

VOLTS VISION FOR HANNOVER CITY & REGION

SHORT PROGRAMME

Volt

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HANNOVER EUROPEAN & SOLUTION-FOCUSED

European cooperation offers opportunities for economic development, cultural exchange, and joint solutions. Cities and regions benefit from networks, funding programs, and the exchange of best practices.

Volt's vision is a European Hannover that, as part of the European community, works closely with other cities. As an open, diverse, and innovative region, Hannover capitalizes on the benefits of European cooperation while actively contributing its own experiences and strengths to European networks.

- ➔ **Implementation of Best Practices:** By implementing best practices (exemplary models) from other European cities and countries, we bring European solutions to the Hannover region. In this way, our region becomes a living example of the benefits of Europe.

That is why we repeatedly cite best practices as examples in this program as well. They demonstrate that solutions already exist elsewhere. The goal is not to reinvent the wheel, but to use these effective solutions as beacons and implement them as effectively as possible in our region.



- ➔ **Highlighting Diversity:** People from many different countries and cultures come together in Hannover. This leads to shared learning, working, and living. We want to highlight this diversity in our urban community wherever possible. We want Hannover to be a region that both preserves its own identity and remains open to new ideas, cultures, and perspectives.
- ➔ **Promote Student Exchanges:** Europe and the world are places to be experienced firsthand. To that end, the City and Region of Hannover will provide schools with greater support in the future to organize and maintain exchange programs such as ERASMUS. Students, regardless of their social background, should have the opportunity to participate in these programs and gain international experience.

HANNOVER FAIR & SOCIAL

Volt's vision is a Hannover in which everyone can participate. A city and region where opportunities do not depend on one's family background and where people are free to shape their own lives. Work, family, and leisure are well balanced. Children and young people have access to **attractive places to spend their time and engaging recreational activities**. Housing remains affordable so that everyone has a **safe home**.

- ➔ **Creating Affordable Housing:** We promote cooperative and municipal housing. We also support initiatives that consistently convert vacant properties into new housing units. 
- ➔ **Consistently Implementing Accessibility:** We are resolutely advancing accessibility by phasing out barrier-creating architecture in public spaces. At the same time, we are planning mobility in our region to be consistently accessible from the very beginning.
- ➔ **Strengthening Children's and Youth Programs:** We support children's and youth programs through increased financial funding and relieve the burden on educational professionals by providing additional administrative staff. In addition, we foster lasting partnerships between sports clubs and children's and youth organizations.
- ➔ **Ensuring the Well-being of Young People:** We are improving the well-being of children and adolescents by providing free school lunches. To this end, we are expanding educational social work in schools and connecting students with targeted support services for mental health issues.
- ➔ **Improving Quality of Life in Old Age:** We improve the quality of life for older adults by ensuring the reliable continued operation of community-based nursing homes. In addition, we strengthen the bonds between young and old and establish outpatient care as a long-term standard. 
- ➔ **Systematically Utilizing Food Sharing:** We systematically donate surplus food from cafeterias to food-sharing initiatives, social service organizations, and "food rescue kitchens."

HANNOVER

SAFE & HEALTHY

Volt's vision are a safe city and region of Hannover where everyone feels at home—a place where everyone takes responsibility and is an integral part of society, and where safety is fostered through a combination of clear order, effective prevention, social stability, and civic engagement.

- ➔ **Strengthening Public Order Services:** We are expanding the city's public order services to noticeably reduce the police's workload.
- ➔ **Fighting Crime:** We actively combat crime through strong social services, dedicated street outreach, and reliable youth services.
- ➔ **Increase Safety for FLINTA* People:** We improve communication about existing shelters and create more spaces in women's shelters. In addition, we will establish a central coordination office for violence in intimate relationships.
- ➔ **Radically Improving Traffic Safety:** We are enhancing traffic safety by creating more car-free zones and physically separating different modes of transportation. In addition, we are implementing a 30 km/h speed limit on streets other than main roads.
- ➔ **Enhancing the Sense of Safety at Night:** We are implementing brighter, needs-based lighting on streets, sidewalks, and public squares. Therefore, we are promoting the flexible "on-the-go" exit on Üstra buses during nighttime hours.
- ➔ **Taking a Holistic Approach to Drugs, Poverty, and Homelessness:** We don't just treat the symptoms of social distress; we address the root causes through targeted support services and active addiction prevention. In doing so, we consistently rely on innovative approaches such as "Housing First."
- ➔ **Noticeably Improve Cleanliness:** We are improving cleanliness by upgrading central trash collection areas and installing more trash cans.
- ➔ **Relieving the Burden on Primary Care Physicians:** We are improving primary care by offering video consultations and supporting medical care centers.
- ➔ **Modernizing Hospital Care:** We are making healthcare in hospitals modern and safe by actively pursuing our medical strategy. To this end, we are creating standardized digital interfaces for communication among all stakeholders.

like in the
**NETHER
LANDS**

like in
HELSINKI

like in
FINLAND

* "FLINTA*" stands for women, lesbians, intersex, non-binary, transgender, and agender people. It thus refers to the groups that suffer particularly severely under patriarchal structures. This term broadens the definition of "women," but does not replace it.

HANNOVER

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY & IMPACT-ADAPTED

Volt's vision for Hannover are a city and region worth living in, with clean air, healthy soil, and climate-resilient infrastructure. This involves expanding **renewable energy**, **strengthening biodiversity**, and making life possible in both **cold and hot weather**.

- ➔ **Transitioning to a Climate-neutral Energy Supply:** We fully decarbonize the energy supply by expanding renewable electricity generation and establishing a climate-neutral heating and cooling system.
- ➔ **Transportation Transition Now:** We are continuing to expand public transportation and bicycle infrastructure, and we are taking targeted steps to make car-sharing and Park & Ride options more attractive.
- ➔ **Preserving Allotment Gardens:** We are preserving allotment gardens as local recreational areas, valuable biodiversity-habitats and natural climate protection.
- ➔ **Natural CO2 Sinks:** We are restoring wetlands, creating more urban green spaces, and making forests climate-resilient
- ➔ **Sponge City:** We are removing impervious surfaces and implementing targeted water retention measures to prepare for heavy rainfall and droughts.
- ➔ **Sustainable Construction:** We promote sustainable construction through the use of durable structures and sustainable, recyclable materials.
- ➔ **Supporting Community Gardens:** We actively maintain and promote community gardens throughout the city.
- ➔ **Expanding Heat-related Health Protection:** We are establishing cool "climate comfort zones" and installing more drinking fountains in public spaces.
- ➔ **Connecting Biodiversity Regionally:** We are strengthening biodiversity by establishing one network of habitats linking the city and the surrounding region.
- ➔ **Making Neighbourhoods More Peaceful Through Superblocks:** We're reducing through traffic in selected neighbourhoods. In doing so, we're transforming streets into liveable, green retreats.
- ➔ **Creating Tiny Forests:** We are creating more Tiny Forests to help lower temperatures and increase biodiversity in our communities.
- ➔ **Promoting Green Roofs and Green Facades:** We actively promote green roofs and green facades, especially in the city centre.



HANNOVER

MOBILE & CONNECTED

Volts' vision are a city and region of Hannover where everyone can get from point A to point B **quickly, affordably, and flexibly**. The goal is a reliable, integrated system that connects both the city and the region while taking into account the diverse realities of people's lives.

- ➔ **Expand the Rail Network to Make it Future-proof:** We're making the light rail network future-proof through new cross-connections and strategic route extensions at terminal stations. At the same time, we're exploring the automation of rail operations. If plans move forward, we'll implement a new line through the Südstadt as a tunnel solution with autonomous rail operations.
- ➔ **Preparing the S-Bahn Network for Autonomous Driving:** We are preparing the S-Bahn network for rising passenger numbers by requiring DB to implement the necessary measures for autonomous driving by 2031. At the same time, we are exploring a loop line to relieve congestion at the main station.
- ➔ **Expand:** We are continuing to develop bus service in the Hannover region by increasing network density, introducing a modern, electric bus fleet, and expanding the use of autonomous Sprinti shuttles.
- ➔ **Affordable Public Transit Fares:** We ensure social inclusion by keeping local transit fares affordable. Since this is difficult for municipalities to manage on their own, we are actively advocating at the federal level for better and more reliable funding of municipal public transit through federal funds.
- ➔ **Introduce Free Public Transit:** We provide free public transit for people over 75 who no longer hold a driver's license, as well as for all school-age children. In addition, we will introduce free public transit on Saturdays.
- ➔ **Promoting Walking:** We design sidewalks to be accessible, create more spaces for strolling and seating, as well as physically separated bike lanes, and keep e-scooters off the sidewalks.
- ➔ **Consistently Expand the Bicycle Network:** We are improving cycling by rapidly expanding bike routes along the city limits and creating new cross-connections to form a seamless bicycle network.
- ➔ **Optimizing Driving Smartly:** We're improving the driving experience by actively promoting resident parking, creating more electric vehicle charging stations, and expanding the car-sharing infrastructure. We're also improving traffic flow on main roads outside residential areas.



HANNOVER

DIGITAL & MODERN

Volts' vision are a digitally connected and modern city and region of Hannover. We are overcoming the fragmentation and cumbersome processes that have characterized digital services in the city and region of Hannover to date. We are consistently and comprehensively harnessing digital potential to make **government, infrastructure, and the economy** fit for the future.

- ➔ **Launching a Hannover App for All Services:** We're bringing together all relevant city information and services in a single, centralized app. These services include locations for trash containers, electric vehicle charging stations, Park & Ride options, cultural events, appointments with city offices, and citizen participation processes. 
- ➔ **Making Hannover a Smart City:** We establish a Smart City that transparently evaluates all measures and consistently aligns them with the common good.
- ➔ **Smart Street Lighting:** We install smart lighting with motion sensors and dimmable LEDs to illuminate streets and public spaces in an energy-efficient manner tailored to actual needs.
- ➔ **Digital Sovereignty:** We ensure digital sovereignty through independent European software solutions and open-source technologies.
- ➔ **Quick Access to Government Services:** We are introducing a digital citizen interface to government services that enables fast, accessible, and straightforward communication with government agencies.
- ➔ **Start a Business in 7 Days:** We make it possible to start a business entirely online in just 7 days.
- ➔ **Introduce a Packaging Tax:** We are introducing a packaging tax on single-use packaging. At the same time, we are promoting reusable packaging and industrial dishwashers for cleaning it. 
- ➔ **Actively Promoting a Circular Economy:** We are aligning Hannover with the principles of the circular economy. We are promoting circular construction, replacing single-use products with reusable ones, and supporting repair cafés and "libraries of things."
- ➔ **Strengthening Retail:** We are making the downtown area car-free and people-friendly to make strolling a pleasant experience. In doing so, we are also sustainably strengthening local retail.
- ➔ **Professionalizing IT Support in Schools:** We are significantly reducing the burden on schools and securing the IT infrastructure by providing schools with professional, shared IT support.

HANNOVER CULTURAL & DIVERSE

Volt's vision are a diverse city and region of Hannover where every person feels welcome and can participate equally in social and cultural life. Regardless of origin, religion, sexual orientation, or physical and mental disabilities, a sense of belonging should be a given. The goal is a vibrant region where diverse **identities are visible, mutual respect is practiced, and all people can develop their abilities and talents.**

- ➔ **Actively Promote Cultural Offerings:** We promote cultural offerings through better marketing, affordable spaces for cultural practitioners, and inviting new community spaces.
- ➔ **Radically Reduce Bureaucracy in Cultural Funding:** We simplify cultural funding through streamlined procedures. In addition, we create space for a vibrant night-life and provide billboard space for cultural advertising.
- ➔ **Consistently Advancing Anti-Discrimination Efforts:** We actively promote anti-discrimination through high-visibility public awareness campaigns, a competent counseling centre for those affected, and financial support for diversity organizations.
- ➔ **Support for Integration:** We promote integration by offering free German language courses for non-German-speaking children and parents. We also support intercultural exchange programs and provide decentralized housing for refugees.
- ➔ **Opening Up Sport Activities for Everyone:** We make sports accessible to everyone by strengthening partnerships between schools and sports clubs. In addition, we support sports clubs in purchasing equipment and modernizing existing sports facilities.
- ➔ **Focusing on Intergenerational Justice:** We place intergenerational justice at the centre of political decision-making. To this end, we are creating new formats for dialogue that bring people of all ages together.
- ➔ **Renovate and Modernize Schools:** We actively support schools in their transformation by accelerating the planning of school renovations and new construction. In addition, we are establishing modern learning support programs and eliminating the rigid standard room layout for 30-person classrooms.

like in
MECHELEN

HANNOVER DEMOCRATIC & COMMUNALLY

Volts' vision are a city and region of Hannover where everyone recognizes the value of democracy and is motivated to play an active role in it. Democracy should not just take place every few years during elections but should be experienced in everyday life. **Political education, low barriers for participation, and practical ways to get involved** strengthen understanding of democratic processes and a sense of responsibility.

- ➔ **Strengthening Democracy through Education:** We strengthen our democracy by expanding and promoting political education programs.
- ➔ **Promoting Democratic Initiatives:** We support organizations and projects that actively work to strengthen and preserve democratic values.
- ➔ **Establish a "Citizens' Questions" Portal:** We set up a municipal portal where citizens can ask their local representatives questions directly and publicly.
- ➔ **Broadcast all Meetings Live:** We broadcast all public meetings of the City Council and the Regional Assembly live on the Internet. We will also make these permanently available as online recordings.
- ➔ **Establish Permanent Participatory Councils:** We establish professionally moderated participatory councils as a permanent democratic institution. These councils serve as a direct link to policymakers, develop recommendations, and be granted the right to submit binding motions to the council.
- ➔ **Guarantee Project-based Participation:** We guarantee project-based public participation in all particularly relevant urban, social, and environmental planning decisions.
- ➔ **Introduce Youth Parliaments Region-wide:** We establish youth parliaments throughout the region. The newly founded youth parliament in Hannover serves as our model.
- ➔ **Strengthen Dialogue with Young People:** We strengthen the dialogue between politicians, the administration, and the younger generation through age-appropriate communication. Therefore, we will involve children and young people directly in political processes in a simple and project-based manner.

