

unf*ck

berlin

Volt

**Mini Manifesto for the 2026
Berlin House of Representatives Election**

INTRODUCTION

Berlin is one of the most exciting cities in the world.

And yet for months we wait for a letter to arrive by post from a government office, when these sort of things should have been digital long ago. We send our children to schools that are falling apart. We wait for buses that never arrive. We search for apartments that we cannot afford.

This is not normal. We should not accept it. And we don't have to.

Other cities have already solved these same problems. In Tallinn, government services can be completed online in minutes. In Vienna, affordable housing exists because they built it. In Copenhagen, the metro works because it has been financed intelligently. It is not a question of whether these problems can be solved, but how. And we already know how.

Volt is willing. Volt is able. And Volt gets the job done. We're not here to merely manage the present, we're here to build the future.

Pragmatic, European politics rooted in the facts. We make decisions based upon evidence, not ideology. We measure the impact of our policies and we adapt them if they do not work.

This is our plan.

HOW WE DO POLITICS

European. Pragmatic. Positive.

We believe politics can be done differently. Three guiding principles shape everything we do.

- **Think European, Act Local:** Volt is the first political party to stand for election across Europe with a shared political platform and a positive vision for the entire continent. We bring solutions that already work elsewhere in Europe here to Berlin, solving problems on the ground.
- **Positive and solution-oriented:** We choose optimism over fear. Instead of merely managing problems or looking for someone to blame, we focus on practical solutions and on creating a city people can genuinely be excited to live in.
- **Socially liberal:** We secure real freedom for everyone. Freedom that is limited because of your income, your background, or the colour of your skin, is not freedom at all. We want everyone to have the freedom to shape their own lives, regardless of what they earn or where they come from. This is the new socially liberal voice that politics needs.

BERLIN WORKS

Administration, Digitalisation and Public Participation

Berlin is full of people who want to make a difference. What is missing is a public administration that enables them to do so.

Today, dealing with government offices requires patience: with unclear responsibilities, computer systems that cannot communicate with one another, and forms that still have to be printed out. At the same time, thousands of experienced public servants will be retiring over the next few years. Whether homes are built, businesses invest, and people trust the state ultimately depends on an administration that works. That is why we're starting here.

Berlin works when we rethink public administration digitally and open up participation to everyone.

Our concrete solutions:

Administration

- **City-wide decision-making turning words into action:** We will strengthen the powers of the Berlin state government by consolidating decision-making, coordination and executive authority at the state (i.e. city-wide) level. Uniform standards and clear lines of reporting for strategically important tasks will reduce the burden on Berlin's boroughs and ensure efficient and citizen-centric public services on the ground.
- **Clear deadlines for faster decisions:** Applications will be automatically approved if the relevant office fails to respond within the time limit set in law. This creates real impetus for faster administration.
- **Making performance transparent:** We will publish processing times and quality indicators for every borough. This creates healthy competition to deliver the best services while making it easier to identify where additional support is required.

- **Attracting the best talent for change:** We will recruit and retain skilled employees through a targeted HR strategy, with particular emphasis on IT expertise and organisational development to drive genuine administrative reform.

Digitalisation

- **Saving money through cooperation:** Rather than developing costly standalone systems, we will work with other federal states in Germany on shared IT infrastructure, thereby overcoming both the obstacles to digital ways of working created by federal fragmentation and unnecessary duplication of costs.
- **One portal for everything:** All public services will be brought together on a single secure, multilingual, and fully accessible online platform where citizens can transparently track the status of their applications. Through the “Once Only Principle,” information already held by government won’t have to be repeatedly re-submitted because administrative systems will finally communicate with one another.
- **Unified IT governance:** We will centralise IT management and clearly define responsibilities between the Senate, the boroughs and Berlin’s central IT service provider (ITDZ). This will standardise operations, cybersecurity, support and procurement while eliminating expensive overlapping structures.

Public Finances

- **Transparent and forward-looking finances:** Berlin will switch to commercial accrual accounting, as used by business, and adopt long-term financial planning. This will make the city’s assets and liabilities fully transparent while ensuring reliable public finances, even during difficult times. EU, federal and state funding will be fully drawn down and deployed, instead of expiring unused, as is currently often the case.

Public Participation

- **Citizens’ assemblies with real influence:** Citizens’ assemblies selected at random (and including residents without German citizenship), will deliberate on specific policy proposals. Their recommendations will receive serious political consideration instead of disappearing into a drawer.
- **A neighbourhood budget:** Through participatory budgeting, residents themselves will decide how part of their borough’s budget is spent. This already works successfully in Paris.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, every interaction with government offices can be completed digitally, without paperwork or repeated in-person appointments, because the entire public administration will be fully digital by 2029. You will only have to provide your personal information once. If an authority fails to respond on time, your application will automatically be approved. And if you want to improve your neighbourhood, you won't have to wait until the next election. Through citizens' assemblies and participatory budgeting, you will help shape local decisions directly.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Estonia:** Through the Once Only Principle, citizens only have to submit documents once because government agencies exchange data securely and legally.
- **Denmark:** A central citizen portal provides access to more than 2,000 digital public services based on a "digital first" approach.
- **Hamburg and Hessen:** Commercial accrual accounting links financial data directly to measurable performance and policy outcomes.
- **Paris:** Participatory budgeting allows residents to decide how approximately 5% of the city's investment budget is spent.

BERLIN THRIVES

Housing, Mobility and Liveable Neighbourhoods

The way we live, how we get from A to B, and the quality of our neighbourhoods shape everyday life in Berlin. Yet the city is already short of at least 100,000 homes, and the gap continues to grow. Many neighbourhoods outside the Ringbahn remain poorly connected to public transport, while litter and illegal dumping plague our public spaces. Berlin thrives when we create affordable housing through smart construction, ensure reliable transport options, and make every neighbourhood clean and vibrant.

Our concrete solutions:

Housing

- **Build faster, more simply and more affordably:** We will designate building sites earlier and speed up planning approval through standardised, digital and low-bureaucracy procedures. Simpler, modular construction methods can reduce building costs by up to one third.
- **Make better use of existing buildings:** Around 40,000 additional homes can be created without using new land by making attic conversions easier and converting vacant office buildings into housing with minimal bureaucracy.
- **Strengthen housing cooperatives and non-profit housing:** We will support housing cooperatives, where homes belong to their members rather than serving profit, with increased funding and access to publicly owned land. Combined with greater investment in Berlin's municipal housing organisations, we will increase the share of non-profit housing to 50 percent.

- **Keep rents affordable without slowing construction:** We reject rigid rent caps and blanket expropriations because they reduce housing supply and discourage investment. Instead, we will simplify rent verification procedures, focus rent controls on areas where they are most needed, and establish a tamper-proof housing database that provides transparency on rents, vacancies and property speculation.
- **Make home ownership attainable:** Through an initiative in the Bundesrat, we will exempt first-time buyers from property transfer tax on amounts up to €36,000, making it easier to buy a first home. For many people, purchasing a home is currently out of reach simply because of the high one-off transaction costs.
- **End homelessness:** People living on the streets should receive permanent housing first, followed by support, not the other way around. This Housing First approach is more humane and also less expensive than managing chronic homelessness through emergency services.

Mobility

- **Public transport for every district:** We will make buses and trains accessible, reliable and affordable across the entire city, including Berlin's outer suburbs. All transport services will be integrated into a single app, and we will advocate at the federal level for the Deutschlandticket to be secured on a permanent basis.
- **Connections right to your doorstep:** We will introduce on-demand buses throughout fare zones B and C, which can be booked by app or phone. These will transport passengers, particularly families and people with limited mobility, to the nearest transport hub in around 15 minutes. In the future, a phone will be enough to ensure that you can get around the city: you won't need to own a car.
- **Expand the cycling network quickly:** We will rapidly extend Berlin's network of bicycle lanes, streets and "highways". Planning for cycling projects that were previously put on pause will resume, and the city's Cycling Master Plan will be fully implemented.
- **Safer streets, junctions and pathways:** An immediate safety programme will make dangerous road junctions safer. We will build continuous protected routes and a connected cycling network that is sufficiently safe for both children and older people alike.
- **Fewer long-term construction sites:** Construction work will be coordinated more effectively. Full road closures will no longer be approved automatically for extended periods and streets will be made temporarily usable whenever work is paused.

Liveable Neighbourhoods

- **Waste disposal around the clock:** We will create local digital waste collection points that are open 24 hours a day and accessible without staff. Civil enforcement officers will ensure that waste disposal regulations are properly observed.
- **Prevent vacant spaces:** Vacant shops and commercial premises will be activated for local, neighbourhood use, from workshops to cultural venues and community meeting places, instead of being left to decay.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, you'll be able to find an affordable home in your own neighbourhood because by 2040, around 300,000 new homes will have been built. Housing quotas and cooperatives will keep rents affordable, while buying your first home will become easier. You'll travel safely throughout the city on well-designed streets, cycle paths and public transport. In fare zones B and C, an on-demand bus will take you to the nearest rail station in around 15 minutes. Every neighbourhood will be home to workshops, cultural spaces and community meeting places. And you'll be able to dispose of bulky waste or recyclable materials locally at any time of day or night.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Bavaria:** Allowing attic conversions without requiring planning permission quickly creates new homes within the existing housing stock.
- **Amsterdam:** Flexible building regulations enabled almost 7,000 office units to be converted into housing.
- **Vienna:** Specialised WasteWatcher enforcement teams combat illegal dumping through inspections and consistent enforcement.
- **Helsinki:** The Vision Zero approach combines lower speed limits with safer streets, road junctions as well as walking and cycling routes.

BERLIN LEARNS

Childcare, Schools and Careers

Education determines both opportunity and social cohesion. Almost one in three children in Berlin starts school with significant difficulties with German language skills, while many young people feel lonely despite being constantly connected online. Berlin learns when we invest early, provide targeted support, and see education as a continuous journey: from early childhood through to older age.

Our concrete solutions:

Childcare

- **Preschool from age five, language assessment at age four:** Attendance at preschool will become compulsory from a child's fifth birthday. A play-based language assessment at the age of four will identify children who need additional support early on and trigger targeted assistance where necessary.
- **Multidisciplinary teams:** Alongside early childhood educators, we will promote the use of additional specialist staff to strengthen children's language development and social skills right from the start.

Schools

- **Preparing students for real life:** Alongside traditional subjects, pupils will study a new subject called Life Skills, where they will learn how to use artificial intelligence, manage emotions and stress, and handle money wisely, as well as receiving early career guidance.
- **Strengthen struggling schools:** We will introduce a multi-year turnaround programme for those schools facing the greatest challenges. These schools will receive additional staff, stronger school leadership, experienced external school improvement experts, and clearly defined development goals with accountability to ensure results.
- **Tackling loneliness and bullying:** Every school will have a permanent team of school social workers and psychologists. Specially trained professionals will support young people not only in school but also in the digital spaces where loneliness and radicalisation often begin.

BERLIN LEARNS

- **Better school facilities:** We will accelerate the renovation of deteriorating school buildings and equip schools with modern digital technology and high-quality learning environments.

Vocational Training, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning

- **Easier pathways into vocational training:** Career guidance will become an integral part of the curriculum, with more opportunities for practical experience in real workplaces. We will strengthen Germany's dual vocational training system as an equal alternative to university education.
- **Reliable universities and world-class research:** Berlin's universities will receive stable, long-term core funding. Degrees earned in Berlin will be recognised throughout Europe. Joint degree programmes, multilingual courses and full recognition of academic credits will attract leading international researchers. We will also build on Berlin's existing strengths, such as medical artificial intelligence and climate research, to establish internationally leading research clusters over the long term.
- **Lifelong learning:** Every resident aged 25 and over will receive an annual learning credit through a Berlin Education Pass, which can be used for further education with accredited providers. Alternative educational pathways, including obtaining qualifications later in life, will become easily accessible.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, no child will start school already at a disadvantage. Compulsory preschool from the age of five and early language assessments will ensure that support begins when it is most effective. In the new Life Skills subject, children will learn practical skills for managing money, health and relationships. No one will be left on their own: neither in the classroom nor online. Lifelong learning will become the norm, supported by reliable opportunities for continuing education, university study, and career retraining throughout life.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Norway:** Multidisciplinary childcare teams and stable staff-to-child ratios ensure consistently high-quality early childhood education.
- **France:** Free, compulsory preschool promotes equal opportunities from an early age.
- **London** The London Challenge improved educational outcomes by concentrating resources on schools facing the greatest challenges.
- **Denmark:** Empathy has been a compulsory school subject since 1993.
- **Vienna:** A training guarantee ensures that every young person has access to vocational education.
- **Singapore:** The SkillsFuture programme provides everyone over the age of 25 with credits for lifelong learning.

BERLIN CREATES

Innovation, Economic Strength and Jobs

Berlin's economy has enormous potential. It boasts a strong startup ecosystem, world-class research institutions and talented people from around the globe. Yet it is losing ground to cities like Munich, London and Paris because promising ideas too often fail due to bureaucracy and a lack of funding. Berlin succeeds when starting a business is simple, neighbourhoods and the wider region remain economically strong, skilled workers are welcomed, and no one is left behind in the labour market.

Our concrete solutions:

Innovation

- **Turning research into companies:** We will establish a standard framework for university spin-offs with fair rules on intellectual property, access to laboratories, and startup-friendly university equity arrangements. This will make it much easier for research to become successful businesses.
- **One-stop support for entrepreneurs:** We will create a central startup hub for the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region. It will support founders from validating their business idea all the way to company registration, connect them with investors and EU funding, and provide dedicated advice for women entrepreneurs.
- **Berlin as a living laboratory and its own first customer:** The city will become the first place to test innovative solutions and will deliberately purchase products and services from young companies. At least 5 percent of public procurement contracts will be awarded to startups. This creates revenue for innovative businesses without relying on expensive subsidies.
- **A Berlin Future Fund for scale-ups:** We will establish a fund-of-funds to close the financing gap faced by mature startups during the late growth stage. The fund will use co-investments to leverage private venture capital and reliably attract institutional investors such as insurance companies and pension funds. Its goal is to prevent successful Berlin startups from relocating elsewhere.

Strong Neighbourhoods, a Strong Region

- **Helping businesses survive succession:** Almost one in two Berlin businesses will soon face an ownership transition, while more than one in five is considering closure. We will provide one-stop succession support and offer affordable succession loans through Berlin's public investment bank to ensure that workshops, shops and restaurants remain part of our neighbourhoods.
- **Revitalising neighbourhoods:** Vacant commercial premises will be digitally recorded, and changes of use will become much easier. Unused industrial buildings and commercial spaces will become Neighbourhood Labs (KiezLabs): places where craftspeople, freelancers and creative professionals can work together.
- **Artificial intelligence for everyone:** We will make artificial intelligence accessible, affordable and secure for Berlin businesses so that small companies and skilled trades can benefit alongside larger firms.
- **A pioneer region with Brandenburg:** Together with Brandenburg, we will jointly plan land use and public transport while developing the metropolitan region into one of Europe's leading growth zones. Both federal states will benefit from this shared development.

Skilled Workers and Employment

- **Making arrival easier:** We will establish a Welcome Centre where all administrative procedures can be completed in one place. Foreign qualifications will be recognised more quickly, and refugees will be integrated into employment faster. This will help fill the approximately 45,000 vacancies currently open across Berlin's economy.
- **Pathways out of unemployment:** Through publicly funded employment opportunities and modular training programmes, we will create clear routes back into work, especially for the long-term unemployed and young people without formal qualifications.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, great ideas quickly become successful businesses, and cutting-edge research becomes real products. The city is the first customer for its own entrepreneurs, while talented people from around the world settle and begin contributing within days rather than months. The result is new jobs throughout Berlin: in neighbourhood businesses, high-tech companies and the established small and medium-sized enterprises of the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Zürich:** ETH Zurich has established a fair and transparent standard framework for university spin-offs.
- **Singapore and Helsinki:** Public procurement is systematically used as a tool to promote innovation.
- **Amsterdam:** International skilled workers can complete all administrative procedures in a single appointment.

BERLIN PROTECTS

Safety, Health and Social Cohesion

Safety and access to good healthcare are the foundations of an independent life, lived on your own terms. Protection and freedom are not opposites. A city that truly protects its people gives them the freedom to shape their own lives. Yet violent crime is increasing, Berlin is poorly prepared for crises, and access to healthcare remains unequal. Berlin protects when we prevent problems instead of merely reacting to them, when we consistently enforce the law, and when we ensure that support is close to the people who need it.

Our concrete solutions:

Safety and Protection

- **Prevent violence and protect victims:** We will strengthen prevention through schools, street-based social work and youth services. Perpetrators of domestic violence will be required to wear electronic ankle monitors, preventing them from approaching their victims unnoticed. We will create at least 330 additional places in women's shelters and expand rapid-response services for victims of online abuse.
- **A well-trained, community-focused police force:** We will raise standards for police recruitment and training through improved selection procedures and mandatory continuing education. Police officers will receive better equipment and compulsory training on discrimination, diversity and working with vulnerable groups.
- **Reducing bureaucracy so officers can spend more time on the streets:** We will clearly separate the responsibilities of the police and municipal public order offices (Ordnungsamt), allowing police to focus on core policing tasks. Digital case files, AI-assisted report writing, and body-worn cameras with robust data protection safeguards will reduce the administrative burden and give officers more time for investigations and patrols.

- **No child should fall through the cracks:** We will support families through family centres and outreach services before crises develop. Children who have experienced violence should no longer be sent from one agency to another. Instead, we will expand the Charité Childhood House model, where police, prosecutors, children's social services and medical professionals work together under one roof.

Crisis Preparedness and Civil Protection

- **Being ready for emergencies:** We will establish emergency shelters and stockpile facilities, create disaster response centres in all twelve Berlin boroughs, and ensure that emergency warnings reach every mobile phone through Cell Broadcast technology. Using the mandatory N-1 principle, we will make Berlin's electricity grid resilient enough that the failure of a single component cannot bring the city to a standstill.

Health

- **Bringing healthcare into every neighbourhood:** We will expand local community health centres that provide low-threshold, easily accessible medical advice and care, particularly in areas where doctors are in short supply.
- **Ensuring no one is overlooked:** We will improve care for groups that too often fall through the gaps, including people living with severe post-viral illnesses such as Long COVID and ME/CFS, people affected by addiction, sex workers, people with mental health conditions, and family caregivers.

Community and Social Cohesion

- **Sport for everyone:** We will open school playgrounds and sports halls after school hours and on weekends. Available facilities will be bookable through a transparent online system. The Education and Participation Pass (BuT Pass) will reduce sports participation costs for children from low-income families.
- **Welcoming community hubs in every borough:** Neighbourhood centres, libraries, youth clubs, and centres for older adults, will receive secure long-term funding and be developed into welcoming community spaces where people can meet without being expected to spend money.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, help is always close by: whether you need support because of violence, addiction, or mental health challenges. A community health centre in your neighbourhood provides care without unnecessary barriers. The police respond quickly, are well-trained and serve everyone equally. Every one of Berlin's twelve boroughs has a dedicated disaster response centre. Neighbourhood centres, libraries, youth centres and senior centres are vibrant places where people of every generation come together.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Spanien:** Electronic ankle monitoring for perpetrators of domestic violence has helped prevent femicides while monitoring orders are in place.
- **Iceland and Sweden:** The Barnahus ("Children's House") model brings together police, prosecutors, child welfare services and healthcare under one roof.
- **Frankfurt am Main:** A clear division of responsibilities between the police and municipal enforcement authorities.
- **Berlin and Hamburg:** Community health kiosks provide low-threshold, multilingual access to healthcare.
- **Vienna:** Free outdoor exercise programmes for people of all ages.

BERLIN PROSPERS

The Future, Resilience and Nature

Climate action safeguards the future of coming generations while making Berlin less dependent on expensive fossil fuels. The city still relies too heavily on coal, oil and natural gas, while heatwaves and heavy rainfall are becoming increasingly severe. Berlin prospers when clean energy becomes affordable and reliable, buildings become more energy efficient, construction materials remain in circulation, and the city becomes resilient to these extreme weather conditions.

Our concrete solutions:

Climate-Neutral Electricity and Heating

- **Generating clean electricity:** We will gradually replace fossil-fuel power plants with renewable energy. Solar panels will be installed on car parks, public buildings and land alongside motorways and railway lines. Together with Brandenburg, we will expand wind and solar power across the region.
- **Everyone benefits from the energy transition:** Through a Citizen Energy Act, Berliners will directly benefit from the energy transition. Balcony solar systems will become more attractive for tenants, energy cooperatives will receive greater support, and people generating electricity within their neighbourhoods will be able to share it with their neighbours.
- **A smart electricity grid:** We will install energy storage facilities at key points in the electricity network and accelerate the rollout of smart electricity meters. Those who use electricity when wind and solar generation is abundant will pay lower prices. Those who feed electricity from their electric vehicles back into the grid will be financially rewarded.
- **Climate-friendly heating:** We will convert Berlin's district heating system to large-scale climate-friendly heat pumps, make greater use of geothermal energy, and build seasonal heat storage for winter.

A Circular Economy for Buildings

- **Renovating buildings and building in circular systems:** Using a clear roadmap and central advisory services, we will modernise Berlin's existing building stock in a socially fair and energy-efficient way. The construction sector will be transformed into a circular economy by avoiding unnecessary demolition, promoting reuse of building materials and prioritising straightforward renovation.

Sponge City and Climate Resilience

- **Berlin becomes a Sponge City:** Rainwater should be stored where it falls instead of being channelled unused into the sewer system. This protects the city during heavy rainfall while keeping it greener during periods of drought.
- **Protection from extreme heat:** We will expand Berlin's Heat Action Plan, green more public spaces, and increase the number of public drinking fountains and freely accessible cool places throughout the city.
- **Protecting water and nature:** We will safeguard Berlin's drinking water supply and maintain water levels in the River Spree by restoring floodplains and coordinating water extraction with Brandenburg and Saxony. Blue-green ecological corridors will connect habitats and promote biodiversity across the region.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, electricity comes from clean sources from the city and the surrounding region. Heating is climate-friendly and affordable. The city withstands heatwaves and heavy rainfall because it stores water like a sponge. By 2030, Berlin will have reduced its CO₂ emissions by 70 percent. Climate protection will not make life more expensive: it will make life better.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- **Copenhagen:** An almost climate-neutral district heating system using large-scale heat pumps and recovered waste heat.
- **The Netherlands:** Serial building renovation under the Energiesprong model significantly reduces renovation costs.
- **Paris:** The Oasis programme transforms paved schoolyards into green, shaded spaces with drinking fountains and cooling areas.
- **Amsterdam:** Blue-green ecological corridors connect wildlife habitats and strengthen biodiversity.

BERLIN CONNECTS

People, Europe and the World

Berlin is a European and cosmopolitan, global city. Its openness is a strength for the economy, for culture and for social cohesion. We want to place Europe more firmly at the centre of Berlin's policies and protect the diversity that defines the city. Berlin connects when we actively shape Europe, enable genuine participation for everyone who lives here, secure culture reliably, and manage tourism in a way that benefits the city.

Our concrete solutions:

Europe and International Connections

- **Making Europe part of everyday life:** We will strengthen Berlin's representation in Brussels, make the administration better equipped for European cooperation, and make access to the Erasmus+ exchange programme easier.
- **Using funding programmes and partnerships strategically:** We will use twin city partnerships strategically to promote culture, economic cooperation and research. At the same time, we will push for faster rail connections with our neighbouring countries, especially Poland, including with Berlin's twin city partner, Warsaw.

Settling In and Participating in Civic Life

- **A smooth start without bureaucratic hurdles:** We will create permanent points of contact for newcomers, guiding them through all administrative processes according to the one-stop principle. English will become a second working language for public administration. Accommodation for refugees will be brought up to consistent, dignified standards and equipped with an independent complaints office.
- **Everyone who lives here should have a voice:** We will strengthen participation and civic responsibility by extending voting rights to all EU citizens and opening citizens' assemblies to everyone who lives in Berlin. Around 40 percent of Berlin residents have a migration background, and approximately one quarter of residents are currently unable to vote.

Tourism and Events

- **High-quality tourism:** We will make Berlin a modern and sustainable travel destination. We will support the city's bid to host EXPO 2035, which would promote sustainable urban innovation as well as the modernisation of historic event venues across the city.

Culture

- **Reliable cultural funding:** We will replace short-term project-based funding with reliable structural funding that provides long-term security across all Berlin boroughs.
- **Protecting club and open-air culture:** We will officially recognise clubs as cultural venues. Through the Agent-of-Change principle, new developments near existing clubs will be responsible for paying for noise protection measures, not the clubs themselves. For open-air events, we will create noise-tolerance zones away from residential areas.
- **Opening culture to everyone:** We will strengthen cultural education and participation regardless of income or background and expand cultural exchange with Europe.

OUR BERLIN OF TOMORROW

In the Berlin of tomorrow, Europe is part of everyday life. The city actively participates in exchange programmes and is connected to its neighbours through fast rail links. The roughly 40 percent of Berliners with international roots can participate in political decision-making, while newcomers have a dedicated contact person instead of facing a maze of bureaucracy. Culture receives reliable funding and is open to everyone: from Berlin's legendary club scene to its museums.

BEST PRACTICE BEISPIELE

- **North Rhine-Westphalia:** Integration treated as a long-term structural responsibility with dedicated funding.
- **Barcelona:** A tourism observatory manages visitor flows using data-driven approaches.
- **Düsseldorf:** A dialogue-based cultural development plan serves as a national reference model.