

Programme for the
municipal elections '26
in Frankfurt am Main

Voit

politics

that

work

The reason we need Volt in Frankfurt

Foreword

Volt Europa emerged from a European movement as a pan-European party to shape the future of Europe together, across borders. We can tackle many of the challenges of our time more effectively and purposefully if we think and act as a community with the goal of a united Europe.

Populist forces are gaining strength worldwide, and in many places a trend toward isolation rather than cooperation is evident. Concerns about war, economic crises, and climate change are not only affecting Europe, Germany, and Hesse; they are also affecting us here in Frankfurt am Main. It is precisely at this juncture that Volt advocates for constructive and progressive policies. We are pro-European because we recognize and want to promote the advantages, the necessity, and the great achievements of the European Union project and its cooperation. We work with volunteers from all over Europe on ideas for a sustainable and just society. Only together, and at all political levels, can we succeed in overcoming national egoism and nationalist aspirations.

Volt Europa is the first pan-European party. We are active in almost every European country and pursue the same overarching goals everywhere. We have been represented in the European Parliament since 2019, and since the 2024 European elections, we have even had five MEPs from two countries; Frankfurt supported us with over 17,000 votes. Volt Frankfurt ran in the local elections for the first time

in 2021 and, with over 10 seats on various committees, made its entry into city politics. We have served on the city council, in four local advisory boards, and on the municipal council for foreign residents, and became part of the governing coalition that has been in power in Frankfurt am Main since 2021.

Since then, we have actively participated in key decisions as part of a progressive majority, thus shaping Frankfurt's future. Despite our small size within the city government, we have established ourselves as a reliable partner and pragmatically advocated for sensible compromises. By filling the vacancy in Department V, we were also able to introduce new developments and approaches in the areas of digitalisation and citizen participation. Especially in light of the major challenges facing Frankfurt, we intend to continue this work in the spirit of a modern, European metropolis.

Volt stands for solution-oriented, pragmatic, and future-oriented politics in Europe and in Frankfurt. We see ourselves as part of the European community, working towards a future worth living based on our shared values. We will make politics in Frankfurt more European and rethink and further develop the way politics is conducted.

For a Frankfurt that **works**.



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A city that does its job

Chapter 1: Smart State

Education and digitalisation are key elements for a functioning and livable 21st century. This requires the provision of effective and efficient, high-quality public services as well as transparent public administrations.

The Smart State plays a central role in the modernisation of our administration. A digital Frankfurt am Main needs authorities that process information efficiently and securely, serve citizens, and make every form of bureaucracy as pleasant as possible with short processing times.

If new technologies, when applied sensibly, improve traffic flow, then they should be utilized. If official procedures can be handled securely online, there's no reason not to make them digitally accessible. If a modern working world requires seamless work from home, then a city should facilitate this. We aim to achieve this goal by not only creating digital services but also providing the necessary digital infrastructure.

This requires a fast and stable internet connection and secure data handling. Furthermore, well-trained and continuously developing administrative staff who know how to use the digital infrastructure are essential.

A Smart State is the foundation upon which the entire municipality can become future-proof. From education and educational buildings to participation and health: Frankfurt am Main needs a digital strategy that works.

Volt provided crucial impetus for this during the last legislative period. The implementation of the city's digitalisation strategy was institutionally anchored with the establishment of a new „Transformation Office.“ This created a prerequisite for implementing digital projects more quickly, in a more coordinated and impact-oriented manner.

A remarkable achievement is the digital transformation of the Frankfurt Citizens' Office. Since 2025, the Frankfurt Citizens' Office has been among the most digitally advanced of all major German cities. The introduction of new online services such as electronic registration of residence, innovative solutions like the document dispensing box, and the expansion of the mobile Citizens' Office have led to tangible improvements in the daily lives of all Frankfurt residents.

digitalisation that **works**.



Digitalisation

Digital access to the city

We want to make Frankfurt a modern, digital city for all its citizens. To this end, the City of Frankfurt will provide an open-source app. It will serve as the central, barrier-free access point to all important information and services offered by the city. From dealing with government agencies and waste collection to events, culture, and education – everything will be easily accessible, multilingual, data protection compliant, and inclusive via a single app. The Frankfurt App will also provide information about local markets, events, and happenings. This includes road closures and construction sites that may affect daily life in the area.

The existing platform [FFM.de](#) will be further developed to enable modern, digital participation of Frankfurt residents in city life. We will expand the defect-reporting system and require participating departments to consistently provide updates on the processing status. Furthermore, citizens will be able to participate in surveys, launch petitions, or watch live sessions of the city council or local advisory boards. Information should reach

those affected quickly and easily, and citizen engagement should be communicated to the city as directly and seamlessly as possible. Therefore, we are aiming to integrate the existing [FFM.de](#) app.

In addition, we are expanding the network of digital information boards throughout the city. These boards display some of the content from the Frankfurt App, such as news, warnings, and event listings, making important information visible to everyone. This way, the city also informs people without smartphones and tourists about relevant events in their area. These digital services offered by the city must be designed to be accessible. This includes adequate readability, translation into multiple languages, and barrier-free access to the information source.

This requires a functioning and stable internet connection. Therefore, we will continue the efforts of Department V to accelerate the expansion of fiber optics within the framework of the [Gigabit Region Frankfurt Rhine Main](#).

Foto by Marta Klement on Pexels

Kyiv Digital App

 Best Practice

Born out of necessity, the [Kyiv Digital App](#) serves as a central hub for numerous public services and aspects of public life. It includes, among other things, public transport, parking search, petitions, administrative notices, and, since the war of aggression, information on air raid alerts and shelters.



Digitalisation

Smart city and open data

Smart cities generate enormous amounts of data on traffic, weather, climate, and many other aspects of daily life in Frankfurt. This data holds great potential for improving life in the city. However, to realize this potential, the data must be analyzed. Much of it remains unanalyzed, and some datasets are still painstakingly analyzed manually. This is slow, costly, and inefficient, leaving the potential of this data untapped. We aim to change this through modern methods and efficient analysis.

With the analyzed data, we aim to improve the lives of Frankfurt residents, optimize traffic flow, and boost the economy. The insights gained will be processed transparently according to the principles of „Open Data.“ This means that the resulting data will be made available to citizens, businesses, and the administration in an open, usable, and transparent manner. We intend to expand the „Urban Data Platform“ with effective use cases and promote the consolidation of the various data platforms („Statistics Portal“, „Open Data Frankfurt“, „Geodata Catalog“). Even efficiently collected data is only helpful if it can be easily accessed and processed

One application example of using such data is the „digital twin.“ This allows for the creation of a digital representation of Frankfurt from its data. This helps to digitally simulate a wide variety of situations in order to make better decisions and to test the effectiveness of decisions already made.

Another application example is the organisation of public hackathons, for example, within the framework of the “Smart City Forum.” These events bring together a large number of people who collaboratively work on a software solution to a specific problem. To ensure that the result is not only functional but also practical, we want to guarantee that all departments within the administration are actively involved and that the expertise of the staff is effectively integrated.

Consistent data collection will make everyday life, especially in urban traffic, more efficient and pleasant. Newly installed or modernized traffic lights should, as a matter of principle, be smartly controllable. The continuous measurement of traffic data should be expanded at key locations to enable both data-driven urban planning and everyday traffic light timing for the benefit of citizens. In all measures, and

especially where potential risks to life and limb exist, appropriate digital security must be ensured.

Volt is also committed to establishing a system of networked sensors in parking areas. This will display available parking spaces in real time in commercially available parking apps or as designated car-sharing parking spaces. [see Car traffic](#) This system also enables significantly improved parking enforcement (compliance with parking and stopping restrictions and parking durations) while taking data protection requirements into account.

Foto by Lukas Kloeppe on Pexels

Dublin's digital twin

🇮🇪 Best Practice

Dublin is currently working on a digital twin that focuses primarily on mobility and uses data from urban traffic, public transport and pedestrians to optimize traffic light timings, plan dedicated bus lanes, avoid traffic jams and thus improve the situation for everyone.



Digitalisation

Digitalisation of the city

The digital transformation of the City of Frankfurt am Main is not a minor, peripheral issue for us, but a central task for the future. We want to decisively build on our previous successes so that the Frankfurt administration functions better for our citizens despite the shortage of skilled workers, demographic change, and increasing societal challenges.

Digitalisation is not merely a technical project, but a comprehensive modernisation process for the state and its political bodies. It's about a new administrative and work culture that prioritizes collaboration, transparency, and innovation. With the „[Framework Strategy for digitalisation](#),“ adopted by the city council in 2024, we have received a clear compass for this endeavor. This strategy envisions an intensification of digital transformation within the city administration, so that by 2030 all municipal departments will be comprehensively supported by digital technologies. Now, it is crucial to implement this path consistently, across all departments, and in the interest of the entire city community.

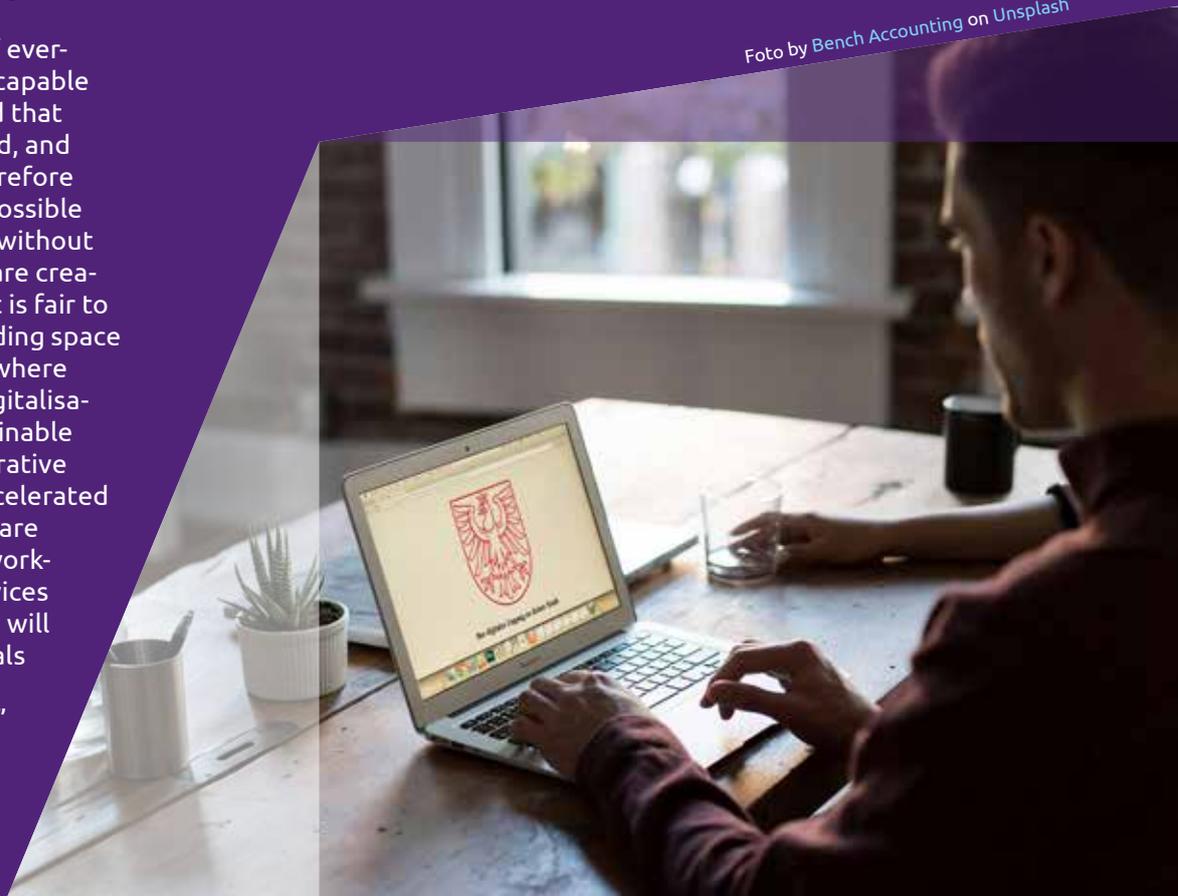
Citizens are at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is a capable state that people trust and that is modern, service-oriented, and reliable. Services must therefore be as easily accessible as possible – digitally, personally, and without barriers – at all times. We are creating an administration that is fair to everyone, while also providing space for personal consultation where it is needed and valued. Digitalisation can be used as a sustainable lever for genuine administrative change if processes are accelerated and simplified, employees are relieved of some of their workload, and the range of services is improved. Therefore, we will continue to pursue the goals set out in the „[Framework Strategy for digitalisation](#).“

To achieve these goals, municipal administrations need functioning IT systems. We recognize the dangers of dependence on external actors, such as large private IT providers, who cannot guarantee long-term independence and sovereignty. Open-source solutions can provide a remedy here. They can be used in various scenarios and do not tie the administration to private companies. However, the selection process should not be based solely on licensing issues, but also on aspects such as interoperability with other systems, as well as long-term stability and support. To ensure that these requirements are met as effectively as possible and for as many administrations as possible, IT solutions should be developed and provided by central public sector institutions. Volt is committed to making service orientation a mandatory standard for the conception, design, implementation, and operation of all digital services.

We want to introduce the „once-only principle“ based on the „Online Access Act“ (Onlinezugangsgesetz), the register modernisation, and the EU's „[Single Digital Gateway Regulation](#)“. These regulations govern the conditions under which previously collected data can be reused and guarantee the necessary data protection. This will allow citizens and businesses to submit their data to the administration only once.

All these modernisations also strengthen the City of Frankfurt itself. [Working for Frankfurt](#) becomes more attractive, citizens receive modern services, and the administration's IT becomes more secure. In doing so, we are expanding the future viability of our administration and sending a clear signal: The City of Frankfurt is not waiting for digitalisation to happen; it is actively shaping it.

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City Administration

Working for Frankfurt

For Frankfurt to function and remain a livable city, a sufficient number of qualified personnel is needed. However, working for the city is unattractive to many. To attract qualified staff in areas such as digitalisation, urban planning, youth services, and childcare, the city must position itself as a forward-looking and reliable employer.

We are advocating for a Frankfurt allowance for highly sought-after specialists to improve our competitiveness with the private sector. Furthermore, we aim to establish modern working methods based on principles such as project management, flat hierarchies, and agile methodologies. This will be complemented by contemporary working conditions, including flexible working hours, childcare options, the possibility of working from home, and improved digital workplace equipment. We foster exchange, creativity, and transparency through co-working spaces and regular administrative labs. Mobile working and flexible working hours are now standard practice.

This is an integral part of this work culture. It strengthens the compatibility of family and career, reduces commuting, and makes the city administration an attractive employer in the competition for qualified professionals.

The city planning office is suffering from a staff shortage in the planning department. Therefore, we plan to open job postings in the city planning office to applicants with a bachelor's degree (for relevant tasks) or with a suitable master's degree but without prior professional experience. This will allow us to offer individuals who have previously been unable to apply for urgently needed positions due to strict regulations or who have been rejected due to formal requirements the opportunity to work for the city planning office based on their qualifications and skills. This approach is already being utilized by cities like Düsseldorf and Berlin.

There is a significant shortage of early childhood educators. We want to see an increase in the number of municipal, practice-oriented training positions, make it easier for childminders to take up employment in a daycare center, and priori-

tize the recognition of pedagogical qualifications from abroad during the often lengthy recognition process.

Furthermore, we want to introduce positions for social workers in daycare centers. These social workers will provide support and guidance to parents, particularly regarding parenting issues, personal problems, and integration, and will facilitate access to support and assistance programs such as financial aid and language courses. This will prevent this important work from falling (solely) on the shoulders of untrained educators, allowing them more time for their core responsibilities. Additionally, the specific characteristics of working with children, such as a higher average number of sick days, should be taken into account. It should also be ensured that sufficient qualified substitute staff are available.

Volt wants the city to enable its employees to engage in volunteer work. While this is not currently prohibited, flexibility in adjusting working hours to accommodate volunteer activities should be guaranteed. It should also be examined whether a small number of hours per month (1-3) dedicated to volunteer work can be counted as working time; this is not uncommon in large companies.

We are aiming to modernize the „Collective Agreement for the Public Service“ (TVöD). We want to create more opportunities for career changers and people without academic qualifications who could fulfill important tasks, particularly in the IT sector.



Municipal budget reform

Volt advocates for the continued implementation of the „Zero-Based Budgeting“ (ZBB) principle in municipal budgets. This involves justifying each expenditure from the ground up, rather than simply carrying over the previous year's budget. This enables more efficient and results-oriented use of funds. Studies show that ZBB leads to better resource allocation and reduces unnecessary spending. The effectiveness of municipal expenditures must be made more verifiable through measurable key performance indicators (KPIs).

Volt advocates for a reform of the „Municipal Fiscal Equalisation“ (Kommunaler Finanzausgleich, KFA) system to ensure a fairer distribution of funds between financially strong and weak municipalities. This is intended to help structurally weak regions, in particular, to adequately fulfill their responsibilities and make necessary investments. A fair and effective reform of the „Muni-

icipal Fiscal Equalisation“ system should relieve the burden on Frankfurt, as the city provides central infrastructure for its surrounding area. We want neighboring municipalities, such as Eschborn, to participate more significantly if they benefit so much from their proximity to Frankfurt. This can be achieved, for example, by supplementing the KFA with a central burden equalisation scheme. Additionally, regional funds can achieve a balance between metropolitan areas and neighboring municipalities. Furthermore, development funds for rural areas can support structurally weak municipalities.

Volt aims to firmly establish climate protection as an integral part of municipal financial planning. To this end, CO₂ budgets will be introduced, using Graz as a model, and investments in sustainable projects will be prioritized. This not only promotes environmental protection but can also lead to long-term cost savings. We are committed to

digitizing municipal financial administrations. This includes the implementation of modern IT systems and the automation of processes. Digitized financial administration increases efficiency, reduces errors, and enables better data analysis for informed decision-making.

We are committed to strengthening the City of Frankfurt's capacity to apply for and manage funding from EU, federal, and state programs. This includes establishing a central advisory center and training administrative staff to make the best use of available resources.

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House Graz

Best Practice

Graz has set itself the goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2040. The city administration („Haus Graz“) aims to achieve this by 2030 and has therefore introduced a CO₂ budget. A CO₂ budget is the maximum amount of greenhouse gases that may still be emitted without jeopardizing the global climate goal. It is based on a global budget that is broken down for countries, cities, and individuals.

City Administration

A budget for Frankfurt

Frankfurt should remain a city that functions well. This requires bold policies that not only administer but actively shape the future. Volt stands for a financial policy that is transparent, fair, future-oriented, and enables a livable Frankfurt.

Regarding current expenditures, we ensure adequate funding for mandatory services, such as those required by the Online Access Act (Onlinezugangsgesetz). For voluntary services, we focus on targeted social support and the promotion of (sub)cultural initiatives. Our future investments prioritize the creation of social housing, modern education, climate protection, and a sustainable mobility infrastructure. Frankfurt must not overextend itself with one-sided mega-projects, such as the construction of a new municipal theater. Major future investments must always be assessed in terms of their ecological, social, and economic impacts, and must ultimately benefit all citizens.

We want to strengthen transparency and citizen participation in budget planning. To this end, we plan to introduce participatory budgeting, allowing citizens to submit budget proposals digitally and discuss and vote on spending priorities. Experience from various municipalities shows that such participatory formats increase trust in politics and thus lead to the needs-based allocation of funds.

Despite years of criticism from the audit office and city council, the City of Frankfurt has still not implemented a modern digital contract and grant management system.

see Participatory budgeting

This results in unnecessary bureaucracy, lengthy processing times, and a lack of transparency in the handling of public funds. We want Frankfurt to finally invest consistently in a digital system that efficiently, transparently, and legally manages contracts, grant applications, and fund disbursements.

This will create clear and standardized processes, relieve the burden on the administration and applicants, and enable the swift, fair, and traceable allocation of grants. Our goal is a transparent administration that plays a leading role in corruption prevention. The membership process with Transparency International e.V., which includes a review of anti-corruption standards, must be completed promptly. We want to strengthen existing structures, such as the City of Frankfurt's Anti-Corruption Unit, both financially and in terms of personnel.

Volt aims to reduce social inequalities through targeted fiscal policy. This includes investments in disadvantaged neighborhoods, such as those in Frankfurt's west, Fechenheim, and the Gallus district. Furthermore, we want to support projects that strengthen social participation and equal opportunities.

A fair distribution of resources contributes to a more inclusive and supportive society.

The property tax reform replaced existing, historically grown inequities with a more up-to-date and objective valuation method. Overall, this does not result in any additional revenue for the City of Frankfurt. Therefore, we reject a reduction in the tax rate. Furthermore, we see no need to establish a hardship fund.

Volt remains committed to developing new, dedicated funding sources for mobility, including, for example, congestion charges and employer contributions. We currently see no reason to adjust the trade tax, either upwards or downwards. To determine an appropriate trade tax rate in the long term, we intend to commission an independent scientific analysis to create a sound data basis for a sustainable decision.

Foto by *Lasma Artmane* on *Unsplash*



Education

Educational building

Many schools are in need of renovation, around 100 need to be completely modernized, and about 30% of students are learning in temporary classrooms. By 2030, approximately 32,000 additional school places will be needed, and daycare centers and vocational schools are also reaching their capacity limits. The city's **school construction initiative** is an important step, but we want to think ahead. With innovative approaches, consistent investment, and long-term structures, we are creating an education system that works, includes all children, and ensures Frankfurt remains a livable place for the future.

All school construction projects will be prioritized according to clear pedagogical and structural criteria. A publicly accessible online platform will make schedules, progress, and costs transparent. In addition, Volt intends to ensure comprehensive municipal education monitoring that makes impact and investment needs visible. We are committed to realistically planning the actual financing needs beyond the funds already approved – for planning security and sustainable renovation.

While long-term projects are being planned, short-term improvements are also needed: for example, the renovation of school toilets, better ventilation, heat protection, air conditioning, improved lighting, and digital infrastructure in existing buildings. Structural adaptations to meet the needs of children with disabilities should also be mentioned here. Barrier-free access, two-way alarm systems (acoustic and visual), and tactile guidance systems for the blind are just a few examples. **see Accessibility**

Early childhood education also requires modern, child-friendly spaces and more staff. Volt is committed to ensuring that daycare centers and preschools are systematically included in the planning of the construction initiative. Serial and modular construction methods enable more efficient and cost-effective implementation of new educational buildings. To better coordinate the projects, Volt welcomes the establishment of a specialized school construction company and aims to guarantee the involvement of municipal departments and external expertise.

All new buildings and renovations must meet the city's climate goals. This includes heat protection, air conditioning, green roofs, photovoltaic systems, connection to the district heating network, and future-proof building standards.

Education needs modern equipment – everywhere. Volt is committed to comprehensive Wi-Fi coverage, reliable devices for all students, and a digital infrastructure for distance learning and learning platforms.

Volt aims to involve students more closely in school development and construction projects – for example, through student budgets where they have a say in decisions about their own budget. This way, they can also be involved in setting renovation priorities.

Foto by [Tolu Olubode](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Student's budgets

 Best Practice

In Berlin and Brandenburg, students have been able to actively participate in shaping their school through a student budget since 2015, thereby experiencing democracy and taking on responsibility.



Education

Bildungsupdate

Volt stands for an education system that includes everyone. Inclusion is not an extra, but a basic requirement. Accessible buildings, individualized support, and sufficient qualified staff must be standard practice – from kindergarten to vocational school.

Volt is committed to future-oriented media literacy in Frankfurt. We promote the digital skills of parents, teachers, children, young people, professionals, job seekers, and senior citizens through targeted and practical workshops, advisory services, and media guides who act as multipliers. The supported programs strengthen cybersecurity, media literacy, and AI knowledge – for a safe, reflective, and creative use of analog and digital media.

We support educational and advisory initiatives, such as TUMO, digital inclusion, and equal opportunities. In this way, we are making Frankfurt fit for the digital society of tomorrow and strengthening social cohesion.

Foto by Taylor Flowe on Unsplash



TUMO

TUMO is a modern learning center for young people in Frankfurt. Free of charge and independent of school lessons, they can develop digital and creative skills there at their own pace. Participants choose the topics that interest them from several areas such as robotics, programming, or graphic design. The opening is planned for 2026.

Europäische Schule

Frankfurt is home to the **European Central Bank (ECB)**, the **European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)**, and the **European Anti-Money Laundering Agency (AMLA)**. The City of Frankfurt therefore has a contractual obligation to provide a suitable new site for the European School within Frankfurt's city limits as quickly as possible for the children of the staff working there.

The current location is no longer adequate. We support a pragmatic and timely solution for the school's future location. We also want the school to become more open and integrated into the local community. Looking ahead, we will explore whether the city can offer scholarships to enable students whose parents do not work for an EU institution to benefit from the European School's intercultural educational approach.

Health

Food policy

Volt advocates for a holistic, community-based food policy that combines health, sustainability, and social inclusion. We want to strengthen regional agriculture, promote ecological principles, and create fair opportunities for small producers. Frankfurt should become a role model for a resilient, climate-friendly, fair, and transparent food system.

We want to reform school and daycare meals by expanding the infrastructure. Every school should have its own kitchen to implement all-day care. In addition, we would like to examine the possibility of remunicipalisation. A feasibility study will lay the foundation for municipal ownership of school meals and long-term partnerships with regional businesses.

Fair tendering processes should be introduced by designing tenders in such a way that small and regional caterers, as well as caterers with innovative concepts, can participate more easily; this also includes consulting services.

We want to strengthen nutrition education by introducing nutrition scouts or nutrition specialists in schools. These individuals will ensure quality assurance, knowledge transfer, and student participation. Furthermore, we want to establish an independent auditing body for „DGE Quality Standards“ to professionalize quality control. Caterers will also be required to

systematically record and analyze leftover food to identify areas for improvement and reduce food waste. We need a functioning municipal food strategy. To this end, we will develop a strategy with the Food Council that is in line with the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#).

Volt aims to create a coordinating body that works across departmental boundaries and serves as a point of contact for citizens, administration, and businesses. We promote the priority use of local products in schools, daycare centers, canteens, and municipal facilities.

Local agriculture needs support. Volt will therefore protect the city's outskirts so they can be used for organic, regenerative farming. Furthermore, we want to reduce land sealing in favor of biodiversity, climate adaptation, and ultimately, local food production. We will promote a local, urban food culture. To this end, we will encourage urban gardening and the cultivation of fruit trees in public spaces and at schools, and create opportunities for knowledge transfer. We also want to promote and support platforms focused on nutrition. We will promote community kitchens, which serve as places for participation, encounters, and educational work in neighborhoods, districts, and educational centers.

[see Neighborhood management](#)

By reforming the weekly markets, we want to create incentives for sustainable and plastic-free suppliers of regionally produced goods and thus contribute to a clean, livable Frankfurt.

Foto by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

Din trädgård runt hörnet

🇸🇪 Best Practice

The „Your Garden Around the Corner“ initiative in Gothenburg, Sweden, comprises approximately 45 garden clubs. They lease plots of land in various city districts, which are then used for agriculture by their members. This initiative is part of a broader effort to promote community projects that encourage residents to form producer groups and grow their own food locally.

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

The [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#) is an international agreement between cities committed to developing sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe, and diverse. Its main objective is to create a lasting platform for the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and capacity building among signatory cities. Frankfurt am Main joined the agreement in 2018.

Digital healthcare

An aging society, more complex medical conditions, a shortage of skilled workers, and sluggish digitalisation are overloading emergency services and hospitals, posing major challenges. Vulnerable groups are particularly at risk due to the lack of psychiatric care and the reduction of pediatric emergency services. Traditional measures such as hiring more staff are insufficient. We need intelligent solutions for a modern, functioning emergency care system that saves lives, uses resources wisely, and protects all citizens.

We want to ensure patients receive the appropriate level of care through improved networking and digitalisation. Therefore, we advocate for the expansion of telemedicine-based primary care, the creation of digital interfaces within the healthcare system, the implementation of first responder systems, and public training courses such as first aid and resuscitation.

Digital helse

Best Practice

Norway is considered a European pioneer in modern, digitally networked healthcare. For years, the country has relied on telemedicine to provide access to medical care regardless of location. AI-supported image analysis in teleradiology reduces waiting times, and online platforms offer treatment options. Legal adjustments promote the permanent integration of these solutions.

The “Frankfurt Approach”

The „Zurich Approach”

Best Practice

Zurich demonstrates how consistent, coordinated measures can sustainably curb open drug dealing and consumption. After decades of severe drug problems, the city developed a **four-pillar model** in the 1990s, consisting of prevention, therapy, harm reduction, and law enforcement. At its core is a clear zero-tolerance strategy towards public drug dealing, combined with targeted social and medical support. In supervised consumption sites, micro-dealing is tolerated within a controlled environment. This shifts the trade out of public spaces and into safe, supervised settings. Those in need are given access to counseling and medical assistance.

The Frankfurt approach has set standards both nationally and internationally. Drug consumption rooms have largely succeeded in shifting intravenous drug use from the streets to special, medically supervised spaces. We want to maintain this concept, but we must further develop it, because new patterns of drug use pose significant challenges for our city.

With crack cocaine, for example, the craving is so intense that addicts consume it immediately where they buy it – on the street. Here, we can learn from two of our neighboring European cities, Zurich and Basel. These cities provide designated smoking areas for crack cocaine in their supervised consumption rooms and permit micro-dealing there. As a result, addicts no longer consume their drugs on the street, but rather in these rooms. This means greater safety for the addicts and fewer conflicts in the neighborhood for the surrounding residents.

Following this model, we want to enable micro-trading in Frankfurt’s drug consumption rooms as well. Furthermore, so-called „drug checking” helps save lives. Addicts learn the composition of the substances they consume. This concept has been in place in Berlin since 2023 and successfully prevents overdoses and the resulting emergency call-outs. We want to implement this in Frankfurt as well. We are advocating at the state level for the necessary legal framework to be established.

Health

Mental health

Mental illness is among the biggest health problems of our time. Around 28 percent of the adult population in Germany is affected each year. The risk is particularly high in cities like Frankfurt. Contributing factors include social burdens such as unemployment, discrimination, and poverty; urban factors such as noise, overcrowding, pollution, and an anonymous environment; and social inequalities.

FraPPE

The **Frankfurt Project for the Prevention of Suicides through Evidence-Based Measures (FraPPE)**,¹ funded by the Federal Ministry of Health, evaluates a suicide prevention program based on evidence-based methods. The study examines the effectiveness of a package of measures in reducing suicidal behavior. The goal is to lower the number of suicides and suicide attempts within the three-year project period.

At the same time, cities offer better access to health, education, and culture – however, these opportunities are not enough to compensate for the burdens. Frankfurt therefore bears a special responsibility to actively promote the mental health of its population. To this end, we want to create easily accessible services and enable early detection. This includes establishing community-based health and counseling centers, introducing a 24/7 crisis intervention service in cooperation with existing projects such as „FraPPE,“ and, where medically appropriate, supplementing this with digital services such as self-tests and counseling platforms, especially for young people and students.

We support targeted structural measures such as expanding the municipal coordination office for mental health at the public health department. We want to involve those affected in the design of programs, anti-stigma campaigns, and the promotion of health literacy in schools, clubs, and workplaces. Furthermore, we advocate for the introduction of „Mental Health Days“ at the local level and regular data collection on mental health in Frankfurt.

We are committed to supporting vulnerable groups, such as homeless people, through the expansion of „Housing First“ projects with crucial psychological support.

see Homelessness

Women should receive free screenings for postpartum depression. Single parents should receive greater support, including the expansion of counseling and child-care services. **Mental health coaches** are planned for children and young people in schools and youth centers, along with the integration of mental health into the curriculum. Seniors should benefit from more meeting places to combat loneliness, such as multigenerational cafés.

For people with a migration background, we focus on culturally sensitive counseling, multilingual information, and integration guides with basic psychological training. Measures in urban design can improve mental health. To this end, we want to enable the conversion of paved surfaces into green spaces such as „pocket parks,“ create streets and squares for encounters, **see Superblocks** build nature-based health trails in parks, and strengthen community projects such as urban gardens (e.g., „Vegetable Heroes Frankfurt“).

see Food policy

Trieste Model

Best Practice

The so-called „Trieste Model“ is considered a model throughout Europe for modern and community-based psychiatric care.

The focus is not on the illness, but on the individual with their unique needs. The goal is to promote holistic mental health and ensure social participation.

A key element of this is the „personalized project“: Instead of solely funding medical treatments, resources are also provided for education, housing, and job search support. This approach understands recovery not only in medical terms, but also socially and economically.

Care is provided in Community Mental Health Centres (CMHCs), which are located in residential buildings and are open 24/7. They have few beds, are easily accessible, and generally consider their users not as „patients“ but as „guests.“ Public awareness campaigns also help to reduce prejudice and foster acceptance.

Foto by [madison lavern](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Availability of midwives

Availability of midwifery care in Frankfurt am Main has been inadequate for years. The shortage of freelance midwives means that many families receive no support during childbirth or the postpartum period. We want to strengthen this care, promote new midwifery positions, and reduce bureaucratic hurdles so that families receive the support they need. A city where parents and children are well cared for is a city that functions well for its residents and is a great place to live.

Our goal is to ensure comprehensive and sustainable expansion of midwifery care in Frankfurt by 2030. During pregnancy, all Frankfurt residents should be able to find a midwife for outpatient postpartum care as easily as possible – regardless of where they live or when they start looking.

We are therefore advocating for a midwifery scholarship with a commitment to establish a practice after training, making the „Frankfurt Postpartum Emergency Care“ project permanent, and extending the service to cover the entire postpartum period of 12 weeks (instead of 10 days). Furthermore, midwives

providing obstetric care will be allowed to park for a longer period with the „Social Services“ parking permit. An expanded data collection system by the public health department to identify gaps in midwifery care will be established. Volt is also committed to creating a central municipal platform for connecting midwives with clients.

We want to guarantee the legally enshrined freedom to choose the place of birth by making birth centers and home birth midwives available in addition to the five maternity hospitals in Frankfurt. Frankfurt should become an attractive location for young midwives, so that graduates in midwifery science choose to stay in or move to Frankfurt.

Foto by Jonathan Borba on Unsplash



Frankfurt postpartum emergency care

The Frankfurt Postpartum Emergency Care initiative is funded by the Dr. Senckenberg Foundation and the Frankfurt am Main Public Health Department. It arranges home visits and midwife consultations and provides telephone advice when needed.

Midwifery scholarships

🇩🇪 Best Practice

In Baden-Württemberg and Lower Saxony, scholarships for midwifery studies with an obligation to establish a practice as a midwife locally have already been introduced as a measure.

Security

A city worth living in

Volt advocates for a modern security policy based on prevention, trust, and social infrastructure. Security is understood not only as a police task, but as a shared societal responsibility for a functioning and livable Frankfurt.

We are committed to ensuring that urban planning is used sustainably to create a safe and livable city. This includes good lighting, transparent structures, clean public spaces, and mixed-use development with restaurants, cultural venues, and residential units.

We want the lighting in public squares, train stations, and parks to be reviewed and adjusted to ensure adequate illumination. The use of smart, dimmable lighting options should also be considered to reduce light pollution. Furthermore, we will support the „Safe Home Phone“ service. This service allows people to speak with a trusted person on their way home at night until they reach their residence. We want this service to be expanded and become more widely known among citizens. We are critical of expanding weapons-free zones and installing new video surveillance systems in public places.

To meet the increasing demands of operations, we are advocating for a needs-based increase in the personnel of the city police, fire brigade and rescue services and ensuring that they have adequate equipment.

The use of and participation in the first responder app should also be intensified.

We want the city police to be equipped with body cameras, while respecting data privacy, as these can de-escalate situations and allow for subsequent review of police actions. However, the body cameras must automatically start recording whenever any service weapon is drawn.

The appropriateness of security requirements for festivals should be reviewed. The costs should be borne by the state of Hesse as the requesting authority. The application process for security cost coverage should be simple. We want applicants to receive payment promptly so that smaller street festivals, in particular, can continue to take place safely and freely.

Foto by Tobias Pfeifer on Unsplash



Security

Shelter

Volt firmly believes that gender equality must be a central component of a modern society. We are committed to ensuring that women, girls, and non-binary people have the same opportunities and possibilities as men and boys, whether in professional life, in the political sphere, or in personal relationships. For us, feminism means that all people, regardless of their gender, should be respected, protected, and supported. To end gender-based violence, we advocate for the consistent implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

It combats violence against women and girls through victim protection, prevention, prosecution and gender equality. We also welcome the Violence Assistance Act (Gewalt-hilfegesetz), which came into force in 2025. However, we regret that the legal entitlement to protection, counseling, and support services will not come into effect until 2032. We at Volt are therefore already advocating for an increase in the number of women's shelter spaces in Hesse to a sufficient level, as well as a supplementary legal entitlement to a women's shelter space at the municipal level.

Furthermore, we want to enable the introduction of a flat-rate funding per place per year instead of daily rates. In addition, we will promote the creation of additional shelter spaces for women with disabilities.

Through a comprehensive prevention strategy, high-profile campaigns, support for groups such as men's groups that are committed to violence prevention, and expanded work with perpetrators, we want to raise awareness of domestic violence among the entire population and provide assistance.



Foto by Charlotte May on Pexels

The Istanbul Convention

🇪🇺 Best Practice

The „**Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**“, also known as the Istanbul Convention, is based on the understanding that violence against women is a form of gender-based violence perpetrated against women simply because they are women. It is the duty of the state to combat this violence in all its forms and to take measures to prevent violence, protect its victims, and prosecute perpetrators.

Crisis preparedness

We are committed to ensuring efficient and effective civil defense for the City of Frankfurt, as part of the Rhine-Main metropolitan region. Internationally operating banks, data centers, Frankfurt Airport, and EU institutions are located here, which is why Frankfurt must be integrated into national and European security strategies. Above all, critical infrastructure, such as the internet exchange point, must be protected. We recognize the

strategic importance of Frankfurt in the event of a national emergency and intend to systematically prepare for medical, logistical, and civilian support. To this end, we aim to guarantee reliable procedures, training, and coordination between the city, the state, the federal government, and our European and international partners.

Volt aims to further expand existing civil protection measures and cooperation with local stakeholders such as the “Working Group of Frankfurt Aid Organisations” (“Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frankfurter Hilfsorganisationen”, AGFH), so that an inclusive protection concept is available for all Frankfurt residents in the event of a crisis.

Economy and society in harmony

Chapter 2: Economic Renaissance

Climate neutrality, competitiveness, and social justice must not be pitted against each other, as they are the key to a sustainable Germany and a functioning Frankfurt. It's time for a progressive update of our economy.

Our economy must be competitive and innovative. It must hold its own in global competition with new forces and disruptive technologies, create jobs, and secure the needs of our society.

In the economic sphere, Volt has championed an ecologically sound, socially just, and sustainable economic structure in Frankfurt, with a particular focus on innovation, fairness, and targeted support for small and medium-sized enterprises. Volt has prioritized this goal through several budget proposals, some of which are still pending implementation.

Overall, the city's economic development efforts have been strengthened and further developed to enable faster, more strategic action tailored to the needs of various industries. Furthermore, Volt has provided important impetus for modern and creative tourism promotion in a vibrant Frankfurt through events such as „Rooftop Day“ and its support of the alternative Bahnhofsviertel Night.

An economy that **works**.



Socially just economy

The cost of living in Frankfurt is very high. Without social safety nets, inequalities will worsen. Volt pursues the goal of an economic policy that combines local strength with social justice: Economic development must not lead to displacement and inequality, but should instead distribute prosperity more broadly.

Volt calls on large companies to assume social responsibility, as this is also in their own best interest. Taking responsibility towards people and the environment can lead to cost savings, improve access to capital, strengthen customer relationships, enhance employee well-being, and boost innovation capacity. It fosters lasting trust and thus provides a foundation for sustainable business models among employees, consumers, and citizens.

Greater trust, in turn, contributes to creating an environment in which companies can innovate and grow. For society, this has the advantage that companies can make a significant contribution to sustainable development. Volt advocates for municipal tenders to be more closely linked to social criteria such as fair wages, integration, and equality. We want to ensure that Frankfurt, in cooperation with businesses, creates training and qualification programs for the long-term unemployed, migrants, and low-skilled workers. We are committed to a fair procurement policy that also gives opportunities to small, regional businesses.

Frankfurt is to become a functioning model city for „social entrepreneurship“, in which non-profit start-ups and initiatives are promoted.

Solidarity Economy

 Best Practice

The **Plan to Boost the Social and Solidarity Economy (PIESS 2024–2027)** is Barcelona’s program to promote the social and solidarity economy (SSE). It strengthens businesses and initiatives that foster social justice, environmental sustainability, and democratic participation of citizens. The plan emerged in the context of the climate crisis and social inequality. Closely aligned with Barcelona’s strategic direction, the project aims for an economy that serves the well-being of people and the protection of the planet. It connects social, economic, and climate issues.

Sustainable economy

Our climate goals should not be limited to changes in urban supply systems, our own administrations, and private households, but should also actively involve and engage Frankfurt’s businesses. The fundamental shift to a sustainable way of doing business requires a corresponding change in thinking within companies. We consider this ecological transformation absolutely essential for a livable Frankfurt. Therefore, the city should play a supporting role and advocate for a smart combination of voluntary measures and supplementary regulations that promote transparency and create market incentives for responsible business practices.

Furthermore, the City of Frankfurt should leverage its direct influence as a shareholder to initiate corresponding transformations in companies with municipal participation. Volt strongly supports targeted assistance with the succession of craft and trade businesses to ensure that valuable knowledge and jobs are not lost when owners retire. We support social and ecological startups. Frankfurt can become a model city in this regard by establishing targeted support programs, consulting services, and networks, and by facilitating access to financing. Volt is committed to promoting entrepreneurs. We specifically want to encourage women to pursue and implement their ideas and build their own businesses.

Climate Plan 2035

 Best Practice

The City of Copenhagen is pursuing ambitious goals with its **Climate Plan 2035**: climate positivity for direct CO₂ emissions within the city limits and a halving of per capita emissions by 2035. Central to this plan is the involvement of all stakeholders – citizens, businesses, and the administration – through citizen forums, climate summits, and collaborative development processes. This allows for the joint development of solutions to effectively reduce global and local emissions.

Innovation in the economy

Many municipalities in Germany – including Frankfurt am Main – boast strong universities and research institutions, but the number of successful spin-offs lags behind international comparisons. Bureaucratic hurdles, a lack of early-stage funding, and insufficient connections to municipal networks make market entry particularly difficult for innovative startups. Volt aims to provide targeted support for startups and strengthen networks – for a Frankfurt am Main that functions well, offers opportunities, and is a great place to live for everyone.

At Volt, we want to expand collaborations with universities to facilitate spin-offs and establish transfer centers for valuable research results. We advocate for the creation of municipal microcredit funds that, in cooperation with the European Union and local banks, provide early-stage financing.

We want to establish municipal one-stop shops for founders, combining services such as consulting, grant applications, and bureaucratic processes. We aim to ensure that municipal spaces for startups (co-working spaces, maker spaces, test areas) are provided at discounted rates. Volt wants to develop Frankfurt into a dynamic innovation hub where founders have easy access to financing, consulting, and networks. This will create a local innovation ecosystem that is internationally competitive. A sustainable, functioning city needs a strong and diverse economy. Therefore, we advocate for active and reliable municipal economic development, supported by a well-funded startup fund. Volt envisions a „New Economic Agenda“ for the entire spectrum of Frankfurt’s local economy.

This initiative, like the one in Barcelona, Spain, aims to set priorities and implement measures for a sustainable economy. We want to leverage the opportunities offered by our city, with its unique location, international character, and high concentration of universities, research institutions, and startups. Key areas of focus include competitiveness, sustainability, and digitalisation. Municipal economic development often focuses solely on traditional business attraction, neglecting aspects like sustainability, meaningful digitalisation, and social considerations. Volt believes this is too short-sighted. In our view, economic development is only sustainable if it considers ecological aspects, digitalisation, and social inclusion to create a livable Frankfurt.

Frankfurt has increasingly less available land. This prevents companies from establishing themselves here and creating new jobs. In the last five years alone, 46 requests for land, totaling 650 hectares, have not been realized. To change this, we intend to implement an ambitious commercial land development program (“**Gewerbeflächenentwicklungsprogramm**”, GEP) for Frankfurt. This includes mandatory monitoring, activating available land potential, new industrial parks such as the one in Griesheim (with the potential for 4,000–5,000 jobs), adequate protection of existing commercial areas, and integrated planning for residential and commercial uses. New commercial areas are to be developed based on the model of the sustainable **industrial park in Fechenheim-Nord/Seckbach**.

Foto by Adrien Olichon on Pexels

Amsterdam Startup Village

 Best Practice

The „**Amsterdam Startup Village**“ is an innovation campus in the Amsterdam Science Park, which focuses on technology and promotes science-based startups. The offices consist of modular containers that create flexible workspaces. The location connects research, entrepreneurship, and investors, and particularly supports startups focusing on AI and quantum computing.



Crafts and training

The skilled trades in Frankfurt, like across Germany, face a variety of structural challenges. Declining apprenticeship numbers, unfilled apprenticeship positions, and a growing number of young people without vocational qualifications are leading to a shortage of skilled workers in the trades and industry. At the same time, rising living costs, particularly for rent, and a scarcity of commercial space within the city are everyday realities.

Frankfurt has the opportunity to implement sustainable solutions to the challenges facing skilled trades and vocational training. We are therefore strongly advocating for an integrated approach that combines education, social programs, mobility, and housing to create a functioning city of short distances with a thriving skilled trades sector. Frankfurt finally needs the „crafts courtyards,“ a concept that has been discussed for years but has yet to be implemented. Especially in a growing and densely populated city, space for craft businesses is scarce and often unaffordable.

Craft centers (“Handwerkerhöfe”) offer a concrete solution: centrally located, affordable, and easily accessible spaces where workshops, small production facilities, and storage areas can be concentrated. This secures the future of local craft businesses, preserves apprenticeships and jobs, and ensures that services and repairs remain readily available locally.

Volt aims to promote information campaigns and early career guidance in schools. For example, we want to offer schools opportunities for practical projects and targeted support in language, mathematics, and science. We also want to support newcomers to Germany through additional training and language support, and facilitate the faster recognition of their foreign qualifications.

To help trainees and training companies find each other, easily accessible services are needed. An app or matching platforms can be helpful in bringing trainees and trainers together.

Modern social media campaigns and collaborations with regional craft influencers are suitable for making skilled trades more attractive. In addition, a voluntary year in the skilled trades, similar to the one in Lübeck, should be offered.

To enable small businesses to provide training, we are focusing on incentives and want to promote training networks, reducing bureaucracy, mentoring and conflict resolution.

To ensure that trainees can afford to live in Frankfurt despite the exorbitant rents, we are advocating for the rapid construction of trainee dormitories. To provide sufficient housing for trainees in the short term, we intend to explore alternatives such as repurposing vacant properties.

We support the establishment of a municipal apprenticeship organisation, similar to student unions, modeled on the Munich example. Such an organisation would explicitly address the needs of apprentices.

Foto by Vlada Karpovich on Pexels

Voluntary year

 Best Practice

The **Voluntary Craft Year in Lübeck** offers young people the opportunity to try out up to four different apprenticeships in one year.

They gain a clear understanding of their professional future and can decide immediately which profession suits them best.

Participants receive a monthly stipend and can begin an apprenticeship if interested.



Tourism and events

Frankfurt is more than just a financial center, it is an open, international, and diverse city with strong tourist appeal for business travelers and event attendees, as well as for residents from the surrounding area who enjoy our city's restaurants, cultural offerings, and retail shops. These visitor flows present both opportunities and challenges. Currently, a coherent, transparent, and sustainable approach is lacking, one that integrates tourism into overall urban development, improves the quality of life for everyone, and simultaneously minimizes the ecological footprint.

We advocate for a progressive, new "Visitor Economy Strategy" that integrates urban development, sustainability, economic promotion, and social inclusion. Best practices from other European cities like Rotterdam and Copenhagen provide inspiration.

Frankfurt needs a meaningful realignment of its tourism strategy and a revision of the working methods of [Tourism+Congress GmbH Frankfurt am Main \(TCF\)](#). We intend to publish a report detailing the implementation status and shortcomings of the [„Masterplan Tourism Frankfurt am Main 2030 \(PDF\)“](#) and the [„Masterplan ErlebnisCity Frankfurt am Main.“](#) In addition, we would like to examine whether the Masterplan can be expanded to include opportunities for sustainable, environmentally friendly tourism.

We support young event organizers, start-ups and sustainable formats, recognize clubs as cultural venues and strengthen the creative and subculture scene. Frankfurt is a location for meetings, incentive trips, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE).

We want to focus on sustainability and „green conferencing“. This will give the City of Frankfurt a unique selling point as a location in the long term, also in international competition.

In addition, we want to position Frankfurt as a city of the future by strengthening technology-driven leisure activities. With clear regulations, professional event organization, and a cosmopolitan outlook, we are making Frankfurt one of the most innovative and diverse tourist cities in Europe, with a vibrant and lively cultural scene.

[see Culture](#)

Foto by ClickerHappy on Pexels



Rotterdam Way

 Best Practice

Rotterdam demonstrates that successful urban tourism strategies don't have to depend on historic city centers. The city has transformed itself from an industrial port with limited tourism into an internationally sought-after destination. Visitors appreciate the modern architecture, creative scene, and vibrant atmosphere, which leverages the city's industrial past and urban character: the [Rotterdam Way](#). Rotterdam actively uses the tourism sector to strengthen local businesses, include marginalized groups, and promote urban transformation. At the same time, the city addresses challenges such as economic, social, and environmental sustainability, as well as the impacts of climate change, thus creating a holistic approach to growing urban tourism.

Community beyond all borders

Chapter 3: Social Equality

Volt strives for a society in which all people are equal, have the same rights and opportunities, and can participate fully in society. This means ending all discrimination against groups and minorities, systematically reducing poverty, and ensuring the integration and participation of all people in society.

We are committed to ensuring that all people, regardless of age, origin, or life circumstances, are equally integrated into society. Children and young people should have equal educational opportunities and safe spaces to grow up in. Older people should be able to actively participate in social life and contribute their experience. Refugees and expats should be integrated, have access to education, employment, and social services, and be part of an open, inclusive, and vibrant urban society.

A community that **works**.



Public Space

Changing leisure and consumption habits influence the use of public space. Both Frankfurt residents and tourists desire a functioning infrastructure that is accessible to everyone and free from any perceived obligation to consume. The **toilet concept** adopted in 2023 must be implemented more quickly, and more partners from the hospitality and retail sectors, as well as public authorities, must be found for the „nice toilet“ (Nette Toilette) initiative. Additionally, Volt proposes the installation of self-cleaning, 24/7 hotspot toilets. We want the Parks Department to receive sufficient funding to maintain public recreational facilities

such as playgrounds and replace broken equipment. As part of routine renovations and upgrades, more accessible, i.e., shared, play equipment should be installed.

Volt plans to expand the network of drinking water and refreshment fountains and provide more facilities outside of city centers. Additional seating will be created in public spaces – also outside the city center. Furthermore, Volt intends to create more parklets, thereby providing more space for socializing and fostering a sense of community.

In addition to the lost and found office, drop boxes for documents and everyday items will be set up throughout the city. These should help ensure that more lost items can be returned to their rightful owners. We are also promoting the establishment of repair cafes to make a further contribution to the circular economy.

Dogs in Frankfurt

In Frankfurt, high revenues from dog taxes, amounting to approximately €2.5 million annually, contrast sharply with inadequate and outdated infrastructure for dogs. There is a lack of safe, fenced dog exercise areas, and official information on these areas is outdated. This leads to conflicts over usage and dissatisfaction among dog owners. Our goal is to make Frankfurt more dog-friendly and promote a harmonious coexistence between dogs, dog owners, and everyone else.

We propose that the Parks Department develop a strategy for the design and distribution of dog parks and dog runs. Dog owners and other interested parties should be involved in this process for each district. Ideally, dog parks should be fenced so that dogs can be let off-leash without worry. The „Frankfurt App,“ which is currently being expanded, can provide information on the availability and design of dog parks in Frankfurt.

To allow for nighttime dog walks, dog parks should have adjustable lighting. This would prevent excessive light pollution in green spaces. To keep dog parks and dog meadows from becoming excessively dirty, sufficient poop bags and trash cans should be provided. Volt proposes that a dog license be a prerequisite for registering a dog. Regardless of whether a dog is considered dangerous, we believe that proof of competence for dog owners is essential.

We aim to achieve a permanent tax exemption for dogs adopted from animal shelters by their owners, provided the shelters have a stray animal contract or other agreement with the City of Frankfurt regarding the care of dogs. We will maintain the tax exemption for assistance and therapy dogs that was introduced in 2025.

Foto by Eileen O'Sullivan, Niamh



Building and living

We want a Frankfurt where housing is affordable for everyone. Our vision is a space-saving, climate-neutral, and climate-resilient city. We know that building land in Frankfurt is a scarce resource. Therefore, we want to work together with the surrounding municipalities on a polycentric development of building land for new housing, along public transport routes.

Within the city limits, building land should primarily serve the common good and remain in municipal ownership as far as possible. Volt also advocates for an active real estate policy. We financially secure municipal pre-emption rights through a strengthened real estate fund and, if necessary, a new municipal bond. Municipal properties will be allocated promptly and preferably to public, non-profit, and cooperative housing companies on a leasehold basis.

We are reducing ground rent for community-oriented building projects. We will continue to push forward with the planned urban district (“*Stadtteil der Quartiere*”). We also want socially and climate-adapted development of the *Güntehersburghöfe* area. The plans will be optimized to preserve a core area of the most valuable tree population. By prioritizing development plans, parallelizing planning and approval processes, and consistently digitizing, we are accelerating municipal approval processes and aim to identify and eliminate inefficiencies in the allocation of housing and building land. We are committed to the *land development plan* and will thus create permanently subsidized housing. We intend to maintain the existing funding programs (*Funding Path 1* and *Funding Path 2, subsidies for owner-occupied housing*) and adapt them to future price developments. We are focusing on infill development, attic conversions and adding stories to existing buildings, as well as converting suitable office space into residential units.

We advocate for a revision of the *social preservation ordinances*, as these, in their current form, hinder or prevent modernisation, energy-efficient renovations, and the creation of more living space. We are committed to socially responsible solutions that are financially viable for both tenants and small property owners.

We are resolutely combating speculative vacancies and the circumvention of rent control through furnished apartments. We are creating greater transparency for citizens in the housing market and in urban development. As an innovative instrument for creating needs-based housing without new construction, we envision a municipal relocation chain management system that avoids rent increases.

We are also advocating for a relocation bonus, independent of income and assets, for moves from under-occupied to smaller apartments, which would also cover renovation and moving costs. We also want to make housing affordable for trainees. In addition to establishing a trainee support organisation, we want to examine the possibility of a rent subsidy for trainees and students as immediate emergency aid.

Vienna Housing Fund

Best Practice

The “*wohnfonds_wien*” (Vienna Housing Fund) is a municipal housing fund that, as a fund for housing construction and urban renewal, undertakes key tasks in the area of social and subsidized housing. The purpose of this fund includes, in particular, the acquisition, development, and provision of land for social housing, as well as the support of urban renewal and redevelopment. The City of Vienna invests hundreds of millions of euros annually in housing subsidies, which encompass new construction, renovation, and tenant support.

Around 60% of Vienna’s population currently lives in subsidized or municipal housing. The combination of municipal land policy, rigorous quality control for subsidies, and forward-looking urban planning ensures a consistently high supply of affordable, high-quality rental apartments with social diversity. The Viennese model is often seen as a blueprint for social housing policy. Experts point to the high quality of housing, moderate rents, and effective social management of housing.

A vibrant city center

We want to redesign the city center according to the needs of its residents. Inviting, consumption-free spaces, attractively designed green areas, seating, and diverse restaurants and shops will make the city more livable. Architectural diversity and boldness in the design, de-sealing, and maintenance of public spaces will create an image that encourages exploration of the many streets and avenues of the oldest part of the city. The economic interests of investors must be aligned with the urban development

strategy. The ground floors of the many streets should feature open and transparent spaces, providing numerous storefronts for small to medium-sized retail and restaurant businesses and inviting people to linger. Above these, apartments will be built, creating living spaces in the heart of Frankfurt and a balance between commerce and residential space is being created. By converting vast retail spaces into numerous smaller ones, we offer smaller, unique businesses the opportunity to establish themselves in the heart

of Frankfurt. This transforms a stroll through the inviting city center into a journey of discovery that cannot be replaced by online shopping.

The „Bahnhofsviertel“ (central station district)

The unique character of Frankfurt's Bahnhofsviertel (station district) must be preserved. Culture, gastronomy, and an attractive night-life should and may continue to develop without drug use being displaced by repressive measures. We remain committed to Frankfurt's approach to drug policy and intend to further develop it.

see „The Frankfurt Approach“

Volt supports the establishment of an addiction support center specifically for crack cocaine users. While we welcome the financial support for the Bahnhofsviertel by the Hessian state government, we reject the displacement measures in their 7-point plan. We see that the situation in the Bahnhofsviertel has improved significantly recently, and the measures already implemented, developed primarily by local stakeholders, are proving effective.

We are committed to ensuring that drug support services and safe consumption rooms remain available to drug users outside of Frankfurt. We want Frankfurt to continue negotiating with neighboring municipalities, as well as with the Hessian state government, so that the respective local communities can also do more for drug addicts.

Volt supports the weapons-free zone in the station district. However, when it comes to video surveillance, it must be ensured that data protection requirements are met. This applies particularly to the use of artificial intelligence. We strongly advocate for regular evaluation and proportionality reviews. Its use should be limited to specific investigations, and data should only be stored when absolutely necessary.

Volt promotes and sustains local participatory formats to improve the Bahnhofsviertel. The stakeholders themselves know best what measures are needed. The city supports this through the involvement of the relevant departments, the long-term maintenance of the coordination office, and the continuation of the discretionary fund. We would like the city to coordinate further participatory formats to bring all stakeholders together and commit ourselves to proactive and early information and transparency regarding relevant projects, such as new addiction support services. We want to develop a neighborhood-based transportation concept. Three main axes with clearly defined functions will be created. Münchner Straße will be dedicated to public transportation,

and Taunusstraße to cycling. Kaiserstraße will focus on pedestrian traffic and will be further developed into a completely car-free boulevard extending to the Hauptwache.

Volt is committed to creating a cultural link between the Bahnhofsviertel and the future cultural mile (Kulturmeile).

While the cultural mile with its municipal stages caters primarily to high culture, Kaiserstraße, for example, could be developed into a center for cabaret, club culture, gastronomy, and entrepreneurship. Corresponding measures such as spatial redesigns, the promotion of temporary uses, and support for cultural events are to be implemented. **see Promotion of culture**

Homelessness and Housing First

Homelessness is one of the most visible forms of social inequality in our society. Volt is committed to sustainably improving the situation of homeless people and making Frankfurt a truly livable city for everyone.

According to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to housing. This implies an obligation for the state – at the federal, state, and local levels – to ensure sufficient housing for all citizens. Homelessness also incurs societal costs. Those affected require emergency shelters, are more frequently hospitalized, and trigger emergency medical and police responses. In the long term, this results in high healthcare and social costs, for example, due to untreated illnesses or social problems. One way to effectively combat homelessness is the **„Housing First“** concept. Volt played a key role in shaping this concept during the last legislative period, and it now enjoys cross-party support in Frankfurt.

The **„Housing First“** concept provides homeless people with their own apartment – without any prior conditions. Supplementary support services such as counseling or therapy are also offered. With security and stability, they can better focus on their health and work. The program is more successful and cost-effective in the long run than traditional approaches. This is because the costs for housing are significantly lower than, for example, the costs of emergency shelters and regular emergency medical and police interventions.

The concept is already being successfully implemented in Finland. We want to expand it further in Frankfurt so that homelessness in a livable Frankfurt will soon be a thing of the past. To this end, we will solidify **„Housing First“** as a central element, provide sufficient staff, and anchor it in a city-wide strategy. We aim to achieve

an adequate number of apartments as quickly as possible through the city's own housing companies, as well as incentivizing private housing companies through quotas and subsidies. Furthermore, we want to inform private landlords about **„Housing First“** through awareness campaigns so that they make vacant apartments available. To reduce the risk for landlords, we want to introduce city-provided rent guarantees. The Karlsruhe program **„Housing Acquisition through Cooperation“** has been practicing this for years.

We are committed to expanding existing emergency shelter services, the cold and heat bus, and providing free lockers for storing personal belongings as a practical aid for the homeless and those without housing.

Foto by Viktor Talashuk on Unsplash



Since a large proportion of homeless people in Frankfurt are immigrants from the EU who are not always entitled to social assistance or long-term accommodation, we want to see municipal shelters established, similar to those in Cologne, Munich, and other cities. Following the model of **„Bureaux du Cœur“** („Offices with Heart“) in France, we also want to create overnight accommodations for homeless people in offices. We want to prevent evictions and forced terminations from leading to homelessness. Therefore, landlords should be required to report rent defaults to the city as soon as possible, so that good solutions can be sought promptly and in a socially responsible manner through dialogue.

Asunnottomuutta

Best Practice

Across Europe, the number of homeless people is rising – only in Finland are fewer and fewer people living on the streets. This is due to the **consistent fight against homelessness using the Housing First principle**. People are given an apartment first, and then everything else follows. In large parts of Germany, the situation is still different. Before homeless people receive housing through assistance programs, they must first prove their ability to live independently. Unfortunately, the risk of falling further down this ladder and ending up back at rock bottom is very high. Housing First projects are generally successful. Depending on the project, 78 to 90% of formerly homeless people are still living in the apartments after two years and have become more psychologically stable.

Inclusion

People of advanced age

Frankfurt is also undergoing demographic change – almost 10% of Frankfurt's residents are over 70 years old. Many live alone, in inaccessible apartments, or without close family and friends. Loneliness, isolation, and inadequate care are the result. Volt is committed to a livable city where older people are visible, integrated, and well cared for.

We are therefore committed to ensuring that the „Dignity in Old Age“ (“*Würde im Alter*”) program is continued and that intergenerational mentoring programs are promoted. This fosters social connection and cohesion. We aim to contribute to promoting independent living by expanding service and delivery options in the neighborhoods and by regularly updating neighborhood service

brochures to ensure that residents are always informed. Through targeted support for accessible and age-appropriate housing, and the creation of meeting places such as intergenerational cafés and neighborhood gatherings, we want to specifically facilitate older people's access to society.

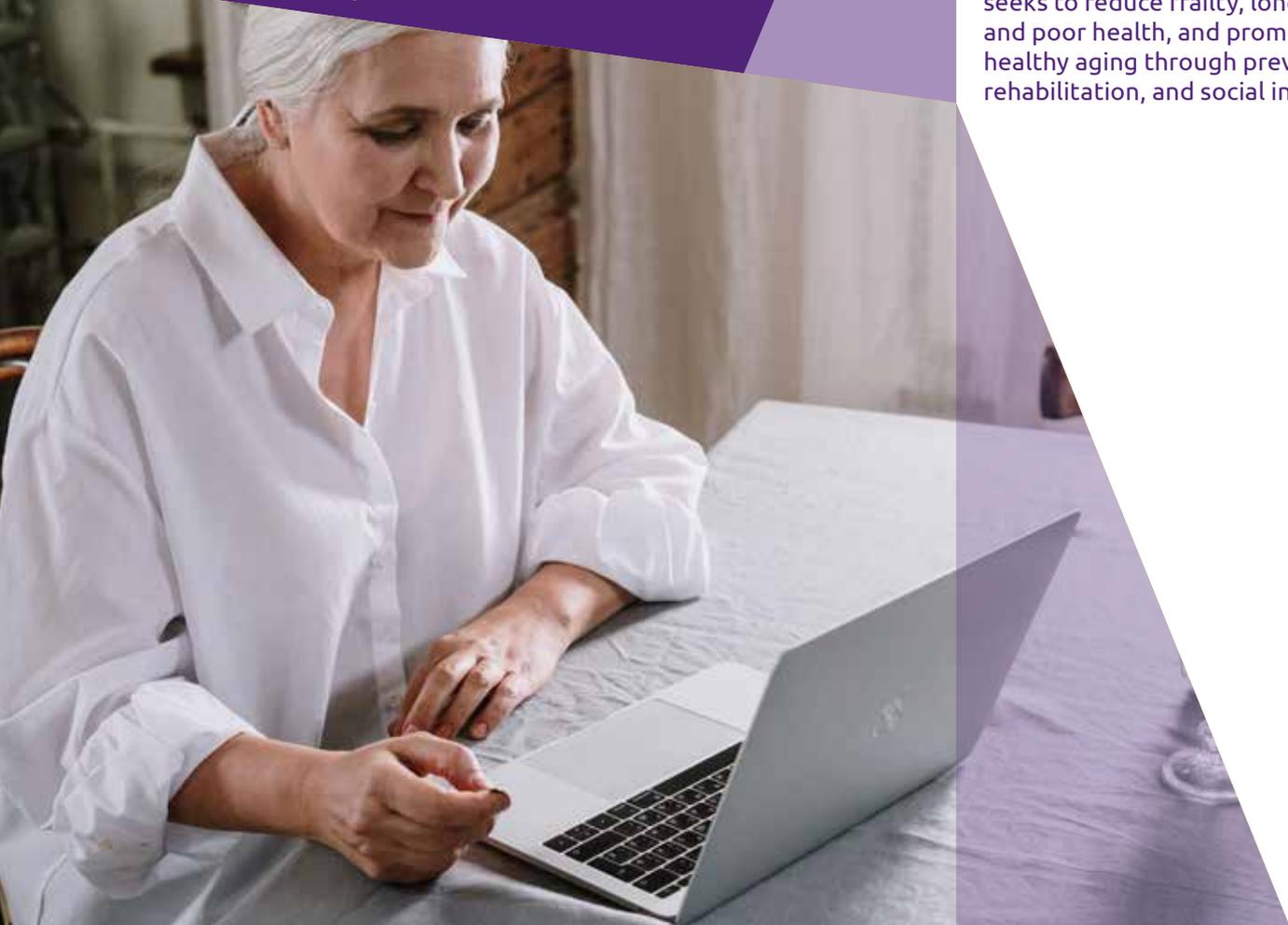
Furthermore, we want to ensure the fight against age discrimination in all areas of life and the promotion of lifelong learning through continuing education opportunities for older people. This also includes ensuring that personal and uncomplicated local government services remain possible despite digitalisation.

Det Gode Ældreliv

🇩🇰 Best Practice

The Danish „*A Good Life in Old Age*“ aims to improve the well-being, health, and dignity of older citizens. It addresses issues such as increasing life expectancy, social isolation, physical frailty, and general health problems among seniors. The plan seeks to reduce frailty, loneliness, and poor health, and promotes healthy aging through prevention, rehabilitation, and social inclusion.

Foto by cottonbro studio on Pexels



Inclusion

Accessibility

Accessibility is more than just a nice-to-have or a moral obligation. Currently, 7.9 million people with severe disabilities are registered nationwide. This corresponds to 9.3% of the total population. The number of people with mild disabilities is much higher.

Most disabilities are acquired during a person's lifetime through accidents or illnesses. Therefore, the proportion of people with disabilities increases in an aging society. Everyone has a right to participate in social life. Even 17 years after the ratification of the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), people with disabilities still face discrimination on many levels and are often excluded from genuine participation.

Volt aims to change this and make inclusion a cross-cutting issue for a livable Frankfurt. Inclusion must begin in daycare and continue in schools and further education institutions so that all population groups have the opportunity to fully and as freely as possible develop their talents and abilities.

Schools and daycare centers must be equipped to enable inclusive care. We therefore want to ensure that the City of Frankfurt's school construction initiative takes the necessary structural measures into account and that qualified staff are available.

Public spaces must be accessible to everyone – regardless of gender, age, income, or disability. An accessible city is a city of short distances, especially for people with mobility and visual impairments. Their needs must take precedence over those of moving or parked traffic. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that the needs of people with disabilities are consistently considered in urban planning. What is essential for people with disabilities also benefits those without disabilities. We want to enable people with disabilities, regardless of the type

of disability, to fully utilize public transportation. This includes equipping all Frankfurt subway lines with sufficient parking spaces for electric wheelchairs, to make all train stations barrier-free, to create guidance systems for the visually impaired and to generally expand orientation options.

see [Mobility](#)

Everyone should be able to use public spaces safely – regardless of age, disability, or mode of transportation. In traffic planning, the needs of the most vulnerable must be consistently prioritized. This means, among other things, keeping sidewalks clear of obstacles, creating more disabled parking spaces, consistently penalizing parking violations, and planning construction sites so that they can be recognized in time and bypassed barrier-free by visually impaired people. We intend to review and expand relevant guidelines to achieve this.

People with disabilities should have access to a wide range of housing options. The minimum requirements for accessible buildings include that all floors, including basements and attics, are accessible by elevator, doorways are wide enough for electric wheelchairs, bathrooms and toilets are barrier-free, and balconies are usable with electric wheelchairs.

Furthermore, all barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in social life, visiting non-disabled people, and pursuing their employment must be removed. Medical care should not be hindered by physical barriers, nor should attending concerts, exhibitions, or visiting monuments. We want to ensure that public buildings are equipped with appropriate guidance systems during new construction and renovations. We want a city that enables people with disabilities to participate fully in public life. This includes ensuring that everyone, regardless of disability, has quick and barrier-free

access to accurate information regarding the accessibility of places. Therefore, we want all of the City of Frankfurt's online services to be reviewed for accessibility and revised where necessary to make their information accessible.

People with disabilities must have the same chances of survival as people without disabilities in emergencies. To achieve this, it is essential to ensure that people with disabilities are warned in a timely manner and that safe escape routes are provided. Public buildings must be equipped with appropriate devices and aids. Rescue strategies must be clearly communicated and rescue personnel must be trained accordingly.

The new heat protection facilities must be consistently barrier-free and designed to meet the needs of disabled people.

Foto by [Raj Tuladhar](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Inclusion

Integration of refugees

Volt is committed to a humane, pragmatic, and proactive integration policy. We want everyone who arrives in our city to have a fair chance to feel safe and build their own lives. This applies especially to young people and families. People with a migration background have played a crucial role in shaping Frankfurt's cultural, economic, and social life for decades. However, successful integration requires, above all, favorable conditions, particularly for overcoming language barriers, to foster dialogue, interaction, and social and political participation. Volt understands integration not as a one-way street, but as an opportunity for exchange and a lived experience of diversity.

We are committed to ending the deportations of children, young people, and their families. While Frankfurt is not directly responsible for deportations when children attend social services or school here, we nevertheless see it as the city's responsibility to use all available means to prevent them from being uprooted from their social environment through deportation. We also want to support children and young people through targeted measures. This includes expanding services in initial reception centers for young refugees, including counseling and protection, expanding youth-oriented language courses, and ensuring child protection and children's rights are upheld in refugee accommodations. To ensure that the requirements for schools and apprenticeships are met, we

advocate for the provision of youth spaces in these accommodations. We want to facilitate the provision of devices and promote digital learning for young refugees. We are committed to ensuring that the City of Frankfurt lives up to its responsibility as a safe haven and continues to accept more refugees than its quota under the Königstein Key (a German system for distributing refugees among German states).

With the introduction of the payment card in Hesse, Frankfurt is also obligated to implement it. Volt views the payment card as symbolic politics without demonstrable benefit. To enable people in Frankfurt to live with dignity using the payment card, it is necessary to grant them as much self-determination as possible in their daily lives. We question whether the use of the payment card demonstrably reduces administrative costs. For these reasons, we intend to utilize all available options at the municipal level to shape the use of the payment card in a way that benefits both refugees and the administration.

Volt aims to specifically promote vocational training and further education. Particularly in sectors with a shortage of skilled workers, such as nursing, education, and construction, there is a need for vocational training and continuing education programs with language-adapted teaching and learning materials.

We want to launch the „Access to the Labor Market for Tolerated and Permitted Persons“ project, modeled on the one in Wiesbaden.

Furthermore, Volt is committed to ensuring that the „Immigration Office“ (ehemals Ausländerbehörde), and in the long term all municipal offices, offer English in addition to German for personal and written communication. We are committed to ensuring that everyone can quickly participate in individualized German language courses. In doing so, we are taking into account childcare arrangements, part-time jobs, professional backgrounds, and learning pace. Sufficient course places with childcare should be available for mothers and caregivers. To better coordinate the engagement of civil society and relieve volunteers of organisational tasks, we propose the establishment of a municipal integration committee. Similar to the youth welfare committee, this committee should bring together representatives from civil society organisations, migrant self-help groups, and the city administration.

Foto by Daniel on Unsplash

Kontakten

🇸🇪 Best Practice

„Kontakten“ in Uppsala is an open meeting center that promotes integration and social participation. It offers refugees and asylum seekers support through language

cafés, psychosocial services, health promotion, and orientation in everyday Swedish life. The center is supported by the city of Uppsala and collaborates with numerous associations. Its aim is to strengthen social networks, promote self-initiative, and break down barriers. „Kontakten“ creates a safe meeting place.



Inclusion

Newcomer and Expats

Frankfurt is home to people from over 175 countries, underscoring the city's international character. They represent a significant portion of the city's economic strength. Many people come to Frankfurt, either long-term or temporarily for their employers. These newcomers and expats eventually face the question of whether to stay or not. To counteract demographic change and the shortage of skilled workers, Frankfurt must present itself as a long-term home. In addition to factors such as housing, infrastructure, and economic strength, other aspects are important for this group to feel comfortable and want to remain.

Volt is committed to strengthening exchange among immigrants. To this end, we propose introducing a buddy system, coordinated by the Frankfurt Welcome and Information Center. This system would connect a long-term resident with a newcomer to the city, providing support on topics such as leisure, culture, and sports. Furthermore, we propose organized meetups, newsletters with important information, and adult education courses specifically for immigrants and newcomers to

promote social interaction and build networks outside the workplace. Existing initiatives like the Newcomers Network should be supported and promoted.

We want to improve the staffing and technical resources of the "Frankfurt Immigration Office" (FIO). The agency's constant workload is an obstacle to the integration of migrant workers and a risk to the individuals and businesses affected. The improved resources should also enable the agency to implement the additional tasks of the new Skilled Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz). Additional staff is essential to prevent staff overload and to process applications reliably and on time. While Frankfurt cannot directly change the legal requirements, the agency's employees can be trained to better utilize discretionary powers in their decision-making.

The FIO should also promote the integration of long-term tolerated residents into the labor market. This is the only way to ensure long-term prospects for remaining in Germany. Volt is therefore committed to expanding the Frankfurt Welcome and Information Center so that Frankfurt can independently search for and recruit skilled workers from abroad.

Foto by Yan Krukau on Pexels



Community Connectors

 Best Practice

The City of Düsseldorf is implementing the „Community Connectors“ project, in which volunteers with a migration or refugee background act as a bridge between the municipality and newcomers. These connectors receive training and actively support newcomers, for example, by assisting them with official procedures and leisure activities. The goal is to make integration more personal and social, rather than solely administrative. The project strengthens the exchange between long-time residents and newcomers and promotes participation in the city's community.

Exclusion

Racism

Racism is a multifaceted societal problem that manifests itself daily in various forms and has very specific effects on individuals and groups. From subtle microaggressions to structural inequalities in education, the labor market, or housing, racism shapes institutions, discourses, and social relationships, often invisibly, but with lasting consequences for all those affected and for social cohesion as a whole. In Frankfurt, a diverse and international city, confronting racism also means taking on the responsibility of clearly naming it and making it visible in all its facets. Therefore, we stand resolutely against anti-Black, anti-Kurdish, anti-Muslim, anti-Slavic, anti-Asian, and anti-Roma racism. Because racism is not abstract, but rather targets specific indi-

viduals and groups, all of whom are affected by prejudice, discrimination, and violence in different ways.

The fight against racism requires a comprehensive approach. This includes structural reforms, institutional self-reflection and change, cultural awareness and education, a clear demarcation from extremist ideologies, and the promotion of an inclusive everyday culture that embraces diversity as a strength. We want Frankfurt to become a livable, inclusive city where all people can live freely, safely, and autonomously. We are committed to the full implementation of the 10-point action plan of the “[European Coalition of Cities against Racism \(ECCAR\)](#)” Frankfurt has been part of the network since 2007, and we want to increase our participation.

To counteract institutional racism, we want to combat racial profiling in municipal practice and establish independent complaint bodies for victims. We advocate for the introduction of mandatory awareness training for police, security services, and administrative staff, and aim to ensure a comprehensive overview of the situation through transparent data collection on racist incidents in municipal authorities.

LGBTQIA+

Equal rights for queer people are still not a given. In particular, developments in recent months and years show that the threat to queer lives from individual perpetrators of violence, as well as from state institutions worldwide, is increasing. Events as part of Christopher Street Day (CSD) are therefore still essential to raise awareness of the lack of equality and the threats faced by queer people, and to celebrate queer life. The City of Frankfurt must ensure the safe continuation of CSD in the future and provide financial support if necessary. To promote equality in the workplace, we are strengthening collaborations with local companies that are resisting the global trend of reducing gender and diversity campaigns and related funding in business and public administration.

We promote political education to raise awareness of issues such as discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people and people with disabilities. To this end, we want administrative staff to receive training in anti-discrimination and inclusion, and

for educational programs in schools to be expanded. Volt supports the work of the City of Frankfurt’s “[LGBTQIA+ Coordination Circle](#)”

This work is to be consolidated and intensified. Furthermore, we would like to support the establishment of a queer youth organisation within the [Frankfurt Youth Council](#). The “[LGBTQIA+ Coordination Circle](#)” has become one of the most important municipal model projects. Here, representatives from politics, the police, administration, civil society organisations, and those affected by queerphobic discrimination and violence work together on three overarching goals:

- › Protection from violence and discrimination
- › Visibility of queer communities and empowerment
- › Strengthening social cohesion

Foto by [Karine Zenda](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Exclusion

Antisemitism

We want to make Jewish life and culture in Frankfurt am Main safe and visible. Volt opposes all forms of antisemitism. This includes, among others, religious, cultural, racist, economic, Israel-related, left-wing, secondary, and philo-semitic antisemitism. We use the working definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to identify antisemitism. We want Jewish institutions to be comprehensively protected, which means not only providing finan-

cial support but also improving cooperation between authorities. We promote exchange with the Jewish community, for example, through interfaith dialogue in daycare centers and schools and by integrating the Jewish perspective into city museums, guided tours, and school curricula.



Foto by [David Holifield](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Intersectional discrimination

Volt recognizes that various forms of discrimination can exist simultaneously, interact, and overlap. We want to ensure that intersectionality is considered everywhere and that no form of discrimination occurs. We want mandatory anti-discrimination training for teachers, students, and city employees, as well as the revision of teaching materials in schools. For example, colonial and racist stereotypes should be removed, and diverse perspectives should be embraced and valued. Furthermore, we want to strengthen collaborations with associations, universities, and initiatives to strengthen our democracy at its core.

We consider comprehensive advice and support for victims of discrimination essential. Therefore, we want to expand counseling centers where victims of racism, antisemitism, queerphobia, sexism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination can turn for help (similar to the "[Democracy Center Hesse](#)"). We want to ensure financial support for initiatives and associations that do work critical of discrimination, such as citizens' alliances or migrant self-organisations. We want to support local communities in their work to promote their participation and visibility in our city.

To counteract discrimination in the housing market, we advocate for monitoring against discriminatory rental practices, such as covert rejections of queer couples or those with „foreign“ names. In the labor market, we aim to guarantee equal opportunities in municipal institutions through anonymous application processes and to establish control mechanisms against workplace discrimination.

The public and cultural sector must be designed to be inclusive; therefore, we will not support associations, clubs, restaurants, and organisations that discriminate with municipal funding. Furthermore, we want to promote cultural projects such as exhibitions, commemorative events, Christopher Street Day (CSD), and other festivals that make Frankfurt's diversity visible and tangible. Volt also wants to critically review street names and monuments in Frankfurt and, if necessary, rename or contextualize them. We are committed to a clear stance by the City of Frankfurt against all forms of discrimination in politics and administration, and we intend to achieve this through public declarations and targeted campaigns.

We are committed to ensuring that right-wing parties and hate speech have no platform in city councils. We want to increase diversity in municipal institutions through quotas, mentoring programs, and targeted support for applications from marginalized people, so that the diversity and richness of Frankfurt are reflected in the city administration as well. Including all perspectives improves the work of the administration and municipal enterprises.

We aim to achieve gender equality in public administration and promote networks that specifically target women*. Through appropriate measures such as gender-sensitive evaluations, targeted recruitment, and more flexible career paths, we want to increase the proportion of women* in management positions.

Internal and external responsibility

Chapter 4: Global Balance

Europe, and therefore Frankfurt am Main as well, must live up to its global responsibility to secure our shared future. Among the most important issues of our time are climate change, international trade relations, sustainable agriculture, food security, biodiversity, displacement, and migration.

Climate protection has always been one of Volt's central political concerns in Frankfurt. With the goal of climate neutrality by 2035, an ambitious but necessary path has been embarked upon for a livable and functioning Frankfurt.

A milestone was the implementation of Frankfurt's climate resolution, which defined clear action goals and priorities for the city. To promote the expansion of renewable energies, a solar initiative was launched, which

includes, among other things, a new and highly sought-after funding program for solar installations on private and commercial roofs, as well as improved advisory services for homeowners.

An important partner in this is the newly founded "Frankfurt Citizens' Energy Cooperative" ("Frankfurter Bürgerenergiegenossenschaft", FraBeG), which enables citizens to participate directly in the energy transition in the form of jointly financed and operated solar projects.

Environmentalism that **works**.



Climate change

Climate change is hitting our major city particularly hard, as longer, more intense heat waves, periods of drought, and extreme weather pose enormous challenges for Frankfurt. Volt is committed to making Frankfurt climate-resilient and ensuring it remains a livable city in the future. To achieve this, we rely on innovative ideas, decisive action, and genuine citizen participation. At the same time, we are also looking to international role models and the experiences of our European „climate twins“ to make our city fit for the future.

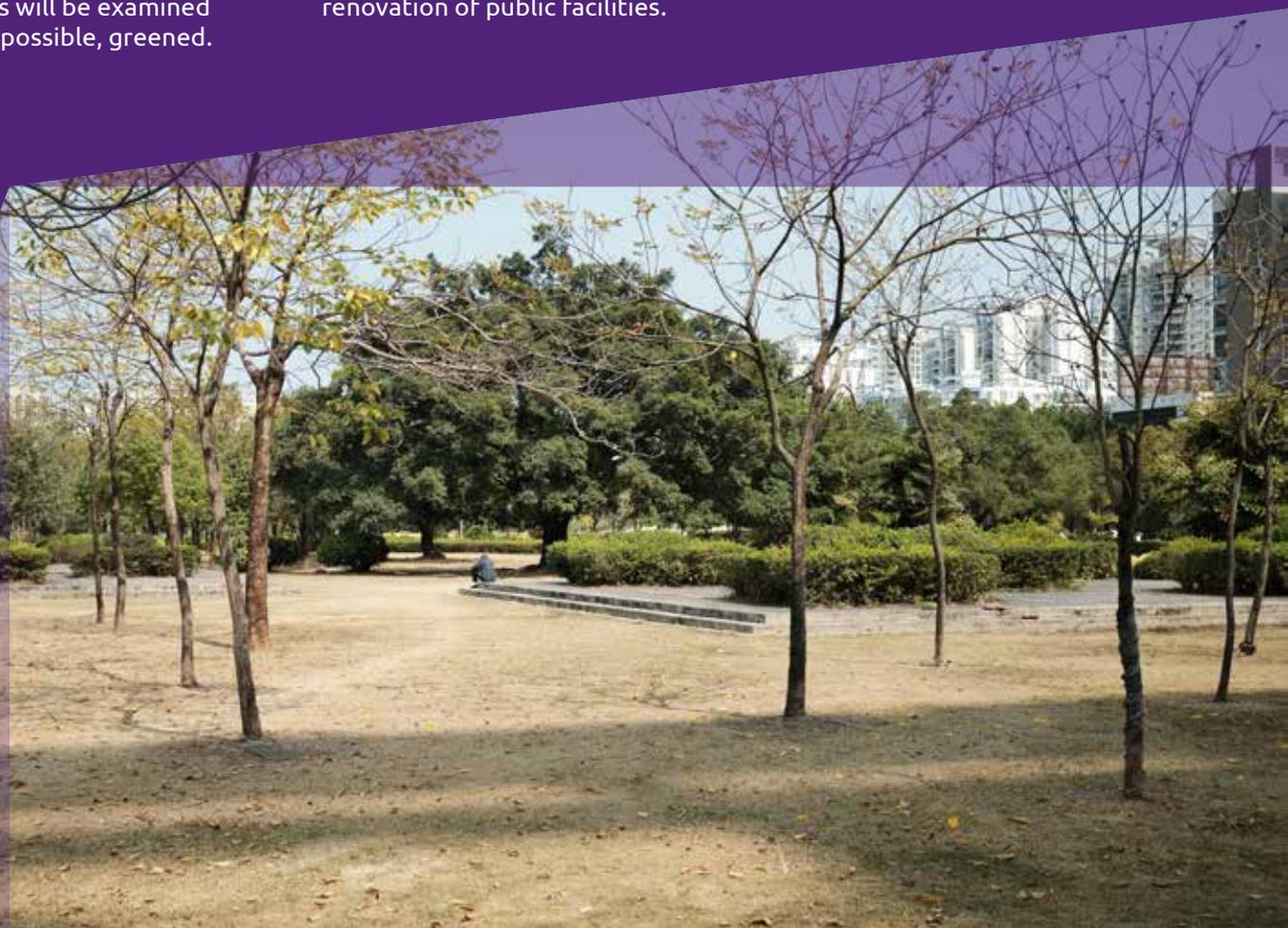
Our vision for de-sealing and greening is the implementation of the so-called „3-30-300 rule.“ This means that at least three trees should be visible from every point, there should be at least 30% tree canopy cover in the neighborhood, and the nearest green space should be no more than 300 meters away. To achieve this, we want to make green spaces more natural and de-seal surfaces. Supermarket parking lots and remaining sealed areas will be examined and, where possible, greened.

Innovative solutions such as greened networks or „Miyawaki forests“ should be used more frequently. These are small mixed forests whose particular advantage is that they can be established on very small areas. These forests also develop within just three years, after which they are completely self-sufficient. Furthermore, there are opportunities for students and volunteers to participate in their establishment, allowing them to experience nature in the city in a new way. We are advocating for Frankfurt to establish several Miyawaki forests within the city, ensuring a balanced mix of species.

Particularly sensitive locations such as schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and shelters for the homeless and refugees must be prioritized for climate change adaptation. We are focusing on green roofs, shading, light-colored surfaces, improved insulation, and modern, energy-efficient cooling using renewable energy sources for the climate-friendly renovation of public facilities.

We want new buildings to be planned and constructed with climate adaptation in mind from the outset. Volt intends to implement pragmatic measures such as „flying gardens,“ green shade providers, misting showers, and discounted hotel rooms for citizens affected by heat during heat waves. Frankfurt itself must lead by example in further greening initiatives. We are committed to ensuring that city-owned buildings and offices become green and that green roofs are accessible to citizens wherever possible. Similarly, hundreds of bus stop roofs offer opportunities for new green spaces in the city. Even a few square meters of greenery can act as stepping stone habitats, benefiting biodiversity in the city. For the benefit of all departments and the public, we will create a position for an „Urban Gardening“ officer within the Parks and Green Spaces Department. In the long term, this will result in a walkable green urban landscape.

Foto by Aaron Boucault on Unsplash



Environment

Climate change

We are committed to social climate justice. People with low incomes and in particularly heat-stressed neighborhoods suffer the most. Therefore, we are implementing targeted heat protection measures there and creating funding programs that benefit everyone. We will continue the successful „Climate Bonus“ funding program and explore expanding it to include further ecological components, such as free or low-cost tree plantings for private individuals. In addition, we are supporting mini-gardens created by residents in all districts, environmental education projects in schools, and the active participation of young people.

We want to involve citizens early on and give them genuine opportunities to participate. We plan to regularly update, expand, and promote the existing „Cool Map“ (a city map showing cool spots on the „Urban Data Platform“). We want to create a digital participation platform where heat hotspots or heavy rainfall problems can be reported, suggestions submitted, and projects voted on.

We are strengthening disaster preparedness with modern equipment, improved warning systems, and digital emergency coordination. Drinking fountains are being expanded in all city districts. Innovative rainwater harvesting methods – such as raised beds, tree trenches, and multifunctional retention areas – will better capture heavy rainfall and protect groundwater. The city forest is of great importance to Frankfurt. It contributes to achieving the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**. However, it is in very poor condition. Volt is therefore committed to implementing the „Forest Strategy“ presented in 2024. This means, among other things, that the city forest will be given greater weight in urban and transport planning and that reforestation will be carried out using climate-resilient tree species. In this way, the city forest should adapt to the projected climate conditions of the future and remain Frankfurt's most important green lung.

Not only humans, but also animals such as birds, insects, and squirrels suffer from prolonged heat and drought. We are ensuring an increased supply of shallow water bowls and drinking troughs, for example, at dovecotes or in parks. We are committed to an accompanying awareness campaign and effective public information campaign, thereby promoting awareness of animal welfare.

Paris devient plus vert

Best Practice

Paris is successfully implementing greening measures to reduce the impact of heat waves, for example. With approximately 170,000 newly planted trees and the conversion of over 200 streets into „garden streets,“ temperatures in greened neighborhoods are estimated to be lowered by 1 to 4 °C. Green roofs and facades ensure that the historic zinc roofs, which can withstand temperatures of 40 °C without insulation, are no longer affected.

Greenery can quickly reach temperatures of up to 85 °C, then cool down to around 35 °C. This significantly reduces the heat load in buildings.

Consistently converting parking spaces into green spaces reduces sealed surfaces and also contributes to cooling the city. Examples implemented on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis show that even individual projects can lower the perceived temperature by up to 2.5 °C. Greening should therefore be considered an integral part of urban development, linking traffic, infrastructure, and climate aspects.

Temperature in Frankfurt

The **Urban data platform of the City of Frankfurt am Main** provides numerous environmental data in a visually processed format.



Environment

Climate-friendly electricity

We support the City of Frankfurt's policy decision to achieve **climate neutrality by 2035** at the latest. At the same time, energy demand is rising sharply due to digitalisation, data centers, and new technologies – such as artificial intelligence. Therefore, the rapid expansion of renewable energies and an efficient transformation of the energy infrastructure are essential for a functioning Frankfurt.

Currently, only about 30% of newly constructed roof surfaces are equipped with photovoltaics. The installation of photovoltaic systems has been mandatory for new buildings in Frankfurt since 2024. However, there is still considerable potential for the use of solar energy, especially on existing buildings.

We therefore want the Frankfurt „**Climate Bonus**“ funding program for private, cooperative, and commercial projects to be further strengthened, and for procedures for feed-in, grid connection, and permits to be simplified. Tenants should benefit directly from balcony power plants, energy sharing, or tenant electricity models.

Furthermore, we want all city-owned roofs to finally be fully equipped with photovoltaic systems and support Frankfurt's citizen energy cooperatives in the establishment and implementation of their projects. We want to promote the acceptance of green energy; to this end, citizens or the city should receive a binding share of the profits from the construction of solar parks or wind power projects.

We advocate for surplus energy from photovoltaic and wind power plants to be stored in battery storage systems. Furthermore, green concepts for long-term storage, such as hydrogen-based power-to-gas, should be examined to bridge peak loads or seasonal bottlenecks and ensure grid stability. Frankfurt is a key location for data centers in Europe. These contribute significantly to local electricity demand, which continues to rise steadily due to AI applications. Against this backdrop, Volt is committed to ensuring that data center operators pledge to source electricity exclusively from renewable sources and actively participate in the expansion of renewable generation capacities – for example, through power purchase agreements (PPAs) or investments in regional wind and solar power plants.

The phase-out of coal-fired power plants in Frankfurt is still planned for 2026. However, almost all power plants will continue to operate on natural gas. Volt is therefore committed to ensuring that the expansion of solar and wind energy is consistently promoted and that the newly built gas-fired power plant is converted to green hydrogen as quickly as possible. We also want Mainova AG to drive forward the decarbonisation of its generation capacities with a clear focus on renewable energies, and for the city's power plants to achieve climate neutrality by 2035, so that energy remains affordable for Frankfurt's citizens in the long term.

The transformation of the energy infrastructure requires a high degree of inter-agency coordination. Volt is committed to establishing a central contact person for energy projects within the city administration's climate department to expedite approval processes for power lines, civil engineering projects, traffic regulations, and grid connections. This energy transition coordination will also be responsible for improving communication between city departments, energy suppliers, and project developers, as well as efficiently managing the prioritisation process in line with the **100% Climate Protection Master Plan**.

CRotian One-Stop-Shop (CROSS)

Best Practice

In 2023, with support from the European Union, the city of Zagreb launched the ambitious **CRotian One-Stop-Shop (CROSS)** program for the energy-efficient renovation of public buildings and the installation of photovoltaics, aiming to renovate over 100 buildings and install more than 20 MW of PV capacity by 2026. Funded projects will implement comprehensive surveys, feasibility studies, and innovative financing mechanisms.



Photo by Lukas von Urnsfeldt

Sustainable heat sources

Volt is committed to ensuring that Frankfurt's energy transition is implemented with strong citizen participation, high efficiency, and in accordance with legal requirements for municipal heat planning. Municipal heat planning should consider all possible sustainable heat sources for a functioning Frankfurt. These include geothermal energy, the use of waste heat (district heating), and decentralized heat pumps. This requires close cooperation with energy suppliers and network operators.

To implement the energy transition quickly, a new planning and participation culture is needed. Volt advocates for the awarding of permits for district heating networks in bundles, as well as the standardisation and acceleration of connection procedures. Construction work on each street should be combined with other projects so that the streets only need to be dug up once. We want citizens, homeowners, and businesses to be actively involved in the planning process from the outset, and for public properties in the city to be connected to the district heating network early on to secure investments and connect additional users.

Frankfurt's data centers offer enormous potential for local heat planning. We are committed to ensuring that waste heat from data centers is systematically integrated into municipal heat planning and that surrounding neighborhoods, businesses, and public buildings are supplied with district heating. We want planning preparations to be carried out jointly with data center operators. This includes considering the space requirements for large heat pumps at an early stage, ensuring sufficient green electricity grid capacity, and close coordination between the city, energy suppliers, and data center operators. High connection rates are a prerequisite for sustainable heat networks. These depend significantly on trust and fairness. Volt is committed to

creating greater transparency in district heating prices, their composition, and socially responsible pricing. Furthermore, we want to bring about the early conversion of municipal properties to climate-neutral heating solutions in order to set an example and strengthen trust. We also want to systematically expand energy consulting services, as municipal heat planning and the alternatives must be transparent. We will protect low-income households from rising housing costs through social support programs for energy-efficient renovations. The long-term preservation of the gas network is a critical issue, also to provide planning security for the installation of renewable heating systems.

Innovative neighborhood solutions form the basis for a socially just energy transition in the heating sector. Volt is committed to creating energy transition districts with decentralized and combinable technologies such as solar thermal energy, large-scale heat pumps, seasonal storage, and district heating. We want to examine the targeted promotion of „power-to-heat“ concepts such as sand batteries, which convert renewable electricity into storable heat. We advocate for forward-looking spatial and grid planning in collaboration with industrial and IT infrastructure operators to effectively integrate large-scale systems.

Heat pumps are a key element for climate-neutral heating of individual buildings, both in existing buildings requiring renovation and in energy-efficient new construction. They enable the switch from fossil fuel heating systems to emission-free heat for buildings that cannot be connected to the district heating network. We want to ensure that private and commercial building owners receive targeted support for switching to heat pumps through an expansion

of the Frankfurt Climate Bonus. The network infrastructure and permitting processes should be adapted quickly, for example, for air-source or ground-source heat pumps. Neighborhood-level solutions should be supplemented by the use of decentralized individual systems where these are more economically or technically feasible.

Volt is committed to consistently utilizing the local potential for geothermal energy. As a reliable and clean energy source, it can make a significant contribution to the energy transition and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We want to systematically investigate the geological possibilities. Innovative solutions must also be considered. For example, subway tunnels can also serve as a heat source.

Bunhill Heat and Power Network

 Best Practice

The [Bunhill Heat and Power Network](#) in London uses waste heat from subway tunnels to efficiently heat buildings. Since 2012, the system has supplied homes and facilities via an integrated heating network, and in 2016 an additional energy center with a heat pump was installed in a ventilation shaft of the Northern Line. This combines existing infrastructure and innovative technologies to increase energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions.

Cleanliness and waste

In recent years, Frankfurt has implemented numerous measures to improve urban cleanliness and developed many new ideas. Volt supports these measures and ideas and continues to advocate for their implementation and further development to create a clean and livable Frankfurt. The City of Frankfurt's „[Stabstelle Sauberes Frankfurt](#)“ remains a central coordination and contact point in this effort.

Existing measures include the planned certification as a “[Zero Waste City](#),” which is to be achieved, among other things, through the funding of waste reduction projects by the “[Zero Waste Lab](#).” Volt also supports the “One-Stop Cleaning” and “City Cleanliness Plus” concepts, which aim to ensure cleanliness, particularly in high-traffic areas. This is complemented by various projects of the “[#cleanffm](#)” campaign, as well as regularly held clean-up days in which all citizens can participate.

We want to introduce a municipal packaging tax and use the resulting revenue for waste and pollution control, as well as for promoting complementary environmental measures and food waste initiatives. We are committed to expan-

ding the number of waste containers at hotspots. In particular, more capacity should be provided during the summer months. We aim to combat improper waste disposal by increasing the number of dog waste bag dispensers and providing easily understandable digital information on cleanliness and waste management (e.g., via QR codes on waste bins).

We advocate for the consistent imposition of fines and the use of “waste watchers” or waste detectives to investigate and prosecute waste offenses and illegal waste disposal.

By using outdoor vacuums to remove small litter and cigarette butts in the city and green spaces, we aim to ensure efficient waste disposal. Furthermore, we plan to utilize AI-supported litter detection through smart fill-level sensors on waste bins and cameras mounted on street sweepers, enabling efficient, resource-conserving, and sustainable waste disposal. We will expand and further develop the “[#cleanffm](#)” projects. We also plan to make information and resources on cleanliness and waste disposal easily accessible to all citizens. Volt supports gamification formats like

the “[FES Litter Hunt](#)” and intends to further develop them. Citizen participation opportunities are the right approach for us, and we also want to promote cleanliness ambassadors in all parts of the city.

Frankfurt is vibrant and should remain so, which is why we want to expand the legal street art areas. Light pollution in the city should be reduced through intelligent and modern technology, such as automatically dimmable lighting.

Frankfurt am Main can only achieve its goal of becoming a “[zero-waste city](#)” if existing and new measures are consistently implemented and expanded. Active citizen participation is crucial for success in this endeavor.

Zero Waste Europe

Zero Waste Europe is a European network of communities, experts, and change agents. Together, they work towards better resource utilization and waste prevention. The Zero Waste Cities program, which originated within this network, aims to support communities in developing local projects that lead to waste prevention and a circular economy, which considers the entire life cycle of a product and avoids generating waste at every stage.

Swiss Cleanliness

+ Best Practice

The City of Zurich impresses with its stringent concept for cleanliness in public spaces: clear waste regulations, consistent enforcement of all violations, and the use of a dedicated reporting system improve the cityscape.

Mobility

On the move in Frankfurt

Hundreds of thousands of people travel in Frankfurt every day. The many commuters transform the city into a metropolis during the day. Given the growing population, increased noise, traffic congestion, and air pollution, as well as rising CO2 emissions, it's clear: a „business as usual“ approach to car-centric planning is no longer viable. Our goal is a successful mobility transition that leaves no one behind and enables free, safe,

and efficient mobility for everyone. To achieve this, public transport, cycling, and walking must become the most attractive modes of transportation for most journeys.

The limited public space in our city must be used more efficiently. We want to better connect our infrastructure, strive for equitable use of space among different modes of transport, and utilize urban data for the benefit of all road users. In

this regard, we would like to look to Paris, a pioneer in the rapid transformation of transportation while maintaining regional connectivity, as a model. In this way, we want to enable all Frankfurt residents to enjoy free, accessible, and efficient mobility. Ultimately, this will also benefit everyone who relies on their car in the long term.

Superblocks

More livable spaces in urban neighborhoods can also be created through redesign. Volt has been instrumental in advancing the „Superblocks“ concept in Frankfurt and continues to advocate for its rapid implementation. Superblocks aim to reduce car traffic within neighborhoods by restricting throughgoing traffic through structural measures and concentrating it on the main roads around the superblock. Pedestrians and cyclists are given priority. Designated access for cars and delivery vehicles within the superblocks is maintained, albeit at reduced speeds. This creates safe, traffic-calmed areas with more space for seating, social interaction, sports facilities, and greenery.

The **Mobility Master Plan** envisions car-free neighborhood design and prioritizes sustainable transportation options. The city council approved the introduction of three superblocks in early 2024. However, implementation is being delayed due to a perceived lack of resources for planning and citizen participation, even though funds were specifically allocated for this purpose in the 2023 budget. Planning meetings with local committees and initiatives in Bockenheim are scheduled for autumn 2025, and the traffic count analysis is also expected to be completed by then. We are committed to ensuring that the comparatively cost-effective yet

highly effective implementation of the planned superblocks is given high priority. The challenges lie in individualized planning, communication with residents and businesses, and addressing concerns. A one-size-fits-all approach is not feasible, as local needs vary.

Foto by Logan Armstrong on Unsplash

Superilles

Best Practice

In Barcelona, the **Superblocks** – or „Superilles“ in Catalan – have transformed public spaces in several neighborhoods since 2016 by significantly restricting through traffic and prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists, and recreational areas. This has led to a marked reduction in car traffic, noise, and air pollution. Within the Superilles, streets have been converted into green spaces, plazas,

play areas, and seating, noticeably improving the quality of life for residents and visitors. The reduced speed limit for remaining traffic has significantly increased safety in the neighborhoods. The redesigned areas have fostered encounters, community, and a stronger sense of belonging among residents. Environmental aspects such as the urban climate and biodiversity also benefit from the additional green spaces.



Mobility

Pedestrian traffic

Every journey in Frankfurt begins and ends on foot, and many journeys are even made entirely on foot. Therefore, the quality of pedestrian traffic is a crucial factor for the quality of life in our city. Nevertheless, the conditions are often inadequate.

The current “**SrV survey (System of Representative Transport Surveys)**” shows that walking accounts for the highest share of all forms of mobility among Frankfurt residents: 80% of all journeys in our city are made on foot. Accordingly, we will give significantly higher priority to the needs of pedestrians for a functioning Frankfurt.

We will finalize and implement the pedestrian traffic sub-strategy of the Mobility Master Plan and ensure the additional staffing of the pedestrian traffic officers so that the needs of pedestrians can be considered holistically and in an accessible manner.

We want to promote the development of a continuous and well-developed network of footpaths that ensures safe routes to school, attractive connections to the neighborhoods and barrier-free access throughout the entire city.

At intersections with high pedestrian traffic, we want to optimize the green phase for pedestrians so that crossing the street within one traffic light phase is possible even on wide streets.

We advocate for traffic lights to be retrofitted and for traffic lights with crossing request (so-called “begging lights”) to be replaced by traffic lights that prioritize pedestrians by default, unless another means of transport is approaching, which can be detected by means of appropriate sensors, so that pedestrians can have the most uninterrupted movement possible.

To remove obstacles to pedestrian traffic from the sidewalk, we intend to set up e-scooter parking spaces in the medium term, partly within the framework of the mobility stations already decided upon along the “**traffiQ**” concept, and to ensure the removal of improperly parked e-scooters by the providers.

Volt wants to establish the necessary infrastructure for parking management, fire protection, and other purposes on former parking spaces instead of the sidewalk. We strongly advocate for consistent enforcement of sidewalk parking by the city’s traffic police, requiring more personnel and streamlined digital processes (from detection to documentation and issuing fines). We want to create bike lanes separated from the sidewalk by means of elevation changes and, where possible, green spaces.

Foto by Kristijan Arsov on Unsplash



Smart Pedestrian Network

🇵🇹 Best Practice

In 2015, the City of Porto in Portugal developed the **Smart Pedestrian Network** (SPN) model with the aim of systematically improving pedestrian infrastructure and making the city more livable. Various analyses were conducted, evaluating criteria such as accessibility, population density, mixed-use development, and terrain gradient to identify key pedestrian routes and mobility corridors. Based on this, each street in the historic city center received a priority rating. This made it transparent where investments in sidewalks, crossings, and public spaces would be most effective.

Mobility

The bicycle city

Frankfurt am Main achieved an overall rating of 3.5 in the “ADFC Bicycle Climate Test”, making it the most bicycle-friendly major city with over 500,000 inhabitants – a clear improvement compared to the 3.9 in 2018. At the same time, the demands for safe and efficient cycling infrastructure have rightly increased.

We will develop cycling into a cornerstone of a sustainable, climate-friendly, and functioning city. The foundation for this is a continuous, intuitive, and comfortable network of cycle paths that connects all parts of the city, provides seamless connections to the surrounding areas, and invites people of all ages and experience levels to cycle. Therefore, we will continue to advocate for the goals and measures adopted in the cycling referendum.

We promote the development of a high-performance main cycling network. This network should be largely separated from car traffic and efficiently connect the city center, the surrounding districts, and the surrounding area through cycle superhighways, cycle bridges, and tunnels. We advocate closing

gaps in the network with physically separated and color-coded cycle lanes, designating additional cycle streets, and implementing targeted measures around schools and along important school routes. Conflict points will be mitigated through improved lighting, clear wayfinding, and markings, and consistent enforcement of parking violations against vehicles parked illegally on sidewalks and cycle paths will be ensured.

The Netherlands is demonstrating how well-designed intersections, direct sight lines, and clear right-of-way rules can create safe conditions for everyone. We want redesigned intersections based on this model. Concepts like protected roundabouts and all-ride phases improve visibility and reduce conflicts.

In new construction projects and intersection redesigns, cycling must be considered from the very beginning of the planning process, adhering to international and national best practices. We strongly advocate for intelligent traffic light systems, as „green waves“ and speed recommendations via LED ground lights or information pillars ensure greater safety and improved

traffic flow. Hamburg’s „Prio-Bike“ project demonstrates how digital solutions can make cycling more efficient and comfortable.

Volt aims to create excellent connections to public transport. Bicycle parking garages at central locations, such as the main train station, strengthen the combination of cycling and rail travel. Furthermore, the expansion of secure bicycle parking facilities should be accelerated. Cities like Münster and Utrecht demonstrate how such hubs improve overall mobility and facilitate switching between modes of transport. A continuous ring road and good connections to the surrounding region make the city a model for urban cycling infrastructure.

Additional comfort features such as footrests at traffic lights, inclined trash cans or air pumps make everyday cycling more enjoyable and encourage regular use.

Copenhagen

Best Practice

Copenhagen is considered a model city for bicycle-friendly infrastructure. 50% of all journeys to work, school, or university are made by bicycle. The Danish capital consistently relies on physically separated cycle paths, a continuous and clearly structured cycle network, suitable parking facilities, and intelligent traffic light systems that create a green wave for cyclists. In addition to the infrastructure, numerous details also contribute to its everyday usability. Furthermore, it is well integrated with public transport.

Utrecht

Best Practice

In Utrecht, 50% of all journeys under 7.5 kilometers are made by bicycle. The city pursues a systemic approach that prioritizes cycling, walking, and public transport. The construction of a dedicated cycling network, largely separated from car traffic and consisting of new cycle streets, bridges, and tunnels, has significantly increased the attractiveness of cycling. At intersections, cyclists generally have priority. In addition, efficient parking infrastructure has been created, for example, with the bicycle parking garage at Utrecht Central Station.

Mobility

Public transport

Only with an efficient public transport system can the mobility transition in Frankfurt succeed. On paper, Frankfurt's public transport system is one of the best in Germany. In reality, it is plagued by timetable reductions due to staff shortages, cancellations, and indirect routes for many districts. Nevertheless, our existing infrastructure already holds great potential that we want to expand and utilize more effectively. We see the opportunity to travel by public transport in a climate-friendly and barrier-free manner not as a privilege, but as part of a fundamental right to social participation. At the same time, the entire city benefits from reduced emissions, less space taken up by private cars, and increased economic activity through easier access to employment and consumer opportunities.

To break up the network's star-shaped orientation towards the city center, we are implementing a ring tram system that will connect the city districts more directly. Until its realisation, express buses will strengthen these cross-connections. We also support the construction of the western and eastern regional rail links (**Regio-naltangenten West** und Ost).

Following the example of Paris, Vienna, and already over 7% of all subway lines worldwide, Frankfurt also plans to use driverless subways in the long term. This is conceivable first for the U4 line, as it operates without crossing traffic. For lines with crossing traffic, a long-term transition to automated subways is equally desirable.

Following the Dutch model, public transport, cycling, and walking should generally be given priority at traffic lights, with public transport taking precedence. This ensures that public transport is always the fastest option and is not unnecessarily delayed at traffic lights. Furthermore, we are committed to improving connections to the surrounding areas.

The staff shortage in Frankfurt's public transport system has led to reduced timetables and numerous service disruptions. To address this shortage, Volt advocates for sufficient and long-term funding for jobs and training positions.

By lowering language proficiency requirements and accelerating the recognition of foreign qualifications, we aim to reduce barriers to entry and offer further support in acquiring language skills or other necessary qualifications as part of the training, thereby enabling more applicants to participate. We also want to create attractive career change opportunities, particularly for individuals from the passenger transport sector, such as taxi drivers.

We advocate for a fundamental change to ticket prices in Frankfurt's public transport system. They must be more transparent, less bureaucratic, and cheaper. To this end, we want to offer a free, hassle-free public transport ticket for all school and vocational school students, regardless of age or distance between their home and school. In addition, we want to make a €9 ticket available to holders of the Frankfurt Pass, i.e., people with particularly low disposable income. We are also advocating for subsidizing the Deutschland-Ticket (Germany Ticket) for Frankfurt residents so that the annual cost of the DeutschlandTicket, at its current price, approaches the price of a €365 annual ticket. This model has been successfully tested and implemented in **Tübingen**.

We want to ensure that fare evasion (driving without a ticket) continues not to be prosecuted legally, so as not to disproportionately punish this offense, often committed due to poverty, and to avoid tying up state resources in processing and enforcement. We strongly advocate for the abolition of fare zones in favor of a „pay as you go“ system, where fares are based on actual distance traveled. If the cost

exceeds the price of a day ticket, the maximum fare charged would be that of a day ticket. The RMV (Rhine-Main Transport Association) has already successfully tested such a system with „**RMVsmart**.“ We want to link the fares of the city's on-demand bus service „**Knut**“ to regular route fares where it replaces standard bus lines. Free travel for people with severe disabilities should be made possible by eliminating the comfort surcharge.

Foto by **Kiran Reddy** on **Unsplash**



Free public transport

 Best Practice

Tallinn has introduced **free public transport** for all registered residents. The system is financed, among other things, by additional tax revenue from newly registered citizens. Public transport usage has increased significantly, not only due to a reduction in car journeys. The measure has also considerably reduced the proportion of people who do not travel at all and therefore have limited participation in public life.

Mobility

Car traffic

In Germany, there are more cars than households. City centers and residential areas are heavily burdened by cars, as they are parked for an average of 23 hours a day and hardly used. Playgrounds, green spaces, and open areas are scarce, and bike paths and sidewalks are narrower in favor of parking spaces. Sharing services could drastically reduce the number of privately owned cars without diminishing individual mobility. However, they are not yet widely available and offer little flexibility without “[free-floating sharing](#)”.

In Hesse alone, there are over 3 million commuter journeys per day, and over 65% of commuters use cars. Overcrowded highways, country roads, and city centers demonstrate that this isn't working. We must promote commuting using other modes of transport, not only for the sake of climate and environmental protection, but also because densely populated city centers simply don't have the space for more car traffic. This also worsens the situation for those who rely on cars.

For a livable and functioning Frankfurt, we strive for equitable allocation of space among different modes of transport. We therefore reject the planning of further highways and the expansion of the A5 to 10 lanes. The financial expenditure and land use associated with motorway construction are not justifiable compared to the often minimal traffic benefits. Short-term improvements in traffic flow are frequently offset by increased usage due to the increased attractiveness of the motorway. On motorways plagued by congestion, we propose that individual lanes be reserved, possibly with time restrictions, for buses and carpooling to increase the efficiency of passenger transport.

Major shopping streets and frequently visited areas, such as Berger Straße and Leipziger Straße,

will be closed to through traffic, with the exception of residents and delivery vehicles. The areas reclaimed for public use will also be de-sealed and landscaped, creating spaces for social interaction through the development of superblocks.

[see Superblocks](#)

Delivery zones are reserved for delivery services that cannot do without a car. We intend to ensure compliance with data protection regulations regarding illegal parking in delivery zones through consistent enforcement and digital monitoring. We strongly advocate for the introduction of a congestion charge. This should be based on existing best practices in London, Oslo, Stockholm, and New York. The congestion charge creates fairness because the external costs incurred through the construction and maintenance of roads and parking spaces, as well as noise and air pollution, are borne by users and not by the general public. Collection will be entirely digital, and exceptions should be made for individuals who absolutely require a car or for journeys to Park & Ride facilities.

Volt wants the Mainkai to become permanently car-free. To achieve this, both a traffic concept and a concept for unsealing and better utilizing the Mainkai's surface area need to be developed, in order to offer Frankfurt resi-

dents a people-friendly green space in the heart of the city.

During the current legislative period, the planning and construction of approximately 950 [mobility hubs](#), which will also include car sharing, was approved for the next five years. We support this project and will advocate in the local councils for the hubs to be built in sensible locations, such as near public transport stations.

Volt advocates for converting vacant parking spaces in public areas into designated car-sharing parking spaces. Furthermore, private parking space owners or tenants who do not use their spaces should be given an easy way to make them available for car sharing. This would allow for more efficient use of already paved surfaces and minimize the need for new paving for parking.

Noise pollution from road traffic is a growing challenge in cities like Frankfurt. Main roads such as Friedberger Landstraße are particularly affected, often misused as race-tracks at night. However, persistent and intermittent noise pollution near highways also negatively impacts the health of Frankfurt residents. We support the [World Health Organisation's recommendation](#) and advocate for a maximum average noise level of less than 53 decibels during the day and 45 at night.

In addition to existing measures such as checks on modified vehicles and speed limits in residential streets, Volt is also advocating for a pilot project using noise cameras. Here, we looked at the example of [Paris](#), where, following initial tests, fines will be issued using noise cameras starting in the summer of 2025, as well as Brussels and Barcelona, and scientific findings obtained in Berlin through the use of noise cameras. Initially, fines will be issued to vehicles that significantly exceed the noise levels typical for their vehicle class.

AutoPASS

Best Practice

[Oslo's toll system](#) takes a variety of factors into account. These include whether someone is entering or leaving the city, the size of the vehicle, and whether it is powered by gasoline or electricity. The day and time of day also play a role in determining the toll amount. Finally, the greater Oslo area has been divided into three zones (Indre ring, Osloringen, and Bygrensen), which in turn influence the toll rates.

Mobility

Car traffic

To protect the taxi industry from exploitation while guaranteeing transparent and attractive prices for customers, we are planning the following measures: Volt will maintain the amendment to the ordinance on fares and conditions of carriage for taxi services in Frankfurt am Main. This allows the taxi industry to offer fixed prices. This ensures competitiveness with other transport services and transparency for customers. Experience in Munich has shown that after the introduction of fixed prices, users of ride-hailing services chose taxis more frequently than before. We view the introduction of minimum prices critically, as they are legally questionable and could distort competition to the detriment of users. Their introduction can only be discussed based on a legal review and market analysis. The regulations applicable to ride-hailing services, such as the

possession of a license, compliance with the Passenger Transport Act, minimum wage, and labor law requirements, must be consistently monitored, and violations must be sanctioned. Taxi drivers who leave the taxi industry due to changed competitive conditions should be given a fair and easy career change into Frankfurt's public transport companies through accelerated lateral entry opportunities, based on their many years of professional experience in passenger transport.

We are committed to continuing and expanding the „Freight Tram“ project. The aim of the “Freight Tram” was to utilize cargo bikes and trams for the efficient delivery of small and medium-sized packages. This eliminated the need for cars in 70-80% of deliveries. Compared to conventional transport, this resulted in a 57% reduction in CO2 emissions.

Charging infrastructure for electric cars

For the mobility transition to succeed in Frankfurt am Main, a comprehensive and efficient electric vehicle charging infrastructure is needed. By 2035, more than 90% of the demand for charging points will be in the private sector, followed by businesses.

Only a small portion of this is accounted for by public charging infrastructure. However, this cannot meet the demand alone, which is why Volt is relying on collaborations with property owners, housing associations, and companies to enable widespread e-mobility in the city.

We are committed to maintaining the climate bonus for the installation of private charging points in existing and new buildings. In addition, we support the establishment of charging hubs in residential areas that can be shared by multiple households. We want to support businesses in installing charging points through targeted subsidies. New commercial buildings should

be equipped with clear expansion targets to ensure, for example, that workshops are future-proof. We promote collaborations with parking garages, supermarkets, cultural and sports venues to make further charging infrastructure accessible.

see Crafts and training

The expansion of the public charging infrastructure will be achieved through the construction of fast-charging hubs (DC) at strategic transport intersections and the installation of AC charging points throughout the city. We are focusing on innovative solutions such as lamppost charging and charging kerbs to utilize space efficiently. Lamppost charging uses existing streetlights as charging points for electric vehicles, ideal for narrow city centers without parking garages. Charging kerbs integrate the charging points directly into parking lanes or sidewalks. Both concepts save space, are cost-effective, and make char-

ging easier for residents without their own charging points. We are committed to creating an annual charging infrastructure report that documents the city's expansion goals and outlines future recommendations. Private and commercial charging points can be made available to the public. Those who share their charging points will receive tax breaks or subsidies.

We want to provide information about available charging points through integration into the “Frankfurt App” and build a fair and social tariff structure for a user-friendly electric car charging infrastructure.

see Digital access to the City

Mobility

Car traffic

Parking space regulations

Parking regulations oblige developers of construction projects to provide a certain number of parking spaces for the intended use. The minimum number of required parking spaces is regulated by quotas in the parking regulations. For larger projects, the costs of constructing underground garages or above-ground parking areas drive up construction prices, which are then passed on to tenants through rent increases.

Residents without cars often subsidize those who rent parking spaces. We want to lower construction costs for housing by reducing the required minimum number of parking spaces. This will lower land costs, reduce rents, and enable more efficient land use. To reduce construction costs and promote the mobility transition through land use in Frankfurt, Volt intends to amend the **parking regulations**. They are comparatively progressive, as they allow for a reduction

in required parking spaces based on public transport availability. However, residential properties are exempt from this regulation. We want to eliminate this exemption.

The permitted distance of parking spaces to apartments should be extended to up to 500 meters. Parking spaces for people with disabilities are exempt from this. As an alternative to creating parking spaces on the building plot, resident parking spaces can be developed within the neighborhood, for example, by renting private parking spaces belonging to surrounding businesses for nighttime use or by creating central parking areas that serve the parking needs of several buildings. Alongside these measures, parking management and paid resident parking should be expanded so that cars that cannot be parked on residential property do not further burden public space. In addition, we want to reduce the specified number of

parking spaces if apartments have good public transport connections.

Furthermore, we demand dynamic parking pricing during peak hours instead of inflexible fees. The size of the car, and therefore the space it occupies, should also influence the price.

We intend to retain the existing option of reducing the number of parking spaces by installing bicycle parking spaces. A fixed percentage of the newly created parking spaces should be reserved for car-sharing.

Foto by Jimmy Woo on Unsplash

SUV fees

🇫🇷 Best Practice

In 2024, Paris introduced an innovative **parking fee system** where vehicles over 1,600 kg (SUVs) pay three times higher parking fees than smaller cars. The aim is to reduce the number of large vehicles, which take up more space and cause greater environmental pollution. The differentiated fees create financial incentives for smaller, more efficient cars. This measure promotes a fairer use of public space and supports a sustainable mobility policy.



Design your own city together

Chapter 5: Citizen Empowerment

We want all citizens of Frankfurt to be able to make informed political decisions, to exert influence on politics beyond elections, and to actively exercise their democratic rights.

A functioning city like Frankfurt thrives on the active participation of all its citizens. Every individual takes responsibility and actively shapes the city – be it through involvement in their neighborhood, participation in city decisions, or support for social initiatives. Only in this way can an inclusive, just, and livable urban society function, in which everyone has the opportunity to shape their own life and contribute.

Volt has consistently advocated for greater transparency, co-determination, and direct citizen participation within the city government. A key achievement was the adoption of the Public Participation Guidelines (Richtlinie zur Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung), which established binding standards for citizen involvement in Frankfurt for the first time. This ensures that participation is systematically and proactively integrated into decision-making processes.

An urban society that **works**.



Participation

Political participation

Frankfurt is a diverse city, yet many of our fellow citizens are excluded from genuine political participation. The measures and recommendations of the „**Frankfurt Democracy Convention**“ have so far been implemented only half-heartedly or with little success by the city’s political leadership. The convention offers an opportunity to make democracy tangible, to make politics more accessible, and to actively involve citizens. At the same time, the current municipal election law prevents a significant portion of our fellow citizens without German or EU citizenship from participating in local elections – even though they live and work here and shape city life. In a city like Frankfurt, where diversity is a lived reality, this is a missed opportunity to enable genuine participation. We therefore demand that the right to vote in local elections be granted at the federal level, thus also to Frankfurt residents without EU citizenship, in order to reflect the realities of life in Frankfurt and strengthen their political participation. The voting age should be 16, as it is for European elections.

We are committed to ensuring that the public participation guidelines introduced by Department V are established and continuously developed throughout the entire city administration. Based on these guidelines, we aim to expand the culture of participation in Frankfurt, make political decisions based on a diversity of perspectives, and develop sustainable solutions to conflicts of interest at an early stage. Furthermore, these guidelines can be used to build public trust in political and administrative decisions and to strengthen the City of Frankfurt in its work.

We are committed to ensuring that the “Frankfurt Democracy Convention” receives institutional funding, as well as timely and substantive feedback from city politicians on its recommendations, in order to demonstrate that even unelected citizens have an influence on the city and its policies.

We want the newly established participation platform “ffm.de” to remain an important part of the city’s participatory culture, and for the freedom of information concept to be regularly evaluated with regard to its practicality for citizens.

A dedicated visitor program for the Römer (Frankfurt City Hall) should be established to offer citizens and tourists easily accessible information and educational opportunities, making local politics more tangible. The popular „Open Day“ at the Römer should be held annually, not just every two years.



Foto by Matheus Bertelli on Pexels

Aachen's Citizen's Council

 Best Practice

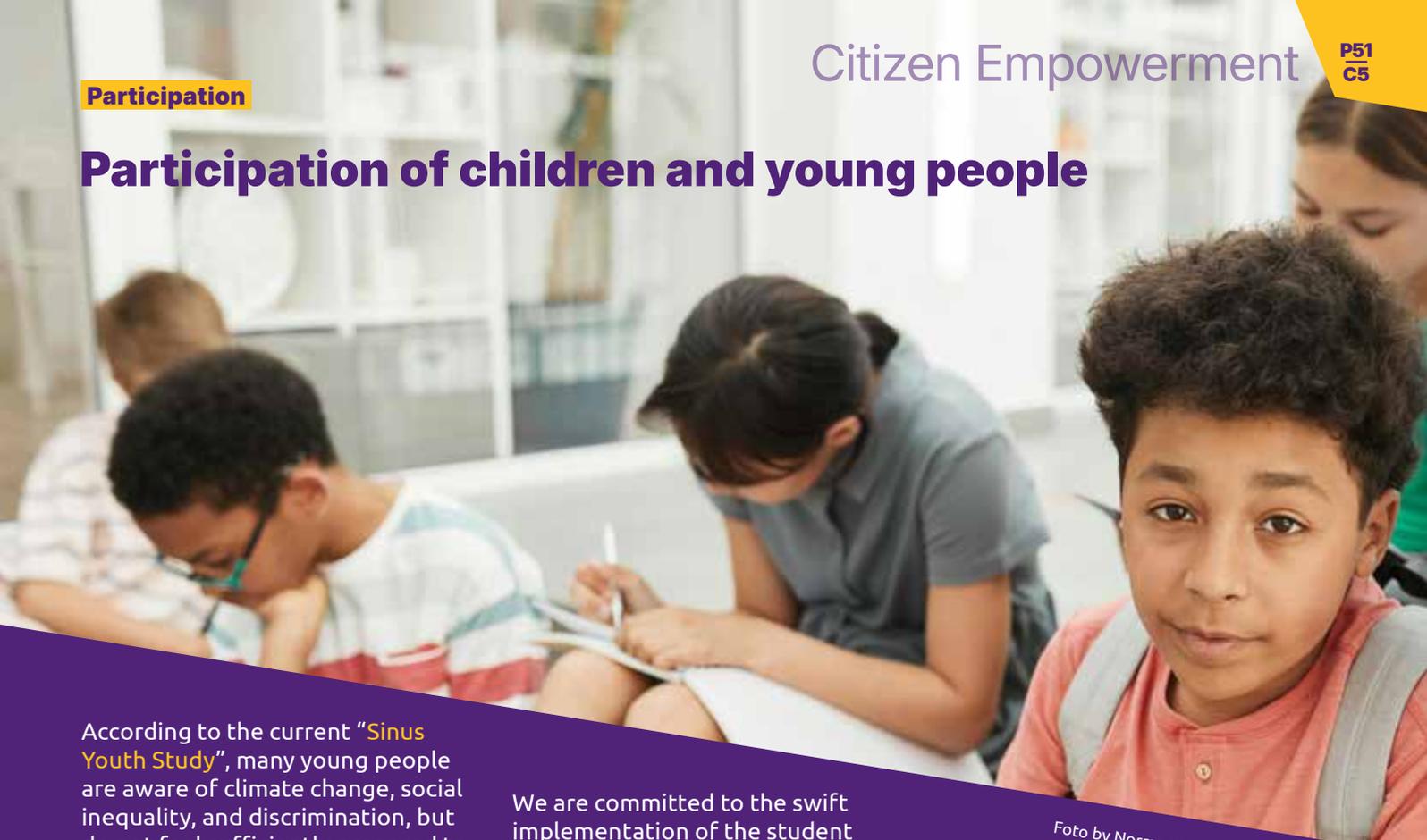
The citizens’ council is a group of randomly selected citizens. It meets two to three times a year and discusses local political issues.

The citizens’ council consists of 56 members, selected at random. Topics are discussed and debated in moderated meetings, with the assistance of experts. The results are summarized and called a citizens’ report.

The citizens’ report will then be submitted to the citizens’ forum for consultation and later presented to the Aachen city council for a decision.

Participation

Participation of children and young people



According to the current “**Sinus Youth Study**”, many young people are aware of climate change, social inequality, and discrimination, but do not feel sufficiently prepared to actively and sustainably engage in politics. The specific needs of children and young people are not yet systematically incorporated into political decisions in Frankfurt.

Therefore, we want to promote the establishment of a legally sound youth parliament with its own right to submit motions to the city council. To ensure easily accessible information and strengthen participation, the work will be published and made available online and on social media channels from the outset. We strongly advocate for children’s and youth assemblies. These are regular, professionally organized meetings where children and young people can engage directly with city politicians on an equal footing to ensure their rights in urban planning, mobility, education, and sustainability. The City of Nuremberg has had this system in place since 1996.

We want to promote children’s rights in city life through sustained support of projects such as „City of Children.“ Furthermore, we will strengthen political education by expanding programs in schools, youth centers, and online to prepare young people for democratic participation and to address their fears of populism and extremist politics.

We are committed to the swift implementation of the student budget in Frankfurt. The city council already applied for funding for this in 2022, but the project has made little progress so far. A student budget gives children and young people the opportunity to independently decide on a budget for their school and thus experience democratic participation firsthand. We want this innovative participatory tool to finally be implemented and permanently supported, because understanding democracy begins locally, starting in the classroom.

Foto by Norma Mortenson on Pexels

Children’s assembly

 Best Practice

The City of Nuremberg has been successfully implementing a model of child participation since 1996 with its Children’s Assembly (KiVe). Every two years, on the same day as the citizens’ assembly, children aged 6 to 14 can voice their concerns. The event is organized by the Youth Welfare Office in cooperation with the Children’s Commission, schools, and daycare centers. The press and public are invited, ensuring transparency and visibility of the children’s perspective. Nuremberg demonstrates how children can be involved in municipal decision-making processes at an early age.

Participation

Participatory budgeting

Political participation of citizens, transparency, and better services are top priorities for Volt. We therefore want to introduce a participatory budget for Frankfurt, allowing citizens to directly vote on how the funds are spent. This is an important milestone on the path to more vibrant democracy, greater citizen engagement, and a more livable Frankfurt.

A participatory citizens' budget can motivate politically disillusioned citizens to actively participate in shaping local politics and bring them out of their perceived isolation. Specific areas for funding under the citizens' budget include the beautification of public

spaces, such as street furniture and greening. Neighborhood events like street festivals and cultural events, as well as social projects like community-based meeting places and educational programs, are also conceivable. Smaller construction projects, such as expanding playgrounds, creating barrier-free access, or redesigning building facades, also offer opportunities for citizen participation.

koosloodudlinn

Best Practice

Tallinn demonstrates how democracy truly works, especially in the digital age. Since 2021, citizens there have been involved in deciding how the **city's annual €800,000 budget** is allocated. Every idea is reviewed by experts, evaluated through online voting, and implemented if it proves successful. This process leads to projects that tangibly improve lives: for example, drinking fountains have been installed in Tallinn's city center since 2021. This accessible digital participation opportunity is particularly popular with young people and strengthens their trust in politics.

Dortmund's Nordstadt

Best Practice

Despite social challenges such as high unemployment and a large proportion of residents with a migration background, the neighborhood has developed into a vibrant and culturally diverse district. The **neighborhood management team** promotes intercultural projects like the „Nordstadtliga,“ a street soccer league for young people, as well as creative initiatives such as street art projects and writing workshops. Through regular neighborhood conferences, citizen participation, and transparent communication, it strengthens social cohesion. In cooperation with the police, social services, and civil society, the project focuses on conflict prevention and safety. For this approach, the Dortmund Nordstadt neighborhood management team received a nationwide award in the „Social City 2016“ competition.

Neighborhood management

Vibrant and livable neighborhoods emerge where people have the opportunity to actively shape their immediate surroundings. For us, neighborhood management is not just administration, but a space for encounters, exchange, and new ideas. Here, neighborhoods, initiatives, associations, and local businesses connect. This creates collaborative, effective solutions that enrich the district in a sustainable way.

To achieve this, we want to provide the neighborhood management with sufficient, long-term funding and create targeted incentives for civic engagement, such as volunteer allowances. This will allow neighbors to take on real responsibility without having to forgo their personal security.

Equally important are spaces for community life and mutual learning. That's why we support all neighborhoods in creating and maintaining community spaces or neighborhood offices. These should be easily accessible meeting places for culture, education, advice, and neighborhood support, tailored to local needs. We want to create spaces that can be used and actively engaged by all generations. Our goal is a city where neighborhoods not only exist side-by-side, but grow together – openly, with solidarity, and with a focus on the future.

Participation

Public Committees

Democracy thrives on participation, and this is especially true in local politics. To enable participation, it is crucial that politics is transparent. Information must be understandable and easily accessible. It is the responsibility of local self-government to involve citizens in its political processes. This also includes questioning whether adjustments to political processes and customs might actually lead to more democratic opinion-forming.

Volt aims to enable a wider range of people to take on local government mandates. To achieve this, facilitations must be created and barriers removed. At the same time, city councilors bear a heavy responsibility for Germany's fifth-largest city and must dedicate a significant amount of time to their numerous tasks. This excludes many groups from actively assuming office. Volt is committed to ensuring that diverse perspectives are included in the political debate.

We want to make serving as a city councilor more attractive and feasible. As a society, we depend on volunteers. However, to enable more citizens to take on this voluntary role, we want to examine how the work of a city councilor can be made more appealing and better suited to people's living situations. This could include childcare options, more frequent but shorter plenary sessions, committee pairing so that not all city councilors have to be physically present at all times, and a potential increase in compensation. This should, in particular, enable more people to dedicate the time to local politics and thus reduce their workload. Volt advocates for the introduction of hybrid committee meetings to make political participation more accessible and flexible for all elected officials. To this end, the Frankfurt city charter and rules of procedure will be amended. This modern solution will allow parents, working professionals, and people with limited mobility to actively participate in meetings – regard-

less of their location. We want the city council to strictly adhere to the deadline for responding to suggestions from local councils (Ortsbeiräte). At the same time, the number of suggestions from the local councils should be reduced. To this end, proposals should be solicited from the local councils. It should be examined whether this can be achieved through an amendment to the rules of procedure or whether a voluntary commitment by the councils themselves is sufficient. We advocate for a more time-efficient plenary session of the city council. Furthermore, we propose a rotation system for the order in which the political groups submit agenda items. Volt wants video and audio recordings of plenary sessions to be available not only live but also afterward. This would allow more people to follow political decisions and debates.

We advocate for maintaining the new transparency regulations in the rules of procedure of the city council. Furthermore, we call for the introduction of a code of conduct, which would serve as a self-commitment by city councilors to ethical behavior. This would raise awareness of gray areas in voluntary political activity and close regulatory loopholes regarding the acceptance of undue advantages. We strongly support the appointment of a „Good Governance“ officer to serve as a contact point for volunteer officeholders and to conduct workshops. The number of supervisory board mandates for municipal holdings will be limited to five per person in the future.

We want to revise the **Parliamentary Information System (Parlis)**. The City of Frankfurt offers Parlis as a way to access official city documents, announcements, and minutes. We believe the system needs improvement, as its current form requires a high level of prior knowledge. Additionally, we want the presentation of voting results in minutes to be significantly more transparent.

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Darmstadt

 Best Practice

The meetings of the Darmstadt city council are not only digitally recorded in picture and sound, but are also subsequently made available to all citizens indefinitely in the **city's archive**.

Culture

Frankfurt's cultural scene

Frankfurt is a unique cultural hub with great diversity and cultural opportunities. To fully realize this potential, culture must be more strongly integrated into political discourse and public life. Frankfurt's cultural heritage extends far beyond a new building for the „Städtische Bühnen“; the independent scene, smaller venues, and the unique club culture shape the city's cultural landscape.

We are committed to ensuring that clubs receive recognition as cultural institutions and are included

in municipal cultural funding programs. Furthermore, we aim to preserve and expand Frankfurt's creative hub by establishing long-term funding structures and responsibilities, such as the Night Council, cultural programs, emerging talent development, and infrastructure. Volt is more than a political party; as a European movement, we will plan cultural activities together with our partner cities, jointly represent and advocate for cultural demands politically, and secure further funding for cultural collaborations across regional and national borders.

Frankfurt aims to be culturally diverse, vibrant, and lovable. Artists and cultural professionals find support and creative freedom here, and the nightclub scene is recognized as an integral part of the city's cultural landscape. Its democratic history is present, its Hessian identity is celebrated, and international influences make Frankfurt a European cultural hub.

Culture of remembrance

The culture of remembrance is of central importance to us. Frankfurt's role in German democracy must be made more visible, as must the horrors of National Socialism, in order to guarantee an active and reflective culture of remembrance.

We want to raise public awareness of St. Paul's Church and its associated history. We are committed to ensuring that the planned renovation will include modern, interactive exhibitions and digital offerings that connect Frankfurt's democratic history with contemporary Europe, making them accessible to citizens and visitors. The planned „**House of Democracy**“ should be realized quickly, and we welcome the transparency and public participation in the project to date.

At the same time, it is our duty, especially in times of populism and nationalism, to remember the crimes and atrocities of the National Socialists. To this end, we intend not only to continue supporting, but also to expand, the institutions and initiatives that research the crimes of National Socialism and communicate them, particularly to an international audience. No victim group of the Nazi regime must be forgotten.

Frankfurt's involvement in colonialism also needs to be further researched and communicated. We therefore support the critical discourse on this topic being conducted by the **Museum of World Cultures**.

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Promotion of culture

We are committed to restructuring existing administrative structures in the cultural sector into a „Culture Office“ that will support cultural professionals through increased digitalisation of application processes and documentation of expenditures. The office will also assist in finding private funders. Furthermore, the „Culture Office“ will create a network of exhibition and performance venues in Frankfurt and the surrounding region, as well as in partner cities. The „Culture Office“ will also maintain contacts with regional action groups (RAGs) such as the „RheinMain Cultural Initiative.“

We want to initiate a discussion about a possible (re)distribution of funds within the cultural budget and

the cultural infrastructure owned by the city. This discussion should not exclude, for example, downsizing the „Städtische Bühnen,“ questioning the necessity of three locations for the „Museum of Modern Art (MMK),“ and similar issues.

We want to place a much stronger focus on cultural education and create more opportunities for young people. This includes expanding existing children’s and youth cultural activities. We are committed to ensuring that additional participatory programs, such as writing workshops, music lessons, and theater workshops, are offered in all districts. We want to establish a „Literature Incubator“ and co-working space for new publishing houses, literary events, and

other literature-related ventures to strengthen the city’s position as a hub for literature and book fairs. The organisation of the city’s literary events could also be integrated into this literary production center.

We will strengthen the infrastructure of local and central libraries as forums for a broad exchange of cultural and scientific information, in order to make them more accessible to citizens and to promote European exchange through different language offerings.

Cultural building

The cultural campus (Kulturcampus) is a central and important project for us. While preserving the Juridicum building from a climate protection perspective would be desirable, its structural condition is so poor that a complete renovation, including gutting the interior, is not justifiable. Furthermore, the monotonous and gray architecture of the surrounding buildings offers little in the way of inviting public spaces. Therefore, we want the building demolished and replaced with an architecturally appealing and climate-friendly new building, for example, for the **University of Music and Performing Arts (HfMDK)**, in order to meet the requirements of a future-proof cultural campus.

We support the long-term conversion of the student residence into the “Open House of Cultures” – as soon as a new student residence has been built. We support the establishment of the “Frankfurt LAB” on the cultural campus. However, preserving the cultural venue on Schmidtstraße is also desirable. Several cultural institutions

are currently located there. The Gallus, Europaviertel, and Römerhöfe districts will continue to need cultural spaces in the future.

As part of a new “Visitor Economy Strategy,” western districts, centered around Höchst, are to be recognized and developed as important cultural hubs. With the completion of the Bolongaro Palace in 2027, all cultural institutions in Frankfurt’s west will be promoted and made more visible as the “Kulturufer West” (West Cultural Shore). We advocate for the creation of an additional studio and production space in Frankfurt’s west for visual arts, design, music, film, and dance.

The existing cultural institutions around and within the East Harbor and the Zoo form two important cultural clusters, serving as training, work, and presentation venues for art, culture, and design. We advocate not only for securing the future of these institutions and events but also for improved funding and support.

When planning **new buildings for the “Städtische Bühnen”**, capacities must be realistically planned and supplementary uses from other fields (e.g. library, music school, accessible roof terrace) must also be considered in order to achieve the goal of an open house that is also accessible during the day.

Since the Hessian state constitution grants culture the protection of the state and municipalities, we expect the state to make a significant financial contribution to the **construction of the new „Städtische Bühnen“**, as this cultural offering benefits people far beyond Frankfurt’s city limits. The city should also seek financing from private entities.

Far beyond Frankfurt and further

Chapter 6: European and global

European integration is one of the core objectives we pursue in our work at the European, federal, state, and local levels. Even today, most local regulations and guidelines originate within the EU. A functioning administration that acts in the spirit of a united European Union is therefore not only helpful but essential. This also includes convincing the public of the EU project's value and connecting them with our European neighbors. This exchange naturally extends beyond European borders, fostering contact with people from all over the world.

In a global context, Frankfurt am Main can only exert its influence through a joint effort by all municipal representatives. They speak with one voice in national bodies such as the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag) or the European initiative "Euro-cities". As a united, strengthened Europe, not only our self-understanding and our idea of community are changing, but also our position on the international stage.

Europe **works**.



A european city

As part of our European policy work, we have been able to initiate and strengthen several projects in recent years that make the European idea tangible in Frankfurt.

With the “Free Interrail” program, we have been enabling around 200 young people from Frankfurt, aged 18 to 21, to discover Europe by train every year since 2023. Because overcoming geographical distances by traveling to other European countries quickly makes you realize how close we actually are as a community. So that no financial obstacles stand in the way of this idea, we, as the local people’s representation, will enable this exchange to a hopefully ever-increasing number of Frankfurt residents.

What works for individual cities also works between cities. In 2024, our group of partner cities was expanded to include a solidarity partnership with the Ukrainian city of Lviv. With this, we not only demonstrate our municipal commitment to Ukraine, but also establish connections to a crisis-ridden country that aspires to closer ties with and ultimately join the EU. The first official visit by a Frankfurt delegation, including representatives from civil society initiatives, took place in the fall of 2024. Since 2023, aid deliveries to Ukraine have been organized through our shared partner city of Krakow; an example of the kind of European cooperation we envision.

As a founding member of the European cities initiative “Eurocities,” Frankfurt am Main recognized and promoted the value of a municipal, European network as early as 1986. We intend to continue and intensify these efforts. Therefore, Frankfurt has been involved in the Eurocities Shadow Commission since 2024. Here, together with representatives from other European cities, municipal perspectives are presented to the European Commission. Our particular focus is on youth issues.

In 2025, Frankfurt was elected as the only German member to the Executive Committee of the “Eurocities.” This gives us a key role in European urban policy. We not only represent Frankfurt’s interests at the EU level, but also actively shape climate protection, social housing, digital innovation, and democracy across Europe. We aim to disseminate these initiatives from the European level through broad support and collaboration across all city departments. Only when the idea of Europe is truly embraced everywhere can Frankfurt, as a European city, benefit to the fullest.

The “Eurocities” initiative is not just an administrative matter. Frankfurt’s residents and their daily lives are equally affected.

The majority of foreigners living in Frankfurt come from Europe. Just over 80% of our tourism visitors come from other European countries, and thanks to its geographical location and excellent transport connections, including its railway hub and airport, the influence of Europe is omnipresent in Frankfurt. We want to see this development intensified and support it through, for example, our active role in the “Eurocities” network, our collaborations with our 10 European and 8 international partner cities, and the establishment of major, important European institutions such as the ECB, EIOPA, and AMLA. We benefit from the international airport, free trade, and are the driving force behind Europe’s financial sector.

A Frankfurt without Europe and a Europe without Frankfurt are inconceivable. During the last legislative period, the city took further important steps toward becoming a European center. Volt intends to continue this path and make Frankfurt one of the most livable cities in the heart of Europe. We therefore want to expand exchange programs and include funding for projects that supplement traditional student and pupil exchanges with digital formats.

In addition, we want to introduce European Encounter Weeks to bring together different groups of students from across Europe in Frankfurt, to enable joint projects and thus promote intercultural learning, a change of perspective and international friendships.

We advocate for the creation of an annual European report for the city, listing all EU-related funding received, statements made, and activities undertaken. Volt aims to make the advantages and disadvantages of European integration transparent to citizens and demonstrate the EU’s influence as far as Frankfurt – and vice versa. However, seeing and reading about Europe is not the same as living it.

To that end, we want to significantly expand the European Festival at the Römer, celebrating the 30th anniversary of Frankfurt becoming a European City in 2028. Even today, it offers a tangible sense of Europe right in the heart of Frankfurt. It highlights open borders and European achievements and values, strengthens cohesion, and provides a platform for music, culture, and above all, encounters. In the future, it should become an annual highlight of our city’s European identity and connect us more closely with our European neighbors.



A cosmopolitan city

Our city is strongly networked beyond European borders. We are a financial center, an important economic hub for globally operating industries, have a renowned scientific community, and are a key logistics center thanks to our airport and internet exchange point. We want to maintain and strengthen these international connections.

The **Frankfurt Immigration Office** and the **Welcome and Information Center** are to be expanded and modernized. Processes will be shortened and simplified to prevent staff overload and unnecessary waiting times for visitors. We aim to make Frankfurt am Main a more attractive location for expats and to improve its standing with competing cities globally. We want to enhance the integration of newcomers and expats and foster exchange among them and with the local population.

see Newcomers and Expats

We also want to expand our international connections through our twin cities. The city partnership with Lviv in Ukraine is a strong symbol of Frankfurt's values and solidarity. We want to continue this tradition and are committed to establishing city partnerships with Kobanê in Syria and Taipei in Taiwan. We will support the relevant city friendship associations in this endeavor, and we also support the goal of a city partnership with a city in sub-Saharan Africa.

To fully realize the potential of Frankfurt's existing 18 partner cities, we want the City of Frankfurt to develop a strategy that defines priorities in the areas of society, politics, and the economy, and reviews these priorities regularly (every 1-3 years). We want to make our efforts and their results tangible for the citizens of all participating cities and can more clearly position ourselves by setting priorities.

These core areas of cooperation with the partner cities should be promoted. Part of Frankfurt's international appeal stems from its integration into the Rhine-Main metropolitan region. This benefits all surrounding municipalities, neighboring major cities like Offenbach and Darmstadt, as well as the Hessian state capital, Wiesbaden, and the Rhineland-Palatinate state capital, Mainz. Together, we form a region of nearly 6 million inhabitants. We aim to expand cooperation with our neighboring municipalities to foster a strong European Rhine-Main metropolitan region on a global stage.

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Volt Deutschland Landesverband Hessen
Altenhöferallee 17
60438 Frankfurt am Main

vorstand@volthessen.org
presse@voltfrankfurt.org

www.volthessen.org
www.voltfrankfurt.org