

Making Charlottenburg- Wilmersdorf affordable

District election program 2026

Die Linke



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Introduction

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is more socially divided than any other district. Our district has the greatest wealth disparities in Berlin: While millionaires live in expensive condos or mansions on Ku'damm or in Grunewald, every second child in Charlottenburg Nord grows up in poverty.

The Bahnhofsmmission at Bahnhof Zoo is bursting at the seams, while 150 meters down the road, guests stay at the posh Waldorf Astoria for thousands of euros a night. On Wilmersdorfer Straße, the Karstadt building has stood empty for years and is now set to be converted into even more office space and luxury apartments, while just a few blocks away on at Stuttgarter Platz, people are forced to live under the bridge and freeze in the winter.

For more and more people, our district is simply no longer affordable due to high rents. The district is doing too little to combat criminal landlords, illegal vacation rentals, and speculative vacancies!

We want to change that together with you!

We are fighting for a district where rent is affordable, where the pub or bakery around the corner doesn't have to close. We are expanding social services so that everyone— whether young or old, single parents or the unemployed, long-time residents or newcomers to Berlin —gets the support they need. We are strengthening community in times of increasing isolation.

We have the political will to take on the real estate industry. We will crack down hard on predatory landlords, cap rents in municipal housing, and expropriate Deutsche Wohnen, Vonovia & Co. **We also provide direct help:** through tenant meetings regarding rent hikes and skyrocketing heating costs, as well as our weekly social consultation hours.

We prevent the displacement of further community gardens or green spaces, ensure more traffic calming measures, and create more sports and recreational areas in the neighborhoods. We want safe sidewalks and protected bike lanes so that everyone can reach their destination safely and stress-free.

Racism, anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment, and anti-Semitism have no place in our district. We fund permanent support centers and projects to combat discrimination against minorities. Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf remains united and diverse.

We want to do politics differently: The Berlin Senate's budget cuts are hitting many social service providers and cultural venues in the district hard. We continue to fight against these anti-social austerity measures, but we also provide concrete help. In recent years, we have regularly donated to associations and non-profit organizations in the district. To make this a permanent practice, we will establish a **solidarity fund** over the next five years using income from our district council members, which will provide financial support for social, cultural, and neighborhood projects.

1. Rent and Housing

We all deserve a safe and affordable home—no matter what passport or job we have, whether we're an apprentice or a retiree. But the reality for millions of people in Berlin is quite different: fake "personal use" evictions, rising rents and utility costs, poor maintenance, and displacement from their beloved neighborhoods. In no other district are asking rents higher than here in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf.

The reason: landlords like Vonovia, Deutsche Wohnen, and shell companies from Luxembourg are raking in profits from rent without restraint! And the federal government and the Berlin Senate have been standing by and watching for years. In Berlin, Kai Wegner and his CDU are pursuing policies against everyone who rents: through inaction in prosecuting illegally high rents, a failure to provide social housing for the general population, and ignoring the referendum on the socialization of publicly traded housing corporations. But the problem also lies within the district office. The district itself is doing far too little to combat criminal landlords, illegal vacation rentals, and vacant properties. For more and more of us, our district is simply no longer affordable due to high rents.

The good news: A different Berlin is possible. There are many of us tenants: 85 percent of the people in our district live in rental housing. We in Die Linke have organized together with local tenant initiatives in the district over the past few years and have successfully fought off illegal rent hikes and applied pressure regarding lack of maintenance. That's why we can say from experience: If we stand together and fight, we can bring about real change. But this also finally requires the political will to take on landlords:

Crack down on criminal landlords, cap rents in municipal housing, and expropriate Deutsche Wohnen, Vonovia & Co.

Fighting high rents

When rents are significantly above the legal rent index because landlords are exploiting the tight housing market to rip people off, this constitutes so-called rent gouging. In November 2024, Die Linke launched a rent gouging check: More than 100,000 households have used this tool in Berlin alone. The results showed that two-thirds of all rents checked are illegally high. Here in our district, too, hundreds of cases involving suspected rent gouging have been reported to the authorities—yet almost nothing is being done. During the last legislative session, we persistently demanded more staff to handle rent gouging cases; in the end, only one part-time position was approved.

We are making the prosecution of rent gouging a top priority. The responsible agency is severely understaffed, which is why, as an immediate measure, we are providing 100 staff positions across Berlin to penalize illegal rents and impose fines on criminal landlords. Tenants will receive a refund for any excess rent paid without having to go through a court case themselves. Whenever tenants receive a rental subsidy (e.g., housing allowance), the district office should review the permissible rent amount if it is conspicuously

disproportionate to the landlord's services. Housing allowance is not intended to pay for illegally high rents with taxpayer money and thereby finance landlords' profits! In addition, we want to establish a permanent, public, and free **rent review office** in the district.

Furnished short-term rentals have also been on the rise in recent years. By charging a furnishing surcharge and using the time-limited nature of these leases as an exception to the rent cap, landlords are demanding rents that are significantly overpriced. We will ensure that furnished short-term rentals are **immediately banned in all neighborhood protection zones in the district** and that the apartments are subsequently rented out at affordable rates. Outside of neighborhood protection zones, we want to use all planning law options to prevent the rental of furnished temporary apartments in both new construction and existing buildings. The rent review office should also advise tenants on these issues.

Exorbitant rents burden all Berliners, but migrant tenants are particularly vulnerable to unscrupulous landlords, as they are often unaware of the legal situation and are forced into particularly unfavorable tenancy agreements due to discrimination in the housing market. The district office must provide **informational materials on the most important tenant rights and available assistance in various languages** during every visit to the office (e.g., when registering an apartment); counseling services must also be offered in various languages.

Expand neighborhood protection, prevent displacement

Neighborhood protection is the most important district-level tool for protecting tenants from being displaced from their neighborhoods. It can prevent luxury renovations, the demolition of residential buildings, and the increasing short-term rental of furnished apartments. Under pressure from the Left Party, neighborhood protection zones were designated for the first time in many neighborhoods starting in 2016. Since 2023, no new neighborhood protection zones have been established under the leadership of the CDU and the Greens. As a result, many tenants in the district, particularly in Wilmersdorf, have not been protected.

We want to significantly expand neighborhood protection in the district and enforce it consistently. Over the next five years, we will **designate new neighborhood protection zones** wherever legally possible, particularly around Schloßstraße and Amtsgerichtsplatz, as well as in Wilmersdorf. For the existing zones, we want to **extend the protection**. Our goal for all areas: **no short-term rentals** of furnished apartments, **no demolition** of intact residential buildings, and **no conversion** of rental units into condominiums. We are committed to protecting tenants from displacement caused by real estate speculation. This also includes ensuring that the district office makes use of the legal options available to exercise its **district-level right of first refusal**. In such cases, a designated contact person within the administration will be assigned to tenants. In general, **more financial resources and staff** are needed to better implement and enforce neighborhood protection, as well as to provide regular information and advice to all tenants. Additionally, the **Neighborhood Protection Advisory Board** should be maintained.

Only socially acceptable new construction

Not all new construction helps! Too few social housing units and affordable housing for the general population are being built. There is an acute shortage of municipal and cooperative housing in the district. Homeless people, students, apprentices and refugees, in particular, cannot find housing in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. Furthermore, our district has the highest number of evictions for owner occupancy among all districts. It is especially important for older people to be able to remain in their familiar living environment, but this is nearly impossible with small pensions and high market rents in our district.

The **social-housing quotas** for new construction projects must be significantly increased. The district must advocate for reforming the cooperative building-land model at the state level to mandate **a quota of 60%** (instead of the current 30%) of residential space with rent and occupancy controls **in development plans**. Alternatively, **private investors** should be able to **sell 50% of the land to the State of Berlin** so that it can build permanently affordable housing. This will enable us to reclaim land for public ownership.

For housing projects without a development plan, the **Neukölln model** will be applied to ensure that the construction of social housing is mandated, even when filling in vacant lots. Furthermore, all available planning-law options will be utilized to ensure social housing quotas for residential construction.

To secure municipal land for affordable housing construction, the district will utilize all legally available forms of **the municipal right of first refusal**—particularly for undeveloped lots.

We reject the federal government's so-called **"Bau-Turbo"** [construction turbo] because it undermines democratic planning procedures and environmental assessments. Should it nevertheless make sense in individual cases to apply this instrument for housing construction, then only under **the binding requirement of a 60% social housing quota** or, alternatively, a public acquisition of 50% of the land. The district office will ensure the democratic participation of the urban community even with the "construction turbo."

State-owned enterprises and cooperatives, as housing companies dedicated to the public good, need to be empowered in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf to create new, affordable housing for the general public. State-owned enterprises should construct **new buildings on publicly owned land that are 100% subject to rent and occupancy controls**. We want to improve access to state-owned land and grant **plots to cooperatives and for public-interest housing construction via long-term leases** under terms based on the revenue that can be generated from affordable or rent-controlled housing.

For every zoning plan, we will assess whether the creation of **housing for students, apprentices, and seniors** is feasible and, if so, make it mandatory for at least one of these population groups. The district office is advocating with the **TU and the UdK** to ensure that unused potential for student housing on campus is realized under building regulations. In addition to new construction, innovative conversions of underutilized university buildings are also being examined and linked to applications for federal funding.

The principle is: **conversion before new construction**. To create more apartments in existing buildings, **unused office space** should be converted into housing. To this end, the district should establish the necessary planning requirements and actively approach owners of suitable office space.

Crack Down on Misuse

Our district needs every affordable apartment. Nevertheless, thousands of apartments are being offered as illegal vacation rentals, some of which have stood vacant for years, or residential buildings with affordable rents are being demolished to make way for luxury apartments. The district office does not consistently apply the legal tools at its disposal; on the contrary, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf actually leads Berlin in the number of demolitions.

We want to put an end to the business of illegal vacation rentals and are advocating in Berlin for a **comprehensive ban on vacation rentals in residential buildings**. With the help of digital tools, it should be made easier for authorities to automatically identify illegal listings on websites like Airbnb, shut down the business, and make the living space available to Berliners again.

Vacancies must currently be reported by neighbors, and each case must be reviewed individually. We demand **automatic tracking** of vacancies using the “electricity meter method” **and the consistent enforcement of penalties for misuse through vacancy. Ghost houses** that have stood vacant for years must be repaired. To this end, we want to simplify the process of substitute performance (i.e., the district takes over the renovation at the owners’ cost) and the appointment of trustees.

Berlin needs a legal **moratorium on demolition**. Demolition and new construction are not only harmful to the climate, but they also frequently result in the termination of affordable tenancies in favor of luxury apartments; renovating the buildings is almost always preferable. By tightening building codes and the prohibition on misuse of property at the state level, we aim to ensure that the demolition of residential housing is only permitted in narrowly defined exceptional cases justified on social and ecological grounds. In such cases, at least 50 percent of the units in the replacement development must be rented out at socially acceptable rents.

Preventing evictions

Every year, thousands of people lose their homes due to evictions for owner-occupancy and **forced evictions**. We want to strengthen protection against eviction and shield tenants from arbitrary actions. We assist tenants with back payments to prevent evictions due to late payments. In the future, eviction notices should be served in person by court officials so that tenants are informed in a timely and unambiguous manner and made aware of available assistance. Administrative assistance for evictions should be limited to what is strictly necessary—districts should no longer be forced to participate in the displacement

of their own residents. We want to significantly strengthen **social housing** assistance at the district office.

Improve access to housing subsidies and public housing

Many Berliners can no longer afford rising rents. We want to speed up access to benefits such as **housing assistance**. Anyone currently applying for housing assistance in our district has to wait several weeks to months for a decision. To shorten processing times, we want to streamline the process, explore ways to reduce bureaucracy in the application process, and prioritize staffing the housing assistance office with more personnel.

A **housing eligibility certificate (WBS)** entitles the holder to move into a subsidized apartment with a set maximum rent. Again, we are calling for a reduction in processing time: We demand a two-week guarantee for receiving the WBS once all documents have been submitted in full. For specific housing offers that can only be rented with a WBS, an emergency WBS should be issued within 48 hours.

With the **Secure Housing Act**, we aim to introduce a citywide social housing quota. All landlords in the district who own at least 50 residential units would have to allocate at least one in every three vacant apartments to households eligible for a WBS.

Help for tenants

The district must not turn a blind eye to inadequate maintenance or even systematic neglect. For years, many people in our district have been exposed daily to health hazards such as mold, Legionella, and asbestos in their apartments. Tenants of Vonovia, the Adler Group, and Gewobag are particularly affected. We want to significantly expand the **district housing and building inspection department** by creating new staff positions and making it more capable of taking action. Wherever conditions are unacceptable, these authorities—in cooperation with the health department if necessary—should consistently order the **rectification of defects**, impose fines, and, if the landlord refuses, remedy the defects themselves through substitute performance. In the case of structural defects in the building, the legal **obligation to repair** will be enforced against the landlord.

We want **to promote and raise awareness of** the existing services by offering **free rental law counseling**. Anyone who cannot afford membership in a tenants' association should have their fees covered by the State of Berlin so that everyone can assert their rights.

Affordable municipal housing

The state-owned housing companies are the key to ensuring long-term affordable housing in Berlin. We will implement a **rent cap for municipal housing** at the state level.

State-owned companies should continue to **purchase housing stock** to expand the share of public-interest housing in our district. In particular, the purchase of the Adler Group's

housing stock on **Angerburger Allee** should take place immediately if the company intends to sell, given the particularly poor condition of the properties.

Better Living in Large Housing Estates

While millionaires live in their expensive condos on the Ku'damm, every second child in the Paul-Hertz housing estate in Charlottenburg-Nord grows up in poverty. We want to focus specifically on the large housing estates in our district, such as Angerburger Allee or the Paul-Hertz housing estate, and improve life there. It is unacceptable that so many people there suffer from a neglected living environment, litter, poor lighting, a lack of neighborhood gathering places, and inadequate social infrastructure. We want to make these large housing estates more livable—socially inclusive, clean, and safe.

We want state-owned housing companies to **invest more in their large housing estates and the local living environment**. With the Berlin-wide action program “**Schöner Wohnen im Quartier**” [**Better Living in the Neighborhood**], we aim to renovate municipal housing stock without raising rents. Communication with tenants and the resolution of housing defects must be reliable and prompt. To this end, positions for **new, permanently employed building managers** must be created. Common areas, play areas, and green spaces should be upgraded, and lighting should be reliably expanded and repaired.

Safe Housing for All

We want the district office to specifically advocate for **housing for vulnerable groups**—such as single mothers, queer people, people with disabilities, refugees, students, apprentices, and seniors—in construction projects. We want **to consistently combat discrimination in housing allocation**. The district office should establish a **contact person** within the housing office **for those affected by discrimination** in the housing market.

Berlin lags behind the national average in terms of the supply of dormitory spaces for **students**. In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, there are ten public student dormitories, all with waiting periods of over 18 months. We demand a **significant expansion of subsidized dormitory spaces in the district and the rapid renovation** of existing buildings.

Berlin is aging, and many **senior citizens** are particularly burdened by rising rents; they account for 56% of housing-allowance recipients in Berlin. In addition, older adults have special needs, such as barrier-free housing and proximity to their social network and, if necessary, family caregivers. We want to establish **loneliness officers** in all large housing estates in the district who will visit older tenants at home and organize senior-friendly activities for the neighborhood.

Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co

In September 2021, 59.1 percent of Berliners voted in favor of the referendum “**Deutsche Wohnen & Co enteignen**” [Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co] In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, too, there are large housing portfolios owned by corporations such as Vonovia,

Deutsche Wohnen, and Adler. Here, issues such as poor maintenance, incorrect heating and utility bills, and excessive rents are particularly common. We want **to finally implement the referendum** in Berlin and transfer corporations that own more than 3,000 apartments in Berlin into public ownership. In doing so, we will ensure that rents **for tens of thousands of apartments** in the district remain **permanently affordable** and that the quality of housing improves again.

2.Sustainable Urban Development and the Economy

The sell-off of the city continues in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. Planning too often ignores the needs of the people in the district. Redensification often comes at the expense of green spaces and open areas, worsening the quality of life and health of people in neighborhoods that are already densely built-up. The closure of popular local shopping destinations like Karstadt and Rogacki has further diminished the appeal of Wilmersdorfer Straße. Even small, traditional shops and pubs are threatened with displacement due to high rents.

Our vision is a district that belongs to the people, not to investors. We put people and their needs front and center. We want a district without new office towers and skyscrapers, where land is not subject to speculation. A district free of displacement and demolition, focused on renovation, conversion and the utilization of existing structures. A district of short distances, with housing and work, local amenities, and public social infrastructure right in the neighborhood. With sufficient green spaces and open areas, fairly distributed and accessible to all Berliners close to where they live.

Developing the City Together

Urban development in our district is often carried out without serious and broad public participation. Many residents often only learn of changes when it is too late and plans are well advanced or construction projects are already underway.

Open and inclusive, not behind closed doors; early on and with an open-ended approach—this is how we want to shape socio-ecological urban renewal together with the people in the district. We take initiatives and active neighbors seriously in their concerns and work with them to design concepts for cooperative urban development.

We want a **comprehensive public participation process** before the start of every zoning plan procedure, in order to discuss the goals and broad outlines of the planning with local residents in an open-ended manner. Participation should include on-site events, information in multiple languages for affected households, and online surveys.

We demand that **district and state guidelines on participation** be consistently applied **in all planning** by the district office. Instead of “working to rule,” we call for the **courage to adopt participatory planning approaches**. For smaller construction projects without a planning process, at least early information for the neighborhood. The **outreach approach** will be strengthened to reach groups that cannot be reached through conventional participation formats.

In recent decades, cities have been planned by men for men. We are committed to an **inclusive city** that is oriented toward the needs of all people. Therefore, there should be a mandatory check for gender-, age-, and child-friendly planning.

We support **real-world laboratories for civil-society-led urban development** and aim to establish such a space in our district as well.

Additional Densification: Carefully and in Moderation

Additional densification of residential neighborhoods must not come at the expense of green spaces and open areas. In particular, **we oppose the development of green courtyards** at the expense of residents' quality of life and health.

However, infill development on sealed and unused areas (for example, by closing gaps between buildings, building over single-story grocery stores, or parking lots) makes sense and should be promoted to create housing. **Adding stories** to existing buildings is also fundamentally important, as it creates housing without taking up additional land. We view the practice of granting exemptions from applicable planning laws in connection with infill development critically and advocate for stronger democratic oversight and binding regulations.

Integrated planning for new urban neighborhoods

All too often in Berlin, new urban neighborhoods are developed without ensuring that new housing construction is accompanied by the necessary social and green infrastructure as well as good transportation connections.

New urban neighborhoods such as Stadteingang West must be planned **with an integrated urban-design approach**, taking into account various needs such as housing, work, local amenities, medical offices, schools and daycare centers, youth clubs, well-connected public transportation, as well as green spaces and recreational areas. This should be guided by the 15-minute-city ideal, where all essential needs can be met on foot or by bicycle. New urban neighborhoods will be planned **to conserve land**, using **eco-friendly construction methods wherever possible** (e.g., wood as a building material and circular construction). We also want new urban neighborhoods to be planned **with minimal car traffic** and public transit connections to be established before new residential areas are completed (Mobility first). Every urban neighborhood must be equipped with **communal spaces** for residents.

In existing neighborhoods as well, we aim to strengthen integrated planning approaches through **area development planning** and **integrated urban-development and social-infrastructure concepts** that identify the needs of people in the district and serve as a binding starting point for further planning. We reject projects that contradict these district planning goals.

Leave planning to the districts

The district's planning authority is far too often disregarded by the Senate, which takes over zoning plans against the district's will, to enable investor projects in City West. **We oppose the Senate pushing through construction projects against the district's will** and advocate for democratic planning processes that involve local residents.

Strictly regulate high-rises and offices

We do not share Kai Wegner's vision of a "striking skyline" for Berlin, as the high construction costs of high-rise buildings typically prevent the creation of affordable housing, and from an urban planning perspective, high-rises only fit into their surroundings in a few locations. **We oppose the planning of high-rises for additional offices or luxury apartments.** We view high-rise plans in **City West**—between the Zoo, Breitscheidplatz, and Ku'damm—with skepticism and instead advocate for a careful, incremental development based on existing structures. We firmly reject the plans to demolish the Karstadt building on Ku'damm and replace it with high-rises. We are fighting to **preserve the department-store site there** and are working with the employees to ensure the building's careful redevelopment. We also firmly reject the absurd investor's dream of a **200-meter high-rise near the radio tower.**

Should certain areas prove suitable for high-rises, we have social and ecological requirements for the planning. Instead of even more office space and luxury apartments, high-rises must also create **social and cultural value** for people through affordable housing and other social and cultural infrastructure.

In Berlin, many offices stand empty and are not being used. In order to be able to repurpose office space for residential use, planning laws must be amended promptly. There is no need for new office construction, however, which is why we are advocating for a district-wide **office moratorium.** In new zoning plans, office use should be excluded wherever possible.

ICC for Everyone

The ICC is an iconic building in City West that, after more than a decade of closure, urgently needs to be renovated and reopened to the public. We demand that, in addition to commercial uses, the ICC become a **social and cultural gathering place** for the people of the district. The district must be actively involved in the state's planning.

Utilize urban development funding

The district cannot meet the challenges of socio-ecological urban renewal with its own funds. In recent years, federal programs for urban development projects have already been successfully utilized.

We demand that federal **urban development funding** programs, the **special fund** for infrastructure and climate neutrality, and other external funding opportunities be **consistently utilized.** It must be ensured that the administration is adequately staffed and that expertise is retained.

Enable multiple uses

The 75 schools in the district, along with their schoolyards and sports fields, go unused for over 180 days a year due to holidays, weekends, and school breaks, and therefore represent significant potential for multi-use. We want to activate such uses of district properties for

their neighborhoods (e.g., by **opening them on weekends and during school breaks**) and redesign these spaces accordingly.

Free restrooms for everyone

We advocate for **free, accessible, and gender-inclusive restrooms throughout** the district. Wherever new green spaces, sports facilities, and recreational areas are created, the installation of free restrooms must be included in the planning. More public restrooms should be built in public spaces.

Opening Wilmersdorfer Straße to the future

Wilmersdorfer Straße is unattractive in many people's eyes, and offers a poor quality of place. The closure of the Karstadt department store without the cultural interim use we called for has contributed to its increasing loss of significance.

Our downtown areas must be urban spaces for everyone and need to offer a **high quality of place**. Wilmersdorfer Straße must be **renovated** as quickly as possible using urban-development funds **in a climate-friendly manner**. In addition to retail, **social, cultural, and sports offerings** are necessary to create a functional mix of uses. The neighborhood initiative from the Karl-August-Kiez and local business owners **must be actively involved**.

Protecting small businesses

Vibrant neighborhood life also includes owner-operated shops, bookstores, craft businesses, cafés, and the corner pub. Only in this way can Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf maintain its local amenities, its unique charm, and many people keep their jobs. We want **permits** for businesses and restaurants (e.g., liquor licenses and outdoor dining) to be **issued more quickly** and for businesses to have easier access to government agencies. Since Berlin already has an oversupply of shopping centers, which are driving out small businesses, we are committed to ensuring that **no new shopping centers** are approved in the district. The district's center and retail concept should be updated and, in particular, tailored to the needs of **small and medium-sized businesses**. To counter rising **commercial rents**—which regularly threaten the survival of social and cultural institutions as well—an agreement should be reached with state-owned housing companies to prioritize small and medium-sized businesses in their buildings.

Preserving farmers markets

Weekly markets not only serve as local suppliers in residential areas but are also places where neighbors can interact and often offer an ecologically valuable selection of regional products. We are therefore committed to ensuring that **all weekly markets in the district** are **permanently preserved** and remain under public ownership. In the event of financial difficulties, the district office must take early action and seek out the market operators.

Making Tourism More Neighborhood-Friendly

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, with its numerous attractions, is a popular destination for visitors from all over the world. New hotels are taking up increasingly scarce space and, at the same time, are underutilized. Vacation rentals in residential areas have a high potential for conflict.

To ensure that tourism continues to be widely accepted by the residents of our district in the future, we want **to regulate** it **more strictly**. We therefore advocate for **no additional hotel beds** being approved in our district. Illegal vacation rentals must be consistently penalized. City marketing should be discontinued, and the funds allocated for it should instead be invested in social infrastructure or cultural institutions.

3. Mobility for Everyone

Our district is still designed with cars in mind; the expansion of sustainable mobility is progressing only slowly and is being blocked not only by the Senate but also, in some cases, by the CDU and the Greens here in our district. Not only are more safe bike paths and sidewalks needed, but there are also hardly any spaces to escape city noise or for neighborhood gatherings. Children and young people lack sports and recreational opportunities in their neighborhoods.

Low-income households in particular—who, statistically speaking, predominantly live along major thoroughfares and in poorly insulated buildings—are heavily burdened by negative environmental factors such as a lack of green spaces, noise, and air pollution in their living environments. This often results in lower life expectancy.

Reducing car traffic primarily improves the living conditions of people who suffer particularly from noise and poor air quality. We want to systematically strengthen sustainable mobility options across the board and reduce private car traffic. Mobility and health must not depend on one's wallet; the supposed freedom of motorists must not come at the expense of the majority. It is absurd that a car is parked an average of 23 hours a day, blocking public space. Ultimately, by freeing up space—for example, through the repurposing of parking lots—we gain more room for sustainable mobility and urban green spaces, as well as sports and recreational areas for neighborhoods.

We are committed to Vision Zero, meaning that in the long term, there should be no more deaths or serious injuries from traffic accidents. With a forgiving infrastructure, we'll prioritize the protection of the most vulnerable road users.

Public space for everyone – promoting superblocks in the district

Not only on major thoroughfares, but also in neighborhoods, most of the space is reserved for cars. To date, not a single neighborhood superblock has been established; instead, only cosmetic measures have been taken to achieve supposed traffic calming.

We want to design **superblocks** together with residents and stakeholders from the Mobilitätsrat [mobility council] to sustainably relieve neighborhoods of through traffic and create more green spaces and areas for socializing and recreation. When planning superblocks and traffic-calming measures, all **surrounding major thoroughfares** must also be included in the planning to protect the people living there from a potential increase in car traffic. To this end, comprehensive parking concepts should be developed, and surrounding parking garages should be made available for resident parking.

Sustainable mobility options such as **bicycle parking facilities** must be installed on the roadway and in parking lanes, not on sidewalks. Only then can we reduce car traffic, facilitate the shift to cycling and walking, and give public space back to residents. At the same time, we prevent conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

For **bike and e-scooter sharing**, we want to set up more fixed stations so that they no longer block the sidewalks.

We want to enhance the appeal of public spaces by allowing the **special use of parking lanes** for outdoor dining and non-commercial parklets (following the example of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Leipzig, and Vienna). This ensures that outdoor dining does not come at the expense of pedestrian traffic. We also want to install **100 new benches** on streets and in green spaces, including “chat benches” to combat loneliness. We support initiatives for more **temporary play streets** in the district and call for streamlined permits from the district office.

We want to introduce more enforcement against **illegal parking** on sidewalks and at intersections and push for consistent towing so that cars no longer obstruct pedestrians and cyclists.

We want to change parking regulations and eliminate designated sidewalk parking, supported by bollards where necessary.

Boost cycling and make it safer

In our district, cycling is life-threatening—protected bike lanes are missing everywhere, the existing ones are dilapidated, and in many places they are still integrated into sidewalks, causing conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. In recent years, we have called for protected bike lanes on many streets, none of which have been implemented because the CDU-led Senate Department of Transportation is blocking any and all progress. The BUND has rightly filed a lawsuit against the Senate for inaction, as a protected bike lane has still not been built on Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse.

The funds allocated by the Senate for the renovation and expansion of bike lanes must finally be fully utilized to improve and expand cycling infrastructure. **Protected bike lanes** must finally be built on major roads (including the section of Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. from Luisenplatz to Fehrbelliner Platz, Messedamm, Spandauer Damm to Luisenplatz, Bismarckstr., and Kantstr.).

We call for the expansion of **bicycle streets** reserved exclusively for bicycle traffic. The alternative bicycle network developed by VCD, Changing Cities, and the ADFC should be incorporated into the planning.

We advocate for the resumption of the Senate’s **cycle highway program** and call for the implementation of the RSV 5 West route (from Spandau via Heerstr., Kaiserdamm, and Bismarckstr.).

The **rental fee for bike lockers** is far too expensive compared to resident parking and must finally become more affordable. Bike lockers must be installed on **street land** and not on sidewalks.

We want to install more **bicycle parking facilities on public roadways** and, ideally, at intersections to improve sight lines when crossing, which increases safety, especially for children and older people.

We call for **bicycle parking garages** at major intersections (such as Stuttgarter Platz) to facilitate the switch from cars to bicycles.

Safe sidewalks for everyone!

In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, sidewalks remain unsafe in too many cases. Sidewalks are in poor condition. At intersections, there is a lack of clear sight lines, which can pose a life-threatening hazard, especially for children, seniors, and people in wheelchairs. On many streets, the green phases for pedestrians are so short that it is impossible for children, older adults, and people with limited mobility to cross safely.

Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists at bus stops must be eliminated; bike lanes must be relocated to the roadways for this purpose. We are pushing for the **physical separation of shared pedestrian and bike paths** (in cases of doubt, relocate protected bike lanes to the street and eliminate parking lanes) to finally eliminate these conflicts.

Traffic signal timing for pedestrians must be adjusted so that everyone can safely cross within the green phase (for example, Bismarckstr., Kaiserdamm, Ku'damm, Kantstr., Königin-Elisabeth-Str., etc.). In addition, safe street crossing should be ensured through more crosswalks, sidewalk extensions, median islands, and, on the main road network, through additional pedestrian traffic lights that respond quickly to requests.

The **school route safety measures** planned by the district office must finally be implemented. We fundamentally call for permanent road closures in front of schools ("school streets"). Children must be able to get to school safely without their parents, and the school environment must be designed to meet the needs of students.

The **renovation of sidewalks**, especially on side streets, must be advanced to make walking safe.

Stop the expansion of the A100

Since the 1960s, the A100 has taken up a large portion of the area in our district. People living along the highway suffer from massive noise and air pollution. The planned expansion of the A100 with an additional lane will lead to even more car traffic and place an even greater burden on people's health. Allotment gardens are being razed for the construction.

It is well established that more roads lead to more traffic. Therefore, we firmly oppose the expansion of the A100 with the addition of a fourth lane.

The collapsed bridges and partial closures of the A100 are causing even more traffic on the surrounding main roads and in the neighborhoods. However, the federally owned Autobahn

GmbH refuses to implement a large-scale detour, so that car and heavy truck traffic flows through the district. As a result, roadways and subsurface heating pipes are being damaged, and residents are permanently exposed to enormous noise and air pollution.

We call on the mayor to convene a roundtable with all stakeholders to develop a swift **diversion and noise-protection solution** and protect our residents. During the construction phases, truck and heavy-duty traffic in particular should be diverted on a large scale via the A10.

In the surrounding neighborhoods, **one-way streets** should be implemented for the entire duration of the construction phases to prevent through traffic from passing through the surrounding neighborhoods. On heavily affected detour routes such as Königin-Elisabeth-Straße and Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße, bus traffic must have priority. Vis-a-vis the Senate, we advocate for **temporary bus lanes**, with the elimination of parking lanes.

Public transit for everyone – good connections for all neighborhoods

Areas outside the Ring are still poorly connected by public transport and dominated by car traffic. The distances to the nearest U-Bahn or S-Bahn station are too far to walk, and there is a lack of sharing options for the last mile.

Especially in these areas, as well as at major intersections, we want to set up more **Jelbi stations** in collaboration with BVG and the relevant Senate department to make it easier to switch to public transit, bicycles, and walking.

In addition, we want to achieve more traffic-calming measures outside the S-Bahn ring as well, and provide the respective neighborhoods with a **neighborhood hub** where people can enjoy spending time safely.

We advocate for the expansion of **more bus lanes** to give public transit priority over private vehicles. Kantstraße in particular, but also Kaiser-Friedrich-Str., need a dedicated bus lane in addition to a protected bike lane.

We call for a continuous **tram connection** from Turmstraße to Jungfernheide and, in the long term, to Tegel, taking into account the preservation of ecologically valuable trees and involving local residents. We reject any further years-long delay in planning that would push the project well past 2030.

Accessible Stops and Stations

Many S-Bahn and U-Bahn stations, as well as bus stops, are still not barrier-free and therefore not accessible to everyone. As a result, many people must take long detours to reach their destination.

The district office must pressure the Senate to finally make all train stations and bus stops accessible.

30 km/h speed limit – more protection for everyone

The CDU-led Senate Department of Transportation wants to revert to a 50 km/h speed limit. As a result, residents living along major thoroughfares suffer from noise and air pollution, and traffic safety is at risk.

We are advocating to the Senate for **a 30 km/h speed limit as the general standard**. The number of traffic stops and speed cameras should be significantly increased to minimize the burden on residents and improve traffic safety.

Making smart use of parking spaces

Parking management has been implemented within the Ring and helps make switching to sustainable modes of transportation more attractive. Residents also benefit when looking for parking because unnecessary traffic is kept out of residential areas.

We want **to expand parking management** to areas outside the Ring to ensure all drivers share the costs and to encourage the shift to public transit. The administrative, construction, and maintenance costs of parking spaces must be covered by the fees so that the districts are not left to bear the costs.

Parking management should be implemented in suitable locations: private parking garages must be made **available to residents** to minimize traffic volume in the neighborhoods and to repurpose public street space for the community. To this end, the AG City, for example, should be actively involved in planning processes.

Parking enforcement must be expanded, and parking illegally must be penalized.

Private car traffic is to be reduced by promoting local public transit, cycling, and walking. However, for various reasons—particularly health or work-related ones— people may still rely on their cars. For these groups, measures will include creating more **accessible parking spaces** and expanding a needs-based **charging infrastructure for electric vehicles**. To support essential commercial traffic (tradespeople, care services, delivery vehicles) and prevent illegal parking, sufficient **loading zones** need to be established, primarily along major thoroughfares.

4.Climate, Environment, and Urban Green Spaces

The climate crisis has long been felt in people's daily lives through an increasing number of hot days, growing drought, and heavy rainfall events. Particularly affected are older people and those with health limitations in heat-stressed neighborhoods, children in paved schoolyards, people without access to private gardens, and low-income households in densely built-up residential areas lacking green spaces near their homes. For us it's clear: climate adaptation is a matter of social justice. And our district is not yet sufficiently prepared for the challenges of the climate crisis.

At our urging, a climate emergency was declared in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. This was accompanied by a call for comprehensive measures to combat the climate crisis. We want to build on this and create a district where consistent, socially-oriented climate and environmental policies take all population groups into account. We want Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf to commit to offsetting its greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 at the latest through local offset areas. The underlying focus is to ensure that the minimum targets of the Paris Climate Agreement—which are already disadvantageous to the Global South—are at least met.

Our vision: A city that stays cool in the summer instead of heating up, stores water instead of draining it, protects green spaces instead of paving them over—and where everyone has access to healthy living environments.

Prevent soil sealing, accelerate de-sealing

Increasingly frequent heavy rain events particularly affect densely built-up neighborhoods with a high degree of impervious surfaces and few green spaces. Rainwater cannot fully infiltrate and is diverted into the sewer system, leading to sewage overflows into the Spree and other waterways, which damages them. The heat island effect also causes significant heat stress on summer days.

We want to make the **"sponge city"** a **binding guiding principle** for socially just and ecological urban development. We want to store rainwater in the neighborhood, use it as a resource, and reduce flood risks. Decentralized infiltration of rainwater improves the soil's water balance, and evaporation helps cool the neighborhoods. The sponge city principle will be incorporated into new zoning plans through binding provisions.

We advocate for **net-zero soil sealing by 2030** and aim **to prevent** further **sealing**. Where sealing is unavoidable for affordable housing or social infrastructure such as schools, an equivalent area must be de-sealed within the district. We want to develop a systematic, socially prioritized **land de-sealing strategy** based on the existing district climate-adaptation plan and create a **district land de-sealing registry**. We want to give special priority to **de-sealing parking lots, enlarging tree pits, and creating new infiltration areas and small, neighborhood-based green spaces (pocket parks)** in heat-stressed neighborhoods with a high deficit of green spaces. In addition to transforming sealed-off

street spaces into **blue-green streets with recreational value**, district-owned properties also play an important role. **Schoolyards** will be systematically de-sealed.

Preserving and developing green spaces, protecting community gardens

Sufficient parks, cemeteries, green belts, trees, and community gardens are essential not only for the people in the district but also for protecting the biodiversity of flora and fauna. In our district, inner-city neighborhoods in particular have too few nearby green spaces. Necessary construction projects, such as school expansions or affordable housing, must be balanced with the protection of green spaces. In some places, however, the protection of ecologically valuable green spaces is simply ignored; for example, the Wilmersdorf allotment garden complex Am Stadtpark I was terminated at the end of 2023 by the state-owned company Berlinovo. After temporary use as a neighborhood-maintained climate island, the area has now been cleared to build expensive micro-apartments for students. Other allotment gardens in the district—which serve as intergenerational meeting and educational spaces and contribute to local, sustainable food production—have also been threatened by development for years. The few city parks are being overused, leading to conflicts over their use. Our city's tree population has been steadily declining for a long time.

We have a clear point of view at Die Linke: **Green spaces are social infrastructure** and part of public services. All neighborhoods need sufficient green spaces close to home.

We want to permanently secure and further develop existing green spaces. Green corridors should be strengthened and connected. The greening of public squares and the **creation of green islands** in densely built-up neighborhoods is a must. All **allotment garden sites** in the district that are not covered by the Allotment Garden Protection Act should **be secured under planning law by 2031**. Ongoing planning procedures must be concluded swiftly, and decisions already made by the district council regarding securing allotment-garden sites under planning law must be implemented promptly. By the end of 2027—and by the end of 2026 for the Mannheim allotment-garden colony in Schmargendorf—resolutions to initiate planning procedures must be adopted for these sites to prevent structural changes during the planning process. We also want to permanently secure the allotment-garden sites covered by the Allotment Garden Protection Act under planning law. We are committed to ensuring that all allotment-garden sites include mandatory shares of **community gardens**.

Now that the Green City Council has closed the two most recent barbecue areas, we want to designate new areas for **public barbecue sites** to enable people without their own gardens to barbecue. We support the **Neighborhood and Park Runners** project for conflict prevention in green spaces and advocate for secure funding. Parks should be zoned according to users' needs (e.g., sports areas) to prevent conflicts over use.

We want to consistently ensure and expand the climate-resilient **maintenance of green spaces and street trees**. The district's **tree population** is to be **systematically expanded** in

accordance with the Climate Adaptation Act. Existing trees of ecological value must be preserved wherever possible, and new trees must be planted. We also want to involve citizens in the implementation of the Climate Adaptation Act through various **opportunities for participation** (e.g., the design and maintenance of tree pits). The Department of Streets and Green Spaces will be strengthened in terms of both personnel and funding, in part to ensure **cleanliness in the parks**. We want to preserve our district maintenance yard and the district nursery.

Preserving and promoting biodiversity

The decline of insects and birds due to habitat loss and light pollution threatens our ecosystem and, consequently, us humans as well.

Species conservation is an important shared responsibility. We want to establish the ecologically sound maintenance of green spaces as the standard, preserve and increase biodiversity in the district, and connect habitats. We advocate for the **promotion of species-rich meadows**, the **expansion of deadwood and nesting structures**, **insect-friendly lighting**, and the planning-based **protection of green corridors**. In addition, we want to establish so-called **“tiny forests,” preferably on sealed parking lots**, to create climate-resilient mini-forests of up to 100 square meters at minimal maintenance cost, which promote biodiversity and significantly cool the urban climate.

Solar Initiative & Climate-Neutral Public Buildings

The building sector is responsible for about half of CO₂ emissions. Energy-efficient retrofitting and the transition of heating systems to renewable energy are the most important levers for achieving a climate-neutral building stock. Public buildings should play a pioneering role in energy-efficient and ecological retrofitting, but the reality is still different. There is a backlog of energy-efficient retrofits for district buildings, and many suitable roof areas are not yet being used for photovoltaic systems.

We want **climate-neutral district buildings** as soon as possible. To this end, we intend to significantly increase funding for the energy-efficient renovation of public buildings at the state level. We aim to develop **renovation plans** for district buildings and, in cooperation with Berliner Stadtwerke, utilize suitable district roof areas for **photovoltaics**. The **installation of green roofs and facades** on district buildings must be systematically assessed and implemented on suitable buildings.

Social Heat Transition

We advocate for the expansion and decarbonization of the district heating network as well as for more local heating networks in densely populated areas. **Municipal heating planning** is the central steering element for all political levels in this regard. People in the district need clear guidance on what the heating supply of the future will look like. Our goal is to **decarbonize** heating by utilizing renewable heat while guaranteeing security of supply and **affordability**. In neighborhoods where local heating networks are more efficient and cost-

effective than a district heating connection, the district office advocates for this solution. In particular, in **the Klausenerplatz neighborhood and on Mierendorff Island**, the economic viability of district heating must be critically examined. The district office should allocate **more staff** to manage the heat transition and provide information to affected households.

Clean District – Preventing Littering

In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, too, littering in public spaces is making our neighborhoods less livable. Higher fines from the Senate alone are primarily symbolic and will not solve this problem without further measures. Enforcement is good, but education and prevention are better.

To prevent illegal dumping, we want to expand waste-disposal services. We need **more recycling centers and underground containers**. We want to expand the so-called **neighborhood days for bulk waste** and recycling. We support **neighborhood cleanup campaigns** to raise public awareness. In neighborhoods particularly affected by litter, we will advocate with the Senate for the BSR to **increase street cleaning**. We will increase the number of **public trash cans**, particularly in parks as well as green, recreational, and sports areas, and ensure the **cleanliness of our neighborhoods** with more staff. We will take consistent action against **rat infestations** in playgrounds. We will raise awareness of the **Public Order Office app** so that bulky waste is removed more quickly.

Circular Economy and Zero Waste

In waste policy, the rule is: prevent – reuse – recycle – dispose. We do not yet have a consistent strategy for a circular economy in the district. Single-use packaging dominates the restaurant and delivery sectors. Compliance with the requirement for restaurants to offer reusable options is inadequately monitored.

We support the expansion of a **circular economy** in the district. We want to actively participate in the development of the Senate's Berlin Circular Economy Strategy and implement the measures agreed upon therein in the district with a social focus. We want district institutions to be required to switch to **low-packaging, regional, and fair-trade products**. We advocate for retailers and restaurants to donate **surplus food** to nonprofit organizations. In the future, violations of the **requirement to offer reusable options** will be systematically enforced by the public order offices, which will be strengthened in terms of both personnel and funding for this purpose. We want to introduce **deposit return machines** in high-traffic areas to ensure better collection of returnable bottles. We support **Repair Cafés** in neighborhood centers or other district-owned properties. When public administration makes purchases, the **reparability** of items should be taken into account. We are committed to establishing additional **secondhand department stores** in the district.

Strengthen Environmental Administration & Implement Climate Provisions

Both the Office of Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation and the Office of Streets and Green Spaces are understaffed. This makes it impossible to implement existing plans in a timely manner. Another problem is that necessary aspects of climate protection and climate adaptation are not taken into account by all agencies and in all decision-making processes.

We view climate protection and climate adaptation as **interdepartmental responsibilities** for all district authorities. Nevertheless, it is particularly necessary **to increase staffing in the relevant agencies**—the Office of Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation and the Office of Roads and Green Spaces. The **Coordination Office for Environmental Education** should be made permanent. All climate-related draft resolutions for the District Assembly (BVV) should be subject to a **climate review** that identifies the impacts of projects on the urban climate and the greenhouse gas balance, so that climate-optimized solutions are always implemented for necessary district projects.

Climate protection can only be achieved together

Climate protection and climate adaptation can only succeed with broad societal acceptance. Neighborhood initiatives are still being involved too late and insufficiently. Planning and implementation status are not transparent enough.

We view climate protection and climate adaptation as a collective task that requires binding participatory structures and transparency. To this end, as we already called for in 2021, we want to establish a **district climate council** to involve citizens in the urgently needed transformation process toward greater climate justice. Existing district-level participatory structures must be incorporated. In addition, we want to introduce a **Climate Future Conference** and expand **open-data transparency regarding climate-related measures**.

Children and young people have not yet been fully involved in the development of climate protection measures. We want to change that and ensure that the **Youth Climate Conference**—which we called for as early as 2019 and which was approved by a majority vote—is finally held in collaboration with schools, youth centers, and BeteiliJung.

The results of the various participatory formats are to be published in an **annual climate report**, which will also provide transparency on the status of implementation of climate-related measures and thus promote binding implementation.

5.Social Infrastructure

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is not just Ku'damm and Grunewald, but also Paul-Hertz-Siedlung and Siemensstadt. Our district has the greatest wealth disparities in Berlin: it is the district with the most millionaires—and at the same time, every second child in Charlottenburg-Nord lives in poverty.

The railway mission at Zoo Station is bursting at the seams, and just 150 meters away, guests of the luxury Waldorf Astoria hotel stay for thousands of euros a night. On Wilmersdorfer Straße, the Karstadt building has stood empty for years and is now set to be converted into even more office space and luxury apartments, while just a few meters further on at Stuttgarter Platz, people are forced to live under the bridge and freeze in winter.

Die Linke will not accept this social injustice. We combat the structural causes of poverty, promote good working conditions, support low-income, unemployed, and homeless people with targeted measures, and expand social infrastructure. We create more non-consumerist gathering places such as libraries, youth centers, daycare centers, neighborhood houses, or services for seniors, because our neighborhoods are here for the people!

Strengthening community centers and neighborhood houses

Community centers and neighborhood houses are important anchors in the neighborhoods, where everyone can meet without pressure to consume and receive support. Instead of constantly renewing temporary contracts, we want **to provide reliable, long-term funding** so that these vital services don't suddenly disappear and staff aren't faced with constant job insecurity. These **services must be multilingual and, as far as possible, expanded and extended to all neighborhoods** so that all neighbors can benefit from them and old and new Berliners can grow together.

Wealth Report – Fighting Poverty

At our urging, the district office published a Wealth Report in 2017 to document wealth inequality in our district and develop measures to combat poverty. Since then, almost nothing has happened, and the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. There is a lack of services for people with low incomes, making societal participation difficult.

We want **to reissue the Wealth Report** and work with local stakeholders to develop specific measures to combat poverty.

We are calling for at least one **neighborhood cafeteria** in our district where people can get a hot meal a day for around 3 euros and meet with their neighbors regardless of their income.

Loneliness Officer – Strengthening Participation for All

More and more people are living in isolation; older and lower-income individuals are particularly affected, but younger people are also increasingly struggling with loneliness. This comes with health, mental health, and social consequences. In our district, there is a lack of free social gathering places for seniors, as well as for children and youths, to counteract this. We want **to establish a dedicated office** that, in collaboration with existing structures in neighborhood centers as well as community and youth centers, develops concrete support services for those affected, supports and expands existing projects, and creates new offerings.

Unemployment and Job Centers

Precarious employment, temp work, fixed-term contracts without a valid reason, minijobs, solo self-employment, and precarious apprenticeships are also common in many parts of our district. Due to precarious conditions in the labor market, more and more people are slipping into unemployment and becoming dependent on social benefits. People with chronic illnesses, single parents with low incomes, and the long-term unemployed are particularly affected by financial insecurity. Many fear rent hikes and homelessness.

That is why we want to strengthen low-threshold **counseling** in the district—free from fear of sanctions—**and enhance social connections for the unemployed**. These services should be provided both at the Jobcenter and in facilities run by public or nonprofit organizations, and bureaucracy should be made more understandable through language that is accessible to citizens. At the **ombudsman's office**, which was established during the last legislative session at our urging, counseling hours must be expanded to support benefit recipients in their communication with the Jobcenter.

We call for monitoring to systematically track **substandard and unethical wages**, and to prevent the placement of workers in unethical employment.

We also want to prevent unsuitable job offers and a lack of understanding of qualifications through individual counseling. To this end, we call for a **reporting requirement regarding placement practices** and want to support more intensive vocational training for Jobcenter staff.

To expand services in a targeted manner, the district should also regularly collect data on **the geographic concentration of** SGB II (basic income support) **beneficiaries** and make it available to the relevant Jobcenter. On this basis, we want to develop a needs analysis for additional social counseling spaces in the district.

We want to replace the confusion surrounding social benefit entitlements and difficult-to-understand applications with transparent and understandable information by offering **information campaigns on available services, including in plain language**.

Additionally, we want to offer early counseling for rent arrears to prevent loss of housing in a timely manner.

Public Funds Only for Good Work

In accordance with the principle “Public money only for good work,” Die Linke in Berlin has ensured that public contracts may only be awarded to companies that pay their employees at least the Berlin minimum wage for public contracts. However, at 13.69 euros per hour, this wage is currently even lower than the state minimum wage of 13.90 euros, rendering the measure moot. This is unacceptable. Public contracts must not lead to low wages.

We are therefore advocating in the district and throughout Berlin for a significantly **higher state and public procurement minimum wage** and for it to be linked to the entry-level wage of the TV-L collective agreement. Public contracts should, as a rule, only be awarded to **companies and organizations bound by collective agreements**. Anyone receiving public funds must also pay collectively agreed wages and guarantee good working conditions. The district office must also exercise more rigorous oversight when awarding contracts, services, and grants to independent organizations to ensure that the minimum wage for public contracts and collective bargaining standards are actually being met. In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, public funds should not be used to finance precarious employment.

Drug Policy and Addiction Support

We pursue an accepting drug policy that focuses on addiction prevention, health care, and specific support services. Repression and criminal prosecution do not solve addiction problems; they exacerbate them. That is why we want to significantly expand **outreach counseling for drug users** in the district. At Stuttgarter Platz and Bahnhof Zoo, we want to push for the **establishment of a drug consumption room** where **drug testing services** and safe consumption in the spirit of harm reduction are made possible. These services can help make drug use safer.

People who use drugs need safe places where they can receive counseling and support without fear of stigmatization or persecution. We advocate for a **residential, low-threshold counseling center in the district** that **serves** as a reliable point of contact for **counseling, care, and health support**.

Supporting those affected by homelessness

In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, the number of people living in poverty and experiencing homelessness has been rising dramatically for years. Homelessness is becoming increasingly visible, particularly at Bahnhof Zoo and Stuttgarter Platz. The reasons are complex: high rents, addiction, mental illness, or a lack of health insurance contribute to the fact that, above all, people with low incomes, EU citizens without entitlement to benefits, and people with mental health or addiction issues are increasingly at risk of homelessness. Yet the district office and the Senate are failing to act when it comes to expanding preventive measures, social housing assistance, or the regulation of the housing market. As

Die Linke, we want to ensure that no one has to live on the streets and we want to significantly expand preventive support services.

We aim to prevent homelessness caused by high rent burdens in the district or evictions due to rent arrears or landlords' personal use before it occurs by **strengthening the Social Housing Assistance Office**, developing **an early warning system for** rent arrears in collaboration with landlords, and publicly educating people about entitlements under SGB II/XII and available assistance programs.

We want to replace placement in group shelters as much as possible with permanent, private apartments for people living on the streets by **supporting and expanding** existing **"Housing First" projects** and increasing our collaboration with state-owned housing associations.

Visible homelessness, particularly at hotspots such as Bahnhof Zoo or Stuttgarter Platz, should be slowly and sustainably reduced through continuous support rather than displacement. To this end, Die Linke calls for the creation of **more social-worker and street-worker positions**.

Especially in cases of long-term homelessness, the hurdles to returning to a more dignified, inclusive life are high. Trust-based collaboration with those affected requires reliable, long-term points of contact. We therefore advocate for long-term and secure financial support for the organizations providing these services.

We want to expand **mobile medical services for the homeless** and strengthen our collaboration with existing clinics to ensure access to medical care, even in the absence of health insurance.

Expand protection against heat and cold

With the climate crisis, the number of hot days is increasing, endangering the health of vulnerable groups, especially the elderly, the sick, and young children. However, last winter also showed that many low-income people living in unrenovated buildings cannot afford the high heating costs, and therefore freeze on cold days. Furthermore, for homeless people, particularly high and low temperatures become a struggle for survival. The district is not structured—neither in terms of urban planning nor organizationally—to protect those who are particularly at risk.

Therefore, as part of a **heat and cold action plan**, we want to develop and implement comprehensive heat and cold protection measures. We will make spaces available as widely as possible in **district-owned properties** such as libraries, community centers, or even City Hall, where people can stay free of charge during periods of high and particularly low temperatures. Drinking water, hot and cold beverages, as well as seating and restroom facilities, will be provided free of charge. We are also putting pressure on the Senate to

deploy **more cold-weather buses** and to provide sufficient funding for them to protect people from freezing to death.

To lower outdoor temperatures, particularly in heat-stressed neighborhoods, we **are removing pavement and greening** streets and squares. So-called **cooling points** are being set up at several locations in the district, offering relief through shade, misting towers (as in Vienna), and drinking fountains. The number of **free drinking fountains** will be further expanded. Public playgrounds are to be equipped with **sunshade sails**. We aim to expand the installation of **water playgrounds**. Schoolyards are being systematically unpaved and greened.

Comprehensive healthcare coverage

Compared to other Berlin districts, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf has good access to medical care. Nevertheless, there is a lack of specialist care, particularly in outlying areas, especially for vulnerable groups: seniors, people with a migration background, or transgender individuals. Multilingual therapy and care services are virtually nonexistent. These gaps in care must be closed.

Hospitals in the district must be equipped with sufficient bed and emergency-room capacity, and gaps in care must be identified and addressed early on. Hospital closures, such as the closure of the Schloßparkklinik, should be prevented in the future to ensure the widest possible coverage of all medical specialties. In addition, comprehensive emergency care must be maintained.

In recent years, the **social psychiatric service** has reached its limits due to understaffing and a simultaneous increase in demand. Therefore, we want **to significantly increase staffing levels** to ensure people can receive timely care.

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is one of the oldest districts in Berlin, yet there is still a lack of targeted and low-threshold **services for seniors**, especially those affected by poverty in old age and/or with a history of migration. We therefore call for the expansion of services such as those offered through the **“Berliner Hausbesuche”** project, which must always be multilingual and carried out in cooperation with stakeholders such as the Pangea-Haus.

Expand prevention and education efforts

Health should not only become an issue when services and programs are cut or when people become ill. That is why we are focusing on preventive measures, education, and comprehensive offerings for preventive health screenings to relieve the burden on the healthcare system in the long term. We want to expand services that promote a healthy lifestyle as well as mental health—such as the **“Growing Up Healthy”** program—and fully integrate them into the school system so that children can grow up healthy with equal opportunities from the start. Prevention chains and services must **extend into adulthood** and address all population groups—we want to further strengthen these and establish them in multiple languages to reach, as far as possible, those who face access difficulties due to

language barriers. New findings regarding potential risks of societal developments, such as media use in early childhood, should be rapidly integrated into prevention and education programs.

More investment in sports for everyone

Berlin is pouring millions into bidding for the Olympics or NFL games, while supposedly there is no money to renovate our dilapidated sports facilities and indoor swimming pools remain closed due to a backlog of renovations. Waiting lists at sports clubs are getting longer and longer, clubs are getting limited or no court time, and there is a shortage of groundskeepers everywhere.

We say: Enough with prestige projects for the few—we want **sports for everyone!**

We are committed to ensuring that the Senate finally allocates sufficient funds to **repair our swimming and sports facilities**. To enable clubs to maintain and expand their programs, we want to open **schoolyards and school sports facilities in the afternoons and on weekends**. These should also be available to neighborhoods outside of club hours so that people in all neighborhoods can easily participate in sports.

We want the **allocation of field and gym times** to finally take place through a transparent and public process, ensuring that newly founded and smaller clubs also receive sufficient time slots for use.

We have successfully advocated for the installation of **sports boxes**. In our district, some 30 boxes will be set up on a trial basis for three years at sports and recreational areas in parks, where **sports equipment** can be borrowed easily and **free of charge**. Sports should not be a matter of financial means, so we will work to ensure that the sports boxes remain in place permanently and, if possible, are financed and expanded using public funds.

According to the first skatepark survey conducted in 2019, our district ranks among the lowest in Berlin when it comes to **skate facilities**. The quality and condition of the few existing facilities are a disaster. That is why we called for a new, needs-based skate facility years ago—a facility that still has not been built. We remain committed to ensuring that our district finally gets a **new skatepark** for recreational and competitive sports, planned in collaboration with the 1st Berlin Skateboard Club. Anyone who wants to train for the Olympics or skate for fun needs a skatepark worthy of the name.

As in all areas of life, the rise in discrimination, racism, and anti-Semitism does not stop at sports. In countless cases, athletes have been subjected to anti-Semitic and/or racist insults and threats or have been victims of violence. The number of such incidents is rising annually in the district and is at a high level across Berlin. We want to support sports clubs in expanding their collaboration with anti-far-right contact points and initiatives to develop **strategies and measures against such hostilities and hate speech** with the help of trained staff, and to promote members' resilience against far-right and anti-Semitic propaganda.

In addition to organized sports, we aim to specifically strengthen **open and low-threshold sports in public spaces**. This includes, for example, smaller playing fields for boules, exercise and obstacle course facilities, skate and roller sports facilities, as well as bouldering, climbing, and calisthenics offerings. Public sports and exercise areas must always be equipped with seating, barrier-free access, and public restrooms.

6. Inclusion, Participation, and Anti-Discrimination

We are living in a time of regressions. The new right-wing movements do not shy away from openly promoting racist, anti-LGBTQ+, sexist, and discriminatory views in society. Our district, too, provides fertile ground for radicalization: the Library of Conservatism in Charlottenburg and the editorial office of Junge Freiheit in Wilmersdorf are key drivers of this trend. Increasingly, these ways of thinking are also being supported, relativized, and normalized by the bourgeois parties and media; migrants and refugees in particular are being made scapegoats for the dismantling of the welfare state. At the same time, the current Senate is pushing through a wave of cuts that eliminates core services such as intercultural education, language support, women's shelters, and queer support centers—thereby jeopardizing efforts to build a just society for tomorrow.

As Die Linke, we resolutely oppose these developments. We are committed to a district where people do not live silently side by side, but rather with one another, engaging in dialogue about our differences and commonalities. The path to a more tolerant society is not a given; it must be structurally enabled—through spaces for neighborhood exchange, through advisory boards that hold real political power, and through intersectional support centers that document and track racism and discrimination in everyday life.

We view the tasks of integration and participation as central responsibilities of the district, requiring sustainable funding rather than precarious project-based positions. Together with civil society organizations and initiatives, we want to fight for a more just society from which we will all ultimately benefit.

Accessibility in Public Buildings

Through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Germany has committed to removing barriers in public infrastructure. Yet when the elevator at city hall or the train station is out of service for weeks on end, or the public address system isn't working, the reality doesn't live up to the claim. Accessible structures benefit us all: most of us experience temporary or chronic disabilities at some point in our lives.

That is why we demand that public transportation and public facilities such as government offices, schools, polling stations, sports facilities, and cultural institutions, as well as digital services, must be designed **to be accessible as a matter of principle**. Infrastructure that supports people with mobility, visual, and hearing impairments must be permanently funded and organized; in particular, consideration must be given not only to procurement but also to **maintenance** and prompt repairs.

The special needs of people with disabilities and those requiring care must also be taken into account when **allocating public housing**.

Intersectional Anti-Discrimination Office

We are pleased that our district office employs officers for integration, people with disabilities, and equality; however, despite our long-standing demands, there is no public contact point at the district level for people who experience discrimination due to their queer or Jewish identity, nor is there an official contact point for victims of rightwing violence. Following the example of other districts, we want to hire **queer representatives** and representatives against antisemitism and racism to protect these groups from increasing discrimination.

Although existing structures do important work, there is a lack of capacity to fundamentally combat institutional discrimination. Many affected individuals also experience multiple forms of discrimination. For this reason, we want to consolidate expertise in the fight against sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, and queerphobia and **strengthen it** through an **intersectional anti-discrimination office**.

Our top priority is to ensure that the commissioners are not mere figureheads, but are provided with sufficient support staff, secure long-term funding, and **enough authority** to independently and autonomously pursue violations of anti-discrimination laws.

Preventing Racist Violence – Protecting Victims

The **“Register Berlin”** also records far-right and discriminatory incidents in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, with racism and anti-Semitism being the two most common motives behind these incidents. We must not allow violence to drive our fellow residents out of the district. Therefore, we will strengthen the register and provide it with long-term funding. Based on the data collected, we will develop concrete measures within the framework of the **intersectional anti-discrimination office** to protect people from further attacks.

We are firmly committed to combating all forms of violence and demand that incidents be documented and prosecuted. To this end, we need **contact points outside the police force** where those affected can turn to anonymously if necessary and can actively shape the reporting process themselves. All public institutions must be equipped with specially trained staff to serve as **a first point of contact** for those affected. The affected groups must be regularly involved in the **evaluation** of such services.

Prevention work is a key component of violence prevention. We demand **stable funding** for this work instead of chain contracts threatened by cuts. **Schools** are a particularly important setting for instilling anti-racism and interfaith and intercultural understanding at an early age; projects such as meet2respect must be supported.

Combating Anti-Semitism – Highlighting Jewish Life

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is a place of diverse Jewish life. Not only do we have numerous synagogues and Jewish institutions here, but TuS Makkabi Berlin also trains in our district. Yet in recent years, attacks on Jewish people have increased. The district still does too little

to ensure protection, to critically address all forms of anti-Semitism, and **to make Jewish life visible**. We stand firmly against any form of anti-Semitism and will continue to ensure that Jewish life remains visible.

We remain committed to establishing a full-time **anti-Semitism liaison position** (as already exists in Lichtenberg). This liaison will serve as a point of contact for those affected and will expand cooperation with clubs, communities, and associations to strengthen structures against anti-Semitism in the district, take preventive action, and support institutions in combating anti-Semitism. The commissioner will also engage with the administration to ensure that the principle of general equality is applied without exception.

As part of the report by Berlin's Anti-Semitism Commissioner from December 2021, **290 streets and squares** across Berlin were **identified as** having **anti-Semitic references**, many of them in our district. As we already demanded in 2022—but which was rejected by the other BVV factions—we want **to establish** a **commission** that, based on the submitted report, **critically examines the names of streets and squares in the district that have anti-Semitic or other racist or inhumane connotations**. This examination must not take place in isolation from civil society but must be initiated in collaboration with it through a process of dialogue. In many cases, the report suggests contextualization; in others, it proposes renaming. This must be discussed comprehensively within the framework of an expert commission. The commission's report must serve as the basis for how the district and its residents address the historical legacy and the fact that anti-Semitism is, unfortunately, still present in the public sphere.

Strengthening and expanding city partnerships

We intend to continue and deepen **city partnerships**—from partnerships in Germany to Karmiel in Israel and Kyiv-Pechersk in Ukraine. Additionally, we aim to establish a city partnership with a **Palestinian municipality**. Cultural exchange and mutual learning in areas such as administration, education, sports, and climate protection break down prejudices and, in times of increasing global crises, strengthen relationships and secure **peace from the grassroots up**.

Revitalize and open up interfaith dialogue

During this legislative term, the district office has suspended interfaith dialogue, citing a lack of staff. We believe this is wrong! The increasing number of racist, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic incidents shows that mutual understanding still needs to be expanded. Global crises also affect the religious and faith communities based in our district. In these times, dialogue is particularly important to facilitate exchange between individual religious and faith communities, as well as between them and the district office.

To ensure continuous and structured communication and to further strengthen exchange and cooperation, **interfaith dialogue** should **resume on a regular basis in the future**, involving the District Advisory Board for Participation and Integration as well as the political

factions in the district assembly. Due to limited staff resources, the Integration Office can only play a supporting role and cannot assume primary responsibility. In the long term, we aim to strengthen the Integration Office so that all key tasks can be undertaken.

Women's shelters and support services

Unfortunately, violence against women* is also a problem in our district. Yet instead of taking action, budget cuts are a regular occurrence: many prevention and education programs, women's shelters, and support centers have been affected by the wave of budget cuts in recent years. These are the very programs that save lives and make our district a safer place in the long term. In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, we must participate in **the Berlin-wide expansion of women's shelters and emergency housing** for victims of domestic violence. We also want to expand **education and counseling** on domestic violence, abortion, and family planning in the district.

On these issues, close collaboration with the **FrauenForum CW** network must be mandatory for the BVV.

A digital reporting system for **poorly lit public spaces**, such as parks, streets, or parking lots, along with targeted improvements, is also an important measure for enhanced safety.

Integration as a District Responsibility

Integration and inclusion is a permanent, fundamental task of every district—and just like youth or senior citizen services, it must be embedded as a mandatory duty of the district. In this context, integration should not mean the loss of refugees' and migrants' identities, but rather a genuine opportunity to enrich this society with their own experiences and perspectives. The current policy of centralized housing for refugees is a policy of separation rather than integration and enables right-wing voices to sow fear and mistrust.

We view **decentralized housing** and **integrated schooling** for refugees as a minimum requirement for integration. In addition, we need low-threshold **meeting places** for people of diverse backgrounds. Community and neighborhood centers such as **Ulme35** or the **Haus am Mierendorffplatz** must be strengthened in this role and provided with sustainable funding; the **Pangea-Haus** must be established as a district-wide welcome center, and its funding must be secured on a permanent basis.

The **Integration Office** needs better financial support, and its current staff must be significantly expanded. Following Lichtenberg's example, the Integration Office must be granted **an independent budget** to expand its services.

We are advocating to the Senate that there must be **no further cuts to the district integration fund**. Instead, we are calling for a significant increase to strengthen the stakeholder structures in the field of integration and to expand services on a permanent basis. Only in this way can the integration of old and new Berliners succeed.

Multilingualism and Language Promotion

Life in our intercultural metropolis is characterized by many different languages; unfortunately, our government administration is not. For many people, a visit to a government office is only feasible with interpreters they've arranged themselves. Yet the complicated bureaucratic language often poses a barrier even for native speakers. That's why all of the district's documents, forms, and websites must be available in **various languages as well as in simplified language**. The district administration must **prioritize** hiring multilingual individuals, and language acquisition must become part of their **professional development**.

At the same time, the **provision of German language courses** must be expanded: learning the language is the best path to genuine integration, co-determination, and participation. Both the language programs offered by **adult education centers** and informal offerings such as **language cafés** must receive support. It is crucial to recognize that language acquisition—especially alongside work and family life—is neither a linear nor a simple process. Publicly funded language courses must also allow for **repeating levels**, and **language support “on the job”** must be expanded through language courses co-financed by employers. We strongly oppose the federal government's recent decision to halt integration courses and demand their continuation and a significant expansion of the program.

Support in Administrative Processes

Dealing with government agencies is exhausting and disorienting for many—with or without a migration background—and the documents are long and complicated. Digital services make access easier for many, but present a new barrier for others. That is why **digital processes and in-person support staff** must reliably complement one another. The hurdles in dealing with the administration must be urgently removed. To this end, the Integration Office has created the first positions for **administrative guides** who assist everyone in dealing with the district administration; given the high demand, we want **to expand** these positions **and secure them permanently**.

Strengthening Participation

A democracy can only function through involvement and participation at all levels. Political work in the district is supported by the District Advisory Board for Participation and Integration, the Advisory Board of and for People with Disabilities, and the FrauenForum CW network, yet these structures have had little real political power to date. We demand **the mandatory involvement of advisory boards** and interest groups in the work of the district office, particularly in budget negotiations and on all issues affecting these groups. We advocate for regular **dialogue between civil society and politics**.

Strengthening community spaces – defusing neighborhood conflicts

The redensification of many neighborhoods, generational change, and insecure, short-term leases have contributed to the weakening of neighborhood relationships. Conflicts over

noise, trash, or the use of green spaces are therefore increasingly turning into legal disputes—often with racist undertones toward newly arrived neighbors. At the same time, communal spaces where civil dialogue about harmonious coexistence could take place are increasingly being displaced by consumer-oriented establishments.

We call for the strengthening of structures that facilitate non-profit-oriented meeting places, low-threshold contact, and participation in the immediate community: **tenant advisory boards, neighborhood associations**, and similar structures need political support. They must be recognized as a vital pillar of integration and support for newcomers. They need reliable, **self-managed spaces** and financial resources to engage the neighborhood, plan events, and provide multilingual information services. In urban planning, **new meeting places** must be actively incorporated into every neighborhood and permanently left to the community for self-management. In this way, we not only strengthen the sense of community but also offer the opportunity **to bring** neighborhood concerns **into the political arena** and seek systemic solutions to local conflicts rather than getting bogged down in disputes.

Queer life is part of our district

The “Lebensort Vielfalt” housing project offers housing and counseling services for queer people in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf; various other cultural offerings make our district a place of queer life. Yet we must not overlook the fact that queer people here, too, experience discrimination and violence. The CW registry records particularly brutal violence, especially against the trans* community. For years, we have been advocating for **a Queer Liaison Officer** in the district to serve as a point of contact for those affected and to represent queer communities in the district office. The wave of budget cuts affecting queer **events, educational programs, and counseling services** must also be urgently reversed. Support services for **queer youth**, as a group particularly in need of protection, must be further developed across the entire district. We will continue to loudly and resolutely oppose anti-queer, and especially **anti-trans* rhetoric**—which repeatedly surfaces even in our district parliament—in the coming legislative term.

Equality at all levels

Gender equality is advancing only slowly. Especially at the leadership level, where decisions about the future are made, systems are changed, and role models are created, the proportion of women is low—whether in politics, healthcare, administration, or education. **Empowerment programs** must encourage women to consider these positions; where these programs are insufficient, mandatory anti-discrimination training, “blind” applications, and ultimately **quotas** must be implemented to advance equality.

Perceptions of supposedly gender-typical “skills” and the division of labor are formed at an early age. In every school and daycare center, programs must be supported that **actively challenge stereotypes**, emphasize the importance of equality, and raise awareness about the unequal distribution of care work. Young men, too, should be encouraged to consider

careers in caregiving and the care sector. Jobs in the district administration must offer sufficient flexibility to ensure that **single parents** also have access to this work.

In the BVV as well, we will strengthen the compatibility of family, career, and voluntary political work by ensuring **appropriate meeting times**, so that women in particular are enabled to participate in politics. Our BVV list (as well as all other electoral lists of Die Linke) is subject to a voluntary quota system; we also advocate for the mandatory representation of **women's interests in politics**.

7. Education, Youth, and Family

Quality education, robust youth programs, and reliable support for families are central prerequisites for social justice in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. Yet educational opportunities still depend heavily on social status. Selective school structures exacerbate inequalities, while many schools struggle with buildings in need of renovation, tight budgets, and challenging conditions in their day-to-day operations. At the same time, psycho-social stress among children and young people is on the rise, while support services are often under-resourced. Children and young people from families affected by poverty and/or discrimination, or from single-parent households, suffer particularly from this.

As Die Linke, we want to make education and youth work a priority again by advocating for better school resources and a strong social infrastructure.

In this legislative period, we want to secure targeted resources for disadvantaged neighborhoods to maintain and support educational and youth facilities. We want to strengthen family counseling centers, school social work, and youth centers. To this end, we want to prioritize preventive services over crisis management.

Strong Schools for Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

As Die Linke, we want **to strengthen and expand community schools in the district**. In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, educational success still depends heavily on social background. Early selection after 6th grade reinforces social disparities, and school selection places significant pressure on families. That is why we advocate for **child-centered, extended shared learning** and less pressure to select schools for schoolchildren. We want **schools** to remain **places of learning and social equality**. To this end, we specifically aim to support **the preservation and expansion of comprehensive schools**.

As Die Linke, we want **to improve working conditions for teachers, particularly at schools in Charlottenburg**. Due to the high administrative and documentation burden, additional tasks outside their subject areas, and the lack of time for individual support, teachers in the district are severely overburdened. We want to relieve this burden by establishing **additional administrative positions** at schools, expanding **multi-professional teams** to distribute tasks, and ensuring **a functioning digital infrastructure** at schools.

In addition, it is time to finally take on the **backlog of renovations for dilapidated schools** in the district. As Die Linke, we want the renovation and refurbishment of rundown schools in the district to be accelerated so that students can learn in adequately equipped classrooms and smaller class sizes.

We also call for the **establishment of holistic support systems** to address the increasing psychological strain on teachers and to preserve schools as safe and nurturing environments. To this end, Die Linke aims to promote the **expansion of school social work** as well as the increased deployment of **school psychologists and integration specialists** in

the district. There must also be greater cooperation between schools and youth welfare services.

Supporting the most vulnerable in the education system

The German education system separates assumed “low achievers” from “success stories”—thereby reinforcing a self-image among young people that often shapes them for life. Yet education is the best way to better understand oneself and the world, to enable social mobility, and to develop tolerance for different perspectives. That is why school dropouts—often caused by systemic factors such as a lack of language skills or poverty—must be prevented by any means possible.

Following examples from abroad, we want to support volunteer **peer and “role model” programs** that connect affected children and young people with trusted adults. In addition, the district must support **after-school care options** in schools and youth centers, as these programs provide social balance and informal language support. **Reentry into the education system** for those who have not completed their schooling must also be made possible in a flexible manner through low-threshold contact points and the option of night school. **Welcome classes** and other integration measures for students need significantly more resources to enable genuine, timely inclusion.

More Financial Security and Resources for Youth Facilities

In the district, we also want to address the underfunding of youth recreational facilities and the uneven distribution of services across neighborhoods, and we aim to **secure and expand youth centers**. We call for the **permanent funding of existing facilities**. New locations for youth work must be created, particularly in socially disadvantaged neighborhoods such as Charlottenburg-Nord. We are also committed to **making spaces for youth work a binding requirement in the district’s zoning plans**. That would help create reliable, neighborhood-based drop-in centers for young people, as well as safe spaces and venues for youth participation. We want to strengthen **youth participation in the district**.

Combating Family Poverty

Despite the district’s high overall prosperity, child poverty is a reality for many families in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. We want to enable social and community participation regardless of income and actively combat poverty at the district level. To this end, we will **strengthen the district’s coordination offices for combating child and family poverty**. We also call for the **expansion of free recreational and educational programs** and are committed to ensuring that poverty and social reporting in the district continues without interruption.

Strengthening Family and Neighborhood Centers

Family and neighborhood centers are central hubs for the residents of our district. Yet despite rising demand, they have been chronically underfunded for years. The pressure to

cut funding and the lack of planning security pose a massive threat to their very existence. As Die Linke, we are fighting to preserve this stable, community-based infrastructure as places of encounter and integration. We call for reliable funding **through multi-year grant agreements** for family and neighborhood centers and regular **socio-spatial needs assessments** to strengthen services specifically where they are most urgently needed.

Expanding Low-Threshold Family Services

Counseling services for families on topics such as child support or daycare vouchers are too fragmented in the district. This creates significant barriers for applicants, particularly in neighborhoods where access to support services is difficult. That is why we, as Die Linke, call for **one-stop support** in the social sphere through the establishment or expansion of **central and decentralized family service offices**. In addition, we call for regular reporting on the utilization of these facilities in the district.

Structurally Improving Daycare Quality

We call for **good working conditions, smaller groups, and reliable educational quality for all children**—regardless of where they live—as well as sustainable and reliable funding for early childhood education as an integral part of public services. To this end, as the district association, we intend to develop an initiative to **improve staff-to-child ratios** at the state level and reallocate the district budget specifically to support early childhood development. We will prioritize facilities in socially disadvantaged neighborhoods and secure multi-year funding agreements with independent providers. We also call for a regular **quality and needs assessment report** to be presented to the Youth Welfare Committee.

Designing Inclusive Playgrounds Together

Many areas in our district lack playgrounds; those that exist have too little equipment, are exposed to the sun, and are not fully accessible.

We want **to make** existing **playgrounds more attractive and inclusive** and build **additional playgrounds**. We are taking inspiration from the process of establishing the “Magic Playground” in Volkspark Wilmersdorf and involve the Children’s and Youth Parliament, as well as children and youths in the respective district areas and stakeholders in child and youth work, in all planning. After all, they know best what they need for play and downtime.

8.Culture

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf's cultural venues rightly enjoy an excellent reputation. The Deutsche Oper, Schaubühne, C/O Berlin, Literaturhaus, Zoopalast, and the University of the Arts represent a vibrant, world-class cultural landscape steeped in tradition. Yet even these established institutions have been forced to raise prices due to recent budget cuts; the independent scene, as well as small and volunteer-run institutions, are struggling to survive. We oppose these developments. For us, cultural venues are not a luxury, but an urgently needed part of public infrastructure. From affordable rehearsal spaces for young bands to story-time for toddlers: every cultural offering provides an opportunity for connection, learning, and the healthy expression of emotions. That is why we advocate for a broadly supported cultural program that is deeply rooted throughout the district and accessible to everyone, regardless of income, background, or disability. At the same time, the cultural workers in our district deserve more reliable working conditions, simplified approval processes, and protection from political pressure and censorship. We support the #BerlinIstKultur alliance in its fight against cuts to the cultural fund and advocate at the district level for a vibrant, innovative, and diverse cultural landscape.

Securing Cultural Spaces

The biggest obstacle to survival for self-organized theater, dance, and music groups, as well as many independent artists, is the lack of affordable studios, rehearsal spaces, and event venues. We demand that cultural spaces be made available on a permanent and accessible basis. Vacant and partially unused **district properties** must be systematically inventoried and made available for cultural and social use. In neighborhood development, there should be a mandatory quota for **newly built cultural spaces**. In addition, the **temporary use** of spaces that are occasionally vacant should be enabled and supported. In all measures, regions with limited cultural infrastructure, such as Charlottenburg-Nord, must be given priority.

Shaping Cultural Funding to Ensure Livelihoods

Funding for culture flows predominantly into short-term projects, while there is a lack of structural safeguards. Rising costs are acutely threatening existing offerings, and minimum fees are very hard to realize. Work in the cultural sector must be enough to live on! We want reliable working conditions for the independent scene and independent organizations as well, and to strengthen sociocultural work as part of public services. At the district level, we therefore call for multi-year funding approaches, transparent award criteria, and advisory services for cultural practitioners. When allocating funding, social, **participation-oriented projects** should receive special support, such as projects by minority groups or educational projects focused on diversity and integration. In the Senate, we advocate for an increase and stabilization of district cultural funds and the **guarantee of minimum fees**.

Promoting Culture as Democratic Infrastructure

Cultural participation gives us all the opportunity to process and share our political and personal motivations—often across social divides. A wide range of local cultural offerings, from movies and theater to photography and writing classes, must be available to provide all social groups with this important source of fulfilling activities. In times of increasing digital loneliness, accessible, affordable cultural offerings serve as an important counterweight to isolation and radicalization. That is why we view a **diverse range of cultural spaces** of all kinds as a vital building block for the formation and practice of democracy. Unfortunately, artistic freedom is under increasing threat, and cultural venues are becoming targets of right-wing attacks, leading to uncertainty, self-censorship, and project cancellations. Culture must be allowed to provoke, question, and send political messages! We are also advocating at the district level for support for cultural actors and **funding that is independent of content**.

Culture-Friendly Administration

Complex approval procedures, shifting of responsibility, and long processing times hinder and prevent cultural work. We want an administration that enables and promotes cultural work. To this end, a **central point of contact** for cultural events with clear responsibilities and transparent processes should be created. **Standardized, digital procedures** simplify the planning of recurring cultural events. **Summer festivals**, neighborhood festivals, and other cultural events in public spaces should be explicitly encouraged and made organizable even for smaller initiatives through clear approval procedures.

Cultivating a Culture of Remembrance

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf has a high concentration of historically significant sites related to Nazi persecution, the resistance, and exile; the history of the postwar period and the division of Germany remains visible to this day. The culture of remembrance allows us to feel the proximity of history and the ever-present legacy of Germany's fascist past. Yet in this increasingly revisionist era, monuments and Stolpersteine are increasingly being defaced or damaged. We advocate for the reliable **maintenance and restoration** of monuments, as well as the documentation and prosecution of such incidents. The **Stolperstein Initiative** should be supported in the maintenance and expansion of Stolpersteine in the district. At the same time, we call for new forms of remembrance work, including digital initiatives, to reach all segments of the population. For example, augmented reality technologies could effectively enrich present-day locations with visual and audio material from the past. We also want to support **migrant and marginalized communities** in planning monuments, informational panels, and events that anchor their history in our district.

Overcoming Colonial Thinking

The figures of colonial history in our everyday lives must be viewed critically. At our request, Wissmannstraße in Grunewald was finally renamed in 2022; it now honors the deported Jewish couple Barasch with the name **Baraschstraße**. In the future, we will continue to engage with initiatives such as “**Decolonize Berlin**” to promote a conscious examination of street names and monuments tainted by colonialism and anti-Semitism.

Expand Neighborhood Libraries

Libraries are places of education and culture for everyone. They not only provide free access to literature and other media but also serve as consumption-free spaces for gathering and socializing, offering numerous events—from computer courses to reading sessions. The **library development plan** adopted in 2020 must be implemented and expanded. The library collection must be thematically diverse and include **various formats**, including digital media, e-books, and audiobooks. We also want to expand services toward a “**library of things**” for borrowing games, everyday items, and tools. The **minimum standards** of a two-euro media budget per resident, one full-time library staff member per 3,000 residents, and 20,600 m² of total library space in the district needs to be met. When expanding libraries and their collections, priority should be given to **socially disadvantaged areas**. Public libraries must, of course, remain **barrier-free, inclusive, and accessible** to all **free of charge** in every neighborhood.

No AI Design in the District Administration

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is problematic not only for environmental reasons but also because it is based on systematic copyright infringement: millions of works of art, designs, and texts are incorporated into the models without the authors’ consent or compensation. Artificial intelligence has its place in a modern society, but it must not destroy the very foundation of its existence: creative human work that opens up new ways of thinking. We want to commit to a culturally conscious district administration that refrains from using generative AI and, as needed, **employs artists and designers** for the creation of logos, posters, websites, and video and audio material.

Enable Street Art in Suitable Locations

The graffiti and street art scene adds color to everyday life in our city. Art in public spaces should be recognized as a form of creative expression rather than criminalized. The entire Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf district has only one public and legal graffiti wall on the Westhafen Canal. We are committed to making many more **suitable surfaces** on bridges or public walls legally available for artistic design. Street-art walks and **projects for young people** can inspire this target group to engage artistically with urban space.

Support Music Schools and Adult Education Centers

Education and culture know no age limits and help our society move forward. The City West Volkshochschule [adult education center] enriches our district with a wide range of educational and recreational programs, as well as language support and basic education. We want to **further increase** the **number of** permanent **staff** to improve working conditions and ensure the quality of our programs and access to them. Funding for adult education centers must be reliably secured rather than constantly under threat, especially in the areas of integration and language acquisition; we are fighting resolutely at the federal level to **preserve and expand these services**. The future of the **Musikschule City-West** must be safeguarded; we are fighting against cuts to music education and we demand permanent staff with **collective bargaining agreements**.

9. Finance, Participation, Administration, and Digitalization

The reality in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is shaped by the harsh austerity measures imposed by the CDU/SPD Senate. The current budget system is insidious: it rewards districts that cut social services and punishes those that invest in public welfare. Hundreds of positions are missing in our departments—in the housing assistance office, the daycare voucher office, in the prosecution of rent gouging, or in the maintenance of green spaces. At the same time, independent organizations are suffocating under bureaucratic grant procedures and have no security regarding the funding of staff and projects. We want to combat the shortage of skilled workers in the public sector and remove bureaucratic hurdles in grant law. We will put a stop to the further privatization of public services. We want to bring the administration into the 21st century and equip it to meet the challenges of our time. To do this, we will make it more digital, more inclusive, and crisis-proof.

Democracy does not thrive solely on elections every five years; it requires the possibility of genuine participation. This takes place at the local level: in the neighborhoods, on the playgrounds, and in community centers. Between 2016 and 2021, Die Linke demonstrated that steps toward a participatory district are possible. Through our efforts, participatory structures were created, leading to the establishment of district guidelines for participation and the introduction of low-threshold participatory formats such as “Neighborhoods, Kiosks, Skills” (KiKiKo). We also brought about the opening of the first Children and Youth Office.

The current administration too often views participation as “dead weight.” We believe participation should be a given. Participatory structures must be strengthened, especially for young people, so they can help shape their future. But residents must also be involved in every step of construction and transportation projects. We call for a cultural shift in the administration: participation must be the bridge between politics and the neighborhood. Our goal is participation for all people, regardless of origin, age, income, or identity.

Funding District Duties

The Senate’s austerity measures are leaving districts with tight budgets. The scope for action is narrower than ever. We call for a cross-district **alliance against budget cuts** to secure needs-based funding through a fairer distribution of state funds during the 2028/2029 budget negotiations. Those who are assigned tasks by the state or federal government must also receive the funds to carry them out (the principle of connectivity; in other words: **whoever commissions it, pays for it**). We call for **stable, predictable regular funding** in which district funds are not sacrificed to arbitrary austerity measures. The districts must be able to implement their own projects, even in the long term.

We firmly reject the privatization of public space or public tasks, as seen in projects like “Urban Space.”

Securing Grants for Non-Profits

Time and again, independent organizations wait—sometimes for months—for the grants they have applied for from the district. Projects cannot be started due to a lack of funding, and in some cases, staff cannot be paid. Every year, independent organizations are burdened with a high level of bureaucratic effort in applying for and accounting for funds. As a result, they lack time for their actual social work.

We want the district office to organize the disbursement of grants to independent organizations in such a way that funds are paid out seamlessly **without funding gaps**. Through a cross-district initiative, we are advocating for a **simplification of grant law**, with the goal of reducing bureaucracy and establishing funding security that meets actual needs. At the same time, cooperation with independent organizations must be placed on a new foundation. We call on the state to introduce **institutional funding for long-term projects** to end the annual paperwork while securing social work.

Neighborhood Funds and Participatory Budgeting

In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, residents have little opportunity to submit proposals for the use of district funds or to vote on them. Other districts, such as Marzahn-Hellersdorf or Lichtenberg, have long demonstrated that this is something that can in fact be done.

We want to use direct democracy to give citizens a binding say in decisions: as a first step, by introducing **neighborhood funds for community projects** such as benches and planting initiatives, and in the long term through a **district budget by and for citizens**. For us, transparency regarding the district's revenues and expenditures is a prerequisite for binding co-decision rights. Co-determination is non-negotiable! That is why we demand a fixed budget for the neighborhood funds that is protected from cuts. We also call for the expansion of staff positions in the **"Space for Participation"** and, in addition to district centers and neighborhood houses, mobile outreach centers that bring information directly to the people.

Children and Youth Office

One success of the caucus of Die Linke was the opening of a Children and Youth Office in the district. This focused the spotlight on the wishes of children and young people. Due to massive cuts, the positions were eliminated again. The result: Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf was the only district that did not hold a U16 election in 2025.

We are committed to ensuring that the wishes of children, adolescents, and young adults—regardless of their social background—are not overlooked in political decision-making. To this end, we are calling for the reestablishment of a **Children and Youth Office** staffed by social educators in the district. This is the only way to make the needs of young people a reality more often, as they became visible in the successful project of the Children and Youth Parliament (KJP) at the "Magic Playground". We want to embed the participation of

children and youths in **participatory processes** for urban development and the revitalization of public spaces.

Social-Space-Oriented Planning Coordination

The current structure of government offices fails to take into account the diverse perspectives of local stakeholders in politics and civil society. We call for the continuation of the so-called **Social-Space-Oriented Planning Coordination** (SPK), which involves neighborhood stakeholders in urban development issues. It serves as a link between the district office and local civil society to plan social infrastructure—from daycare to housing—in a sustainable and needs-based manner. To this end, we advocate for strengthening the SPK with additional staff and funding.

Addressing Staff Shortages and Training Employees

The staff shortage in the district administration affects all areas and hundreds of positions: from IT support and the housing office to dozens of positions in the youth welfare office. Training opportunities and bonuses for employees have been cut. However, sufficient staff is necessary for a functioning district office.

The public sector can be an attractive employer with good working conditions and opportunities for professional development. To this end, we call for a **model staffing plan** for our district that identifies the actual needs of all departments and offices and their funding. By reinstating **training opportunities**, paying **bonuses**, and structurally **embedding positions such as those for decent work, against anti-Semitism, and for queer life** (LGBTIQ+), the public sector can become an attractive employer.

Digitalization

Many procedures and applications at the Citizens' Office are too complicated and confusing and take months to process. We call for an **expansion of digital application submission** while **ensuring in-person consultation** remains available. To this end, we want to equip the district administration with modern hardware and software without relying on devices and programs from **tech giants**. We call for a **multilingual administration** that uses AI translation to enable the participation of all citizens. Digital applications should complement analog ones, not replace them. We stand for a **"right to offline": anyone who wants to can always use the paper-based system**. We want a seamless, low-barrier, and uniform digital administration, which requires district and city-wide institutions to work more closely together. To ensure access to this digital administration for everyone, we call **for the expansion of computer workstations** in public places such as libraries. An app should provide all newcomers and immigrants with a **clear overview** of the district's services and offerings. The model for this is the so-called "Integreat app," which provides access to language courses or topics such as job and housing searches and social participation.

Diversity and Inclusion in Public Administration

Although the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf District Office has passed a resolution on the **intercultural opening of the administration** (IKÖ), we are still far from the finish line: In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, 40% of residents have a migrant background—but only 25% of administrative staff do. However, the public administration of our district must reflect the diversity of our society so that the concerns and needs of different groups of people are given equal consideration. This is only possible if our district office becomes more attractive to migrant applicants. Regardless of background, all staff must be trained to recognize and address **racist and discriminatory thought patterns**. In its interactions with citizens, the administration must provide services **in multiple languages and in simplified language**.

People with disabilities also need representation within the administration and advocacy for their interests. **Inclusion needs** must be identified through systematic monitoring, and barriers in all district properties as well as in the workplace must be consistently removed. The district supports the Disability Advisory Board and the Representative Body for Severely Disabled Persons in assessing these needs.

Safety in Crises and Disaster Preparedness

The state and districts are not prepared for crises and disasters, even though Kai Wegner promised a “functioning city” during the 2023 election; this is demonstrated by the power outage in Steglitz-Zehlendorf in early 2026. There is insufficient protection, particularly for sick and elderly people. We will ensure a **crisis-resilient** Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf with **publicly accessible information** (both analog and digital) **about contact points and shelters for all residents**. Reliable **emergency plans** must be developed in close cooperation with the Senate. We demand a **crisis-proof infrastructure**: Kiez [neighborhood] boxes should ensure communication even in the event of a power outage.

The Central Bus Station (ZOB) in Westend is one of Berlin’s most important long-distance transportation hubs. Following Russia’s attack on Ukraine in the spring of 2022, the ZOB was the first point of arrival in Germany for many refugees, yet for months, support and information services for refugees were provided solely by volunteer-run, self-organized structures; official coordination plans were absent. In the event of another refugee care crisis, the district urgently needs a **comprehensive refugee care plan** in coordination with the Senate, including planning for language mediation, transportation, emergency shelters, telecommunications, donation coordination, and support for particularly vulnerable groups (e.g., unaccompanied children, people with disabilities). The volunteer-run organizations that organized support in 2022 should be integrated into the planning.