

# Ruhr Parliament Made In Europe

Short Election Programme for the local

# Volt

# Shaping the future of the Ruhr region - A European, solidary and innovative district.

The Ruhr region is a place of change: from the industrial heart of Europe to a diverse, urban metropolitan area. Volt stands for a new political generation that thinks European, works scientifically and acts pragmatically.

Our goal is a fair, sustainable and future-proof Ruhr region that is a pioneer in climate, social and digitalisation policy.

Our vision: “Future Made in Ruhr” means for us that we lead the Ruhr region into a future worth living with innovation, social justice and European cooperation.

#VoteVolt - for a European metropolitan area that dares to shape the future



## Table of contents

<b>Creating the future in the Ruhr region</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>01 Social participation and housing</b>	<b>4</b>
For a region based on solidarity that leaves no one behind	
<b>02 Education, science, and diversity</b>	<b>4</b>
For more education in every social class	
<b>03 Sustainable mobility and transport transition</b>	<b>5</b>
Mobility for all – safe, smart, and sustainable	
<b>04 Digitalization and administrative innovation</b>	<b>5</b>
Creating the digital future together – open, connected, user-friendly	
<b>05 Climate, environment, and quality of life</b>	<b>6</b>
Green Ruhr for all – working together for quality of life and climate protection	
<b>06 Economic transformation and innovation</b>	<b>6</b>
Innovation for tomorrow – Made in the Ruhr	
<b>07 Forming European cooperation locally</b>	<b>7</b>
For more exchange and European solutions	
<b>08 Culture, tourism, and identity</b>	<b>7</b>
Zwischen Zechen und Zukunft – Identität neu erzählen	
<b>09 Youth, participation, and democracy</b>	<b>8</b>
Shaping the future from day one – taking young people seriously	
<b>10 Regional development and governance in the RVR</b>	<b>8</b>
Cooperation instead of parochialism – making better decisions together	
<b>11 Civil protection - crisis-proof and networked for greater resilience</b>	<b>9</b>
When it matters – ensuring help arrives quickly in an emergency	
<b>Future made in the Ruhr – our path and our responsibility</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>About Volt and Volt Ruhr</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Imprint</b>	<b>12</b>

## 01 Participation in Society and Housing

Housing is a human right. Volt is committed to more affordable housing and participation in society. Our goals at a glance:

- Funding of public and non-profit housing projects
- Hire-purchase models for small and medium incomes
- Mixed neighbourhoods with fair housing allocation
- Establishment of a regional housing association under the RVR
- Supporting alternative forms of housing such as multigenerational projects, home swaps and “housing for help”

**PLUS:** Strengthening public infrastructure - with drinking water fountains, accessible toilets and muted waste-collection systems

## 02 Education, Science and Diversity

Volt wants to enable equitable educational chances and lived diversity in the Ruhr region. Our goals at a glance:

- Establishment of an education monitoring and a masterplan for school reconstruction
- Setup of children’s and youth bureaus to foster the participation of young people
- Programmes against discrimination, anti-semitism and queer hostility
- Funding of cultural and educational projects with schools and artists
- Connecting universities, research and civil society

**PLUS:** Foundation of a “Ruhr Inclusion Council” for and accessible and inclusive Ruhr region

## 03 Sustainable Mobility and Transport Transition

Volt is shaping the future of mobility - sustainable, connected and just. Our goals at a glance:

- Unified transport network with digital ticketing
- Extension of bus and rail service throughout the whole region
- Fast cycle routes and safe cycling infrastructure
- Micro-depots and e-cargo bikes for environmentally friendly delivery transport
- Options for accessible mobility for all generations

**PLUS:** A unified “Ruhr Integration and Participation Ticket” allows people with severe disabilities to travel at reduced rates throughout the whole Ruhr region.

## 04 Digitalisation and Innovation in Administration

Volt is making administration in the Ruhr region digital, open and user-friendly. Our goals at a glance:

- Joint digital strategy under the umbrella of the RVR
- Development of digital platforms for citizen's service and participation
- Utilisation of open source solutions ('public code')
- Artificial intelligence in administration - utilised responsibly
- Funding of Open Data for more transparency and innovation

**PLUS:** The ruhr.apps offer access to mobility, culture, environment and service on a single platform.

## 05 Climate, Environment and Quality of Life

Volt transforms the Ruhr region to become climate-resilient and worth living in. Our goals at a glance:

- Greening roofs and facades, converting brownfields
- Funding of urban gardening and wildflower meadows
- Extension of drinking water fountains, accessible toilets and waste-collection systems
- Protection of urban forests, unsealing and new green spaces
- Regional heat protection plans and early warning systems

**Best practice: underground waste-collection systems based on suction following the example of Helsinki - for clean cities**

## 06 Economic Transformation and Innovation

Volt promotes a sustainable and digital economy in the Ruhr region. Our goals at a glance:

- GStart-up centres for green tech, hydrogen and digitalisation
- Re-activation of industrial areas for innovation and co-working
- Promotion of regional supply chains with the help of the 'Made in Ruhr' label
- Assistance for small companies with digital transformation
- Equitable labour, advanced training and tariff commitment in new sectors

**PLUS: Regional innovation clusters link universities, start-ups and municipalities**

## 07 Shaping European Cooperation Locally

Volt brings Europe to the cities of the Ruhr region. Our goals at a glance:

- Extension and strategic utilisation of city partnerships
- Europe Day with exchange formats and partner cities
- Introduction of a 'European Ruhr Pass' for youth mobility
- Better visibility and utilisation of EU funding

**PLUS: EUROCITIES, RGRE and EUREGIO as useful platforms for municipal learning**

## 08 Culture, Tourism and Identity

Volt strengthens the culture and diversity of the Ruhr region. Our goals at a glance:

- Equitable and inclusive funding for culture - including migrant initiatives
- Promotion of sustainable concepts for tourism
- Support of cross-city mega events
- Visualisation of the culture of remembrance in public spaces

**PLUS: Introduction of a tourism dashboard for data-based management of regional offerings**

## 09 Youth, Participation and Democracy

Volt makes sure that youth participation is binding and powerful. Our goals at a glance:

- Lowering the voting age to 14 for municipal participation formats
- Establishment of youth parliaments and bureaus
- Digital participation budgets for young people
- Political education and protection of democratic spaces

**PLUS:** Shaping participation process in cooperation with adolescents - starting from planning going all the way to implementation.

## 10 Regional Development and Governance in the RVR

Volt strengthens the role of the RVR for the entire region. Our goals at a glance:

- More transparency, participation and digital access to the Ruhr Parliament
- Clear distribution of funding and competences within the RVR
- Monitoring systems for climate targets, mobility and social justice
- Inter-municipal cooperation on digitalisation and infrastructure

**PLUS:** Citizen-controlled funding and digital platforms as new forms of participation in society for a transparent regional development.



# 11 Emergency Management - Crisis-proof and Interconnected for Greater Resilience

Volt caters for a connected, modern civil protection in the region. Our goals at a glance:

- Establishment of a regional resilience network and centralised training and cooperation centers for civil protection
- Accessible early warning systems and coordinated emergency plans
- Protection of the IT infrastructure throughout the entire Ruhr region

**Best practice: The rescEU programme serves as a model for European cooperation in civil protection.**

# Future made in Ruhr

## Your voice decides on the future of the Ruhr region

The Ruhr region is facing major challenges - but also unique opportunities. Volt is stepping up to rethink our region, our home, together with the people living here: European, ecological, socially just and digital.

We believe in the power of togetherness, in the energy of local innovations and players and in the strength of lived diversity within a varied civil society.

Our programme is not a catalogue of individual measures.

Rather, it is an invitation to cooperatively shaping a solidary, sustainable metropolitan region.

We focus on courageous and, above all, honest policy.

We are not slamming social justice, climate protection, participation in society and progress over the other but instead are combining them.

**The Ruhr region can become a European role model - for a sustainable economy, for an inclusive, socially just urban development, for democratic participation and European cooperation.**

This requires new ideas, pragmatic solutions - and in particular the political will to implement instead of making empty promises.

**Volt is ready to take the leap.**

**Together with all those who long for a policy that unites instead of dividing, that acts in a solution-oriented manner instead of symbolically governing.**

We are convinced: If you want something new, you need to vote for something new

Let's shape the future together. Future made in Ruhr. With Volt. For all people. Now.

## About Volt

Only a Europe that acts together can solve our shared challenges. National parties are reaching their limits. To counteract populist promises and give a home to all Europeans, we created Volt: the first pan-European party. We strive to empower people to change politics and unlock Europe's potential. Active in already more than 30 countries, we encourage citizens to rethink and shape politics in their cities, in their countries and across borders in Europe.

We are pan-European, pragmatic and progressive. While striving to promote diversity, we come together because of our shared goals and values. We ask the necessary questions and make realistic proposals to solve pan-European challenges.

### **Our plan for a better Europe**

We work towards a united, federal Europe where everyone has equal chances to fulfil their unique potential. By uniting our strengths democratically, we strive to form a strong, responsible and transparent European government that acts in the interest of all Europeans.

Volt competed in the European Elections in 2019 for the first time and we led a cross-border election campaign with a European election programme. As a result, Damian Boeselager became the first Volter in the European Parliament. And the 2024 European Elections five Volt members were elected to the European Parliament.

## **Volt Ruhr - Europe at the heart of the region**

Volt Ruhr is the regional association of all Volt teams in the area of the Ruhr Regional Association (RVR) - with over 550 active members and supporters (as of July 2025) and growing. As a point of contact and coordination centre, Volt Ruhr strengthens local networking and cooperation in one of the most dynamic regions in Germany.

Volt is already represented in several German cities since the 2020 local elections. A milestone was the founding of the "Volt and Diversity" parliamentary group in Dortmund in January 2025 - together with the Alliance for Diversity and Tolerance (BVT). In doing so, we are taking a stand for a progressive, pro-European local policy in the region.

Our aspiration is to locally implement the experiences and solutions other European cities and regions made to our challenges - for a socially just, future-oriented Ruhr metropolitan region.

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Haroldstraße 24  
40213 Düsseldorf

### **Board members:**

Nancy Meyer (Chairwoman of the Board),  
Markus Blümke (Chairman of the Board),  
Frances Noltekuhlemann (Deputy Chairwoman),  
David Kessing (Deputy Chairman),  
Wolfgang Heckmann (Treasurer)

### **Responsible for the content according to §55 Abs. 2 RStV:**

Wolfgang Heckmann, Nancy Meyer, Markus Blümke, Frances Noltekuhlemann,  
David Kessing  
Haroldstraße 24  
40213 Düsseldorf  
E-Mail: [vorstand@voltnrw.org](mailto:vorstand@voltnrw.org)

### **Press contact and queries about the Ruhr election programme:**

e-Mail: [ruhr@voltdeutschland.org](mailto:ruhr@voltdeutschland.org)  
Antonia Apatic