

Volt

QUICK GUIDE TO THE

MAYORAL ELECTION IN KIEL

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Fair housing, urban development by the people for the people, diversity through community and an economy that ensures prosperity within planetary boundaries: Viola Ketelsen and Volt Kiel want to make Kiel fit for the future – with heart, attitude and genuine participation from the people of our beautiful city.



ZUKUNFT



MADE IN EUROPE

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KIEL, LET'S BE COURAGEOUS

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A CITY SHAPED BY EVERYONE THAT STRENGTHENS DEMOCRACY

We want to make Kiel a city where democracy is vibrant, transparent and accessible to all. Politics must not take place behind closed doors – it must be tangible, understandable and effective.

- > **Genuine participation for all:** Flexible scheduling of committee meetings, childcare, accessible and multilingual services, outreach participation in all neighbourhoods.
- > **Digital democracy:** Introduction of a municipal online platform, live streams, online voting and open data for transparency.
- > **Local co-creation:** Citizen workshops, citizen budget (budget per resident, its use decided by the residents themselves) and direct participation in projects – for practical solutions from the local community.
- > **New committees:** A democracy council and climate and digitalisation advisory board strengthen democratic culture. The youth council is given binding rights, budgetary powers and digital platforms for young voices.
- > **Learning and living democracy:** From preschool to school to adulthood – democracy education becomes part of everyday life, supported by learning centres, mentoring programmes and cooperation with schools and universities.
- > **Strong media diversity:** Support for local journalism, open press access, usable council data and fair municipal communication.

- > **Dealing with disinformation:** Expansion of media literacy, fact-checking workshops, education in schools and senior citizens' facilities, and targeted anti-disinformation campaigns.
- > **Impact instead of bureaucracy:** Clear goals, measurable indicators and regular impact checks ensure that decisions actually bring about improvements.

This will create a Kiel where every voice counts, trust grows and democracy can be experienced on a daily basis – open, fair and shaped collectively.

A CITY WHERE EVERYONE CAN LIVE WELL, SAFELY AND SUSTAINABLY

Kiel should be a home where housing remains affordable, public spaces provide security and basic services are reliable and climate-friendly.

- > **Affordable housing:** More social housing through higher quotas for social housing construction and longer commitments, a strong municipal housing association (Ki-WoG), and consistent efforts to combat empty housing units. We want to expand trainee and student accommodation, promote age-appropriate housing, and strengthen intergenerational housing projects and community-based care services.
- > **Vibrant neighbourhoods:** Mixed neighbourhoods instead of displacement, heritage or preservation ordinances and targeted investment in disadvantaged areas.

Meeting places, multi-generational houses and a 15-minute city (everything should be within a 15-minute walk for everyday needs) for short distances and strong neighbourhoods.

- > **Prevention & safety:** We want to expand street work, youth clubs and awareness teams, strengthen civil courage and exit programmes. We plan to set up a coordination group against hate crime. Public spaces become safer with better lighting, maintenance and lively squares.
- > **Cleanliness & zero waste:** Waste prevention with reusable items, drinking water dispensers, reuse and repair projects, targeted cleaning of hotspots. We aim to expand successful projects such as the 'Kippen-Orakel' (cigarette butt oracle). We want to prevent vandalism through legal graffiti areas, creative projects and rapid repairs.
- > **Strong emergency services:** We plan to modernise fire station locations, specifically promote volunteering and young talent, ensure psychosocial care. Support of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) with infrastructure and recognition. We want to make emergency services fit for the future with more skilled workers, digital processes and tele-emergency doctor systems.
- > **Municipal public order service:** Community-oriented, trained in de-escalation, and diverse – with clear communication about activities, better equipment and mandatory training.
- > **Reliable basic services:** We want to consistently align municipal utilities with climate neutrality by 2040 at the

latest, ensure socially graded tariffs and energy consulting, modernise networks and protect water supply as a common good. We plan to operate wastewater treatment plants in a CO₂-neutral manner, reduce microplastics, and recover resources such as phosphorus. We also want to establish waste management as the driving force behind the circular city – with a reuse centre, socially equitable fees, and fair working conditions.

This will make Kiel a city where all generations can live well, live safely, and be reliably well provided for – in a fair, sustainable, and supportive manner.

A STRONG, INNOVATIVE AND CONNECTED CITY

Kiel should be economically successful, innovative and socially sustainable. We combine a sustainable economy, strong partnerships and the city's particular strengths to improve quality of life and opportunities for all.

- > **Economy & innovation:** Use of commercial space sustainably for skilled trades, start-ups and social enterprises. We promote industry, skilled trades and start-ups in a targeted manner, attract skilled workers, and strengthen training and digitalisation. Innovation hubs, pilot projects and the Waterkant Festival support new ideas and projects that serve the public benefit.
- > **Cooperation & networking:** Promotion of networks between science, business and administration, of real-world

laboratories and innovation platforms. We aim to strengthen European and regional cooperation, utilise funding and best practices. We want to use open data and transparent artificial intelligence to enable participation, control and efficient urban development.

- > **Strengths & special features:** Support of GEOMAR, Kiel Harbour, KITZ, Science Park and Alte Mu as innovation and education locations. Development of the Marine Visualisation Centre as a beacon for research, education and tourism. We aim to make unique institutions visible and network them closely with citizens, schools and universities.
- > **Tourism & city life:** cruises should be more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and integrate guests into the city. We want to revitalise the city centre with pop-up stores, makerspaces and attractive places to stay. Weekly markets will be strengthened as meeting places by integration of cultural activities and volunteer initiatives. We want to use the accommodation tax in a socially equitable and transparent manner to promote tourist attractions and quality of life.
- > **Retail & neighbourhoods:** Support of local, small-scale shops, promote fair rental conditions and digital networking. We aim to actively use vacant properties and enable temporary uses that serve the common good. Neighbourhoods should be strengthened as lively centres with culture, gastronomy and green spaces.
- > **Skilled workers & city marketing:** Kiel should be

promoted as an attractive place to live and work, by highlighting quality of life, urban diversity and scientific excellence. We want to promote innovative networking formats such as the Waterkant Festival, Opencampus and Digital Week. We also want to highlight Kiel's cultural, social and European strengths in city marketing and communication.

Kiel combines economy, culture, innovation and community – open, sustainable and future-oriented for all.

A MODERN AND CITIZEN-ORIENTED CITY ADMINISTRATION

The city administration should function efficiently, digitally, inclusively and as an attractive employer for all. We focus on digitalisation, modern management, good working conditions and targeted recruiting of skilled workers so that the administration can serve citizens optimally.

- > **Digital citizen services:** All administrative processes should be available online, processing statuses should be trackable and direct digital communication with officials should be enabled. All services should be accessible, multilingual and easy to understand. Artificial intelligence-supported assistance systems and automated processes should reduce administrative workload and free up time for personal support.
- > **Attractive employer:** The city administration should attract and retain skilled workers. Flexible team structures,

targeted skilled worker bonuses and programmes such as the Stadttalente programme support employees in key areas. Ergonomic workplaces, healthy cafeteria options and regular networking opportunities strengthen motivation and job satisfaction. A modern management culture, dialogue-oriented approach, constructive handling of mistakes, a focus on trust and promotion of mental health characterise high-quality administrative work in Kiel.

With a modern, digital and motivated administration, Kiel will become efficient, citizen-oriented and future-proof – for the benefit of all residents.

A CITY THAT INVESTS IN CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Children are the heart of our society. Education and care are more than just daycare or school – they are the foundation for personal development, social participation and a self-determined life. Kiel should be a child-friendly city that relieves the burden on families, strengthens equal opportunities and offers spaces where children can grow up curious, creative and self-confident.

- > **Child-friendly urban development:** Family-friendly cafés, child-friendly libraries, mobile children's discos and the co-design of playgrounds promote interaction, exercise and participation.
- > **Early childhood education and care:** Expand childcare

centres to provide comprehensive, inclusive and high-quality services. Flexible childcare hours, short distances and reliable services ensure a good work-life balance. We aim to strengthen skilled workers in childcare through better training, fair pay and multi-professional teams.

- > **Educational equity:** Digital participation, free materials, tutoring, healthy school meals and welcome centres for immigrants ensure equal opportunities. Inclusive school buildings, support staff and language support strengthen integration and participation.
- > **Schools as places of learning and living:** Modern, accessible schools with digital equipment, open learning environments, full-day programmes and multi-professional support create optimal conditions for teaching, learning and development.
- > **Vocational training:** Supporting training through housing, orientation, mentoring and accessible platforms. Designing flexible continuing education programmes with accompanied transitions and European mobility.
- > **Universities & science:** We aim to make students and research visible, ensure affordable housing, mental health and participation. Real-world laboratories and cooperation between universities, cities and businesses promote innovation and social engagement.
- > **Adult education centres & libraries:** Förde Adult Education Centre (Förde-vhs) and libraries as local learning centres and meeting places strengthen lifelong learning, integration and social participation.

Kiel invests in education, care, science and lifelong learning – for a strong, fair and sustainable city where children, young people, families and adults can grow together.

A CITY THAT ACTIVELY PROMOTES THE MOBILITY TRANSITION

The mobility transition combines climate protection, social justice and quality of life. Kiel has a good foundation, such as a bus network, ferry links and shared mobility services, but it still needs an integrated, inclusive and climate-friendly transport system.

- > **Expanding local public transport:** Affordable, reliable, accessible and low-emission, with more frequent services, night lines and electrification of buses and ferries.
- > **Kiel Tramway – sustainable public transport:** Efficient, interconnected local transport is central to a liveable city. Kiel is planning the first section of its tramway system by 2034, funded by state and federal funds. The tramway system offers a climate-friendly, reliable and comfortable service for all and is to be implemented as part of an interconnected public transport system. Public participation, cost-benefit analysis and alternatives such as bus rapid transit will continue to be considered. The aim is to create a sustainable transport system that meets the demands of climate, mobility and urban development.
- > **Kiel Ticket:** Affordable access for people on low incomes, unbureaucratic and usable throughout the city.

- > **Job ticket:** Extension to all companies, simplified administration and promotion of sustainable mobility.
- > **Promoting pedestrian traffic:** Safe, barrier-free and attractive routes, improved quality of life and traffic-calmed areas.
- > **Cargo bikes and sharing:** Expansion of cargo bikes, e-bikes, car sharing and bike sharing, including sustainable charging infrastructure and repair facilities.
- > **Securing the Sprossenflotte:** Expansion, better integration with public transport, car sharing and socially acceptable prices.
- > **Car-free streets and a car-free Kiellinie waterfront:** More space for pedestrians and cyclists, culture, green spaces and quality of life.
- > **Improving Park+Ride:** Convenient transfer points, digital integration, charging infrastructure and better public transport connections.
- > **Fair resident parking:** Fees based on vehicle size and drive type, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- > **30 km/h inner city speed limit as the new norm:** 30 km/h should become the standard inner city speed limit, especially on roads without cycle lanes. Advantages: Less noise, lower particulate matter pollution, more efficient fuel consumption, greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists, hardly any longer journey times. Cities such as Paris, Berlin and Helsinki show that 30 km/h improves traffic flow and reduces the consequences of accidents. We are committed to the consistent expansion of 30 km/h zones in Kiel.

- > **smart traffic management:** Real-time traffic management to optimise traffic lights and traffic flows.

Kiel will thus become a city where mobility is climate-friendly, socially just and a matter of course for everyone in their everyday lives.

A CITY THAT CARES FOR EVERYONE'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

Kiel should be a city where people are welcome regardless of their origin, status or circumstances, where they feel safe and experience participation. To this end, we combine integration measures, psychosocial support and inclusive health services.

- > **Reducing loneliness:** Almost one in two residents in Kiel reports feeling lonely. We want to strengthen encounters and participation by designing public spaces, parks and neighbourhood facilities in such a way that they encourage people to stay and connect. Neighbourhood cafés, community centres and volunteer services are to be expanded and secured in the long term. An annual awareness day and information campaigns will raise awareness of the issue of loneliness. We are also focusing on digital overview maps for cultural, sports and leisure activities, as well as improved use of the KielPass to enable participation regardless of income. In this way, we are creating more social proximity, integration and cohesion in Kiel.
- > **Psychosocial care:** Early, culturally sensitive trauma

treatment for refugees, establishment of multi-professional teams, cooperation with specialist agencies.

- > **Humane accommodation:** Decentralised accommodation instead of large collective shelters, accompanied by social work and neighbourhood services.
- > **Healthy nutrition and exercise:** Mandatory exercise sessions in daycare centres/schools, healthy meals, expansion of play and sports areas.
- > **Prevention and drug policy:** Controlled consumption rooms, prevention programmes, non-punitive approaches for small quantities, involvement of families.
- > **Access to healthcare:** accessible services for people with a migration background, without insurance or with limited mobility.
- > **Mental health:** Expansion of the community psychiatric network, supported transitional housing, neighbourhood contact points, participation for people with mental health issues.
- > **Municipal hospital:** The municipal hospital will remain public and community-oriented, staffing secured, digital and sustainable infrastructure expanded, inclusive access for all.

With clear structures, targeted support and preventive measures, we are making Kiel a city where integration succeeds, health is promoted and participation is possible for all.

A CITY FOR CULTURE, ACTIVITY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Kiel should be a city where everyone can be active, creative and socially connected. Exercise, sport, culture and community activities strengthen health, participation and togetherness. We focus on local, barrier-free and inclusive activities that promote leisure, top-class sport and cultural engagement.

- > **Sports and physical activity:** Local parks, squares, schoolyards and sports facilities will be turned into open, inclusive exercise areas with SportBoxes (automated equipment lockers), calisthenics zones and intergenerational activities. Existing sports facilities are being modernised, made barrier-free and expanded to meet demand. Co-operation between schools, clubs and the city will encourage all Kiel residents to exercise regularly.
- > **Top-level sport and e-sport:** Kiel supports clubs such as Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) Kiel and Holstein Kiel, promotes young talent, water sports and e-sport activities in order to develop sporting talent, strengthen team spirit and promote digital skills. Infrastructure will be used sustainably and will be modernised.
- > **Olympics 2036:** The bid for Olympic sailing competitions will be transparent, sustainable and participatory, with long-term benefits for sport, urban development, the economy and society.
- > **Culture and creativity:** Theatre, the independent art

scene, creative centres, neighbourhood festivals, night-life and artists and cultural practitioners will be promoted. Spaces for cultural use will be secured, temporary use will be facilitated and the participation of cultural creators will be strengthened.

- > **Volunteering and associations:** Volunteering will be supported through central contact points, micro-grants, training and barrier-free structures. Associations will receive reliable planning conditions, transparent funding and long-term support.
- > **Urban infrastructure:** Green spaces, allotments, swimming pools and outdoor pools are maintained sustainably, accessibly and with a focus on neighbourhood needs. Sports and playgrounds are designed to be inclusive, multifunctional and ecological in order to promote interaction, recreation and participation.
- > **Remembrance culture and monument protection:** Historical sites, memorials and monuments are made accessible, digitally visible and communicated in a participatory manner to keep history alive.

Through these measures, we are creating a city in which all people can actively, creatively and socially participate – a city that makes life worth living.

A CITY PREPARING TODAY FOR THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW

Kiel is facing up to the challenges of climate change, securing energy, water and public safety, and investing specifically in quality of life and sustainability. With forward-looking measures, we want to make our city climate-neutral, crisis-proof and liveable.

- > **Strengthening energy efficiency:** Renovating municipal buildings to improve their energy efficiency, introducing intelligent control systems, raising user awareness of energy saving.
- > **Expanding energy resilience:** decentralised renewable energy generation, storage, smart grids, emergency power and charging hubs for citizens.
- > **Heat protection and urban greenery:** heat action plan, cooling centres, access to drinking water, more trees, pocket parks and de-paving.
- > **Strengthening disaster preparedness:** crisis plans, risk communication, emergency power and cooperation with Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) & German Life Saving Association (DLRG).
- > **Binding climate targets & investments:** climate budget until 2045, prioritisation of climate-friendly investments in energy, adaptation and infrastructure.
- > **Sponge city approach & rainwater management:** Store, infiltrate and use rainwater locally, green roofs and retention areas.

- > **Sustainable living & heat planning:** Implement energy-efficient, climate-neutral and socially just housing with citizen participation.
- > **Circular economy & recycling:** Avoid waste, promote reuse, keep resources in circulation.
- > **Secure water supply:** Smart sensor technology, rainwater and greywater utilisation, adjusted pricing and raising public awareness.

Kiel should remain climate-friendly, crisis-proof and liveable – for today and for the future.

EPILOGUE

Rising nationalism limits political thinking to national action and jeopardises European unity.

We need to work more with each other rather than alongside each other.

We need to work more for each other rather than against each other.

We need more Europe so that history does not repeat itself.



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