

# Gießen

*Policy Summary for the City of Gießen Council Election  
(Translated from "Kompaktwahlprogramm Stadt Gießen 2026")*

## Foreword

### ***Gießen – A City that Lives European Values***

Dear fellow citizens,

With the highest student density in Germany and a growing population, the city of Gießen has the best conditions for a successful future. At the same time, experiences from current traffic measures, the development of crime figures, and decline of public spaces clearly show where further action is needed:

- The Gießen Südkreuz is partially closed.
- 500 daycare places are missing city-wide.
- Shortage of new housing development: only 210 instead of the needed 1,000 units per year are being built.
- All 18 municipalities in the district are planning with a deficit.

We no longer have time for experiments that cost 1.7 million euros and fail in court. Gießen needs competent, future-oriented politics that knows what it is doing. Volt stands for evidence-based, pragmatic, and European-networked municipal politics. European cooperation should directly benefit the people living here. We want to make better use of EU funding for schools, make EU-funded projects more visible, and provide transparent access to EU funding opportunities for civil society organisations, businesses, and start-ups.

#### **Our programme shows concrete ways how we can:**

- Create 5,000 new homes by 2030.
- Professionally renovate the transport infrastructure.
- Achieve climate neutrality by 2035.
- Make our schools and daycare centres future-proof.
- Push back extremism through inclusion and anti-discrimination.

This election programme for Gießen was born from conversations and surveys at our information stands – from your ideas for our shared future. With your vote for Volt, we will make our city and our district a model for modern, European municipal politics. We hope you enjoy reading our key goals for the 2026 municipal election.

***Your Volt Team Gießen***

## Sustainable Region & Living Space

Volt is committed to making Gießen a city that is climate-resilient, socially just, and more liveable by 2035. This includes affordable housing, reliable mobility, a modern administration, and a strong democracy.

### Urban Development & Housing

- Conversion instead of new construction: Additions, roof extensions, and promotion of repurposing instead of new land sealing; development of neighbourhoods as strategic renovation areas with more greenery, better lighting, pop-up uses, and quality of stay; protection of the Wieseck Valley, the Lahn floodplain, and the Schiffenberg Valley as "green lungs".
- Affordable housing & vibrant inner cities: The Flusstraßenviertel is to be developed as a model neighbourhood with a 15-minute city concept, socially mixed housing, and concept-based allocation following the model of city Tübingen.

### Climate, Energy & Mobility

- Climate-neutral building & energy: Municipal model building code with life-cycle assessment and use of recycled materials; heat transition through expansion and densification of district and local heating networks, use of seasonal heat storage; more solar surfaces, tenant electricity models (i.e. local Solar for Tenants), and energy cooperatives.
- Reliable, climate-friendly mobility: Strong public transport with quality contracts (bonus-malus system), good connections to surrounding areas and RegioTram, complemented by safe cycling paths; University Hospital Mobility Hub with public transport to the city center, cycling, and charging infrastructure.
- Animal welfare-oriented pigeon management, hedgehog protection, wild-animal-free circuses, dog tax exemption for shelter dogs, cat protection regulation and pesticide ban.

### Education, Social Affairs & Diversity

- Ensuring social security & fair opportunities for children: Family centres should be secured long-term and equipped with flexible opening hours, e.g. for shift workers. A digital daycare portal should ensure transparent place allocation and needs-based expansion.
- Participation & support for young people: A youth parliament with speaking and petition rights in the city council assembly and its own budget gives children and young people real political participation. More youth centres, out-reach youth work, and learning mentorships strengthen children and young people in particular.
- Diversity, participation, protection & anti-discrimination: Safety, freedom, and fundamental rights must go hand in hand. Poverty should be combated through preventive measures and the Housing First model. Women's shelters and protection concepts should be promoted. Refugees should be housed decentrally rather than in large facilities. An anti-discrimination concept, protection against violence and hate crime, support for the LGBTIQA\* community, protection of Jewish life, and

barrier-free urban planning should offer all people a safe, respectful, and accessible environment.

## Culture & Urban Society

- Culture connects people and shapes our city. Multi-year funding of cultural institutions enables reliable planning. A space register protects existing cultural venues from displacement and secures a vibrant cultural offering.
- Socio-cultural centres and neighbourhood culture bring art and events to all districts, as well as free or heavily discounted cultural offerings for children and young people; interim use of vacant spaces.
- Valuing volunteering: Free public transport for active members of the voluntary fire brigade as thanks for their invaluable service to our society. In the future, this scheme should be extended to other volunteers.

## Digitalisation, Democracy & Participation

- Modern infrastructure & digital town halls: Smart city solutions with services that are fully available online, barrier-free, and multilingual, with BundID providing central access, making everyday life easier for authorities and citizens.
- Strong democracy & modern participation: More transparency, livestreams of all municipal parliaments with subtitles; strengthening of citizens' councils and plural civil society.

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## Afterword

This is an overview – you can find the complete election programme in German at

<https://voltdeutschland.org/hessen/giessen>

or contact us: [giessen@voltdeutschland.org](mailto:giessen@voltdeutschland.org)