with children and young people.

- **Senioren:**

We support a self-determined life - for as long and as well as possible, for example by **expanding "Gemeindeschwester plus" (community nurse plus programm)** and digital ambassadors; strengthening care services and day care: relieving the burden on caring relatives.

- Local supply of everyday necessities and safe and barrier-free infrastructure.
- Diverse range of leisure activities for participation and promotion of work and networks for senior citizens in all parts of the city..
- Accessibility on sidewalks, streets and in public transportation for safe use of walkers and wheelchairs.
- Establishment of consultation hours for the elderly in the local administrations.
- Promotion of transportation and cab rides for areas with inadequate public transport to enable accessibility.
- More benches suitable for resting and barrier-free public toilets must be provided in public spaces.
- Establish and expand preventative support so that people do not become victims of crime in the first place. (Hotline for suspected con artists, home security, etc.)

Municipal subsidy management

Continuing the story of success

We, the FDP Mainz, have successfully developed a **department for municipal funding management** in recent years. During this time, applications for federal and state funding with a total volume of around 10 million euros have been submitted, approved and paid out to the city of Mainz.

Example MaHynzExperts

An outstanding example of the successful work of the funding department is the hydrogen funding project MaHynzExperts. This project has given Mainz the opportunity to apply for the highest level of hydrogen funding (HyPerformer) and receive 15 million euros in funding for the development of a hydrogen infrastructure in Mainz.

Promotion of future projects

These funds could be used, for example, to realize a hydrogen filling station for the hydrogen buses of the Mainz Transport Company (MVG) and other important infrastructure projects in the area of hydrogen technology. This would make an important contribution to the CO2 neutrality of public transport in Mainz and at the same time strengthen the future viability of our city.

The FDP Mainz commits to this:

- Continue the successful work of the Department for Municipal Funding Management.
- To launch the application for the HyPerformer funding.
- To support other innovative projects of the future with funding.

Furthermore:

- We want to continue to improve the transparency and efficiency of funding management.
- Facilitate access to funding programs for all parties in Mainz.
- Pursue an active information policy to keep citizens and companies informed about funding opportunities.

With us, the city of Mainz has a strong partner alongside who is committed to ensuring that funding is used effectively and in a targeted manner to shape the future development of our city.

Environmental and climate protection

We are committed to a sustainable policy that protects natural resources and at the same time secures the future viability of our city. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time that we must actively tackle.

Climate targets - leading by example!

We stand up for a significant increase in the **use of solar energy in Mainz**.

- The city of Mainz should itself set a leading example in the installation of photovoltaics. Photovoltaics should be installed on all public properties where possible and where it makes sense in terms of location.
- In order to activate private capital for the installation of photovoltaics, the city of Mainz should promote the installation of photovoltaics in cooperation with the Mainz Climate Protection Foundation as part of a 4000-roof program in order to significantly increase the proportion of self-generated electricity when using solar power.

We are therefore calling for:

Establishing a solar portal on the website of the City of Mainz: The portal should provide interested citizens clear information and assistance in planning and installing a photovoltaic system. This includes

- **Information on the solar cadastre** (check whether your own roof has sufficient solar radiation);
- **Information on solar advice**, such as consumer protection centers, energy agencies, solar advisors, etc;
- **Information on contact points to find installation companies;**
- **Information on funding opportunities**, such as the Mainz Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency Foundation;
- **Information on the possibilities of solar loan providers.**

Self-cooling bus stops

We support the introduction of self-cooling bus stops in Mainz. This technology can help to reduce the heating of the city center in hot summer months and to offer passengers a more pleasant stay.

Hydrogen infrastructure

We welcome the development of an European hydrogen pipeline network and support Mainz's active participation in this project.

- **Establishment of a local hydrogen pipeline network in Mainz:** In the coming legislative period, the municipal corporation is to set up a small local network to supply local industry.
- **Connection to the planned European long-distance pipeline network:** This will enable eco-friendly hydrogen to be used in Mainz as soon as possible to melt glass and dry paper in a CO₂-neutral way.

Achieving the goal of CO₂ neutrality

By using eco-friendly hydrogen, Mainz can reduce its CO₂ emissions by more than a quarter.

Preventing heavy rain events

In light of the increasing risk of heavy precipitation, we call for:

- **The quickest possible examination of the effects of heavy precipitation in all parts of the city:** The administration should investigate the effects on the sewer system, lowered house entrances, basement windows, etc.
- **Develop and implement measures to minimize the hazards:** Protecting the population and infrastructure from heavy precipitation.

We are convinced that these measures will make an important contribution to environmental and climate protection in our city.

Municipal heat planning

Climate protection and security of supply:

We commit to a sustainable and climate-friendly heat supply for the city. Municipal heat planning has a central role to play here.

Technological openness and diversity

We demand an open-technology and diversified heat supply based on a variety of energy carriers and sources. This includes:

- **District heating:** The district heating network in Mainz should be efficiently expanded and modernized. However, this must also be clear and transparent in terms of pricing and not cost horrendously more than conventional heat sources.
- **District networks:** Decentralized district networks with innovative technologies such as heat pumps and combined heat and power generation offer additional opportunities. The city of Mainz should provide a digital plan on the basis of which citizens can obtain the necessary information for assessment. The elected representatives of local self-government should be involved in heat planning.
- **Renewable energies:** The use of renewable energies such as solar thermal and geothermal energy must further be promoted.
- **Hydrogen:** Future-oriented technologies such as the use of hydrogen as an energy source should be included in planning.

Freedom of choice and economic efficiency:

We reject mandatory connection and use for municipal heat supply. Citizens should be free to choose how they heat their buildings. Economic aspects and people's individual needs must be taken into account when planning and implementing the heating transition.

Promotion and support:

The city of Mainz should support private initiatives and energy cooperatives in the area of heat supply. Municipal funding programs and advice centers can help to actively shape the energy transition locally.

Transparency and competition:

We demand transparent and competitive pricing for heat energy. The city of Mainz must ensure that citizens can benefit from affordable and climate-friendly offers.

Summarizing:

We stand up for future-oriented and sustainable heat planning based on the following pillars::

- Openness to technology and diversity
- Freedom of choice and economic efficiency
- Promotion and support
- Transparency and competition

With this strategy, the city of Mainz can make an important contribution to the energy transition and climate protection.