

Berlin is on its way.

Government Programme 2000-2031

**The
start has
made.**

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Berlin is getting better. We've made a start.

Berlin has often been written off. Ridiculed. Written off as a lost cause. Over three years ago, an election even had to be repeated because Berlin hadn't managed to pull it off. But Berlin saw this as an opportunity and seized it. It was a chance for a fresh start, a chance for things to run more smoothly – in Berlin and for Berlin.

We said at the time: we can't work magic. But we can work hard to ensure that Berlin gets a little better every day. And that is exactly what has happened.

We've tackled everything that had been neglected in recent years:

the backlog of planning permissions for housing, the modernisation of our administration, the refurbishment of our bridges and infrastructure, support for our emergency and rescue services, tackling the shortage of teachers, and much more. Yes, for the past three years, Berlin has finally been getting safer again. For the past three years, the right priorities have finally been set once more. Pragmatism has triumphed over ideology, quiet governance is finally being valued again, the endless squabbling has come to an end – and, hard to believe:

Berliners can get appointments at the Citizens' Office, usually as early as the next day. But we are far from finished. In that respect, we are just like Berlin. Because Berlin, too, is never finished. Berlin is a work in progress.

That is why it is essential to continue on the path we have set out on towards a functioning Berlin. The successes we have achieved must not be jeopardised by an ideological step backwards.

In the coming years, the focus must be on greater security, not less. It must be on building more homes, not fewer. It must be on more growth, not a decline in prosperity. It must be on keeping traffic flowing, not on holding road users back. It must be on good education, not on ideological experiments.

Yes, Berlin is moving forward. And with the CDU, Berlin will continue to get a little better every day.

1

Berlin is

safer.

**More
Tatütata.
Fewer
fanfar
e.**

01.

Berlin will be safe. More action. Less fanfare.

A safe Berlin requires clear rules and a police force that can take action. With the new Police Act, we have made exactly that possible: clear powers and modern technology for day-to-day duties, bodycams and Tasers for greater protection in the field.

Keeping a close eye on what's happening to apprehend criminals:

In known crime hotspots, there is now increased use of CCTV and zones where firearms and knives are banned.

With measurable success: for instance, the new police station at Kottbusser Tor and the established gun and knife-free zone have already led to a noticeable decline in crime. The fence around Görlitzer Park has also already led to a marked improvement in the quality of life in the neighbourhoods. With entry checks, an ID requirement and CCTV cameras at the entrances to Berlin's outdoor swimming pools, we are also ensuring that all visitors can feel safe there too.

Our critical infrastructure is now also being better monitored using video technology – an important lesson learnt from the attack on Berlin's electricity grid. Whilst others turn a blind eye to crime, Berlin is now taking a close look at the situation, together with the CDU.

We're stepping up the pace where it matters most. Rising numbers of emergency calls, staff shortages and outdated structures have put a strain on the work of Berlin's emergency services. By modernising Berlin's Emergency Services Act, we have made our emergency services fit for the future. Furthermore, under our leadership, Berlin has become a pioneer in the field of child protection – including through the successful expansion of the 'Child Protection' network and early intervention services.

I. Berlin is becoming safe .



A strong Berlin police force

We stand firmly by our police officers. Day in, day out, they perform an indispensable service under often challenging conditions to ensure our safety. For this, they deserve not only our appreciation and respect, but also modern equipment, the best possible protection and appropriate pay.

We will ensure that the Berlin Police can carry out their duties under the best possible conditions. To do this, they need one thing above all else: sufficient, well-trained staff. In view of the impending waves of retirements, we will explore new approaches to recruitment in order to ensure operational capability in the long term. At the same time, we will consistently relieve police officers of bureaucratic burdens so that they can once again focus more strongly on their core duties. This includes, in particular, the reduction of unnecessary documentation requirements, the digitisation of procedures, and the delegation of suitable tasks to other departments or support staff. Operational clothing and protective equipment must meet today's requirements. This includes not only stab-proof vests but also a modern fleet of vehicles. To address the changed threat landscape, we will double the number of shooting training sessions.

Modern buildings and training facilities are essential for high-quality training, a high level of operational readiness and the motivation of our officers. However, the reality in our city is alarming: dilapidated police stations, crumbling façades and a severely ageing vehicle fleet characterise everyday life in many areas. We will no longer tolerate this situation. We are therefore prioritising the refurbishment and new construction of police stations and training centres, speeding up construction and procurement procedures, and establishing a reliable, long-term investment plan. At the same time, we will consistently continue the modernisation of police stations and administrative workplaces. Furthermore, all 24-hour police stations are to be equipped with water dispensers.

We want to better protect police premises and, in doing so, will rely in particular on the use of video surveillance at vulnerable police stations, vehicle depots, access roads and operational resource locations.

We will continue to modernise the Berlin Police systematically and prepare them to meet the challenges of the 21st century. With the comprehensive reform of Berlin's police legislation, we have created the legal framework to bring the police up to date technologically and significantly expand their scope for action. This includes, in particular, the widespread, video-documented use of Tasers; the use of intelligent video surveillance at dangerous and vulnerable locations – particularly in the area of

critical infrastructure – as well as the introduction of electronic tagging to monitor dangerous violent offenders. Furthermore, we have paved the way for the comprehensive use of artificial intelligence in the analysis of police data and laid the groundwork for the full digitalisation of work processes between the police, the judiciary and the administration. Our aim is clear: whatever is legally possible must now also become a practical reality in our city.

In addition to the consistent use of the police's new powers to monitor public spaces via CCTV, the police must also be able to carry out identity checks without there being any grounds for suspicion. This requires greater flexibility on the part of the police when designating crime-prone areas. We will therefore ensure that an area showing signs of criminal activity can, under certain conditions, be designated as a crime-prone area at short notice in order to tackle criminal trends at an early stage.

We intend to further expand the use of Tasers by the Berlin police. Operational units are to be fully equipped with Tasers, and officers are to receive regular training and refresher courses.

The police station at Kottbusser Tor, introduced in 2023 by the CDU-led Senate, has led to a clear decline in overall crime in the area. At the same time, the visible presence of police officers enhances people's sense of safety at Kotti. Building on these positive experiences, we are also campaigning for a police station at Leopoldplatz, in particular to tackle drug-related crime decisively and further improve safety in the neighbourhood.

Police work must not be hampered by excessive bureaucracy. We will therefore drastically reduce and overhaul reporting and documentation requirements.

The State Anti-Discrimination Act places police officers – some of whom put their lives at great risk to ensure our safety – under general suspicion. We will subject the State Anti-Discrimination Act to a comprehensive review with the aim of ensuring that state regulations do not go beyond federal regulations and do not stand in the way of a consistent commitment to the safety of Berlin's residents.

We intend to significantly expand cooperation between the police, the fire service and the public order authorities. This includes faster channels of communication between boroughs, the police and the fire service, shared situational assessments for recurring trouble spots, and better integration of the public order authorities into control centre and incident command structures.

We will provide the Forensic Science Institute with the necessary investment to ensure its full operational capacity in the long term and to guarantee reliable, admissible evidence. We will also establish secure, centralised evidence storage facilities for the police and the judiciary, where seized items can be reliably protected and properly stored.

Every attack on police and emergency services personnel is an attack on our constitutional state and, ultimately, on all of us. Such acts must be consistently prosecuted and punished. Through

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Federal Council initiatives, we will campaign to increase the minimum sentence for attacks on emergency services personnel and to tighten deportation laws, so that foreign offenders – including EU citizens – can be deported more swiftly, placed in pre-deportation detention and removed from the country, or have their right to freedom of movement revoked. At the same time, we are campaigning at federal level to tighten the grounds for detention under criminal procedure law, so that repeat offenders can be remanded in custody more swiftly.

To ease the burden on Berlin's police officers, we also advocate for greater support from the Federal Police in the capital.

The protection of critical infrastructure is a core state responsibility. We will establish a specialised police security framework to protect critical infrastructure in Berlin, in order to effectively safeguard energy, transport and communications networks against sabotage and attacks.

To this end, we will increase the police presence at vulnerable locations, intensify cooperation with operators and rely on modern security and surveillance technology within the framework of the existing legal system. At the same time, we will continue to promote physical resilience, for example through better protection of transformer stations and increased resilience of key network infrastructure.

's High-Performance Fire Service

The demands placed on our fire service have changed fundamentally in recent years: today, it is a state-of-the-art emergency response force that handles fires, technical assistance and rescue operations in equal measure. We will consistently take this expanded remit into account.

We will continue to improve the fire service's equipment. This includes the consistent use of modern technologies such as drones and fire-fighting robots, as well as the ongoing renewal and expansion of the vehicle fleet. In doing so, we will ensure that electric vehicles are only procured on condition that they do not compromise operational capability. We will comprehensively modernise our emergency vehicles, expand existing capacities and make targeted purchases of new fire-fighting and rescue vehicles, aerial rescue vehicles, disaster relief vehicles and ambulances.

We will make targeted investments in the construction and further development of fire stations and resolutely press ahead with the establishment of the Fire Service Academy as a modern training centre for the Berlin Fire Service at the former Tegel Airport.

We will swiftly complete the construction of the joint police and fire service control centre as a central operations hub in order to speed up procedures and further improve cooperation between the emergency services. In addition, we intend to establish a joint control centre for privately organised patient transport and an efficient interface with the Berlin Fire Service's integrated control centre, in order to make the management of operations more efficient overall.

The State Fire Service Association is an indispensable partner for us and an important voice for fire service personnel. We intend to provide reliable financial backing for its work and examine which successful funding models from other federal states can be applied to Berlin. Our aim is to further improve the overall framework conditions for the voluntary fire services and to strengthen their vital role in civil protection.

Many volunteer firefighters are currently only able to carry out their duties to a limited extent because they lack a driving licence for heavy emergency vehicles. We will therefore create the legal framework at state level for the introduction of a fire service driving licence for emergency services organisations. Members of the voluntary fire services, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and other emergency services organisations should, in future, find it easier to obtain authorisation to drive vehicles weighing more than 3.5 tonnes.

Security everywhere

We will further expand CCTV surveillance in all areas with high crime rates, whilst also relying on smart systems that make an effective contribution to security within the framework of existing legal provisions.

We are committed to a comprehensive anti-theft programme in Berlin, which includes the use of smart video surveillance in high-traffic areas such as pedestrian zones, at major events, at cycle parking facilities and in all areas with high crime rates. To strengthen prevention efforts, we want to further expand the free advisory services available to Berliners and examine the possibility of supporting investment in burglary protection, alarm systems and security devices for private individuals through a state programme (e.g. via low-interest loans and grants).

Everyone in Berlin must be able to move about freely and safely at all times – on streets, in squares, in parks and on public transport. That is why we want to systematically eliminate areas where people feel unsafe: through better lighting, clear route guidance and well-maintained underpasses. Safety aspects must be taken into account from the outset in urban planning, regeneration and transport planning.

We intend to further develop the Nora emergency app specifically for use on local public transport and test it as part of a pilot project in cooperation with the BVG.

Passengers should be able to discreetly request help at the touch of a button in dangerous situations and transmit their location in order to receive assistance more quickly. This will provide better protection against violence and harassment, particularly for vulnerable people.

At the federal level, we are committed to further developing criminal law and, in particular, to introducing the element of ‘by exploiting physical superiority’ in relation to serious violent offences, in order to better protect particularly vulnerable victims. Protective measures such as restraining orders must be applied consistently and supplemented by technical measures. This also includes the increased use of electronic tagging for high-risk offenders

to effectively monitor restraining orders. In addition, we will strengthen mandatory anti-violence programmes to prevent repeat offences.

The admission and security measures at our outdoor swimming pools have proved their worth. We are therefore continuing with the requirement to show ID, bag checks and targeted visitor management. We consistently impose fines for breaches of the house rules and pool regulations, and issue bans from the premises for troublemakers.

We will combat drug-related crime in our city with the utmost severity. Clan structures and drug networks must be systematically dismantled. To achieve this, the police need even better means of gathering intelligence. We therefore intend to introduce an anonymous electronic tip-off system at the Berlin Police, through which information on drug trafficking and organised crime can be reported securely and confidentially.

We want to ban street prostitution throughout Berlin. It is no longer acceptable that Berlin neighbourhoods such as the Kurfürstendamm and the area around Nollendorfplatz suffer from crime, neglect and massive strain on residents, whilst children in the district's nurseries are not protected by the local authority. We reject state funding for 'service booths' or other infrastructure supporting the business of pimps. For the Kurfürstendamm, we want to develop a comprehensive plan for the future that sustainably restores safety, order and quality of life.

By establishing a clear legal framework for electronic tagging in Berlin, we have significantly improved victim protection. We will consistently expand their use for high-risk offenders so that contact and approach bans can be reliably monitored and breaches detected at an early stage. Following the example of other European countries, we will also, upon request, equip victims of repeat offenders with technology that alerts them immediately if a violent offender approaches.

Consistently combating violence against women

With the State Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, we have created a comprehensive strategic framework to effectively combat violence against women and domestic violence. Our aim is clear: violence should not only be combated, but prevented wherever possible. To this end, we will strengthen the protection of victims of violence, implement cross-departmental measures and expand support structures in line with needs – for example, through additional safe places, counselling and intervention services, and the creation of a tenth women's refuge in Berlin.

Prevention is a fundamental aspect of combating violence against women. Violence must be prevented before it arises or escalates. That is why we are strengthening education, awareness-raising and early intervention – in schools, nurseries, youth services, sports clubs, but also in the civil service, the police, the judiciary and the health service. Professionals must be able to recognise warning signs and act decisively. Topics such as equality, boundaries and consent, as well as non-violent conflict resolution, must be taught at an early stage in nurseries and schools. At the same time

it is important to remember that violence must not be treated as a taboo. It must be clear that it is not the victims who should feel ashamed, but the perpetrators.

At the same time, we are expanding compulsory perpetrator support programmes, low-threshold counselling services and public awareness campaigns. Prevention also includes regular studies on unreported cases, as the majority of cases are still not reported to the police and therefore do not appear in the statistics.

We want to further improve the legal situation of those affected by domestic violence. Victims should be able to withdraw from joint tenancy agreements more quickly and with less red tape. Our aim is for them to find a new home quickly. We are also campaigning for changes to custody and access rights: anyone who commits violence against the other parent must We must anticipate that contact with the child may be restricted or prohibited. At the same time, we ensure that an abusive parent does not gain access to the new address. Children have the right to grow up in a violence-free environment.

In initial reception centres and accommodation facilities, too, equality, protection against violence and support services must be communicated at an early stage, in multiple languages and in a way that is easy to understand. Binding protection plans, trained staff, safe havens and clear procedures in the event of incidents of violence are essential for this. Violence against women must never be relativised on the basis of origin, culture or religion.

The digital space is not a legal vacuum and must never become one. We will therefore consistently step up our efforts to combat digital violence – including, and in particular, violence against women. We will continue to develop our strategies for combating digital violence in a targeted manner, expand existing counselling services and ensure that psychological and digital violence are comprehensively covered by criminal law. New forms of digital violence, such as digital harassment, bullying on social media or manipulated content such as deepfakes, must be consistently combated and existing legal loopholes closed.

Our position is clear: anyone who attacks women and disregards our values must not be allowed to invoke state protection. Options under immigration law must be utilised consistently.

Child and Youth Protection

Child protection in our city must be further improved. With the Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Welfare, we have ensured that all youth welfare offices are required to maintain specialised child protection teams. These teams must be equipped (with a child protection vehicle, smartphones, tablets and laptops) so that they can act quickly and effectively. Furthermore, we are campaigning for the establishment of a uniform legal framework across the state and the comprehensive expansion of school attendance and youth delinquency teams in all Berlin youth welfare offices. These specialised teams work preventatively and interveningly with children and young people who have come to the attention of the authorities due to truancy or disruptive behaviour.

Youth clubs must be genuine safe spaces – no ifs, ands or buts. We will therefore require all such facilities to adopt binding safety policies with clear guidelines, regular staff training and consistent implementation in day-to-day operations. At the same time, we will specifically strengthen the youth welfare offices so that they can effectively monitor compliance with these requirements. Criminal offences must neither be downplayed nor concealed, but must be reported immediately to the police and formal charges brought. Any form of reluctance – for example, stemming from a misguided sense of cultural sensitivity – is unacceptable.

Violence prevention and child protection clinics make an important contribution to investigating and documenting cases of abuse, as well as to supporting affected children. We intend to further strengthen these structures. In doing so, the following principle applies: the best interests of the child come first. State structures must be organised in such a way that children receive the protection they need quickly and effectively.

We will improve inter-professional collaboration within the healthcare system. By amending the Berlin Act on Chambers of Healthcare Professions, we aim to create the legal framework to enable doctors to work more closely together in cases of suspected abuse. The aim is to close gaps in the system and prevent risks to children's welfare from going undetected due to frequent changes of doctor

Family courts also play a central role in child protection. We are committed to ensuring that supplementary training for family court judges on child protection issues, provided by the Berlin Violence Protection Clinic, as well as work shadowing within child protection teams, are made mandatory.

We will organise counselling services and early support for families in such a way that families receive the support they need quickly. The currently confusing structure of services is to be evaluated and further developed in an effective manner.

Prepared rather than caught off guard: Berlin is becoming crisis-proof .

The protection of critical infrastructure is our top priority. Energy supplies, waterworks, IT networks, government buildings, transport routes and communication systems are the lifelines of our city. Our aim is to protect them effectively against cyber-attacks, sabotage and physical threats.

We will draw up a comprehensive strategy to protect critical infrastructure against attacks and sabotage from both within and outside the country, encompassing increased police surveillance, the greater use of CCTV and modern sensor technology, as well as targeted structural protective measures – such as the special securing of transformer stations or the underground laying of power lines.

We will significantly increase investment in the protection of critical infrastructure. The Senate departments and boroughs must be in a position to remain operational in emergencies, particularly in the sectors of energy, water, food, information technology, telecommunications and healthcare

to remain operational even in an emergency. Investments in the protection and expansion of critical infrastructure must be given special consideration in planning.

We will strengthen the Centre of Excellence for Civil Protection and Crisis Management, as well as the district-level civil protection structures, in terms of both staffing and organisation. At the same time, we are examining the establishment of a central state office for civil protection and disaster management with a 24/7 operations centre and uniform standards for joint operational coordination.

We will ensure the operational readiness of all stationary and mobile civil protection command centres and equip them with modern, standardised communication technology. Furthermore, we will expand Berlin's siren infrastructure to ensure it is fully operational and integrate it completely into existing digital warning systems such as MoWaS and the NINA warning app. The BOS digital radio system will be continuously modernised.

We want to strengthen recognised aid organisations as indispensable partners in civil protection. We advocate an increase in their annual funding. Furthermore, we are committed to ensuring that emergency personnel from aid organisations are granted full legal equality with the fire service when called upon for operations and exercises. In addition, we will create the conditions for all state employees to be called upon to provide support in the event of a crisis, even outside their normal fields of activity.

To ease the structural burden on the ambulance service, we intend to integrate private patient transport companies and their control centres more closely into disaster preparedness as an additional operational reserve, and to create the necessary organisational and legal conditions for this.

We are examining the establishment of a central logistics centre for the fire service, into which units and materials from aid organisations will be integrated. This will include shared premises, workshops operating 24/7 and modern storage facilities.

All Berlin Fire Brigade stations are to be equipped with emergency generators. In addition, we will develop a fuel logistics plan to ensure that critical areas can be reliably supplied with fuel in the event of a disaster.

Regulations on freedom of information, transparency and open data must not provide blueprints for sabotage. Sensitive information regarding the location, structure or vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure must be effectively protected. We will review and amend disclosure requirements where they create security risks.

We want Berlin to become a hub for modern air defence systems as part of the 'European Sky Shield Initiative' and, as the German capital, to be equipped with its own protective shield against air attacks. In addition, we are committed to establishing a homeland security regiment to protect vital infrastructure in times of crisis and for defence purposes.

The Bundeswehr should have a greater visible presence and be more firmly established in Berlin. This includes suitable premises, support in recruiting reservists, public oath-taking ceremonies, and greater social recognition for the service of our soldiers. We regard events organised by youth officers in schools as an important contribution to security education. We also expressly welcome it when young people choose to undertake military service and are thus prepared to take responsibility for the security and freedom of our country. We intend to amend the regulations governing the award of the Fire Service and Civil Protection Medal of Honour so that, in future, reservists called up by the Bundeswehr may also be honoured. We wish to enable employees of the direct and indirect state administration to take part in reserve exercises, within the limits of their official duties, for up to 30 working days per year.

We want to strengthen cooperation between Berlin's universities and the Bundeswehr. Research findings from our universities should also be utilised to serve the security interests of Germany and its NATO partners. We will abolish the 'civil clause' at universities.

What we do NOT do NOT need

Berlin will
NOTHING
from the
left

- ▶ Legalisation of hard drugs and crack consumption rooms
- ▶ Distrust and micromanagement of our police
- ▶ Neglect and endangering our security forces
- ▶ Weakening of the Police Act and fewer powers for the police
- ▶ Abolition of gun and knife-free zones
- ▶ Dilapidated police and fire stations
- ▶ End of CCTV surveillance
- ▶ Protecting offenders out of misguided tolerance
- ▶ Defamation of the Bundeswehr

2

**Berlin will
cracking down
hard.**

We
take
over the
clans
they
away
from

02.

Berlin is getting tough. We're taking money away from criminal clans.

For all those who trample on our rule of law, scorn our democracy and break the law, the message is clear: **zero tolerance!**

Our Berlin is reclaiming its money from criminal clans:

Whether it's dodgy car hire firms or amusement arcades – we consistently seize illegal profits. This is ensured by intense pressure, more raids, new specialist teams within the judiciary, and close cooperation between the police, customs and the tax investigation authorities.

And with success: in 2023, 4.9 million euros were confiscated; by 2024, the figure had already risen to 8.8 million euros – almost double the amount. In 2025, a new record was set for asset recovery, totalling 21.8 million euros. In addition, over 250 illegal slot machines and 77 properties owned by criminal clans have already been seized, including the notorious 'Remmo Villa'.

Because hatred, extremism and terror have no place in Berlin:

Hamas propaganda is now banned in Berlin's schools, and the police are taking tough and decisive action against criminal offences committed under the guise of the right to demonstrate.

We are enforcing law and order in all areas. By clearing the protest camp in Wuhlheide, we have shown that Berlin will no longer be pushed around by climate extremists. Through intensive investigations, we recovered a total of 132.3 million euros from tax evaders in 2024. The turnaround on migration is here: the number of deportations, particularly from the prison system, is now significantly higher. And that is why the following now applies: no new container accommodation in Berlin's neighbourhoods.

II. Berlin is taking a hard line on .

The fight against organised crime

We will further strengthen asset recovery in the fight against organised crime and clan structures. The reversal of the burden of proof in asset recovery, introduced during the previous legislative term, was an important step on which we intend to build consistently. In future, the simplified confiscation of illegally transferred funds – for example, in connection with Hawala banking – is also to be made easier.

Combating organised crime and clan-based crime requires a powerful public prosecution service to investigate and dismantle criminal structures. We are therefore committed to strengthening specialised departments, providing high-quality further training and ensuring an appropriate increase in staffing levels.

We will further improve the state's powers of monitoring and intervention. This includes a structured reorganisation of business regulation with the aim of carrying out significantly more inspections.

We will take decisive action against the increasing use of firearms in public spaces. The unauthorised handling of semi-automatic handguns must be punished much more severely. We are therefore calling for the introduction of a specific criminal offence in this regard.

The unauthorised commercial trade in prescription medicines must be subject to harsher criminal penalties. The Medicines Act must be reformed so that organised trade in prescription medicines is classified as a particularly serious offence.

We are committed to ensuring that offenders involved in organised crime are excluded from open prison regimes. Through increased cell searches – including the use of drug-detection and data-storage-detection dogs – we aim to prevent criminal activities originating from within prison. We will significantly strengthen law enforcement agencies in terms of both personnel and technology, and align them permanently with actual needs. Capacity bottlenecks in forensic science – particularly in the analysis of seized substances – must be systematically eliminated. At the same time, we intend to equip IT forensics with the necessary personnel and technology so that digital evidence, such as mobile phones or encrypted communication data, can be analysed promptly. We also intend to expand specialised police units, such as surveillance teams, in a targeted manner in order to combat organised and digitally networked drug-related crime effectively. Furthermore, the prosecution of digitally organised drug-related crime – for example via communication platforms such as SkyECC – must be underpinned by appropriate legal and organisational frameworks.

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We will expand the use of technical investigative tools. These include AI-supported data analysis to combat money laundering, the use of specialised analysis software (e.g. EncroChat, SkyECC) and the legally compliant storage of IP addresses. To ensure effective law enforcement, cooperation – and in particular the exchange of data – between all relevant authorities must also be further improved.

We will improve the protection of witnesses and members of the judiciary. This includes extending the grounds for detention on the basis of a risk of tampering with evidence under Section 112(2)(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as increasing the penalties for influencing witnesses and members of the judiciary.

We want to strengthen the ability of the domestic intelligence services to identify links between organised crime and extremist structures at an early stage and to analyse them systematically. We are committed to involving the domestic intelligence services in the fight against organised crime and intend to amend the Domestic Intelligence Services Act to this end. Furthermore, , we will improve cooperation with the police and law enforcement agencies and establish a clear legal framework for the exchange of information.

We will close loopholes exploited by criminal networks. This includes introducing a requirement for car hire companies to obtain a trade licence in order to effectively prevent misuse, for example for drug trafficking or illegal street racing.

We will consistently combat organised abuse of social security benefits, bogus registrations and the misuse of the European right to free movement by improving registration procedures and expanding automated data matching between job centres and public authorities. In addition, vehicle owner data will be regularly checked to quickly identify the misuse of high-value vehicles, seize the relevant assets and offset them against social security benefits.

We will increase the number of regular joint operations carried out by public order authorities, the police, job centres, the family benefits office, the tax investigation department and the judiciary to combat social security fraud and economic crime. This will enable us to identify criminal networks more quickly, put a stop to illegal business models and systematically seize assets.

We are also committed to greater pooling of expertise. By establishing a joint operational centre for financial investigations involving the Public Prosecutor's Office, the police and the tax investigation service, we aim to lay the foundations for combating money laundering, tax offences and terrorist financing in an even more targeted and efficient manner.

We will also deepen cooperation between Senate departments, boroughs, law enforcement agencies and courts, as well as collaboration with other federal states and international partners. At European level, we are committed to strengthening Eurojust in order to better coordinate cross-border criminal proceedings and consistently pursue international criminal networks.

A relentless fight against tax criminals

We will step up the resolute fight against tax fraud and financial crime. To this end, we will bolster the tax audit department and the Tax Office's Investigation and Criminal Matters Division with additional staff and technical resources, consistently deploy modern analytical and IT tools, and further improve cooperation between the tax authorities, law enforcement agencies and customs. This includes, in particular, linking the tax investigation service to the police's data and information portals.

We will specifically target complex fraud schemes, organised tax evasion and international tax avoidance. At the same time, we will ensure more efficient procedures and the consistent enforcement of existing tax laws. In addition, we intend to launch a Bundesrat initiative aimed at introducing, under federal law, an obligation to accept at least one digital payment method in the commercial trade of goods and services.

Protecting our constitution. Combating extremism and anti-Semitism .

We intend to revise the Berlin Freedom of Assembly Act and reintroduce the concept of public order. Where there are concrete indications of violence or criminal offences, it must be possible to restrict or prohibit assemblies at an early stage. The police and authorities need the legal certainty to intervene decisively where there is a credible risk assessment and to consistently disperse assemblies if they become disorderly or are clearly heading in that direction. In this way, we protect the fundamental right of peaceful demonstrators – and draw a clear line against troublemakers.

We will also equip the police with the necessary powers to prevent violence and rioting at demonstrations at an early stage. This includes, in particular, the ability to take action against masked and armed demonstrators in advance. At the same time, we are advocating for tougher penalties for carrying weapons at gatherings. To improve our ability to investigate and prosecute criminal offences, we also intend to extend the retention period for video recordings in a legally compliant manner.

We are committed to a strong Office for the Protection of the Constitution that is legally and technically capable of monitoring potential threats at an early stage and effectively protecting our free and democratic basic order. We will lay the legal foundations to grant the Office for the Protection of the Constitution extended powers to combat extremism. This includes examining the possibility of accessing communications data and video recordings in public spaces – always under strict judicial oversight and in compliance with the principle of the separation of powers. Where provisions under state law are insufficient, we will take appropriate initiatives at federal level.

The far-left extremist attack on Berlin's electricity supply in January 2026, which cut off tens of thousands of Berliners from their energy supply for days and put vulnerable groups in mortal danger, demonstrates the very real threat posed by far-left extremist violence.

We will therefore restructure our approach to combating left-wing extremism and re-establish the Left-Wing Extremism Unit within the Berlin Office for the Protection of the Constitution, strengthening it both in terms of staffing and expertise. We are also closely monitoring the left-wing extremist fringe within political parties and associations.

Right-wing extremism poses a real threat to peaceful coexistence in our city. Right-wing extremists seek to delegitimise our state and its institutions. Their open willingness to use violence and their xenophobia make them particularly dangerous. We will counter right-wing extremist violence with the full force of the rule of law and will continue to run deradicalisation programmes as required.

We oppose every form of extremism and anti-Semitism with the utmost determination. In future, too, we must consistently combat every form of radical and violent ideology that threatens our freedom, our democracy and our rule of law. We will further expand and strengthen the specialised department for offences against national security and hate crime within the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Through a legally sound democracy clause, we will ensure that organisations and initiatives which oppose the free democratic basic order or espouse inhuman positions do not receive state funding. We are also committed to ensuring that associations with proven anti-constitutional aims have their charitable status revoked. Anyone who works against our state and its constitution must not enjoy any tax advantages. The tax authorities must be provided with a legally sound basis for this and must cooperate closely with the constitutional protection authorities.

We will introduce a constitutional loyalty check in the civil service to ensure that civil servants are firmly committed to our free and democratic basic order.

We are committed to ensuring that public calls for the establishment of an Islamist theocracy, the introduction of Sharia law or a caliphate in Germany become a criminal offence.

No one must call for the abolition of our free and democratic basic order. We intend to ban the radical umbrella organisation 'Islamische Gemeinschaft Berlin e.V.' associated with the Al-Nur Mosque in Neukölln, which is under observation by the Berlin Office for the Protection of the Constitution. We will resolutely oppose any new radical umbrella organisations and, where necessary, consider further ban proceedings.

Anti-Semitic gatherings that incite hatred against Jewish people or question Israel's right to exist must be prohibited in advance in a legally sound manner. This includes, in particular, a ban on the anti-Semitic Al-Quds March.

Anti-Semitic incitement and criminal offences must be consistently prosecuted and punished. At the federal level, we are committed to further developing the law on deportation accordingly. Anyone who

commits, condones or supports anti-Semitic offences must, under these provisions, face clear consequences regarding their right of residence. Our standard is unequivocal: anyone living in Germany must respect the foundations of our democratic coexistence. Foreign anti-Semites must not be granted any prospect of remaining

Our universities must be places of freedom, respect and safety – including for Jewish students. Anti-Semitism and hostility towards Israel have no place there. Anti-Semitic incidents at our universities must be clearly identified, investigated, reported to the police and consistently punished: ranging from the enforcement of university regulations, through temporary suspension from studies, to expulsion under the disciplinary provisions enshrined in the Berlin Higher Education Act in serious cases. We are strengthening the role of anti-Semitism officers at our universities as central points of contact, developing counselling and support services and promote prevention and educational measures. We will further intensify our dialogue with the state contact person for combating anti-Semitism, as well as our cooperation with the police and security authorities.

Academic life thrives on international exchange. Research collaborations with Israeli universities and academics are a matter of course for us. We resolutely oppose calls for boycotts against Israeli academic institutions and against Israeli researchers.

In times of overt anti-Semitism, Jewish life and Jewish culture require special attention and reliable support. Attacks on Jewish life are attacks on our culture and our free society. We want to strengthen the fight against anti-Semitism in the long term and, where possible, secure it through fixed budget allocations, so that civil society initiatives can plan for the long term and carry out effective prevention work. We want to expand and permanently secure existing counselling and support services for anti-Semitic incidents in the cultural sector – such as the OpenArtsHub.

, effective justice

Swift and consistent criminal prosecution is crucial for confidence in our rule of law. We will therefore consistently speed up criminal prosecution procedures. Our principle is clear: punishment must follow swiftly. We will significantly expand the use of fast-track criminal proceedings and make them the norm, particularly for street crime offences. Court hearings should, where possible, take place on the same day or within ten days. At the same time, we will ensure that evidence is secured at an early stage and in a manner that stands up in court – in particular through prompt judicial examinations of witnesses in cases of serious crime.

Our aim is a digital and future-proof justice system that consistently utilises IT and artificial intelligence to make proceedings more efficient and facilitate the work of the judiciary. Through competitions for innovative ideas, an ongoing forum for dialogue with the judiciary, the civil service and the business

, as well as by strengthening institutions such as the Cyber Innovation Hub and the Legal Tech Centre, we aim to drive digitalisation and innovation in the justice system forward on a lasting basis.

The protection of prison staff is our top priority. We will therefore implement a comprehensive safety plan for prison staff, which will include regular training on the use of modern security technology and self-defence. In addition, we will ensure the regular replacement and maintenance of protective equipment, including stab-proof vests. With the nationwide roll-out of BOS digital radios, we will ensure rapid and reliable communication in dangerous situations. To safeguard the privacy and personal safety of prison officers, we will support them in applying for restrictions on the disclosure of their registered addresses and access to information regarding these addresses. To protect staff property, we intend to implement structural security measures for car parks at prisons, focusing in particular on the use of CCTV and improved lighting.

We will continue to modernise prisons in Berlin and create more prison places so that sentences can be enforced consistently and reliably. With this in mind, we will also press ahead with the conversion and comprehensive refurbishment of Wing III at Tegel Prison.

We want to make better use of judges' experience for the benefit of the Berlin judiciary. We therefore intend to introduce a provision in the Berlin Judges' Act allowing judges to voluntarily defer retirement until the age of 68 upon application.

We remain committed to the Neutrality Act. State representatives must maintain ideological neutrality. The wearing of religious symbols in the courtroom must continue to be prohibited.

In view of the increased demands, we are committed to a fundamental reform of bailiff training and, to this end, intend to establish an undergraduate degree programme, 'Bachelor of Laws – Bailiff Services', in cooperation with the Berlin School of Economics and Law. For bailiffs already working in the middle service as well as other applicants from the judiciary, opportunities must be created to qualify for the higher civil service, along with fair transitional arrangements.

At federal level, we are campaigning to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 14 to 12. In future, young people should be held criminally responsible from their 12th birthday onwards, provided they demonstrate the maturity required under Section 3 of the Juvenile Court Act (JGG). Through a judicial 'responsibility proceedings', we aim to ensure that educational measures are not only ordered belatedly by the youth welfare office, but are instead bindingly ordered by a court.

Regulating, managing and limiting migration

We stand by our humanitarian responsibility and the fundamental right to asylum. At the same time, the state must retain control over migration at all times. Anyone seeking protection from persecution is entitled to a procedure in accordance with the rule of law. Anyone who is not entitled to asylum must leave our country. For us, order and humanity go hand in hand. That is why we advocate a migration policy that limits illegal migration, reduces perverse incentives and consistently enforces applicable law.

We advocate the consistent implementation of the CEAS Directive. Asylum procedures must be clearly structured and conducted expeditiously from the outset. Asylum seekers and those who have entered the country illegally should therefore be accommodated in central facilities from the very first day until a decision is made on their asylum application.

We support the introduction of the payment card and wish to establish it on a permanent basis.

We will strengthen cooperation between reception centres, the State Office for Refugee Affairs and Accommodation, the State Office for Immigration, social services and the police in order to enforce the obligation to leave the country more consistently. Data on the whereabouts of persons required to leave the country should be recorded centrally and made available to the relevant authorities quickly and reliably, so that decisions can be implemented consistently.

Tolerance statuses must be systematically reviewed to determine whether there are any legal or practical obstacles to removal. Existing means of enforcing the obligation to leave the country must be utilised consistently.

Returns should be possible at the very first attempt – even if not all family members can be located. The absence of certain individuals must not allow those required to leave the country to evade the enforcement of decisions made in accordance with the rule of law. Returns must also be carried out throughout the year, including during the winter months.

In order to enforce returns effectively, greater use must be made of the existing instruments of pre-deportation detention and detention pending deportation. To this end, we intend to significantly expand the capacity for pre-deportation detention and also ensure, within the authorities themselves, that this capacity is utilised. Detention pending deportation should not only be used for convicted offenders or individuals posing a terrorist threat, but also for those who have repeatedly been the subject of criminal investigations.

We are advocating for a Bundesrat initiative to close the loophole in Section 97a of the Residence Act (AufenthG) regarding the unauthorised disclosure of flight data and information on repatriations. Confidentiality obligations must be extended to cover non-public officials, and breaches must be subject to criminal sanctions so as not to jeopardise the implementation of deportations.

Anyone who deliberately obstructs the enforcement of the obligation to leave the country in accordance with the rule of law must not receive state support. We will exclude from public funding any individuals or organisations that disseminate instructions on how to circumvent deportations or refer to relevant sources of information. Taxpayers' money must not be used to circumvent the law.

We will take effective measures against unscrupulous recruitment and migration agencies that lure people to Berlin with false promises and trap them in dependency or debt. This includes a comprehensive investigation into these agencies and targeted information and training programmes for public authorities and those affected. Furthermore, we intend to create an official list of reputable recruitment agencies to serve as a reliable guide for businesses, educational institutions and migrants.

We will consistently further develop naturalisation procedures. German citizenship may only be granted to those who recognise our free and democratic basic order, commit to law and justice, fully meet the legal requirements, and recognise Israel's right to exist. The grounds for refusal set out in Sections 10 and 11 of the Nationality Act must be carefully examined and consistently applied.

What we are proposing for a Tough Berlin does NOT need

**Berlin will
NOT
with the
left**

- ▶ A soft approach towards organised crime
- ▶ Weakening of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution
- ▶ Decriminalisation of squatters
- ▶ Courting left-wing extremism and anti-Semitism
- ▶ Further loss of control over illegal migration
- ▶ Abandonment of the payment card scheme for asylum seekers
- ▶ Resumption of state-run resettlement programmes
- ▶ Selling off German citizenship
- ▶ Quotas rather than merit in the judiciary

3

**Berlin is
growing – for
everyone.**

**Pace
on new-build
projects.
Support
for
tenants.**

03.



Berlin is growing – for everyone. Speeding up new-build projects. Support for tenants.

Housing isn't created at the flick of a switch – but through forward-thinking planning.

The fact is: for too long, too little has been built in Berlin. Housing is still in short supply, but with the CDU, the tide has turned. With the Fast-Track Building Act and the new building regulations, we have streamlined and simplified procedures, thereby clearing the backlog of planning applications.

And it's having an impact: for the first time in years, Berlin is once again seeing rising approval figures. Last year alone, over 14,000 flats were approved – almost 50 per cent more than the previous year. The state-owned housing companies are planning to build around 7,000 new flats. By the end of 2026, we will have created 80,000 new flats in our city. And that is just the beginning.

To ensure that housing is not a luxury, we are safeguarding affordable rents and making sure that Berlin remains affordable for everyone. To this end, we have set all legal levers in motion to protect tenants – from the rent cap, the protection against eviction clause and the increase in the second-home tax right through to the conversion regulation. Through the rent review board we have introduced and the extension of free energy advice, we are simultaneously providing greater support and transparency on issues relating to rents, renovation and climate-friendly heating.

More social housing for everyone who needs it. Berlin has approved 5,175 new social housing units for 2025, thereby exceeding the 5,000-unit-per-year mark for the second year running. We have raised the income thresholds for the housing eligibility certificate (WBS) so that more Berliners are entitled to an affordable flat. Over 750 million euros are being channelled into the Housing Promotion Fund to secure affordable housing and kick-start new projects.

III. Berlin is growing – for everyone.



Affordable rents and tenant protection

For us, strong tenant protection means one thing above all: the law must be consistently enforced. In Berlin, we already have effective tools to protect tenants, including the rent cap, the conversion regulation, the ban on misuse of property, the regulation on protection against termination clauses, and the digital application process for the WBS. It is crucial that breaches are consistently penalised. Anyone who unlawfully exploits the housing shortage must face severe penalties. We will strengthen the enforcement of existing tenants' rights, further develop protective measures in a targeted manner, and ensure that tenants can assert their rights more easily and effectively.

We categorically reject populist calls for expropriation or the introduction of a rent cap. Such interventions are not a solution to the strained housing market; rather, they exacerbate the situation: they deter investment, prevent new-build projects and reduce the supply of housing. At the same time, new injustices arise because existing tenancies are given preferential treatment, whilst those looking for accommodation – particularly families and people on middle and low incomes – have virtually no chance of finding a home.

To combat excessive rent rises, we are instead focusing on more and faster housing construction and strong tenant protection.

We will expand the Rent Review Board we have introduced into a powerful body that not only records breaches but also consistently penalises them. The Rent Review Board is to check tenancies for compliance with legal requirements and actively support tenants in enforcing their rights and reclaiming rent paid unlawfully. Through improved staffing levels, digital procedures, binding processing deadlines and close cooperation between the relevant authorities, we will ensure faster decisions, greater transparency and an effective fight against abuse in the housing market.

We want all Berliners to be informed about their rights as tenants right from the start. The Citizens' Offices should therefore provide information on regulations such as the rent cap, the services offered by the Rent Control Office and local advice centres as soon as a new place of residence is registered.

We want to strengthen the boroughs as central points of contact for housing issues and expand their remit in a targeted manner. To this end, we aim to establish well-resourced, local tenant advice centres across the board, which provide competent legal and social support, particularly to low-income households and older people. In the long term, we intend to integrate the work of the district tenant advice centres into a strengthened Rent Review Board in order to avoid duplicate structures, simplify responsibilities and ensure the protection of tenants efficiently from a single source. At the same time, we will strengthen the housing

by increasing staffing levels, clarifying responsibilities and improving legal instruments, so that we can take consistent action against abuses such as neglect, overcrowding and the illegal conversion of properties for other uses.

We will establish clear and binding rules for subletting in tight housing markets to effectively prevent abuse and increase transparency.

We will strengthen the rights of subtenants vis-à-vis the main tenants and establish clear statutory standards of protection. To this end, we will, amongst other things, advocate for the amendment of federal legislation so that, in future, subtenants are granted a comprehensive right to information regarding key aspects of the main tenancy agreement – in particular the rent amount and the term of the agreement – as well as a binding entitlement to the application of tenancy law under the German Civil Code (BGB) in the subletting relationship. In addition, we will enable them to access the rent review board and ensure their right to be issued with a landlord's certificate – either by the main tenant or, alternatively, by the owner.

We want to further expand the social housing sector. State housing companies, co-operatives and church-run organisations are to be specifically supported through funding programmes in order to ensure stable and affordable rents in the long term.

We will ensure that housing benefit and housing eligibility certificates (WBS) are made available more quickly, easily and reliably. To this end, we are relying in particular on digitised procedures and the use of artificial intelligence. The automated processing of standard cases should significantly reduce waiting times whilst at the same time easing the administrative burden.

Social housing should specifically benefit those who really need it. We will therefore introduce regular means-tests for tenants when new tenancies are let. If a tenant's income exceeds the specified limits, a contractually agreed rent adjustment in the form of a rent surcharge will apply. Care must be taken to ensure minimal administrative burden, simple and unbureaucratic procedures, and an overall efficient structure for the checks. The funds generated in this way are to be channelled into housing construction support and used for the construction of new social housing.

We will also further strengthen our efforts to combat the misuse of residential property. Building on previous successes, the boroughs are to be supported by a centralised evaluation process run by the relevant Senate department. This will enable measures to be implemented in a more targeted, rapid and efficient manner, so that residential property can be returned to the regular housing market.

Operating and service charges must not become a 'second rent'. The affordability of energy is a key issue in Berlin, a city of tenants. This is because tenants, in particular, have little opportunity to influence the type of building heating system and, consequently, how costs develop. We want to maintain competition between different energy sources such as gas, district heating and heat pumps, as this is the only way to keep heating costs affordable in the long term. We reject one-sided government regulations.

Instead of expensive tokenism, we are focusing on effective and affordable climate protection where it actually has a significant impact. This includes, in particular, the expansion and decarbonisation of district heating. By acquiring Berlin's district heating network, we have laid the foundations for developing the heat supply in a way that is secure and climate-friendly in the long term. In addition, through the Climate Pact, we are providing more than half a billion euros for the expansion and decarbonisation of large parts of Berlin's district heating network. This is because the successful decarbonisation of district heating is also a crucial factor in achieving climate neutrality for Berlin's building stock. In doing so, we aim to maintain price stability for our district heating customers.

Natural gas will continue to play an important role in ensuring a secure and affordable heat supply for the foreseeable future – particularly as Berlin's gas network allows for large-scale seasonal energy storage, thereby meeting the high demand for heating in winter. At the same time, we want to drive forward the expansion of renewable heat technologies in an open-ended manner. Heat pumps should be able to be used wherever they are practical and cost-effective. We intend to review the restrictions under water law on the use of near-surface geothermal energy. We see deep geothermal energy as holding significant future potential for Berlin's heat supply. To this end, we are allocating 45 million euros from the special fund for city-wide measurements. We want to get started without delay and drive forward the research, development and deployment of this technology in a targeted manner, in order to provide Berlin with a long-term heat supply that is more independent, climate-friendly and, at the same time, affordable.

Municipal heat planning remains an important tool for us in providing guidance to residents, businesses and energy suppliers on future heat supply. It is clear to us that security of supply and affordable energy must remain the central criteria for heat planning in the future.

We will consistently drive forward the expansion and modernisation of Berlin's energy networks, whilst keeping a joint focus on security of supply, affordability and climate protection. Through the Climate Pact, the Senate is already providing around half a billion euros for the upgrading and expansion of the electricity grid. In doing so, we are creating the conditions for a secure, affordable and climate-neutral energy supply. At the same time, we will accelerate the expansion of the grid in collaboration with Stromnetz Berlin and streamline approval procedures. However, one thing is also clear to us: decommissioning the gas network is out of the question for us on grounds of security of supply.

Promoting home ownership

Home ownership is the central promise of social mobility in the social market economy. Many people, particularly families, dream of owning their own home. That is why we will significantly lower the barriers to entry for buying a home. We want to introduce a Berlin home ownership bonus for the first-time purchase of an owner-occupied property:

€10,000 per adult, €5,000 per child. The support is to be based on clear income

and specifically support families with children. In doing so, we are drawing on the successful Brandenburg programme for home ownership.

We want tenants of the state-owned housing associations to be given the opportunity to become owners of their rented flats. This promotes social diversity and also serves as a form of retirement provision. With the 'Berlin Rent-to-Buy' scheme, we will create a new model for home ownership, particularly for families.

We are committed to significantly reducing the land transfer tax on the first-time purchase of owner-occupied property. It should be waived for property purchases up to 800,000 euros, provided the purchase price does not exceed 300,000 euros. In the event of early sale within ten years, the tax benefit must be repaid on a pro rata basis.

Preserving Berlin's ' ' mix

We will safeguard and strengthen the 'Berlin Mix' in neighbourhoods. To this end, we intend to give state-owned housing companies greater discretion in the allocation of flats to ensure a balanced ratio between WBS-subsidised and privately financed flats. We will require our state-owned housing associations to reopen their customer service centres so that tenants once again have local, face-to-face points of contact.

We will align the cooperation agreement for the state-owned housing companies much more closely with the objectives of the 'Berliner Mischung' and the diversity of urban society. The current one-sided focus on households receiving social security benefits is unsustainable and jeopardises acceptance of new-build housing as well as the development of stable neighbourhoods. Our aim is to create stable, liveable neighbourhoods – particularly in areas with a high proportion of new municipal housing. We are committed to responsible infill development and tenancy allocation that ensures social mix or helps to create it. We will revise and expand income criteria and tenancy priority rules accordingly. In future, first-time buyers and dual-income families should also have better chances of accessing subsidised housing.

Through a targeted programme for family housing, we aim in particular to provide more suitable and affordable flats for families. At the same time, we want to strengthen 'housing for young people' and, through a new letting scheme at the city-owned housing associations, make it easier for students and apprentices to access affordable housing throughout the city.

We will create targeted incentives for moving house in order to make better use of housing stock and, in particular, to make larger flats available to families. We will therefore introduce a price guarantee when moving house and, in particular, support older people in moving to a smaller flat. Municipal housing associations should, when exchanging flats within the same association or across different associations,

between state-owned housing associations, provided that tenants are moving into a smaller flat with comparable facilities.

We will promote intergenerational living arrangements and create incentives so that people of different ages can live together and support one another in their daily lives. We also wish to strengthen other innovative forms of housing, such as care-supported shared accommodation with community-based support.

A well-maintained and safe living environment makes a decisive contribution to quality of life. We welcome clear and easily recognisable design concepts in larger housing estates, such as varied designs for building entrances and clear signage, to make it easier for older residents to find their way around.

Modern technologies can help to detect and prevent burglaries, vandalism and illegal fly-tipping at an early stage. We therefore support the use of video surveillance on the grounds or within the estates of the state-owned housing associations.

We want to make access to co-operative housing significantly easier by supporting the purchase of co-operative shares through low-interest loans and grants. In this way, we lower the financial barriers to entry and enable more people to access affordable, community-based housing.

We want to further develop the housing market report into a comprehensive, reliable tool that covers all relevant stakeholders and housing options. Benchmarking should systematically contribute to improving processes and streamlining procedures.

Let's just build ‘ ’

Through faster planning and approval procedures under the Fast-Track Building Act, a reformed building code and increased housing subsidies, we have initiated a change of course in Berlin's housing policy. This is also evident in concrete terms: in 2025, 13,754 homes were approved – an increase of 40.7 per cent compared with the previous year. This marks the first increase in the number of approved flats in eight years. We will consistently continue on this successful path to further accelerate housing construction and create more affordable housing. With a new Berlin housing initiative, we aim to create a total of 100,000 new flats by 2031.

A key component of this is the introduction of a standardised Berlin multi-family dwelling ('Berlin-MFH'). Through clear standardised building designs and mass production, we will reduce construction costs and significantly speed up planning and approval processes. Projects that meet this standard are to receive simplified and expedited approvals. Type approvals from other federal states are to be recognised directly. The 'Berlin-MFH' has a modular design, is flexibly adaptable and is equally suitable for local authority, co-operative and private developers

. It combines cost-effective construction with practical standards, such as an energy efficiency level based on EH 55 and barrier-free design.

We will further shorten planning and approval procedures and remove bureaucratic hurdles. The focus here is on the digitisation of applications and decisions, as well as more efficient processes in the district offices. The aim is to significantly simplify the process for investment in housing construction. At the same time, we will critically review and adapt standards for urban development contracts and the Berlin model in terms of their impact on housing construction and the rent levels of newly built flats. We will also consistently scale back related areas of law, such as environmental protection, species conservation and the protection of historic monuments, to the minimum level required under federal and European law. Furthermore, there needs to be a clear shift in mindset within the relevant authorities towards an administration that is supportive of housing construction.

The state-owned housing associations play a central role in the creation of new housing. Our aim is to expand their housing stock to 500,000 flats, thereby significantly increasing the proportion of housing provided in the public interest. At the same time, we want to strengthen their financial foundations through targeted equity injections and reliable framework conditions, so that they can undertake new-build projects, expand their existing stock and carry out energy-efficiency refurbishments in equal measure.

Berlin's housing cooperatives are an indispensable partner in providing affordable housing in our city. Our aim is to build at least 1,000 new cooperative flats per year, of which around 800 are to be subsidised. To this end, we will further develop our support for housing cooperatives. Flexible commitment periods with interest-free or very low-interest loans should open up new possibilities. In future, it should also be possible to demonstrate compliance with occupancy commitments in existing housing stock. In particular, we will support the addition of extra storeys and infill development of co-operative buildings through a special low-interest loan programme – even without additional occupancy commitments. We are also adapting leasehold rights. By limiting value protection clauses, allowing for reduced land values, and introducing balanced reversion provisions and tenures, we are creating reliable and fair conditions for co-operative housing development.

Church-run housing organisations, foundations and other non-profit organisations also make an important contribution to affordable housing in our city. We are therefore committed to ensuring that, provided they have a comparable social focus, they have access to the same funding instruments as co-operatives. At the same time, we will support landlords working in the public interest in projects that go beyond purely residential purposes – for example, with neighbourhood centres, social services or integrated facilities for education and care.

To create incentives for the rapid development of land, we have already, through the property tax reform, significantly shifted the tax burden from residential properties to undeveloped land. To ensure these incentives are even more targeted in future, we also advocate the introduction of a 'Property Tax C', under which only plots of land ready for development would be subject to a particularly high tax rate. We will effectively prevent schemes designed to circumvent land transfer tax or to conceal profits. At the same time,

in the State of Berlin, we will consistently apply the building order provision under Section 176 of the Building Code (BauGB) where the land is ready for development and no notification of the start of construction has been given two years after the building permit was granted.

Growing with the ‘ ’ Plan

We are firmly committed to the development of the periphery of Tempelhofer Feld. More than 20,000 new flats for around 50,000 people are to be built on the peripheral areas of the field. Furthermore, Tempelhofer Feld is to be preserved as a venue for sport, leisure, culture and recreation, whilst at the same time being further developed in a targeted manner.

We will draw up a development concept for City-West through a collaborative process with the Senate and the affected boroughs, based on the ‘City West 2040 Charter’.

We will establish the Urban Tech Republic on the site of the former Tegel Airport and develop it into a digital and sustainable model city. This will also include the conversion of the former airport terminal for the Berlin University of Applied Sciences (BHT), which is intended to bring together research, teaching and innovative businesses in one place. As part of an experimental zone, we aim to create space for technological innovation, where we will strive to minimise bureaucratic requirements for investments in order to speed up approvals and enable new developments more quickly.

We want to develop new digital services for those involved in urban development based on an open-data initiative and make municipal data as accessible as possible. In doing so, we will enable better planning, more targeted maintenance management and more efficient infrastructure works, whilst at the same time minimising disruption to Berlin’s residents.

We want to further develop the city’s ‘digital twin’ into a central platform for public participation. In future, planning projects are to be visualised in three dimensions and their impacts on the city and neighbourhoods made transparent.

We will integrate the expertise of public institutions, universities and universities of applied sciences more closely into urban development. We will support projects in which students develop innovative concepts for the city of the future. To this end, we intend in particular to strengthen research-oriented, spatially-focused and construction technology-related disciplines at Berlin’s universities and higher education institutions.

We will create the conditions to ensure that allotment gardens and areas for other forms of community gardening are recognised as ecological compensation areas in the context of major construction and infrastructure projects. In this way, we will enable the protection and preservation of valuable allotment garden areas whilst at the same time strengthening acceptance of and implementation for necessary housing construction projects.

Our aim is to create city centres that are great places to live, with a vibrant and strong retail sector. We advocate for a legally sound framework for Sunday opening and are committed to ensuring that the eight Sundays on which shops are permitted by law to open actually take place. In addition, the boroughs should be able to designate two further Sundays a year for special local events. For us, 'Spätis' are an integral part of Berlin – as neighbourhood meeting places and vital local suppliers. That is why we want to create legally sound regulations that do justice to their unique character. We will develop a comprehensive strategy to strengthen Berlin's retail sector. Together with the boroughs, the retail sector and the hospitality industry, we want to draw up specific neighbourhood plans for every shopping street. Together with the federal government, we will revamp and expand the 'Lebendige Zentren' (Vibrant Centres) programme and launch a scheme for the conversion of retail properties for residential, office and cultural uses. Furthermore, we intend to work with Deutsche Bahn to examine the extent to which S-Bahn viaducts can be adapted for commercial and cultural uses. Through a 'Digitalisation Programme for Retail and Catering', we aim to provide targeted support to small and medium-sized enterprises in their digitalisation efforts.

We will tackle property vacancies. To this end, we aim to maintain close dialogue with the boroughs and continue the successful 'Centre Summit'. To ensure greater transparency regarding developments in the commercial property market, we are advocating the introduction of systematic monitoring of vacancies in office and commercial premises.

We will further develop the vacancy management of state-owned properties and specifically open them up for use by start-ups and businesses in the creative industries. A central procurement office is to be established through the BIM to record vacancies in state-owned properties. Flexible contract models and simplified procurement procedures are intended to enable the rapid and unbureaucratic use of space – including for temporary concepts such as pop-up showrooms, experience spaces or prototype presentations.

We will specifically strengthen existing industrial parks and business estates and further improve the infrastructure there. At the same time, we will promote the development of new locations in Berlin, making use of existing properties.

What we do NOT do NOT need

Berlin will
NOTHING
from the
Left

- ▶ Attacks on property through expropriation and compulsory administration
- ▶ Less housing construction due to the stifling of prospective developers and empty promises
- ▶ A halt to the construction of new urban neighbourhoods
- ▶ Greater obstacles to realising the dream of owning one's own home through an increase in land transfer tax
- ▶ New areas of social tension
- ▶ A permanent ban on privatisation
- ▶ Rejection of development on the outskirts of Tempelhofer Feld
- ▶ Higher rents due to even more regulations and red tape
- ▶ Higher energy prices due to the decommissioning of the gas network

04.

Berlin is

top.

4 times
more
start-ups
than
Munich.

04.



Berlin is going to be brilliant. Four times as many start-ups as Munich.

After reunification, Berlin was one big experiment: plenty of scope for utopian ideas, but also plenty of vacant properties. And not enough jobs. This image – ‘poor but sexy’ – defined our city for decades. Today, Berlin is still sexy, but what was once a makeshift arrangement has developed into a major economic metropolis to be taken seriously. Berlin’s economy is growing – even in uncertain times and bucking the trend of the German economy.

It is not just Berlin’s industry that needs a secure energy supply at competitive prices. Through the Climate Pact, we are therefore investing around half a billion euros in upgrading and expanding the electricity grid. Berlin already leads the way nationwide in the expansion of solar power.

Berlin is Germany’s start-up capital: nowhere else are more companies being founded, and nowhere else are there more ‘unicorns’ (start-ups with a valuation of 1 billion C or more). Almost one in three German AI start-ups is based in Berlin. Berlin stands out – and not just because of Germany’s first fully digital business start-up via an app!

Because nothing in the city runs without skilled tradespeople: we are promoting master craftsman training with the “Meister- und MeisterinnenBONUS”. When awarding public contracts, we have lowered barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises, cut red tape and speeded up the process. The Berlin University Alliance is receiving further funding as part of the federal government’s Excellence Strategy. With the House of Games, the FUBIC innovation centre, the Urban-Tech-Republic and the new Charité Heart Centre building, new hubs for cutting-edge research and future technologies are already in the planning and construction phases.

IV. Berlin is becoming a world- .

Prosperity for a ‘ ’ Berlin

We are firmly committed to the social market economy. It combines freedom with responsibility, competition with solidarity, and thus secures the foundation for innovation, growth and social cohesion. Private property, entrepreneurial initiative and a willingness to work hard are, for us, the central pillars of a successful economic policy. Only a strong economy can secure good jobs in the long term and guarantee an effective welfare state.

Berlin needs more investment, not less. We firmly reject the expropriation of private property. Such interventions undermine trust, deter investors and jeopardise jobs. Our aim is an investment-friendly climate that promotes growth and employment in the long term. Competition remains the driving force behind innovation, quality and fair prices.

Clear and reliable rules ensure a level playing field.

Berlin’s future as a business hub depends on its capacity for innovation. New ideas emerge where research, science, start-ups and established companies work closely together. We want to specifically strengthen and further expand this network. Our city’s bright minds are our most important resource. We are creating the conditions to ensure that ideas can flourish and innovations can be put into practice more quickly.

A strong economy and secure jobs go hand in hand. That is why we will bring the policy areas of labour and the economy together under a single Senate department.

We will support companies with international recruitment and the onboarding of their staff, and create better conditions for international skilled workers – from faster and more reliable residence permit procedures and sufficient housing to a range of international schools tailored to their needs. We will further develop the Berlin Welcome Centre and supplement it with welcome managers, who will act as central points of contact for skilled workers and their families, speed up procedures and facilitate integration into work and society.

We will consistently drive forward the initiative to provide more staff accommodation. We also aim to strengthen accommodation for apprentices by building halls of residence in collaboration with the state-owned enterprises. Furthermore, we will press ahead swiftly with the establishment of an ‘Azubiwerk Berlin’. As a central point of contact, it is intended to bring together housing, advice and support for apprentices, thereby making an important contribution to the recruitment of skilled workers.

We are committed to a consistent reduction in bureaucracy. In doing so, we are following the ‘one in – two out’ principle. New regulations should only be introduced if, at the same time, at least

at least two existing regulations are repealed. We will streamline, digitise and significantly speed up procedures. We will noticeably shorten approval and decision-making times within the Berlin administration, amongst other things through the consistent use of deemed approvals.

We are following the example of North Rhine-Westphalia and will, as of a specified date, abolish all state-level reporting and documentation obligations that place a burden on the business community. In doing so, the principle of the reversal of the burden of proof applies: anything deemed absolutely necessary from the perspective of the relevant administrative departments must be substantiated by a well-founded justification and formally confirmed by statutory order by the specified date. Without such a determination, the relevant regulation will lapse without replacement.

We advocate a practical, innovation-friendly and consistently applied approach to data protection. What is permissible under European law must also be feasible in Berlin. We reject overly broad interpretations of existing regulations. Instead, we seek to strike a balance between the protection of sensitive data and the promotion of economic development. We welcome the MPK resolution of 4 December 2025 on the efficient structuring of data protection law and the associated centralisation of the duties of data protection officers.

We will replace the Berlin Tendering and Procurement Act (BerlAVG) with federal procurement law in order to reduce bureaucracy, cut costs and create more scope for businesses.

We will promptly evaluate the Apprenticeship Promotion Fund in terms of its effectiveness and its impact on businesses, training capacity and bureaucracy. Should it become apparent that the hoped-for positive effects are not materialising or that the burdens outweigh the benefits, we will abolish the fund.

For us, high-speed internet is in the overriding public interest, as it is now a prerequisite for economic success, digital inclusion and modern everyday life. We intend to utilise the associated change in legal status to simplify and further accelerate network expansion. To this end, we are committed to fair competition, standardised and digital authorisation procedures, and the roll-out of fibre-optic cables right into people's homes. We expressly support similar initiatives at federal level. At the same time, we will begin laying the groundwork today to ensure that Berlin is as well prepared as possible for future mobile communications standards such as 6G.

We advocate an energy policy in which security of supply, affordability and climate protection go hand in hand. Energy must remain reliably available and sustainably affordable for the people of Berlin and for our economy. That is why all components of the energy system must be reviewed to determine how costs can be reduced, efficiency increased and unnecessary burdens avoided. In doing so, we favour an open approach to technology rather than ideological dictates, so that the energy transition remains economically viable and socially acceptable.

Hydrogen offers great opportunities for the energy supply of the future – particularly in industry and power stations. We are therefore committed to establishing a hydrogen research cluster in Berlin and will support this through the state's research funding programmes.

A strong ‘ ’ for small and medium-sized enterprises

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of Berlin's economy. We want to continue to guide businesses through this transformation and support them with tailored funding programmes.

A key priority for us is ensuring business succession. In close cooperation with the Succession Centre, we will create new networking opportunities to ensure a successful generational transition in Berlin's businesses. To provide targeted relief for businesses, we intend to offer tax relief for new business start-ups. We will provide targeted support for the establishment of business networks. We will better coordinate funding instruments at federal and state level to simplify procedures and significantly speed up approvals and disbursements. We intend to evaluate and continue the SME offices scheme, focusing in particular on outreach initiatives.

We will fully digitise the business registration process and automatically involve all relevant authorities. In this way, we will reduce bureaucratic hurdles and make it considerably easier to set up a business and carry out entrepreneurial activities. Our goal is to enable businesses to be set up within 24 hours.

We are committed to ensuring genuine equivalence between vocational and academic education. We will make training to become a master craftsman, technician or business specialist free of charge. In particular, for the master craftsman qualification, we intend to fully reimburse all remaining costs following a successful examination. We want to inspire young people to take an interest in skilled trades and practical professions from an early age. By introducing a 'Skilled Trades Day' in secondary schools, where local businesses can showcase their work, pupils will be able to learn first-hand about career prospects in the skilled trades.

Berlin: An Industrial Hub

We are committed to Berlin as an industrial hub. Industrial production is a key driver of services, innovation and employment, with over 750 companies and some 100,000 employees.

Berlin is set to become a leading centre for the development and application of innovative technologies in the field of security and defence. We will therefore resolutely drive forward the establishment of a DefTech ecosystem in Berlin and, in particular, champion the creation of a TechHub SVI Ost in Berlin.

Our city is also a well-established and successful hub for the pharmaceutical industry and medical device manufacturers. The close collaboration between companies, universities, research institutions and hospitals provides excellent conditions for innovation and growth. We want to promote and expand Berlin's pharmaceutical and medical device sector in order to attract further investment, strengthen research and create new high-quality jobs in the metropolitan region. In doing so, we must also examine how suitable sites can be made available to meet the sector's specific requirements and how the formation of specialised innovation clusters can be supported.

Furthermore, we also aim to make Berlin a hub for innovation in environmental and climate technologies. To this end, we will facilitate 'real-world laboratories' for new energy and heating technologies and intensify collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups and the academic sector.

We aim to sustainably increase industrial value creation in the metropolitan region. We will strengthen the links between academia, research and industry by expanding cluster management and working in collaboration with local small and medium-sized enterprises. We intend to give particular support to modern infrastructure solutions for existing industrial companies and to encourage new businesses to set up here.

: Berlin, the start-up capital

Berlin should remain the start-up capital and the centre of the digital economy in the future. Our aim is not only to help start-ups get off the ground, but also to enable them to grow successfully and scale up internationally.

Access to capital is crucial to the success of start-ups. We will further strengthen Berlin's existing venture capital structures and focus them specifically on future-oriented sectors such as technology, deep tech and the creative industries. In doing so, we will place a particular focus on companies that develop European technological alternatives and thereby contribute to digital sovereignty.

We will expand existing support schemes and create new financing instruments for various growth phases. We are advocating for further state grants for guarantees in Series A/B funding rounds. Furthermore, together with the IBB, we intend to launch a Berlin Fund specifically designed to bridge funding gaps for innovative start-ups. We will significantly expand the Berlin Start-up Grant and double the number of teams receiving funding whilst maintaining the same terms and conditions.

Berlin is home to a number of particularly successful 'unicorn' start-ups valued at billions. Scale-ups are key drivers of growth in this context: they invest on a large scale, create highly skilled jobs and act as incubators for new, innovative start-ups. In doing so, they make a significant contribution to Berlin's prosperity and to Germany's digital sovereignty. Competition for innovative companies is becoming increasingly fierce – both nationally and internationally. We will therefore provide targeted support to scale-ups beyond the start-up phase. To this end, we will improve the framework conditions for micro-in-

and venture capital investments, and we will structure directly enforceable guarantees in a start-up-friendly manner to facilitate access to finance, particularly for young companies.

We will develop Berlin into an even stronger hub for deep-tech start-ups and technology-driven scale-ups, and to this end create a seamless start-up and scaling infrastructure from research through to industrial application, so that scientific findings can be translated more quickly into marketable innovations and technology-driven companies can grow in Berlin.

In particular, we want to support companies in the creative and tech sectors in utilising cloud technologies and artificial intelligence. Through a Cloud Credit Programme, we aim to promote cloud infrastructure and AI computing power for Berlin-based CreativeTech start-ups via earmarked grants or partnerships with cloud providers.

We aim to specifically strengthen collaboration between start-ups and established companies through a state programme designed to facilitate such partnerships.

Through a one-stop shop for business start-ups, we aim to bring together all the necessary steps – from business registration and tax matters to social security – on a central platform, enabling fast, digital processing within the shortest possible time.

Our aim is for funding applications to be processed entirely digitally, pre-screened automatically and decided upon within 14 days. In the construction sector, too, we are focusing on fast-track procedures, in particular through express planning permission for smaller refurbishment projects in start-up and creative spaces.

With the ‘Berlin Creative Tech Programme for Start-ups’, we will establish a fast-track programme for international founders and skilled workers in the tech sector. The focus here is on fast-track visa procedures, multilingual services and central points of contact. The fast-track skilled worker procedure under Section 81a of the Residence Act (AufenthG) is to be used specifically for creative and tech professions, supplemented by fixed appointment quotas and supported by an expanded Business Immigration Service (BIS) with dedicated points of contact. We aim to broaden access to the EU Blue Card – including for IT professionals without a university degree and for those in the creative industries. In addition, we will expand digital procedures and centralised services so that applications can be completed entirely online, processed more quickly, and international talent can be integrated swiftly into the workforce and society.

Scientific findings must not remain confined to the laboratory. They must be translated into practical applications more quickly and systematically. We want to make targeted use of Berlin’s strengths in science as a driving force for innovation, technological autonomy and economic and social value creation. Our science and research policy is characterised by a broad understanding of innovation.

We will fundamentally improve the framework conditions for knowledge and technology transfer. A key component is a start-up and innovation pact between politics, academia and industry, which will strengthen networks, accelerate processes and facilitate access to data and knowledge.

With an Innovation Freedom Act for Berlin, we aim to create modern and flexible framework conditions for research institutions. We will enshrine in law the same flexible framework conditions for state-funded research institutions as those already enjoyed by institutions receiving federal funding under the Academic Freedom Act.

Science-based start-ups will be specifically supported by enshrining technology transfer and spin-offs as a third pillar in university contracts. We will create real-world laboratories and test beds to trial innovative products and business models under real-world conditions. In this way, we will shorten the path from idea to application and strengthen Berlin's position as a centre of innovation in the long term. Through the UNITE Sciences e.V. consortium, we aim to further pool resources in the region.

We will continue to improve the framework conditions for scientific spin-offs and further raise the upper limit on universities' participation in spin-offs through virtual shares.

We will improve the collection, curation, analysis, linking and use of research data for technology transfer and start-up purposes. With a uniform Berlin IP framework and clear rules for research institutions, we will further strengthen technology transfer.

We will embed entrepreneurship education more firmly in the training and further education of researchers, expand existing programmes and create a cross-university network for advice and support – including beyond the duration of studies.

To further strengthen technology transfer, we aim to make transfer achievements a measurable component in the assessment of academic careers and to create more scope for start-ups through 'start-up and transfer semesters'. We want to provide targeted support to students in turning their ideas into entrepreneurial ventures. We also aim to foster an entrepreneurial spirit throughout further career paths and in general academic training, for example within the framework of graduate schools or as a cross-cutting theme in various curricula.

Through a start-up internship programme, we aim to enable students to gain experience in Berlin-based start-ups. We aim to place 1,000 students per year in Berlin-based start-ups and will support these placements with a state grant of 500 euros per month per student.

Berlin boasts successful model locations where research, start-ups and commercial application are closely interlinked. With the JUNI Start-up Factory, we have established a key player that bridges the gap between research and industry. We intend to expand these initiatives and apply them across the entire business ecosystem.

We will systematically expand cooperation between universities, higher education institutions, research organisations, business incubators and boroughs in order to further promote the establishment of research-oriented enterprises. The FUBIC at the Free University is to be completed swiftly. The CIF (Chemical Invention Factory) is being established at the Technical University. In Berlin-Buch, we will mobilise the available land reserves for the expansion of the BioTech Park.

Public-private partnerships are a crucial key to successful innovation. Collaborations such as that between the Charité and Bayer AG in the field of gene and cell therapy demonstrate how research, application and industrial scaling can work together successfully. We will specifically improve the framework conditions for such strategic partnerships in order to bring innovations to market more quickly and to retain and promote value creation in Berlin.

We intend to harness the strength of Berlin's start-up scene to tap into new fields of innovation and to secure a significantly greater share than before of nationwide investment in innovation within the security and defence sectors. This includes a proactive openness on the part of Berlin's research and scientific institutions towards research of a dual-use nature. This will form part of the future Start-up and Innovation Pact.

The Place to Be

The hotel, catering and tourism sectors make a significant contribution to growth, employment and quality of life in our city. They strengthen Berlin as a business hub and make the German capital attractive to people from all over the world. With around 12.4 million visitors and 29.4 million overnight stays, Berlin remains one of Europe's most popular city break destinations. We want to continue this success story.

We support the permanent reduction in VAT on food in the catering sector from 19 per cent to 7 per cent, which we, as the CDU, were able to secure at federal level with effect from 1 January 2026.

We want to support employees in the hotel and catering sectors and, together with the industry, are committed to developing a HOGA Campus as a central hub for education and innovation in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

We will further strengthen our cooperation with Messe Berlin and visitBerlin in order to increase and fully utilise the capacity for medium-sized and large-scale events. We will continue the successful congress fund in Berlin and expand it specifically to include international formats.

We are firmly committed to the Exhibition Centre Master Plan and will continue to develop the site systematically. Messe Berlin is to further expand its role as an international event venue. To this end, we intend to create opportunities for private investment in Messe Berlin. The aim is to significantly increase the number of national and international trade fair visitors, particularly trade visitors, once again. Our aim is to ensure the multifunctional use of the ICC, which, alongside the trade fair and conference business, will also create space for culture, the creative industries, innovation and new event formats, thereby enhancing the value of the entire site.

With a binding strategy for cultural and sporting events, we aim to support major cultural and sporting events with international reach in Berlin and to improve the overall framework conditions for international events. We are committed to a clear and determined bid by Berlin to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We view the Olympics as a sustainable project for the future that provides impetus for urban development, infrastructure, housing construction and sport. We support a bid by the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region to host EXPO 2035. A world exhibition offers the opportunity to position Berlin and Brandenburg internationally as a region of the future, to showcase innovations and to provide significant impetus for infrastructure, science, the economy and urban development. We support a bid to host World Pride as well as the InterPride General Meeting & World Conference. This combination creates synergies for the business location. This provides long-term support for the hotel, catering and retail sectors.

Excellence ‘made in’ Berlin

Berlin is one of Germany’s leading centres of science. Four universities, the Charité University Hospital, more than 40 higher education institutions, over 70 non-university research and Germany’s largest technology park in Adlershof form a scientific hub that exerts significant national and international influence and is unrivalled anywhere else in Germany. Thousands of researchers and professors, as well as hundreds of thousands of students, conduct research, teach and learn at these institutions. They drive innovation and represent a significant economic factor for our city. Berlin is now Germany’s start-up capital – thanks in part to its strong scientific institutions.

Art colleges are also an indispensable part of this system. They foster social dialogue, strengthen Berlin’s influence in the arts and culture, enable critical reflection and provide impetus far beyond the academic sphere. Working closely with universities and higher education institutions, they make an important contribution to our city’s innovative strength.

Our aim is to safeguard and further develop this unique centre of scholarship, and to sustainably strengthen its role as a driving force for excellence, innovation and economic dynamism.

We want to make Berlin a key driver of the federal government's high-tech agenda. To this end, we will systematically expand cooperation between the federal government and Berlin's academic institutions and significantly increase Berlin's share of federal funding under the high-tech agenda. We expressly support the planning and implementation of BESSY III at the Berlin site.

We will consistently protect the freedom of science and research and safeguard the autonomy of our universities. At the same time, we will create the necessary framework conditions for planning certainty and stability.

In addition to the higher education funding agreements, we need reliable investment planning to ensure the refurbishment and expansion of our university campuses. This planning is carried out in collaboration with the universities and higher education institutions, whilst fully respecting their autonomy.

We will systematically clear the existing backlog of refurbishment and maintenance work at Berlin's higher education institutions and further develop the Higher Education Construction Authority so that construction projects can be implemented more quickly and efficiently. In doing so, we will rely on close cooperation with the higher education institutions and will also examine alternative funding models, such as public-private partnership models. To remove bureaucratic hurdles such as duplicated administrative processes and overly fragmented management, we are amending the Berlin Higher Education Act (BerlHG).

We will specifically strengthen cooperation within the Berlin research cluster. Successful models of shared resource use ('Sharing Resources'), such as those developed by the Berlin University Alliance, are to be rolled out across the entire research hub and supplemented by further initiatives. This includes, in particular, the shared use of infrastructure such as large-scale equipment, laboratories and workshops, as well as the cross-university provision of services.

We want to provide universities with additional financial flexibility and, to this end, allow tuition fees to be charged to specific groups within clearly defined limits – for example, in cases where the standard duration of study is significantly exceeded or for students from non-EU countries. Additional revenue should directly benefit the quality of study and teaching and enhance Berlin's appeal as a place to study.

Student unions at Berlin's higher education institutions are an important component of academic self-governance. At the same time, individual structures are increasingly being used as a platform for extremist political agitation – including instances of anti-Semitism and anti-constitutional positions. We are committed to clarifying the roles and responsibilities of student unions in the Berlin Higher Education Act and aligning them more closely with study-related interests. In future, budgetary funds derived from compulsory contributions should only be collected and used if there is sufficient democratic legitimacy through an appropriate level of voter turnout. In this way, we will strengthen student self-governance whilst ensuring greater accountability and transparency.

The Boston on the Spree

Our city ranks among the world's leading healthcare hubs – from science and research through to production and medical care. Our aim is to further develop Berlin specifically as a location for first-class medical facilities and to build it into a world-class healthcare metropolis.

To safeguard the location's competitiveness, we will consistently remove bureaucratic hurdles, speed up approval procedures and improve the provision of suitable sites. At the same time, we are committed to a modern digital infrastructure and a practical approach to data protection, so that innovative digital health solutions can emerge and flourish in Berlin. We also aim to further intensify collaboration between research institutions and businesses in order to strengthen Berlin's international profile as a centre of innovation.

A high-performing healthcare sector requires modern infrastructure. We therefore intend to make targeted use of state-owned property and create investment incentives to provide additional space for medical practices, research and production.

We will actively promote collaboration between academia, industry and the healthcare sector. We will further develop existing structures, such as the Buch Health Campus, and strengthen them as key centres for biomedical research. At the same time, we aim to create new spaces for exchange, networking and joint development, in order to bring innovations into practice more quickly. This also includes establishing a Future Health Campus in Berlin's city centre, where research, the healthcare industry, start-ups, policymakers and the wider community can work together on innovative solutions for medicine, nursing and healthcare.

We intend to specifically strengthen Berlin's hospitals, particularly the Charité, as platforms for innovation and to further develop Berlin into a leading centre for innovation in the healthcare system – particularly in the fields of e-health solutions, data-driven medicine and personalised therapies. A high-performing network of companies, start-ups and research institutions has already developed around the Charité, which we intend to expand further in a targeted manner. The Charité is also set to play a leading role in the development of data-driven innovation ecosystems. To this end, we will shape the framework conditions so that clinical data can be utilised more effectively for research, spin-offs and collaborations under clear legal and data-protection-compliant conditions for research, spin-offs and collaborations. We aim to harness health data as a strategic resource for innovation, new business models and medical progress. At the same time, we will strengthen the Charité's role as a partner to industry and promote collaborations with companies in the healthcare sector, biomedicine, the pharmaceutical industry and medical technology. We intend to provide targeted support for future-oriented fields such as gene and cell therapy. We will transform regulatory bodies such as the State Office for Health and Social Affairs into service-oriented enablers. We are firmly committed to

'Medical progress made in Berlin'.

University medicine is a cornerstone of Berlin's science and healthcare system. With the Charité, our city boasts one of the largest and most high-performing university

hospitals in Europe. It stands for excellence in research, teaching and patient care, whilst also being a significant economic driver for our city. We want to safeguard and further build on this strength.

At the state level, we will create the legal framework to ensure that clinical data can be systematically utilised for research, innovation and spin-offs across all Berlin hospitals, whilst upholding the highest data protection standards. The aim is to develop the Charité, as part of the Berlin University Alliance, into a leading centre of excellence for data-driven medicine, personalised therapies and AI-supported research.

A key project in this regard is the introduction of a standardised, highly integrated hospital information system (HIS) for all Berlin hospitals, which will bring healthcare, research and innovation more closely together and significantly improve the use of medical data.

What we envisage for an economically strong Berlin DOES NOT need



- ▶ Expropriation of entire sectors, leading to a loss of prosperity and jobs
- ▶ Stifling growth through even more bureaucracy
- ▶ New burdens and higher taxes for businesses
- ▶ Fewer incentives to take up employment
- ▶ An energy policy at the expense of affordability and security of supply
- ▶ Driving bans and a transport policy hostile to business
- ▶ Ideological criteria in the awarding of public contracts
- ▶ Entrepreneurs portrayed as the enemy rather than as partners
- ▶ Crumbling universities instead of a university construction authority
- ▶ Universities as safe havens for anti-Semites
- ▶ Gender-specific chairs at the expense of cutting-edge research

5

Berlin is becoming going smart

Less
gender-
neutral
language,
Read more,
write,
e.
calculate

05.



Berlin is becoming smart. Less gender-neutral language. More reading, writing and maths.

Regardless of parents' background or financial circumstances:

every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Education is the ultimate game-changer in this regard. That is why we support Berlin's children on an individual basis and focus on what matters: **less focus on gender. More reading, writing and maths.**

With the 'Kita-Chancenjahr' (Preschool Opportunity Year), pre-school is back.

To ensure fair opportunities from the very start, no child should start school without speaking German fluently. Thanks to improved staff-to-child ratios, our nurseries are increasingly developing into high-quality educational institutions. German and maths are . We regularly assess learning progress – and provide targeted support where children need it most. The new 11th year of compulsory schooling offers young people without a training place clear prospects for the future.

We are investing heavily in Berlin's school construction:

As part of the school-building programme, around 62,000 new school places, 41 new schools, 119 extension buildings and 76 new sports halls have been created. Since the CDU took office , the teacher shortage has also been drastically reduced: from almost 1,000 to just 207 vacancies (November 2025).

V. Berlin is becoming ‘ ’ smart.



A good start with high- , quality education

Our aim is an effective and equitable Berlin education system that supports every child to the best of its ability, recognises achievement and opens up genuine opportunities for social mobility.

Educational success must not depend on a child's background, but must be ensured through clear standards, good framework conditions and individual support for both pupils with lower and higher academic achievement. We take a holistic view of education – from early support through school years to lifelong learning. In doing so, we focus on strong schools, dedicated teachers and a clear set of values.

We are guided by the principle of ‘supporting and challenging’. Children who are falling behind in their learning need targeted support, whilst high-achieving and gifted pupils also need appropriate opportunities to realise their potential.

For pupils with special educational needs, we aim for as much inclusion as possible and as much individual support as necessary. Inclusion must be achieved with a sense of proportion and guided by the best interests of the child. The expansion of inclusive education must therefore take place in mainstream schools as well as in special schools. Support centres remain indispensable to us. Children suspected of having special educational needs should be assessed at an early stage before starting school. A clear distinction between different types of special educational needs is important to us. Special educational support is aimed at children with specific support needs. Language support needs have different causes and require their own, tailored provision. Parents must be able to decide for themselves whether a support centre or an inclusive school is the right choice for their child.

We advocate the establishment of voluntary holiday schools where children and young people can specifically catch up on any learning gaps in the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

We stand by Berlin's tried-and-tested, multi-tiered school system. The diversity of school types allows for freedom of choice and caters to the different talents, interests and rates of development of young people. Experiments with individual school types or school authorities are at the expense of the children – which is why we reject them.

We will continue to improve the permeability of the school system. All children and young people should be able to achieve the best possible school-leaving qualification, regardless of the type of school at which they begin their education. This requires fair and transparent transitions between different types of school. We are therefore committed to establishing uniform guidelines for class tests and assessment tests to ensure comparable performance standards in primary schools and to provide a reliable basis for the transition to secondary schools, in particular

the Gymnasium. Furthermore, there must always be the option to catch up on school qualifications at a later stage through evening schools.

We will preserve and strengthen the Gymnasium. It is an indispensable type of school for high-achieving pupils and provides particularly effective preparation for university studies. We will ensure the high academic and pedagogical standards of Gymnasium teachers, expand support for gifted pupils and increase the number of places available in Gymnasium primary streams.

We intend to further expand schools with a European and international profile, in particular the State European Schools in Berlin. Where new school sites or major expansion projects are planned, we will, as a matter of principle, assess whether bilingual educational programmes can be established. We see significant opportunities and growing demand for this, particularly in the eastern districts.

Independent and faith-based schools are also an indispensable part of Berlin's educational landscape. Their funding must take account of the changed economic conditions in future. By strengthening the building cost subsidy programme for independent schools, we aim to create additional school places, enhance parents' freedom of choice and relieve the pressure on state schools.

The foundations for educational success are laid at an early age. Our aim is for all children to have the necessary foundations before starting school so that they can successfully follow lessons right from the start. With the 'Kita-Chancenjahr' (Pre-school Opportunity Year), we have reintroduced pre-school education in Berlin

. We want to strengthen and further expand this programme – with the aim of preparing all children for school in the best possible way. The focus should be on language development, social skills and the fundamental abilities required for successful learning – from a confident understanding of language to basic motor and academic skills such as using pen and paper. Nurseries and primary schools should work more closely together, pre-school groups should be given regular insights into everyday school life, and children should be specifically prepared for starting school.

The provision of teaching staff in Berlin's schools has improved noticeably in recent years, and the shortage of teachers has been significantly reduced. We remain committed to this standard. To achieve this, we still need more teachers in our schools so that we can reliably cover for absences due to illness.

To create better learning conditions, we intend to gradually reduce class sizes where necessary over the next five years. Our aim is to have classes with a maximum of 20 pupils in primary schools and 25 pupils in secondary schools. We intend to enshrine these upper limits in law.

We want to further improve the quality of all-day provision in primary schools. This takes the strain off families, provides reliable childcare and offers additional opportunities for learning support, physical activity and social learning. Our aim is to develop formal partnerships with, for example, sports clubs and music schools.

For us, binding core standards in German and mathematics form the basis of a reliable education. Our aim is clear: by the end of primary school, all pupils should be able to read, write and do arithmetic with confidence. For us, this also includes the systematic learning of grammar and spelling from Year 1 onwards, as well as connected cursive handwriting. Schools must focus on what matters: less gender-neutral language, more reading, writing and arithmetic.

Educational equity is not achieved through lower standards, but through high quality, clear standards and targeted support. That is why we are committed to an education policy guided by performance, reliability and scientific evidence. The CDU-led education administration has begun to make education policy more data-driven and evidence-based. We will consistently continue along this path, thereby bringing Berlin more closely into line with the developments and standards of other federal states. Learning outcomes, benchmark tests, scientific findings and school development data should be systematically utilised to further develop teaching in a targeted manner, identify support needs at an early stage and measurably improve school quality.

We stand for clear performance standards, comprehensible examinations and transparent feedback. An education system that constantly lowers its standards out of a misguided sense of leniency fails to fulfil its mandate. That is why, under our leadership, there will be no abolition of school grades. Children and parents have a right to honest, comprehensible and reliable feedback on their level of achievement. Our aim is for all pupils in Berlin to meet the standard requirements set by the Conference of Ministers of Education, and for schools to consistently demand high standards of achievement.

Schools today must not only impart knowledge to young people, but also prepare them as best as possible for the challenges of a modern and changing world. The framework curricula must therefore be reviewed, and content must be geared more strongly towards relevance, comprehensibility and future-proofing. For us, media literacy, digitalisation and the reflective handling of information are naturally part of this, without downplaying the importance of core competences.

Berlin's Neutrality Act must be expanded to include an active state duty to protect religious and ideological neutrality in schools. Schools must consistently ensure that religious practices such as fasting during Ramadan remain voluntary and that no social pressure is exerted on pupils. The ideological freedom of children and young people must be actively protected against religious or social group pressure. The state must strengthen the ideological neutrality of teaching and impart the principles of a secular constitutional state in a binding manner. Curricula should place greater emphasis on the diversity of secular models of society – including in states with a Muslim majority population.

Pupils must be effectively protected from religious pressure to conform in everyday school life.

Only the very best for our children

A good education stands or falls on the people who shape it day in, day out. Teachers do an outstanding job for our children and young people. That is why we are doing everything we can to attract more teachers to our city and retain them in the teaching profession in the long term. We have managed to significantly reduce the teacher shortage in recent years: whilst there was a shortfall of just under 1,000 teachers in the 2022/2023 academic year, this had fallen to just 207 by the 2025/2026 academic year. The civil service status of teachers is a key element in this. We have cleared the backlog in the appointment of teachers to the civil service, meaning that new appointments can now be processed swiftly. We will continue along this successful path – with good working conditions and reliable staff planning. At the same time, in-service training for career changers remains a key component of modern recruitment – the introduction of the single-subject teacher, the tandem teacher and the Flex-Master scheme also contribute to this. We will significantly speed up recruitment procedures so that qualified candidates can enter the teaching profession more quickly and schools can fill vacancies more reliably.

We want to make the initial training, in-service training and continuing professional development of teachers more mandatory, strategic and practice-oriented. The Berlin State Institute for Qualification and Quality Development in Schools (BLiQ) already provides a central structure for training in key future-oriented areas such as language education, digitalisation and curriculum development. In future, all teachers are to systematically undertake these training programmes and receive regular professional development. Continuous professional development will thus become an integral part of high-quality schooling. The initial, in-service and continuing professional development of special needs teachers must also be consistently expanded.

Schools today need more than just teachers. That is why we will strengthen the multi-professional staffing of schools according to the ‘100 per cent plus X’ principle. School social workers, childcare workers, teaching assistants, school psychologists, administrative and IT support staff, as well as other specialist staff, complement the work of teachers and provide schools with tangible relief in their day-to-day operations. The aim is to establish collaboration between different professional groups in Berlin’s schools as the norm, in order to meet the requirements of an inclusive school. In this way, we will create more time for teaching, better learning support and stronger assistance for pupils.

We want to strengthen the existing school social work programme in the State of Berlin to further consolidate schools as places of learning and reliable community. In view of the increasing social challenges in a growing and diverse city, our aim is to provide every school with a sufficient number of qualified social education workers. In doing so, we relieve the burden on teachers in their day-to-day school work and enable them to focus more on teaching.

We are committed to systematically expanding special educational support in primary schools so that every child receives the support they need for their academic success right from the start.

e space is essential for education

A good education also requires modern and clean schools. That is why we will consistently continue Berlin's school-building programme. It is a successful model for creating new school places in line with demand, rapidly refurbishing existing schools and further reducing the investment backlog of recent years. In recent years, 41 new schools, 76 new sports halls and 119 ancillary buildings have been commissioned, around 62,000 new school places have been created, and more than 7 billion euros have been invested in Berlin's educational infrastructure. By establishing a new central state service provider modelled on those in Hamburg or Oslo, we will ensure clear lines of responsibility, faster procedures and binding coordination from a single source. In future, new builds, refurbishments and modernisations are to be planned and implemented much more efficiently. In addition, we want to enable rapid improvements to school buildings through a new programme for small-scale refurbishments – particularly where comprehensive refurbishments will still take time. The funds earmarked for this from the special fund are intended to help rectify deficiencies more quickly and noticeably improve learning conditions in the short term. Public-private partnerships can tap into additional capacity and expertise to create urgently needed school places more quickly and implement construction projects more efficiently.

We want to ensure that Berlin's pupils can spend their breaks in attractive school playgrounds. This includes more greenery and shade, a diverse range of physical activity options, and an appealing design for school playgrounds. Through collaborations with local artists and cultural institutions, we aim to promote creative projects that enhance the school environment and strengthen pupils' sense of belonging to their own school.

We will relieve schools, boroughs and the administration of unnecessary bureaucracy so that more time, staff and resources are available for education rather than administrative burdens. Existing management tools must be assessed to determine whether they actually create added value or, above all, generate additional work. We will therefore carry out a fundamental review of cost and performance accounting in the school sector and simplify or even abolish it where it leads to excessive bureaucracy without improving financial control. Our aim is a modern and efficient school administration that ensures transparency but does not burden schools and boroughs with unnecessary reporting obligations.

We aim to further improve day-to-day school life through digital and unbureaucratic solutions. The introduction of the cleaning monitoring app 'KleanBerlin' is a prime example of how modern technologies can ensure greater transparency, faster processes and better learning conditions. Cleaning shortcomings can thus be documented directly and rectified more quickly. We intend to expand the use of such tools further.

Consistently utilising digitalisation

We place our trust in local schools and empower them to take responsibility for their own affairs. Less bureaucracy, more flexible budgets and a modern digital school administration system give schools greater freedom to act and enable faster decision-making where it is needed.

Digitalisation has long been a fundamental prerequisite for modern teaching, efficient administration and high-performing schools. The CDU-led education authority has made significant progress in digitalising Berlin's schools in recent years and has initiated important modernisation projects. We intend to continue along this path consistently. By 2030, we aim to equip all pupils in Years 7 to 10 across the board with digital devices. High-performance networks, modern equipment and a reliable digital infrastructure must be standard in all Berlin schools. We want to harness the potential of artificial intelligence to improve educational opportunities.

Digital technology must function reliably in everyday school life. That is why we want to strengthen technical support in schools and establish a state programme for IT support. Teachers and headteachers should be able to focus on teaching and school development – not on technical problems and administrative burdens.

We also want to systematically digitise and simplify operational processes. We aim to organise school enrolments, transition procedures, school reports, class registers and notifications of school absences in a fully digital, user-friendly and efficient manner. We will systematically implement and roll out across the board projects already underway, such as the digitisation of the transition procedure and the digital pupil ID card. This will create a modern education administration system that offers families a better service, takes the strain off schools and significantly reduces bureaucracy.

For us, however, digitalisation is not just about technology, but also about expertise. That is why we are strengthening the training of teachers in the areas of digitalisation and media literacy in a mandatory and systematic way. Modern schools need modern educational approaches and teachers who can use digital tools confidently and effectively.

Schools as positive places for learning and life

Schools must be places of learning, respect and safety. Violence, anti-Semitism, extremism and discrimination have no place in Berlin's schools. With the Violence Barometer, the CDU-led education authority has, for the first time, created a robust database on violence in schools. Building on this, we will develop a clear strategy that consistently combines prevention, intervention and enforcement. Our aim is to have safe schools with clear rules, consistent action and a strong focus on values. In doing so, we will consistently further develop and strengthen cooperation between schools, child and youth welfare services and youth social work.

We are committed to providing balanced and healthy school lunches in all Berlin schools. Good nutrition enhances the ability to concentrate, promotes well-being and supports the healthy development of children and young people.

We want to expand cooperation between schools and statutory health insurance funds and strengthen successful programmes such as ‘Gute gesunde Schule’ (Good Healthy School). Preventive measures relating to physical activity, nutrition and mental health should be firmly embedded in everyday school life across the board.

Children and young people today face growing social and psychological pressure. School must therefore be more than just a place of learning – it must also offer stability, guidance and support. Through a state programme for mental health and the expansion of school psychology services, we aim to create reliable support structures for pupils, teachers and families. Prevention, early intervention and the promotion of resilience should become an integral part of everyday school life. In this way, we will strengthen schools’ capacity to deal with psychosocial challenges in the long term.

We want to integrate physical activity more closely into everyday school life. Active learning sessions, purposeful breaks and additional activities promote concentration, health and social interaction. We encourage schools to implement activity-friendly approaches and to strengthen their collaboration with sports clubs.

We are committed to school sport as an indispensable part of holistic education. Regular physical activity promotes health, team spirit and a willingness to perform. That is why we advocate for sufficient PE lessons, modern sports facilities and closer cooperation with Berlin’s sports clubs. For us, the concept of achievement is also an integral part of physical education: effort, commitment and individual progress must be assessed in a way that is transparent and understandable. That is why we support the use of school grades in physical education. At the same time, we want to identify sporting talent at an early stage and provide targeted support.

We advocate the introduction of Berlin-wide school sports championships. In doing so, we aim to strengthen team spirit and pupils’ sense of belonging to their school.

No child should leave primary school without being able to swim safely. To this end, we are committed to the compulsory and reliable delivery of swimming lessons as part of a Berlin-wide swimming initiative. In addition, we want to create voluntary programmes so that children can be introduced to the water at an early stage, even before they start regular swimming lessons. Successful models such as the ‘Neukölln Swimming Bear’ show how children can gain confidence and feel safe in the water through play.

Practical Education

Not every successful life path involves a university degree – and not every talent flourishes in the lecture theatre. That is true and important. That is why we want to strengthen vocational education and training, foster practical talents and show young people at an early stage the diversity of modern training and career paths. We are committed to ensuring genuine equality between vocational and academic education. The dual training system is one of Germany's success stories and must be presented as being on a par with academic pathways.

Career and higher education guidance must be an integral part of modern school education and must not only begin shortly before pupils leave school. Pupils should be supported from an early age to develop their own prospects and gain realistic insights into apprenticeships, higher education and the world of work. That is why we are strengthening career and higher education guidance in Berlin's schools, building cooperation with business, the skilled trades and higher education institutions, and are promoting a greater practical focus in everyday school life. Schools are being supported in establishing firm partnerships with regional companies, craft businesses, social institutions and public sector employers. Company visits, project days, productive learning, practical camps and student work placements must be significantly expanded. We aim to raise awareness of the diversity of career paths by promoting careers that do not require a degree more actively across all types of school, highlighting the opportunities they offer, and specifically involving successful apprenticeship graduates as role models.

We want to strengthen economic education and integrate economic topics more closely into relevant subjects. Schools should also be able to offer an optional subject entitled 'Economics, Skilled Trades and Financial Education'. We advocate involving practitioners from businesses more closely in the classroom and providing targeted support for student-run companies.

Career guidance should be compulsory and ongoing at all secondary schools from Year 7 onwards. In addition to traditional information sessions, the focus should be particularly on practical experience. Furthermore, the 'Berlin School Mentors' scheme should be further strengthened to include career guidance from Year 5 onwards.

Upper secondary centres make an indispensable contribution to vocational education and training in Berlin. We want to raise the profile of their work, sharpen their focus and improve the standing of vocational education and training as a whole. This includes modern facilities, clear areas of specialisation and greater public awareness. At the same time, we want to further expand cooperation between upper secondary centres and integrated secondary schools. Early collaboration, joint projects and smoother transitions are intended to help pupils explore career paths and find suitable opportunities after leaving school.

Our own State Institute for Vocational Education and Training, established to strengthen career guidance in educational institutions, is intended to improve links between schools, the business sector, the skilled trades and training providers, as well as to coordinate practical programmes and develop quality standards.

Cooperation between schools, youth career agencies and the Federal Employment Agency is to be intensified. Teachers are to be assigned dedicated contact persons for career and higher education guidance.

Matching young people with suitable vocational training programmes is a key factor in preventing youth unemployment. To this end, the Federal Employment Agency in Berlin offers every young person a place on a training course or a job. Before, or at the latest when, they register as unemployed, they are presented with a suitable job or apprenticeship offer, accompanied by intensive integration support. Young people who have been unemployed for a longer period receive holistic support and, where necessary, outreach support. To this end, partnerships are established with leisure facilities, social services and local community organisations. We intend to evaluate existing schemes and assess their effectiveness.

Promoting the values of ‘ ’

We will strengthen civic education in all schools and bring democracy to life.

Every pupil should engage in a compulsory examination of democratic institutions, political responsibility and the history of our country. This includes visits to the German Bundestag, the Berlin House of Representatives, the district councils and memorial sites commemorating both German dictatorships.

Education is the best defence against extremism. That is why pupils should engage with all forms of extremism, as well as anti-Semitic and racist ideologies, in the classroom. The Middle East conflict must also be dealt with appropriately within the framework curriculum for upper secondary education.

Religious and philosophical education must be given a firm place in everyday school life. We are therefore campaigning for the introduction of a compulsory elective module in religion/ethics, modelled on the Brandenburg system.

Our aim is to promote a vibrant culture of remembrance. Discussions with eyewitnesses, project-based educational initiatives and support for the work of memorial sites are, in our view, indispensable for conveying to young people that freedom, democracy and the rule of law cannot be taken for granted.

Media education is education for democracy. We therefore wish to establish media literacy as a compulsory component in all schools. Pupils should learn to scrutinise information critically, recognise disinformation and use both digital and traditional media responsibly.

We advocate that Europe Day on 9 May be observed as a theme day at all secondary schools in Berlin. Knowledge of the history, institutions and future of the European Union should be reinforced in the classroom. We want to further strengthen the European Academy in Berlin as a venue for European debate and political education. Europe

should also become more tangible for apprentices and vocational school pupils. We therefore wish to expand exchange programmes, school trips and short-term Erasmus opportunities.

Children and young people should be able to get involved at an early stage. We therefore want to improve the networking of district children's and youth parliaments and strengthen opportunities for participation. We want to promote youth clubs as places for social interaction and democracy education in order to counteract radicalisation at an early stage. To ensure that youth clubs can fulfil this role, we are committed to the diversity of independent and public organisations.

We are committed to specifically expanding cooperation between schools and the police, the fire service and the armed forces, and to establishing regular 'emergency services days' in Berlin's schools. This can provide valuable impetus for career guidance, help bridge the gap with representatives of the state, and at the same time is an expression of the special appreciation that should be shown to these professional groups.

We want to embed first-aid courses more firmly in everyday school life and, to this end, further expand our existing partnership with the ADAC through targeted collaboration with aid organisations such as the THW, the German Red Cross (DRK) and the Order of Malta. Berliners should become pioneers in resuscitation training. We want to expand existing successful projects and, in the long term, establish basic first-aid and resuscitation skills in all schools.

We support a greater presence of the Bundeswehr in politics lessons, in school projects and through youth officers providing political education and careers guidance. The aim is to promote pupils' understanding of security policy and to provide insights into serving our country.

Lifelong learning

Education does not end with leaving school. Adult education is an important fourth pillar of our education system. We therefore wish to provide greater support to independent providers and expand project funding. At the same time, the effectiveness of programmes should be regularly reviewed. Furthermore, we intend to launch a state programme for regular funding in basic education.

To strengthen adult education centres as key hubs for continuing education, we intend to make further progress towards offering permanent teaching posts during the coming legislative term – particularly in the areas of basic education and language support.

Extracurricular education is already carrying out valuable and successful educational work in many parts of Berlin today. We want to specifically strengthen and further expand these programmes in order to better prepare people of all ages for the challenges of a modern and digital knowledge-based society. With the establishment of the Co-ordination Office for Extracurricular Education, we have taken an important step towards better mapping, networking and increasing the transparency of extracurricular education programmes. We intend to consistently continue along this path—

proceed. For this reason, the coordination office is to be strengthened in terms of staffing and further developed into a central quality and advisory centre for extracurricular organisations.

We want to safeguard Urania Berlin as a venue for social exchange and the dissemination of knowledge. To this end, we will also examine how it can be further developed into a national citizens' forum for democracy and expanded to ensure its long-term viability in terms of premises.

We regard local political education as an ongoing task within the framework of lifelong learning and as a strong foundation of our democracy. To guarantee reliable framework conditions, we will further develop the Berlin Foundation Funding Act in line with current needs. Local political education organisations make an indispensable contribution to social cohesion and democratic education in our city.

What we do NOT do NOT need



- ▶ Lack of appreciation for the German language and culture
- ▶ Devaluing the core subjects of maths and German
- ▶ School as a means of ideological indoctrination
- ▶ Lowering of educational standards
- ▶ Levelling down and a move away from challenging and supporting pupils
- ▶ Abolition of school marks
- ▶ The campaign against grammar schools
- ▶ End of the school-building programme

6

**Berlin is
faster.**

Undergr
Bicycle, car:
No transport
mean
is illegal!

06.

Berlin is getting faster. Underground, cycle, car: No mode of transport is illegal!

When it comes to transport, we focus on working together rather than against one another. We have reopened Friedrichstraße to cars and are pressing ahead with the refurbishment of the Schlangenbad Tunnel. After years of delays, construction of the TVO is finally getting under way. When it comes to expanding the charging infrastructure for electric cars, we are above the national average. With more than 1.3 billion euros a year, Berlin is investing more than ever in the BVG: in new vehicles, modern infrastructure and greater capacity. By expanding semi-automated driving, we will ensure greater reliability in future.

Berlin needs clear roads, not artificial barriers. Ambulances, fire engines and delivery vehicles must not be held up. We are putting a stop to the bollard madness and cutting funding for ever more bollards and neighbourhood roadblocks. Wherever possible and safe, the 50 km/h speed limit will be reinstated.

We have made up for what has long been neglected and have begun to fundamentally renovate our city's infrastructure. In concrete terms, this means for the people of Berlin: bridges, railways and roads are being renovated and modernised to provide more reliable connections and a city where it is once again easier to get from A to B. In 2026/27 alone, we will invest over 200 million euros in Berlin's bridges to ensure they stand on a safe foundation. The demolition of the Ringbahn Bridge took place in record time – thanks to the right political will and clear, swift decisions. We intend to carry on in exactly the same way – and to make faster progress on other construction sites too (such as the Elsen Bridge, the Mühlendamm Bridge, the Rudolf-Wissell Bridge and the Marzahn transport hub).

VI. Berlin is moving faster .

Banning cars is out of the question

For families, commuters, care services or tradespeople on their way to customers – the car is and will remain indispensable for a functioning Berlin. We will safeguard and maintain the capacity of the central transport corridors. This includes ensuring that a 50 km/h speed limit is the norm on main roads to guarantee a reliable flow of traffic. However, there must continue to be exceptions to the 50 km/h limit where road safety requires it – for example, outside nurseries, schools, hospitals, and care homes for the elderly or people with disabilities.

At the same time, we will significantly increase investment in road construction in order to further reduce the existing backlog of renovation work and safeguard the existing infrastructure in the long term. Preserving existing infrastructure takes precedence over new construction. In addition, we will launch a special programme for bridges, under which structures in particular need of refurbishment will be prioritised for repair or – where necessary – replacement, in line with the Bridges Master Plan.

We will make targeted additions to the existing transport infrastructure to improve connections between the city centre and the outlying districts even further. For us, one thing is clear: anyone who blocks or delays major infrastructure projects that have been in the planning stages for years or decades is standing in the way of Berlin's future viability. Berlin is capable of progress – as recent years have shown. We intend to continue along this path consistently and without compromise. We will resolutely press ahead with major projects such as the continuation of the A100 motorway or the Eastern Tangential Link (TVO) to relieve residential areas of through traffic and, in particular, to improve connections to districts in eastern Berlin. We support the federal government's plans for the 17th construction phase of the A100. By closing the urgently needed gap in the TVO between 'An der Wuhlheide' and Märkische Allee, we will create an efficient transport link that will both speed up commercial and business traffic and noticeably improve the quality of life in the neighbouring residential areas. At the same time, we are committed to effective noise protection along the urban motorways. Modern noise protection measures, improved road surfacing and targeted structural improvements are to be implemented where the impact on local residents is particularly high.

Commercial traffic must be taken into account in infrastructure planning from the outset. We will require the boroughs to provide sufficient loading and delivery zones within the road network. We will introduce digital parking permits valid across the entire city for tradespeople, delivery services, care services and other service providers. At the same time, we will ensure that the flow of traffic is not restricted by ideologically motivated traffic restrictions, neighbourhood roadblocks or bollards, and that sufficient parking spaces are available for commercial traffic. We will take firm action against illegal parkers who obstruct the flow of traffic.

We want to preserve parking spaces in Berlin's public spaces. We will radically simplify parking management and make it more transparent. The aim is a system that is understandable across Berlin, with clear rules, fewer special cases and fully digital procedures. This must also be accompanied by a clear and practical adjustment of the fee regulations and fee structure. We will strengthen resident parking. We are committed to ensuring that resident parking remains affordable and that the costs are proportionate to the administrative burden. At the same time, we will dismantle rigid and bureaucratic regulations that place an unnecessary burden on businesses, tradespeople and social services. Furthermore, we advocate the use of scan-cars to make inspections more efficient and less labour-intensive. This will also free up more capacity for field staff and citizen services.

We are committed to the digitalisation of parking management and, for example, to smart parking guidance systems directing the flow of traffic from visitors to Berlin towards multi-storey car parks, so that more parking spaces remain reserved for residents.

We are focusing on the expansion of neighbourhood car parks to create additional parking spaces for residents, particularly in densely built-up neighbourhoods. At the same time, existing parking spaces should be used more efficiently. To this end, we will examine the extent to which multi-storey car parks, supermarket car parks and other private parking spaces can be made available to residents at affordable rates during off-peak hours and overnight.

We want safe and liveable neighbourhoods where people enjoy living. To achieve this, we will improve road safety, but without relying on traffic restrictions such as bollards. The police, fire service and refuse collection services must be able to reach any location quickly, whilst local shops and supermarkets must remain accessible to both customers and suppliers. To ensure this, we are utilising the new State Organisation Act and, as the Senate, are providing the boroughs with a standardised and binding set of options for sensible traffic calming and road safety measures.

Better coordination of construction sites

Massive investment in our infrastructure is likely to lead to more, rather than fewer, roadworks in future. The aim is to coordinate these even more effectively than before and to communicate construction schedules, so that there are as few unnecessary restrictions on road space as possible. We are committed to transparent, digitally supported planning and early consultation with all stakeholders, so that measures can be better coordinated and unnecessary multiple road closures avoided. To this end, we will strengthen the existing central construction site coordination unit in terms of both staffing and funding.

In addition, we will introduce targeted incentives for the swift implementation of construction projects. Those who complete construction sites within the agreed timeframe will be rewarded with a construction site bonus. At the same time, we advocate for binding consequences in the event of delays or construction site set-ups that breach regulations.

Modern digital tools, such as mandatory traffic flow simulations or the monitoring of construction sites using BVG buses, should also help to identify impacts at an early stage, manage them more effectively and – where necessary – penalise breaches. In addition, we are committed to intelligent traffic management and aim to systematically adjust traffic light timings in the vicinity of roadworks – particularly in the case of longer construction projects or on busy main roads.

ly on foot

We will consistently continue to expand safe and clearly visible crossing facilities in our city. These include pedestrian crossings, central refuges and modular kerb extensions. We will use temporary pedestrian crossings to promptly mitigate hazards until permanent structural solutions are in place.

We will further improve accessibility for pedestrians and gradually install kerb ramps wherever people cross roads, reach bus stops or use central facilities. We will resolutely continue. Together with the boroughs, we intend to further develop existing programmes and allocate funds specifically to areas where tripping hazards are particularly severe or where there are high volumes of foot traffic. We intend to fill in missing sections of pavements pragmatically and swiftly.

We will further improve the lighting of footpaths, particularly at bus stops, on routes to school, in parks and in areas with poor visibility.

We intend to technically prevent the use of small electric vehicles, such as e-scooters and shared bicycles, on pavements through appropriate measures such as geofencing. In pedestrian zones, the speed of these vehicles is to be technically limited to walking pace. In addition, there will be targeted checks by the public order authorities to ensure the proper use of e-scooters.

In line with the sharing strategy we have set out, the parking of small electric vehicles and shared bicycles should only be permitted at specifically designated parking facilities.

Cycling through the ‘ ’ city

We will specifically improve Berlin’s cycle path network and expand it in line with demand. Our priority is the refurbishment and upgrading of existing paths. We will systematically eliminate potholes, damage caused by tree roots, poor road surfaces and unclear markings to ensure that cycle paths are safe and reliable to use.

We will review Berlin’s Cycling Plan and the priority network and align them more closely with reality. It is crucial to us that cycle paths are safe for everyday use and get people to their destinations quickly. To this end, we are focusing on clear priorities in planning and implementation, as well as on reliable and swift procedures.

We advocate transport solutions that work and enable safe travel for everyone. We will further develop the Mobility Act to ensure fair coexistence between all modes of transport. We will therefore only create new cycle paths where they are actually needed and where they make a genuine contribution to safe and practical everyday connections. We favour flexible cycle lane widths and site-specific solutions tailored to local conditions. Not every road is the same, which is why we will further develop planning standards in a practical manner and implement them with a sense of proportion. Our focus is on closing gaps in the cycle network and on expanding continuous cycle highways to separate cycle traffic from other traffic and avoid conflicts.

Anyone travelling by bike needs good, secure parking facilities. That is why we will continue to expand secure, practical and theft-resistant cycle parking facilities throughout the city. We particularly want to expand modern cycle lockers and centralised locking systems at S-Bahn and U-Bahn stations. In doing so, we are also exploring the use of previously unused spaces, such as suitable areas along S-Bahn curves.

To make junctions safer for cyclists, we are focusing on separate traffic light phases, advanced stop lines, unobstructed sightlines and clear traffic management. In addition, targeted checks will be carried out at junctions to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists have the right of way over turning vehicles.

Our public transport for our ‘ ’ Berlin

A strong public transport system is the backbone of a functioning city. Our aim is a reliable, efficient and attractive public transport system. We support the BVG in its ‘stability before growth’ strategy, thereby laying the foundations for sustainable further development.

We will support the BVG in recruiting more staff, making vehicles available more quickly, and modernising workshops and operational processes. We will carry out targeted upgrades to the infrastructure, eliminate bottlenecks and further develop digital control systems. We are committed to the partial automation (CBTC) of selected underground lines. In the long term, we aim to close gaps in the network, thereby strengthening direct connections and reducing the need for unnecessary changes.

Safety and cleanliness in local transport are high priorities for us. We will continue to take consistent action against violence, vandalism, breaches of the rules and harassment. To this end, we are focusing in particular on increasing the number of visible security and service staff, expanding video surveillance, and rolling out digital emergency call points and the option for silent emergency calls across the board. In addition, we intend to further develop the Nora emergency app specifically for use on public transport and test it in collaboration with the BVG as part of a pilot project, so that passengers can discreetly request help in dangerous situations and quickly transmit their location. This will provide even better protection against violence and harassment for those who are particularly vulnerable. We will also continue to improve lighting and the quality of the environment at stations and stops. We will expand successful measures such as the

cleaning routes will be expanded. Furthermore, cleaning frequencies are to be increased, additional cleaning teams deployed at particularly busy stations, and damage repaired more quickly.

For the underground, we aim to introduce a closed-system in the long term. To this end, we intend to trial access controls on selected underground lines as part of a pilot project. The aim is to reduce unauthorised access, effectively curb fare evasion and noticeably improve the quality of the passenger experience in stations and on trains.

We will continue to drive forward the development of accessible stations and stops. We intend to systematically expand lifts, tactile guidance systems, audio passenger announcements and level access points, and make these the standard.

When expanding the network, we are focusing on key infrastructure projects. We will continue to drive forward major underground projects such as the extensions to lines U2, U3, U6, U7, U8 and U9. We will also secure planning permission for long-term projects such as the U10.

At the same time, we will strengthen the S-Bahn through more frequent services, additional tracks and better connections to the outer districts. In doing so, we also aim to specifically improve connections within the outer districts, so that journeys become faster, more direct and more reliable.

Through the i2030 infrastructure programme, we are working together with Brandenburg to consistently drive forward the urgently needed expansion of the rail infrastructure in the capital region. Our aim is a modern, efficient and better-connected metropolitan region with attractive services. Key projects such as the reactivation of the Siemensbahn and the extension of the S75 to Karower Kreuz are a priority for us. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that further expansion projects in the metropolitan region are realised – for greater capacity, reliable connections and an efficient overall network.

When it comes to expanding tram and bus services, we focus on pragmatic and efficient solutions. We aim to extend tram services where they usefully complement existing networks, connect new residential areas or create efficient cross-city links. For us, the key factors are transport benefits, cost-effectiveness and the ability to implement projects swiftly.

We want to specifically strengthen the bus system. Modern express bus routes, high-capacity and double-articulated buses, as well as battery-electric vehicles, can quickly provide additional capacity and connect areas where rail projects take longer to implement. Flexible and rapid solutions are essential, particularly in growing outlying areas and new urban neighbourhoods.

We also want to trial innovative technologies such as semi-autonomous shuttle systems or semi-autonomous bus-trams on a pilot basis.

When expanding transport infrastructure, we also want to break new ground and make targeted use of public-private partnerships to speed up planning, construction and implementation. Private-sector expertise can provide valuable impetus, particularly in the context of general contracting, the construction and operation of individual public transport routes, modular bridge structures and innovative mobility projects. New transport links – such as a maglev train

(TSB) from the planned Urban Tech Republic on the site of the former Tegel Airport to Jungfernheide – could thus be realised more quickly.

We intend to continue the targeted expansion of Park & Ride facilities in the outskirts, particularly at S-Bahn and regional railway stations as well as on major arterial roads, and to expand existing sites. In addition, we also aim to increase the provision of Bike & Ride spaces, secure cycle parking facilities and charging points for electric vehicles. We intend to create modern mobility hubs, particularly in the outskirts, to better integrate different modes of transport and make switching between them easier, quicker and more attractive for commuters.

's mobility of tomorrow

We want to develop Berlin and Brandenburg into a pilot region for autonomous driving – in both freight and passenger transport. For the underground, we want to expand the use of modern control and safety technology such as CBTC to enable semi-automated driving, increase service frequency and make operations more stable. Where appropriate, new urban neighbourhoods should be connected by autonomous transport systems from the outset, in order to create innovative, efficient and reliable mobility options directly on site.

We will shape the transition to climate-friendly mobility in a way that is open to all technologies. We will further expand the charging infrastructure in Berlin and ensure there are sufficient, reliably available charging points in public spaces. We want to promote hydrogen as a sensible complement to electric mobility – particularly where battery-electric solutions reach their limits, such as in heavy goods transport, bus services and shipping. To this end, we intend to drive forward the development of a hydrogen infrastructure along key transport corridors, in logistics centres and industrial estates, and are committed to close cooperation with the business sector and funding partners. In rail transport, too, we are focusing on new propulsion systems and advocate the use of hydrogen-powered regional trains between Berlin and Brandenburg on non-electrified routes (e.g. the RB27 'Heidekrautbahn').

BER – our gateway to the world

We will continue to develop BER Airport into an efficient and competitive business hub for Berlin, as well as the central air transport hub for eastern Germany.

More direct connections within Europe as well as additional long-haul routes, an attractive charging model and targeted marketing measures are intended to attract more airlines and passengers. At the same time, we will enhance BER's financial viability by expanding the non-aviation sector and involving private partners more closely. However, it is also clear that the key framework conditions for the competitiveness of the aviation sector are set at federal level. We are therefore strongly advocating at federal level for Germany to regain its international competitiveness as an aviation hub and, in particular, for a significant reduction in aviation taxes and charges. Above all, this includes a substantial reduction in the aviation tax.

What we envisage for a A faster Berlin **DOES NOT need**

*Berlin will
NOT
with ease*

- ▶ Cultural war against the car
- ▶ A 30 km/h speed limit across the board
- ▶ Transport policy at the expense of the suburbs
- ▶ Excessive use of bollards, road closures and a further reduction in parking spaces
- ▶ Hindrance to emergency and rescue services, as well as to business and delivery traffic
- ▶ Abandonment of the A100 motorway
- ▶ An ideological battle against infrastructure

7

Berlin is

clean.

More
City cleaning.
Tough
penalties
for
litterbugs.

7

Berlin will be clean. More street cleaning. Tough penalties for litterbugs.

A clean city is a joint effort. Every single person is responsible for disposing of their own rubbish correctly, so that our streets and parks remain clean.

Anyone who fails to use a bin bag will now have to dig deep into their own pockets. By revising the schedule of fines, we have ensured that litterbugs are penalised and that illegal dumping and offences relating to the setting off of fireworks are punished more severely – for example, 250 C for a discarded cigarette butt or 700 C for old tyres. Clear division of responsibilities between the Senate and the boroughs ensures greater efficiency; at the same time, we have strengthened the public order offices so that the new schedule of fines can be effectively enforced.

The BSR is cleaning more parks, playgrounds and woodland areas so that Berliners can truly relax here. The BVG cleaning patrols we have introduced on the U8 line ensure greater cleanliness and safety on the underground too. We would like to develop this project further in the future and extend it to other lines – for a city where everyone feels at home.

VII. Berlin is getting cleaner – for a city where everyone feels at home.

Taking a firm stance on cleanliness and order

Cleanliness and order are the foundation for ensuring that all Berliners feel safe and at ease – in every neighbourhood. For where urban spaces fall into disrepair and rubbish piles up, the social environment and community life also suffer. Berlin needs a new culture of responsibility, in which cleanliness and order are taken for granted – through clear, consistently enforced rules, public awareness campaigns and the involvement of everyone.

We are taking decisive action against littering. With a stricter schedule of fines, we have set clear standards: illegal waste disposal is not a trivial offence and is punished severely, from discarded cigarette ends to illegally dumped bulky waste. At the same time, we have created targeted incentives for more inspections and the consistent prosecution of administrative offences by ensuring that fines now go directly to the boroughs.

In addition, we intend to examine the use of mobile video surveillance and data-protection-compliant artificial intelligence to identify litter hotspots more quickly and coordinate clean-up operations more effectively. A dedicated ‘litter investigators’ task force will focus on particularly affected areas.

We are committed to a comprehensive strengthening of the public order offices. This includes a significant increase in staffing levels, better equipment (e.g. body cameras), regular operational training provided by the Berlin Police Academy, and greater powers – including the reinstatement of the ability to carry out searches on suspicious or incorrectly parked vehicles. Targeted cooperation with vetted, reputable private security firms, as well as the use of digital technologies, should also help to ease the workload and enable more effective prosecution of administrative offences.

We will also further develop the public order offices both professionally and structurally. The aim is to position the public order offices in the long term so that they can carry out their duties comprehensively and, as far as possible, round the clock, in order to provide tangible relief for the police.

We are consistently driving forward the digitalisation and networking of the public order offices. Their integration into the joint control centre for the police and fire service from 2028 onwards is intended to improve operational planning, relieve the burden on the police and make cooperation in the event of a disaster more efficient. Our aim is the complete digitalisation of procedures through the further development of the NOWI IT system, based on police standards.

We want to strengthen the Berlin City Cleaning Service (BSR) and improve cleanliness across the entire city. Within the limits of our financial resources, we are committed to securing additional staff for the BSR so that it can continue to meet its ever-increasing responsibilities in the future. In particular, we wish to open up new prospects for the long-term unemployed through mini-jobs. Asylum seekers should take their first steps towards integration within the city's cleaning services as part of so-called 'additional community service opportunities'. We advocate expanding the BSR's remit, particularly with regard to the cleaning of green spaces and playgrounds.

Playgrounds and green spaces must be safe and well-maintained places for everyone, particularly for families. That is why we want to ensure regular inspections and the swift removal of dangerous objects. We want to actively encourage civic engagement in keeping our city clean. We support the 'Kehrenbürger' clean-up campaigns and advocate for the Berlin-wide expansion of playground sponsorship schemes, modelled on the Spandau initiative.

We will take firm action against criminal graffiti. In particular, anti-Semitic, racist or extremist graffiti must be removed as quickly as possible, within 24 hours at the latest. At the same time, we want to promote designated areas for legal street art. Artistically designed electricity and distribution boxes also help to enhance the cityscape and can act as a preventative measure against indiscriminate graffiti.

We want to further improve bulky waste collection in Berlin. We will expand and make the successful bulky waste collection days in the neighbourhoods a regular feature in order to reduce illegal fly-tipping and keep residential areas cleaner. At the same time, we are looking into extending the opening hours of the BSR recycling centres, particularly at weekends, whilst taking staff interests into account. In addition, we advocate for a low-threshold, fee-based service provided by the BSR for the prompt collection of bulky waste – including at off-peak times.

We will modernise waste disposal in public spaces. To this end, we intend to install additional and clearly separated waste bins in high-traffic areas and, in particular, to expand the use of underground bins. By 2030, we aim to increase the number of litter bins in Berlin to around 30,000. For the state's new-build and refurbishment projects, the installation of underground bins should be considered in order to prevent the accumulation of rubbish and minimise noise and odour nuisance in future. Where possible, this technology should also be used in public parks, green spaces and on playgrounds. In this way, we will reduce openly accessible rubbish, deprive rats of their food source and thereby make a decisive contribution to effectively reducing the rat population in our city.

We will effectively control the pigeon population – in particular at shopping centres, railway stations and other heavily frequented locations – in a manner consistent with animal welfare. To this end, we will rely on managed pigeon lofts, consistent bans on feeding and their enforcement, as well as structural measures to deter pigeons. Further measures to reduce the population are to be examined.

We will ensure better lighting along footpaths by replacing dim street lamps. In addition, we intend to expand the Public Order Office's online app so that it can also be used to report poorly lit areas.

A clean and safe city also requires sufficient public toilets. In the long term, public toilets are to generate revenue through advertising space. The additional funds are to be used to improve cleanliness, provide better facilities and expand the network to include further locations.

Expanding heat protection

Berlin is experiencing long heatwaves with increasing frequency. Older people, children, the sick and the homeless are particularly hard hit by extreme heat. Protecting people from the heat is therefore not just a matter of climate adaptation for us, but also a social responsibility, to ensure that Berlin remains a liveable city even on hot days. We aim to implement the approach set out in Berlin's Climate Adaptation Act – which makes it mandatory to incorporate heat protection and climate adaptation into planning and urban development – in a practical and efficient manner.

We want to significantly increase the number of street trees and raise this figure to one million by 2040, in order to make Berlin more resilient to heat and extreme weather. In doing so, we are focusing on realistic targets for tree planting, the involvement of the boroughs, and reliable funding options for climate adaptation.

We also want to develop Berlin's forests to make them more climate-resilient. Pure pine stands are to be gradually converted into structurally diverse mixed deciduous forests. In this way, we will reduce the risk of large-scale damage whilst simultaneously strengthening the natural cooling effect and ecological diversity.

We want to develop a new urban forest on parts of the Tempelhof Field, which, as Berlin's second 'green lung' of Berlin – similar to the Tiergarten – to sustainably improve the urban climate and thereby enhance the quality of life for Berliners.

We will systematically expand heat protection measures in Berlin and integrate them into planning and construction processes from the outset. This includes, in particular, increasing the amount of greenery on roofs and façades, especially on public buildings. We intend to specifically promote and highlight exemplary projects. In public construction projects – particularly in nurseries and schools – heat protection must be mandatorily taken into account in future. This includes shaded play areas, climate-adapted construction methods and the provision of free drinking water in and around school buildings.

We will specifically improve the facilities at playgrounds and, in particular, enhance heat protection. Many parts of the city lack sufficient shaded play areas. We therefore intend to make greater use of sun sails and other shading elements – particularly in new development areas with large numbers of children. In this way, we will improve the quality of the outdoor environment in the short term and better protect children from the heat.

We also intend to gradually transform existing areas to make them climate-resilient. School playgrounds, nursery grounds and sports facilities are to be unsealed, greened and equipped with water storage facilities in line with the principle of ‘blue-green infrastructure’.

We want to make school playgrounds in Berlin greener and more liveable, whilst also planting fruit trees in a targeted manner. In this way, we will not only create natural sources of shade and improve the microclimate, but also give children and young people direct access to nature and healthy food. The care and use of the trees can be integrated into everyday school life and contribute to practical environmental education.

In addition, we want to expand the public drinking water supply. Drinking fountains should be increased in line with demand and supplemented during heatwaves by temporary water dispensers and mobile drinking stations.

Expansion of renewable energy

We want to further strengthen the market-led expansion of renewable energy. Technologies such as photovoltaics, wind power and heat pumps are already economically viable in many places and should be able to establish themselves primarily through innovation and competition. That is why we are committed to faster planning permission processes, less red tape and better framework conditions for investment. We reject, however, government mandates for uneconomical solutions, as these ultimately lead to higher costs for citizens and businesses.

Photovoltaics is now a mature and cost-effective technology, the potential of which we also intend to exploit consistently in Berlin – particularly on large and public roofs, as well as on public buildings and those owned by state-run housing associations. However, we oppose a mandatory solar requirement. We want to repeal the Berlin Solar Act, as the relevant requirements are already covered by the implementation of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. We consider additional subsidy schemes for private solar expansion to be unnecessary.

As a city-state, Berlin finds it difficult to meet the requirements of the Wind Energy Area Requirements Act. We are therefore campaigning at federal level for a fundamental reform of the area targets for city-states. Instead of rigid land-use targets, Berlin should be able to agree on flexible and practical solutions together with the surrounding federal states – for example, by jointly taking into account factors that will be relevant in future, such as the actual amount of electricity generated. We oppose the construction of large-scale wind turbines within Berlin’s urban area, particularly in forests and recreational areas.

We want to facilitate the expansion of decentralised energy generation through combined heat and power (CHP) within Berlin’s urban area. Particularly in areas where district heating is not a viable option, this technology offers great opportunities for a secure and affordable energy supply. At the same time, decentralised and off-grid-capable plants strengthen crisis preparedness, as they can continue to operate even in the event of a power grid failure. We therefore wish to provide targeted support for the retrofitting and equipping of such plants.

Climate protection does not stop at regional borders. We therefore wish to take a more collaborative approach to energy and climate policy in the Berlin-Brandenburg region and ensure greater coordination between us. Many measures can be implemented more efficiently and cost-effectively at a regional level than within city limits alone. A joint and coordinated approach with Brandenburg is therefore an important first step for us towards effective climate protection. To this end, we are advocating for an energy treaty with Brandenburg.

Clean waters

Water is a vital foundation for life in our city and, as a strategic resource, must be consistently protected and managed sustainably. Our aim is forward-looking water management that meets the growing demands posed by climate change, population growth and economic development, and secures the water supply in the long term.

Securing the water supply requires joint, cross-regional action. We will therefore intensify our cooperation with the states of Brandenburg and Saxony in order to address potential water shortages – particularly those resulting from the end of lignite mining in Lusatia – at an early stage. The aim is to secure water availability in a sustainable manner and to avoid conflicts over its use. Furthermore, we intend to establish a regular ‘Berlin Water Summit’ involving the boroughs, water utilities, the housing sector and the scientific community, in order to identify challenges at an early stage and coordinate measures more effectively.

Our aim is to consistently develop Berlin into a ‘sponge city’. In future, rainwater is to be collected, stored and utilised more effectively rather than being allowed to run off unused. We intend to expand the necessary infrastructure in a targeted manner. In particular, we are focusing on the decentralised use of rainwater, the expansion of green roofs and green façades, additional storage capacity, the reduction of combined sewer discharges, as well as greater investment in water protection and support for private initiatives.

We intend to further expand and strengthen the ‘Blue Pearls’ programme to stabilise our water bodies, with the aim of improving the ecological quality of Berlin’s water bodies, enhancing biodiversity and preserving them as valuable habitats and recreational spaces. Discharges into Berlin’s water bodies are to be gradually reduced and, in the long term, disconnected from the sewer system in order to improve water quality and achieve bathing water standards in the long term. We will take decisive action against the increasing littering of water bodies and riverbanks, expand inspections and penalise offences more rigorously.

Berlin is a city of water. We want not only to protect Berlin’s water bodies, but also to actively develop them as spaces for living, economic activity and recreation. To this end, we are creating, for the first time, an interdepartmental development and utilisation concept that sets out clear rules for the use of water areas, provides planning certainty and resolves conflicts over use at an early stage. Our aim is to responsibly harness the potential of Berlin’s waterways for living on the water, tourism,

leisure, water sports, mobility and economic development, whilst ensuring the protection of nature and the environment.

We aim to streamline planning permission procedures and enhance the long-term appeal of Berlin's waterways. This includes providing a reliable regulatory framework for businesses, clubs and users, the removal of abandoned and sunken boats in accordance with the polluter-pays principle, and the ongoing maintenance and usability of our waterways. For us, sustainability means combining conservation with use, so that Berlin's waterways remain valuable spaces for living, recreation and economic activity in the future.

Dealing with high groundwater levels and pressurised aquifer water is a key challenge for Berlin. We recognise this as a city-wide task and will take the necessary water-regulation measures to prevent damage to private and public property. In doing so, we rely on modern and efficient well systems that can effectively regulate groundwater and stratum water levels. Operation and regular maintenance are to be ensured by Berliner Wasserbetriebe.

Animal welfare, environmental protection and nature conservation

We intend to fundamentally reform the existing regulations governing dog ownership in Berlin. The current classification by dog breed does not meet actual requirements and leads to blanket assessments that serve neither animal welfare nor public safety. We are therefore campaigning for the abolition of the dog breed list and the introduction of a behaviour-based risk assessment framework, which evaluates dogs exhibiting behavioural problems not on the basis of breed alone, but individually according to their actual behaviour. The focus should be on objective criteria, owners' expertise and a case-by-case assessment by the authorities, in order to strengthen animal welfare, relieve the burden on animal shelters and establish appropriate regulations.

The illegal trade in pets causes great animal suffering and must be consistently stamped out. We will therefore take decisive action against unscrupulous sellers and establish clear rules. The sale of pets in public places is to be expressly prohibited. At the same time, we are campaigning for stricter monitoring of online platforms, through which a large proportion of this trade takes place. At the federal level, we continue to advocate for a significant increase in penalties for the illegal trade in pets.

Responsible use of resources begins with waste prevention. That is why we adhere to the clear principle: waste prevention before recycling. Our aim is to prevent waste from being generated in the first place and thus to reduce environmental impact in the long term. To this end, we want to further expand reusable systems, avoid unnecessary packaging and promote awareness of the sustainable use of resources.

We advocate compact construction, the reuse of building materials and greater consideration of decentralised renewable energy. This is how the State of Berlin

live up to its role as a role model, promote the circular economy in the construction sector and, at the same time, provide impetus for more sustainable building in the private sector.

We want to consistently curb the spread of invasive species in Berlin and sustainably protect native ecosystems. To this end, we are focusing on educating and raising awareness amongst Berliners to prevent unintentional pathways of spread. The aim is to safeguard biodiversity in Berlin and prevent long-term damage to nature, infrastructure and health.

What we do NOT do NOT need



- ▶ Grime as a way of life
- ▶ Neglect of the BSR
- ▶ Drug-taking on playgrounds and drug dealers in the parks
- ▶ Leniency towards litterbugs and punishment of law-abiding citizens
- ▶ Bulky waste on the streets and scrap metal in the River Spree
- ▶ Districts governed by the Greens

08.

**Berlin will work
out.**

Administrative reform
has been approved.
Public authorities
ending.

08.

Berlin will work. Administrative reform approved. An end to the bureaucratic ping-pong.

Waiting months for an appointment at a citizens' advice bureau used to be the norm in Berlin. Kai Wegner made this a top priority – and with success. Now, you can often get an appointment as early as the next day. For many services at the citizens' offices, the rule is now: just pop in – no appointment needed. All this has been made possible by more than 450 digital services (including registering your address, applying for parental allowance and vehicle registration), additional staff, a pool of stand-in staff and new citizens' office locations.

With this major administrative reform, we are achieving what previous senates failed to do for 25 years: clear accountability, strong boroughs, and an end to the bureaucratic ping-pong.

We are gradually getting Berlin back on track – for an administration that serves its citizens first and foremost. Berlin's tax offices are already the fastest in Germany. Thanks to new structures and uniform standards, electoral chaos in Berlin is a thing of the past.

We have simply scrapped unnecessary rules and ineffective laws. Our clever AI assistant, BärGPT, takes the strain off city staff by handling routine tasks, leaving them more time to deal with Berliners' concerns. Berlin is finally managing its finances soundly and investing strategically in the areas where the city needs to become even stronger: security, infrastructure and education.

VIII. Berlin will work .



The courage to embrace a new way of thinking for Berlin!

With the administrative reform, we have laid the foundations for a modern, efficient and citizen-focused administration. We intend to continue along this path consistently. Our goal is, and remains, an administration that works efficiently, establishes clear lines of responsibility and continuously improves itself through rigorous review of its tasks. In doing so, there must be no taboos.

Our focus is on the systematic elimination of overlapping structures and unnecessary bureaucracy. The overlapping responsibilities revealed in the course of the administrative reform must be eliminated – whether this concerns the multitude of bodies handling allegations of discrimination, the work of data protection officers for every public body, or the three-tiered structure of heritage protection within a two-tiered administration.

We will critically review Berlin's unique approaches to statutory regulations. We will significantly scale back state-level requirements that go beyond federal or EU standards and create additional bureaucracy. Examples of this include the State Anti-Discrimination Act, the Berlin Tendering and Procurement Act and the Freedom of Assembly Act. As a matter of principle, we regard it as an expression of good governance when the removal of legal regulations outweighs the creation of new ones.

We will continue to consistently reduce administrative burdens and eliminate self-generated work within the administration. Administrative formats outside regular decision-making structures (e.g. round tables, task forces or steering groups) must be critically reviewed. The aim must be for administrative action to take place within established structures.

Parliamentary reporting obligations and procedures should also be reviewed – with full respect for the Berlin House of Representatives and its members – to determine the extent to which administrative burdens can be reduced without calling into question parliamentary oversight rights. In this regard, a comparative analysis with other federal states may also be carried out. This also involves taking a critical look at parliamentary procedures that lead to administrative burdens – whether through the need for physical attendance or the provision of supporting documentation.

We will make participation and decision-making structures more transparent and efficient. Over the years, a convoluted web of decision-making structures, participation formats and participation systems has developed in Berlin, creating additional bureaucracy and blurring lines of responsibility. We intend to scrutinise these structures without any preconceived notions and simplify them where they hinder effective administrative action. This explicitly includes the system of appointed representatives, the countless advisory board structures and also the specific implications of the Staff Representation Act.

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The State Organisation Act, the constitutional amendments, the Connectivity Implementation Act and the catalogue of responsibilities have laid the groundwork for the Berlin administration to function more effectively. We will do our utmost to ensure that the measures introduced in the aforementioned regulations are brought to life and thus have the desired effect. We recognise that implementing administrative reform is an ongoing task and is not completed simply by the adoption of the relevant regulations.

The boroughs form the backbone of a citizen-centred administration in Berlin. We are committed to ensuring adequate, transparent and reliable funding for the boroughs, which will strengthen their capacity to act and their autonomy in the long term. The Act on the Implementation of the Principle of Connectivity forms the basis for this. We are committed to ensuring that such a principle of connectivity is also enshrined in relation to the federal level.

We want Berlin's administration to communicate clearly, comprehensibly and in a way that is accessible to citizens. The benchmark for the administration's communication must be correct, comprehensible German. We therefore reject the use of artificial gender-neutral language in public authorities and institutions.

Berlin's two-tier administration will only be able to serve the people of Berlin consistently if it continues to pursue the path of digitalisation both internally and externally. The fact that over 450 administrative services can now be carried out digitally is a major success. Significant efforts are still needed to consistently digitise internal administrative processes as well. In this regard, we are committed to implementing Berlin's open-source strategy.

Berlin's administration will have to undergo massive change in the coming years. To manage this transformation, courage, commitment and a willingness to innovate on the part of all staff are particularly essential. To this end, we are focusing on greater internal competition within the administration and new incentive structures. To this end, we will launch a new type of performance competition for the administration. As a first step, the Senate is to set itself one main annual target for all policy and cross-cutting areas and define key performance indicators to monitor progress towards these targets. Possible indicators include the number of new business establishments, the average duration of road closures due to construction works, or the processing time for planning permission applications. The key performance indicators should be formulated in such a way that they are applicable to the relevant administrative departments and can be easily measured. Towards the end of each year, the top three departments for each target and its associated key performance indicator will be publicly recognised. The heads of the recognised departments and their teams will also receive a personal performance bonus. The relevant Senate departments are required to document and evaluate the achievement of these targets.

Staff

Against the backdrop of the current staff shortage, we must deploy staff in line with requirements . We are challenging the ingrained habit of calling for new posts at every opportunity. Rather, the administration and its staff must be motivated to utilise existing staff resources more efficiently through innovative task review. Every state employee is valuable, but not every task is worthwhile. In the interests of a state that concentrates on its core tasks but fulfils them consistently and in a performance-oriented manner, we are prepared to discuss the elimination of certain tasks.

We will create the conditions for flexible, temporary staff deployment across different government departments, so that we can staff these areas as effectively as possible and respond to situations of particular pressure. In this context, we intend to fill management positions on a temporary basis only. We will amend the civil service and career laws accordingly. It is also necessary to bring the Staff Representation Act into line with the requirements of our time.

We aim to reduce the number of posts in all Senate administrations by at least 2 per cent per year. When re-advertising posts, there must be a specific obligation to provide justification if the job profile remains unchanged. This will compel the central administrations to undergo a continuous process of reviewing their tasks.

We will free up new staff resources by consolidating tasks; this applies, for example, to the official data protection officers, the internal audit function, and the officers responsible for IT security or health and safety. We will radically reduce the number of designated officers and, as part of the formation of a government, aim to reduce the number of State Secretaries. We will subject ministerial staff units to a specific obligation to justify their existence and reduce them to the absolute minimum necessary.

In subordinate departments and districts too, we will focus specifically on administrative simplification and on using artificial intelligence to ease the workload for standardised tasks, in order to free up capacity for more important tasks. It is not a question of ever-increasing staff numbers, but rather of reducing the workload and ensuring skilled deployment – these are the keys to success in the future. To successfully shape this transformation, we will strengthen the powers and responsibilities of the Senate Administration responsible for human resources.

The challenges facing the state administration require a strategic and forward-looking human resources policy. We will consistently pursue the path set out in the 2030 Staff Development Programme to better attract and retain skilled staff.

In particular, we are also focusing on attractive conditions for career changers and a swift and flexible entry into the profession. Modern ways of working in the spirit of ‘New Work’ – such as flexible working time models, remote working, project-based collaboration and greater personal responsibility – simultaneously strengthen the sense of identification and staff retention among the administrative staff already employed by the State of Berlin. We will regularly

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2031

review them for necessity and efficiency in order to specifically reduce the workload on staff and make them available for core tasks.

We will introduce a centralised, strategically managed talent management system for the Berlin administration. The aim is cross-departmental, forward-looking staff management that systematically builds key competencies and consistently aligns staff deployment with the State's core tasks. Candidates with the necessary potential are to be systematically identified, developed through a structured programme and transparently prepared for leadership and key positions. The Berlin Academy of Public Administration is to take on clearly defined training responsibilities within the development programmes. In this way, staff development will become an effective tool for modern administrative management.

We intend to restructure the pay scale for Berlin's civil servants to bring it into line with changes in the legal framework. We aim to maintain pay levels in line with those of comparable employees covered by collective agreements and to pass on pay rises under these agreements to civil servants.

To achieve these goals, a coherent personnel policy is required. We will therefore bring the administration responsible for state staff and the recruitment authority under one roof.

We will revise the Participation Act. The Act passed by the Red-Green-Red coalition contradicts the provisions of the Basic Law, which stipulate that only suitability, performance and competence may be taken into account when recruiting for the civil service. A migrant background must not override these criteria.

ly sound finances

Sound budgetary policy and compliance with the debt brake are, for us, a matter of intergenerational justice and remain cornerstones of our future capacity to shape policy. Despite the successful launch of the consolidation programme, Berlin's budget continues to face enormous challenges. We will therefore steadfastly continue along the path we have chosen and examine all areas for potential savings.

In future, we will manage the state's social expenditure in a more targeted manner, coordinate it across departments and regularly review the effectiveness of the measures we fund. The aim is to avoid double funding and to ensure that people in need receive the support they require. At the same time, we are advocating for legislative changes at federal level to prevent perverse incentives and halt the unchecked rise in social expenditure.

We will scrutinise voluntary support programmes and projects under the so-called 'Free City' initiative to ensure that the State of Berlin's limited budgetary resources are channelled to where they are truly needed.

In all decisions with financial implications, we give clear priority to a functioning city and to the urgently needed investments in infrastructure, education, security and economic growth.

Berlin needs a reliable, competitive and growth-oriented tax policy. We advocate moderation and balance, and reject tax increases that place an additional burden on citizens and businesses. We will not increase taxes over which the State of Berlin has direct control. Trade tax, in particular, is a key location factor for the skilled trades, small and medium-sized enterprises and industry. That is why we are firmly committed to stable trade tax rates and planning certainty for Berlin's economy.

Instead of tax increases, we focus on sound budgetary management, efficient administrative structures and rigorous expenditure control. Our aim is to strengthen Berlin's economic performance, promote private investment and thereby secure the basis for the state's long-term stable revenue. A strong economy is an essential prerequisite for a government capable of effective action.

Efficient tax offices are a key prerequisite for securing the financing of the State of Berlin and for tax fairness. We are committed to making Berlin's tax offices future-proof, efficient and citizen-centred. To this end, we will consistently continue the organisational reform we have initiated. Clear responsibilities, modern management structures and efficient processes are crucial to sustainably strengthening the performance of the tax administration. A particular focus is on further digitalisation. Modern IT systems, end-to-end digital processes and user-friendly communication with citizens and businesses ease the workload on staff whilst simultaneously improving efficiency and service quality. We view digitalisation as a means of supporting our staff – not as an end in itself.

Strong state-owned ‘ ’ companies

Berlin has more than 60 state-owned enterprises that perform key functions essential to the running of our city. These include the provision of affordable housing and public transport, as well as economic development, water supply and keeping the city clean.

As operators of key parts of the critical infrastructure, the state-owned enterprises bear a special responsibility for Berlin's resilience and security. We will therefore continue to significantly step up investment in protection against crises, outages and hybrid threats – from energy and water supply through to mobility and digital infrastructure.

To ensure that our companies can continue to deliver their best performance for Berlin in the future, we will further professionalise the management of the state's shareholdings. To eliminate duplicate structures, we will merge the management of shareholdings and the administration of the companies once again. We intend to strengthen and professionalise the supervisory boards by appointing proven experts and creating independent structures to support their work.

We will continue to work to ensure that state-owned enterprises can fulfil their tasks as efficiently as possible. This includes clear corporate responsibility, transparent governance and a stronger focus on efficiency and performance. To this end, we are relying on qualified managers, clear and unambiguous targets, and regular performance reviews. We reject political control at the expense of economic viability – instead, we want to implement modern corporate governance standards. We will further develop the Climate Pact with the state-owned enterprises into a Pact for Sustainability and resilience. Sustainability and resilience will thus become integral parts of corporate management, target agreements and performance monitoring. In this way, we will ensure long-term economic stability, the capacity to invest and a reliable contribution by the state-owned enterprises to public services in Berlin.

We will merge the current six state-owned housing companies into a maximum of three economically agile companies in order to eliminate duplicate structures, harness synergies and deploy investment funds more effectively.

New property policy

We will overhaul the State of Berlin's property policy and consistently align it with economic viability and self-sufficiency, so that we can manage the State of Berlin's property portfolio responsibly and sustainably, even in times of tight budgetary constraints.

We will provide a realistic picture of the actual costs of operating, maintaining and managing the buildings, thereby avoiding the use of the property portfolio to subsidise public sector functions or other uses.

We will make investment decisions primarily on the basis of economic viability and life-cycle costs. Where continued use by the State is not viable in the long term, we will aim to let the property to third parties in order to strengthen the revenue base, particularly to fund urgently needed refurbishment works. At the same time, we will exercise greater central control over property policy than before in order to counter uneconomical ambitions at an early stage.

As a general rule, state-owned properties should remain in the ownership of the State of Berlin. However, for plots of land that cannot be put to sensible use by the state in the long term, we intend to allow for their sale in justified individual cases, provided that the proceeds are used specifically to strengthen the real estate portfolio elsewhere. A sale for the purpose of general budget financing remains ruled out.

What we envisage for a functioning Berlin do NOT need

**Berlin will
NOT
with the
Left**

- ▶ Rampant bureaucracy
- ▶ New tax burdens for citizens and businesses
- ▶ Skyrocketing public spending
- ▶ An increase in administrative staff to accommodate additional officials and new bureaucracy
- ▶ More complex procedures and longer decision-making processes
- ▶ An administration preoccupied with itself
- ▶ Gender and identity politics

9

Berlin is becoming accessible.

More
inclusion
and social
security.
Fewer
barriers.

09.

Berlin will be fair. Greater participation and social security. Fewer barriers.

To help people find support more quickly, our new platform, SOZIALES BERLIN, brings together numerous support services in one central place for the first time. **This makes it easy for people to find the help they need.**

However, social participation does not end with basic services. Culture, leisure and sport must also be affordable for everyone. With 'Fairgnügen', Berlin is therefore providing access to more than 400 free or discounted offers for people on low incomes – and we also want to bring back free museum Sundays before the end of this legislative term.

To ensure that everyone can truly participate in city life, we have also removed barriers to mobility. More than 80 accessible taxis ensure that people with disabilities can get about independently.

A fair city is particularly evident in the way it treats those who urgently need protection and support. **That is why we have secured the future of 'Evas Obdach'** – Berlin's largest year-round emergency shelter for homeless women – and expanded support for homeless people as a whole.

IX. Berlin lives up to the principle of ‘ ’.

Healthy and well cared for at every stage of life

We advocate a health policy that is geared towards people’s everyday lives: citizen-centred, reliable and future-proof. Our aim is a healthcare system that is accessible to all, ensures quality and puts people at the centre – today and tomorrow.

We take a holistic approach to health: from prevention through to treatment, rehabilitation and care. Our aim is to enable all Berliners to lead as independent a life as possible. At the same time, we are strengthening the structures and the skilled workforce that make high-quality care possible in the first place.

Berlin offers a wide variety of health and care services. However, these are unevenly distributed, difficult to find and insufficiently integrated with one another. We want to improve the integration of care services, make them more transparent and consistently tailor them to people’s needs.

Our aim is to ensure strong, local healthcare provision. We will work closely with the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians to introduce targeted and necessary regulatory changes, so that GPs, paediatricians and midwives once again set up practices where they are needed. Together with the boroughs and the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, we want to ensure that suitable premises for doctors’ surgeries are factored into the planning, particularly in new-build projects by municipal housing associations.

We will continue to systematically develop emergency care. To ensure that patients in emergencies can find the right point of contact more quickly and to reduce waiting times in A&E departments, we will expand the ‘portal practices’ attached to hospitals and improve the digital networking of emergency services. At the same time, we are strengthening the role of the 116117 helpline as the first point of contact. A qualified initial assessment over the telephone ensures that those seeking help are directed straight to the appropriate level of care.

We will drive forward the implementation of the hospital reform with a clear, reliable plan developed jointly with all Berlin’s hospital operators. Through targeted investment in infrastructure and equipment, we will ensure modern, efficient and needs-based care.

We want to strengthen Berlin’s position as a centre of excellence in medicine. The Charité plays a key role in this. We will sustainably safeguard and further expand its capacity through adequate investment in infrastructure, digitalisation, cutting-edge research and high-quality university medical training. At the same time, we want to further improve the framework conditions

for clinical trials, the transfer of innovation and collaboration with Berlin-based research institutions and companies.

We are firmly committed to the Fast-Track City initiative: by continuing, reliably safeguarding and purposefully developing this successful model, we are putting Berlin on the path to ending new HIV infections and AIDS.

In the field of care, we adhere to the principle of ‘outpatient care before inpatient care’. Our aim is to enable people in need of care to live in familiar surroundings for as long as possible. To this end, we will strengthen and further develop advisory and support services in the boroughs. Care centres are to be expanded as central points of contact that provide comprehensive information, guidance and support in organising care. At the same time, we want to raise awareness of existing services – such as free training courses for volunteers interested in care work – and make them more accessible.

We will promote innovative digital solutions to improve collaboration between hospitals, doctors’ surgeries and care homes, streamline processes and facilitate access to services. Telemedicine services such as video consultations, teleconsultations and digital therapies are to be established nationwide. For older people and those with limited mobility, we want to create local support services in care homes, community health centres and other suitable facilities – so-called ‘neighbourhood health hubs’ – which provide access to digital applications. At the same time, we will drive forward digital networking between doctors’ surgeries, hospitals and care homes to better coordinate treatments and avoid duplication of services.

To improve transparency in the healthcare system, we are creating a centralised and easy-to-understand directory of doctors, midwives and care places. This will enable patients and their relatives to find suitable services more quickly.

We will place greater emphasis on mental health, particularly amongst young people. We will expand low-threshold services that provide rapid and unbureaucratic help. We intend to extend successful projects such as Soulspace to further locations, in order to create accessible contact points across Berlin for young people in crisis situations and with mental health issues. At the same time, we will consistently align psychotherapeutic care with actual needs and are committed to ensuring that demand planning is revised to reflect real needs. This is the only way to eliminate care bottlenecks and significantly reduce waiting times.

We will integrate prevention more closely into everyday life and expand counselling services, particularly in the outlying districts. To this end, we want to strengthen pharmacies and other partners within the healthcare system as important low-threshold health centres. This includes easily accessible services such as vaccinations, as well as blood pressure and blood sugar checks.

We will improve access to healthcare services. To this end, we will support existing structures and initiatives – such as transport services to essential treatment appointments – and advocate for more accessible entry points to healthcare facilities.

We will strengthen everyday support and care within people's immediate living environment. The home visit scheme in Berlin has proved its worth and should be secured on a long-term basis.

We want to specifically strengthen voluntary involvement in care work and coordinate it more effectively through full-time staff, so that volunteers can better support people in their neighbourhood with everyday tasks such as shopping or joint activities. At the same time, we will make existing financial support schemes, such as the relief allowance from care level 1 onwards, more accessible and integrate them specifically into such neighbourhood support structures. We will remove bureaucratic hurdles that have hitherto hampered this involvement, following the example of other federal states.

We will introduce a care emergency helpline that is available round the clock and offers rapid assistance in the event of acute care problems. Existing structures should be utilised for this purpose, and care insurance funds should be involved in the financing. The aim is to resolve acute care crises in the home environment at an early stage and to avoid unnecessary emergency call-outs.

We will establish heat protection as a core responsibility of the public health service. In particular, older people and those at high risk of health complications should be informed and supported at an early stage in the event of extreme weather conditions. Doctors and nursing staff must be trained accordingly so that they can provide effective advice and support.

Our aim is to significantly reduce the administrative burden on doctors and nursing staff, allowing them more time for their patients. We will successfully see through the action alliance 'Reducing Bureaucracy for Berlin Hospitals', which we initiated, in collaboration with representatives of health insurance funds, the Medical Service and the Berlin Hospital Association.

We also aim to reduce bureaucracy in the care sector. We will review state regulations to assess their necessity and create digital interfaces between care providers and the administration to significantly simplify documentation and reporting processes.

Good care requires good training across all areas of healthcare. We are particularly committed to ensuring that trainee nursing staff can find sufficient placements – especially in areas where there is currently a shortage of places. In this way, we will guarantee high-quality and comprehensive training. In addition, we want to expand further training and support programmes that make it easier for staff to remain in the nursing profession. We aim to establish a Master's degree programme in nursing to lay the foundations for the deployment of highly qualified 'Community Health Nurses' (qualified nurses specialising in care and prevention).

We will speed up and simplify the recognition of foreign professional qualifications so that qualified professionals can be integrated into the labour market more quickly. To this end, , we will develop targeted induction programmes. At the same time, we want to support people who wish to return to nursing after years in other professional fields – through individualised training, mentoring and appropriate guidance.

We are committed to establishing a nursing chamber in Berlin. It is intended to contribute to the further development of the nursing profession, as well as to the further development and safeguarding of nursing standards, and to represent the interests of the nursing profession. State start-up funding must be ensured in the initial years.

We will expand the care infrastructure in a targeted manner and adapt it to actual needs. This includes, in particular, the creation of additional care places and the expansion of short-term care to better manage transitional and respite care situations. At the same time, we will promote innovative forms of housing and care, such as shared care homes, which enable people to lead independent lives even when they require care and open up new avenues for care provision.

We will continue to drive forward the digital transformation of the healthcare system. The aim is to create a networked infrastructure that enables the secure and rapid availability of relevant health data, thereby improving the quality and efficiency of care for the people of Berlin. At the same time, we are improving the secondary use of healthcare data in compliance with data protection regulations, in order to further develop healthcare in line with needs in the medium term and to make effective use of existing resources.

We will make Berlin's hospitals crisis-proof and strengthen their resilience in the long term, so that they remain operational even in the event of disasters, cyber-attacks, power cuts or in a state of defence. This includes building up staff reserves, improving IT security, protecting sensitive hospital areas, and expanding stocks of medicines and medical technology. This will be underpinned by clear contingency plans, regular drills, reliable funding arrangements for necessary reserve capacities, and close cooperation with the federal government, the Länder and the Bundeswehr. We also intend to examine the extent to which specially protected, underground supply infrastructure can make a complementary contribution to ensuring medical care in crisis situations.

We will strengthen Berlin's position as a centre of innovation in the healthcare sector. To bring innovations into practice more quickly, we will promote closer networking between leading research institutions and the healthcare industry. To this end, we intend to create joint innovation platforms and forums for exchange.

A social safety net for our ' ' city

We stand for a Berlin where solidarity is put into practice and people take responsibility for one another. The aim is to enable all Berliners to participate fully – regardless of their background, income or life circumstances. In doing so, we are guided by the principle of helping people to help themselves. This requires a strong social infrastructure,

which provides the necessary support. Our aim is not merely to alleviate symptoms, but to empower people in difficult life situations in the long term and open up new prospects for them.

We will plan our city's social infrastructure in a more holistic way and integrate its various components more effectively. In doing so, we will take all relevant needs into account from the outset – from support for the homeless and those struggling with addiction, through mental health care and integration support, to services for older people. We are committed to ensuring that support services are provided in line with people's needs – for example, through leisure centres for older people. At the same time, we will safeguard the long-term continuity of social services.

Our city also needs a reliable infrastructure for legal guardianship, which can be effectively organised through guardianship associations. We will strengthen and safeguard legal guardianship and the guardianship associations so that there are sufficient local contact points for people legally entitled to this support, thereby preventing social hardship.

We will consistently drive forward the digitalisation of social services departments to simplify processes, speed up procedures and significantly improve access to benefits. We will also continue to modernise the law governing grants to reduce the administrative burden on both service providers and the administration, and to ensure that public funds are used efficiently for their intended purpose.

Clear rules are also needed in benefit law. Statutory benefit cuts for individuals who deliberately evade official measures must be consistently enforced. To this end, we will improve cooperation between the State Office for Immigration and the districts through a mandatory data-sharing arrangement.

We call for a reform of social welfare law at federal level and, together with other federal states, will put forward our own proposals for simplification. The recommendations of the Commission on Welfare State Reform will guide our actions in this regard.

Our aim is for people with disabilities to be able to participate in working life on an equal footing and with self-determination. We therefore wish to strengthen placement in the open labour market as well as inclusive enterprises and sheltered workshops. We view inclusion as both a social responsibility and an economic opportunity, particularly in light of the shortage of skilled workers. We therefore want to remove bureaucratic hurdles and, in particular, provide better support to small and medium-sized enterprises in hiring people with disabilities. Micro-enterprises in Berlin, in particular, offer great potential for greater participation in working life. We therefore intend to set up a central advisory service for employers run by the State of Berlin, which will provide targeted support to businesses on issues relating to employment, funding opportunities and inclusion. Furthermore, we are committed to strengthening the representative bodies for people with severe disabilities and improving the framework conditions for their work.

We have launched a project in Berlin to support women in leaving prostitution. This is because many of the women affected experience violence, exploitation and severe psychological distress as a result. We want to continue and further expand this successful work. We will specifically strengthen existing exit programmes as well as social and health support services for sex workers. In doing so, we will not lose sight of male sex work.

Creating opportunities – tackling poverty

Our aim is to combat poverty effectively, create opportunities and enable everyone to live a life of dignity and inclusion. Our guiding principle is that work is the best protection against poverty. That is why we are committed to getting more people into work and opening up genuine prospects for advancement. At the same time, we ensure that those who need support can rely on our welfare state.

We focus on education and raising social awareness to break down prejudices and strengthen solidarity. We aim to provide targeted support for civil society initiatives such as ‘Giving Poverty a Voice’. The aim is to ensure that people affected by poverty and those experiencing homelessness are treated with respect and consideration within civil society, politics, public administration and the business sector.

We want to effectively combat poverty in old age, which affects women in particular. That is why we are focusing our policies on good, secure jobs and a better work-life balance.

We want to remove legal liability and tax barriers to food donations in order to specifically encourage the distribution of edible food. Businesses should be given greater support to responsibly make surplus food available for social purposes, thereby effectively reducing food waste at the same time. To this end, we are campaigning for a Bundesrat initiative that promotes tax relief, clear liability regulations and the introduction of the legal concept of the ‘charitable food operator’ at EU level.

We want to empower children and young people from low-income families and encourage their initiative. In future, income from school jobs, holiday work or apprenticeships should no longer be counted against their parents’ social security benefits. In this way, we encourage initiative and enable young people to take responsibility for themselves at an early age.

We will resolutely combat child poverty. Every child deserves equal opportunities for education, support and a self-determined life – regardless of their family background. For us, a strong social safety net and good educational provision are the key to combating child poverty. The aim is to make existing benefits more easily accessible and to integrate them more closely into children’s everyday lives. This is because, often, the failure to access benefits – such as those from the Education and Participation Package – is not due to a lack of provision, but to bureaucratic hurdles, a lack of information or complicated procedures. We will ensure that advice on the Education and Participation Package is permanently maintained as an integral part of the social infrastructure

of the State of Berlin. We will therefore introduce a ‘Berlin Opportunities Pass’, which will bundle these services, streamline the bureaucracy and make them accessible digitally. Designed as a simple and intuitive app, it will provide children and their families with an overview of local services and enable direct access to educational and leisure activities – such as sports clubs, music schools or tutoring. The ‘Opportunities Pass’ should also be usable straight away, for example as an admission ticket for a visit to the swimming pool.

Preventing homelessness and strengthening support for the homeless

Homelessness is one of the most pressing social challenges facing our city. For us, it is clear: every person deserves dignity, protection and a future. Our aim is to combat homelessness effectively, provide support at an early stage and further develop existing support structures in line with needs. ‘Housing First’ can be one approach to this.

We will restructure outreach social work and, to this end, provide targeted support to the boroughs so that assistance reaches people where they actually are. At the same time, we will tailor homeless shelters more closely to the needs of homeless people, taking particular account of mental health conditions, substance abuse and disabilities. We will also create more suitable services specifically for women, who face particular risks whilst experiencing homelessness.

We want to create more low-threshold, safe and supported forms of accommodation for people who are unable to access mainstream services. We are campaigning for the establishment of a ‘House of Help’ as a central point of contact for homeless people in Berlin. We will transform the successful ‘Safe Places’ project in Neukölln into a city-wide programme, thereby closing a gap in services for the homeless.

We will improve medical care for people affected by homelessness who do not have health insurance, and to this end we will follow the approach set out by the State Health Conference. Outpatient health centres, psychiatric care services and facilities such as the ‘Homeless Care Flat’ must be established in all boroughs and linked to existing services aimed at long-term stabilisation.

We want to prevent homelessness before it even arises. That is why we intend to expand debt and social counselling services, facilitate prevention, shorten administrative processing times for the assumption of rent arrears, and ensure rapid, multilingual and low-threshold support services.

For people from other EU countries who have become stranded in Berlin with no prospects, we are placing greater emphasis on return programmes and support in their country of origin. We are counting on the Federal Government as a partner to ensure that countries of origin provide targeted social care and support in the place of origin. At the same time, we are advocating for a more rigorous review of European rules on the free movement of persons. We expressly support the Commission’s recommendation on welfare state reform aimed at restricting EU nationals’ access to social benefits and call for its swift implementation at national and European level.

We will significantly ease the burden on the system of statutory accommodation for people affected by homelessness by combating organised fraud, so that help actually reaches those who truly need it. We support the Federal Government's efforts to exercise stricter controls over the legitimacy of benefit claims in future through appropriate structures at state level, and we are committed to making the fight against benefit fraud a nationwide priority in Berlin.

What we do NOT need for a fair Berlin

do NOT need



- ▶ Clientelism at the expense of the majority
- ▶ Unrealistic social policy promises that ordinary citizens will have to pay for
- ▶ A blanket 'free city' for everyone
- ▶ Misguided incentives for benefit recipients
- ▶ A new debt policy that distributes taxpayers' money indiscriminately
- ▶ Artificial bloating of the administrative apparatus through even more commissioned bodies

10.

**Berlin will
unite.**

For
greater
cohesion
and unity.

10.

Berlin is uniting. For greater cohesion and unity.

Once a divided city, Berlin has now grown together: Berlin is East and West. Berlin is Hertha and Union. Berlin is the baby boomers and Gen Z. Berlin is techno and allotments. Berlin exists both inside and outside the S-Bahn ring.

People from all over Germany, Europe and every corner of the world live and love here, work and get involved. We love Berlin and Berlin loves love: whether it's traditional families, blended families, separated families, foster families, single parents with their children or same-sex couples – they all find a home in Berlin!

With free after-school care up to Year 3 and free swimming lessons, we have provided tangible relief for families. Through a start-up grant and practical arrangements, we make everyday life easier for Berlin's foster families. To foster greater community spirit in the neighbourhoods, Berlin's 'Stadtteilmütter' (neighbourhood mums) offer advice to around 50,000 families every year. And the 'Berlin Home Visits' have been a real success: older people across Berlin receive support and advice on health, care and leisure activities – in a very accessible way, right in their own homes.

Volunteering, sport, art and culture make Berlin a great place to live: we are investing 40 million euros in new swimming pools and, with the federal government's 'Sport Billion' fund, are supporting the refurbishment of sports facilities in all districts. With over 3 million visitors a year, Berlin's theatres are booming; nowhere else do people go to the cinema or museums more often.

X. Berlin is united .



Strong families in

Many families would like to spend more time together. To improve the work-life balance, we are campaigning for more flexible working hours and modern working time models tailored to different stages of life. This also includes the introduction of a weekly working week at federal level.

Alongside the family, nurseries and childminders are key settings for early childhood education. Parents must be able to trust that their children are well looked after and supported here. That is why we are committed to ensuring there are sufficient, high-quality and reliable childcare places available for all age groups. We will launch a quality initiative for nurseries with a clear focus on language development and the training of educational staff. At the same time, we will ensure sound funding and the expansion of more flexible and extended childcare provision, for example through the needs-based expansion of workplace nurseries and the recruitment of new childminders. We will also further strengthen multi-professional structures and social work in nurseries. In addition, we will continue to drive forward digitalisation

to support work in early years education, in order to simplify administrative processes, involve parents more effectively and improve communication between families, centres and the local authority.

In particular, those working in the fire service, the police, the healthcare sector or other professions with irregular working hours rely on reliable childcare, even in the evening, at night and in the early hours of the morning. Specifically for these occupational groups, we are campaigning for the expansion of so-called 24-hour childcare centres, which also enable care to be provided during off-peak and night-time hours. A mobile, personalised childcare service should also be made available and expanded.

We place particular emphasis on supporting single parents. We want to further expand the network for single parents and make concrete improvements to their living conditions. We are committed to providing better protection against losing one's home, as well as reliable support in times of crisis. Flexible and free childcare services, particularly during off-peak hours, should improve the work-life balance. At the same time, we want to strengthen the career prospects of single parents through family-friendly further training programmes, more opportunities for working from home in the public sector, and raising awareness amongst employers. At the federal level, we are campaigning for better financial security through higher tax relief, a fairer system for taking child benefit into account, and improved housing benefit regulations.

Foster families make an indispensable contribution to the protection and safe upbringing of children in difficult life situations. That is why we have already taken targeted measures to strengthen support for foster families

– for example, through the ‘Foster Child Start Bonus’, additional support services and the removal of bureaucratic hurdles. We intend to continue along this path consistently and provide even better support to foster parents in their demanding day-to-day lives. To this end, we will also further expand low-threshold psychosocial support services and continue to campaign at federal level for parental allowance for foster families.

Our aim is to make all family-related benefits accessible centrally and digitally via the Berlin Family Portal – including automated applications for child benefit, parental allowance and nursery vouchers.

We also want to further develop family centres at nurseries and primary schools and link more nurseries and primary schools to family centres. Furthermore, we are committed to expanding the range of services offered by the family service offices. It should be possible to apply for all the benefits to which families in our city are entitled in one place, so that advice and support are provided from a single source.

We want to make public authorities more family-friendly – with priority access (‘fast-track’ lanes) for families, adapted opening hours and child-friendly facilities such as on-site play areas.

Youth leisure centres are much more than just places for leisure activities. They are places for socialising, guidance and prevention. Particularly in a growing city, children and young people need reliable local drop-in centres that foster a sense of community and offer support. That is why we want to further expand youth leisure centres and systematically modernise them. This also includes providing up-to-date digital equipment so that youth work can better reach young people and activities can be more closely aligned with their everyday lives.

In addition to youth leisure centres, we want to make various places in Berlin more accessible to children and young people. We want to expand calisthenics facilities in parks and redesign unused public spaces so that children and young people can spend time there undisturbed.

Iy Generational Coexistence

We intend to further expand services for older people in the boroughs and, in doing so, explore partnerships with church-run and independent organisations to broaden the overall range of services. We are committed to ensuring there are sufficient facilities for older people to meet local needs, particularly in the form of neighbourhood meeting places and leisure centres for older people in the boroughs.

We will preserve active spaces for older people and support the districts in maintaining and developing them more effectively, whilst making them accessible to all generations. These spaces should serve as meeting places where young and old are brought together through fun, games and physical activity.

Digitalisation offers great opportunities, but must not exclude anyone. To make it easier for older people to access digital services, we want to set up supervised helpdesks in local authority facilities where digital services such as administrative portals, online banking or postal services can be used safely with the support of trained helpers who are bound by a duty of confidentiality. In addition, low-threshold, practical training programmes on the use of online services are to be expanded in order to strengthen digital skills in the everyday lives of older people in the long term.

We will tackle loneliness as a social issue and promote local neighbourhood and community gatherings. All community centres should offer weekly loneliness consultation hours and highlight the wide range of networking opportunities available.

We want to promote ‘chat benches’ in parks and large squares that encourage interaction and open conversation.

Responsibility in a “ ” Society

We are committed to comprehensively strengthening internal security and the subjective sense of safety. To shed light on the under-reported incidence of anti-queer crimes, we are pushing, amongst other measures, for comprehensive CCTV surveillance in crime-prone areas and on public transport, with footage retained for at least 96 hours.

We will continue to operate existing support centres in line with demand.

In addition to technical upgrades, the visible presence of the Berlin police must be significantly . We will complement this with modern infrastructure, such as improved lighting in areas where people feel unsafe and the installation of modern emergency call points in nightlife districts.

At the same time, we will promote community spirit through city-wide campaigns encouraging civic courage, so that Berliners can intervene thoughtfully in public spaces. Our aim is an effective law enforcement system and a swift justice system that responds consistently and tangibly to every form of intimidation.

Furthermore, we are securing financial support for large-scale events that foster a sense of identity and promoting intergenerational housing and meeting places.

We remain committed to driving forward and finalising the constitutional amendment to Article 3 of the Basic Law to include the category of ‘sexual identity’.

Berlin: A Capital of Sport

More than 800,000 Berliners are involved in over 2,300 sports clubs. In addition, there are many people who take part in sport individually – on running routes, in parks, on the water or in fitness centres. We see sport as a unifying force in our city.

It bridges social, cultural, religious and ideological differences. It promotes values such as fairness, respect, team spirit, a willingness to perform and responsibility. As such, it is far more than just a leisure activity – it is a vital part of community life in our city and an essential element of social cohesion. Sport also makes a key contribution to health, education and personal development. Through physical activity, children and young people learn how to manage their own bodies, how to behave within a group, how to experience success and how to cope with defeat. Sport is also a significant economic and locational factor for Berlin. This applies just as much to major national and international sporting events as it does to the work of sports clubs in the boroughs, the fitness and health sector, and tourism in the city.

Berlin is the capital of elite sport: with its Olympic Training Centre as well as national and regional training centres, our city offers outstanding training and development conditions for top-level athletes. In total, 19 national training centres and 30 state training centres provide more than 2,500 squad athletes with the ideal conditions for successful preparation for competition. Sporting events of international significance serve as Berlin's calling card as one of Europe's sporting capitals.

The Berlin State Sports Federation and the Association for Sport for People with Disabilities and Rehabilitation are carrying out important work across all areas. We want to strengthen our close cooperation with these partners as the umbrella organisations for sport in Berlin and key partners for clubs, volunteers and sporting infrastructure.

The mix of grassroots, elite and individual sports makes Berlin a unique sporting metropolis in Europe. We want to build on this strength further – with modern infrastructure, strong clubs, good conditions for young and elite athletes, and high-profile international events.

Many of Berlin's sports facilities are in need of refurbishment. The investment backlog that has built up over the years has become one of the greatest challenges facing sport in Berlin. For the public sports facilities managed by the boroughs alone, there is a refurbishment requirement of over 400 million euros over the next four years. We will therefore systematically expand the sports facility refurbishment programme and secure its long-term funding. Our aim is a comprehensive refurbishment of Berlin's sports facilities that is fit for purpose and meets actual needs. Pragmatism, minimal bureaucracy and accessibility must go hand in hand to enable Berliners to make full use of their sports facilities. At the same time, we will create greater planning certainty for boroughs and sports clubs – through a reliable refurbishment strategy, a better data foundation and accelerated approval processes. In doing so, we must ensure that all sports are given equal consideration.

We are committed to modernising sports facilities in an environmentally and climate-friendly manner as part of renovation works. In doing so, we aim not only to rectify structural defects but also to improve energy efficiency standards and enable multifunctional use. At the same time, we want to create a legally secure framework so that non-profit sports clubs can generate additional income through the operation of renewable energy sources – particularly for self-supply and, to a limited

scale also for feeding electricity into the grid – without jeopardising their non-profit status. We want sports facilities to be more modern, sustainable and better utilised in future.

Berlin's swimming pool network is an important part of the city's infrastructure. Well-functioning swimming pools are indispensable for swimming lessons, health promotion, grassroots sport and club activities. Our aim is for Berliners to be able to rely once again on consistent opening hours, modern facilities and sufficient capacity at swimming pools. To this end, we will subject the management and organisational structure of Berlin's swimming pool operators to a critical review. We are committed to ensuring that existing problems are resolved quickly and effectively. At the same time, we will comprehensively modernise Berlin's swimming pool network and secure its long-term future. We intend to refurbish existing facilities in an environmentally friendly and, consequently, energy-efficient manner, create new aquatic areas where demand is particularly high, and make operational processes more efficient. Standardised indoor swimming pools are an efficient way of creating additional aquatic areas throughout Berlin. School and club sports form a central focus of our swimming pool policy.

We will campaign vigorously at federal and European level to ensure that Berlin benefits more from funding programmes for sports facilities, major events and the development of young talent. We want the capital to be given the consideration it deserves in line with its national significance. We will systematically expand our partnerships with federal institutions, sports federations and development banks. We see it as our task to attract additional investment to Berlin and thereby strengthen the financial basis for sport in the long term. We want to bring the funding of elite sport in Berlin into line with the national standard, in order to ensure comparable conditions and competitiveness at a national level.

We will consistently improve the year-round usability of sports facilities. To this end, we are focusing on modern lighting systems, weather-resistant surfaces and better organisational solutions so that training times can be utilised to the full. We want children and young people in particular to have sufficient training opportunities even during the winter months. Mobile sports halls are an efficient way of using uncovered sports facilities even in the colder months. We support Berlin's established practice of keeping public sports facilities open for recreational sporting activities within the framework of current regulations and available capacity, and we want to ensure this continues in future.

We want Berlin's first floating football pitch. Rummelsburger Bucht is an ideal location for this. We will commission a feasibility study and examine how this can be implemented on the ground. This will finally meet the needs and demand of children and young people who want to play football there but currently cannot find a place to do so.

As part of the renovation of the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn Sports Park, which we have initiated, we are planning to include accessible sports facilities in the outdoor area of the Cantian Stadium, which can be used by as many members of neighbouring sports clubs as possible.

We will adapt the Hohenschönhausen Sports Forum masterplan so that the football stadium at the Hohenschönhausen Sports Forum can be upgraded to meet 3rd Division standards. This will be done using the existing facilities, without new construction – in close consultation with the stadium’s current users.

We want children and young people to develop a love of physical activity from an early age. That is why we will specifically expand sports clubs at nurseries and schools and strengthen our collaboration with sports clubs. Furthermore, we want to facilitate more partnerships between schools and clubs and remove bureaucratic hurdles. We are committed to ensuring that sports programmes are widely available in the afternoons too, and that social differences do not act as a barrier to access.

By further expanding the ‘Sport 365’ programme, we aim to create year-round, local sports activities for children and young people in all boroughs. For many young people in particular, sports clubs and open sports programmes provide structure, guidance and positive community experiences in their everyday lives.

We are also committed to maintaining and further developing tried-and-tested cooperation programmes between professional sport, nurseries and schools – such as ‘Profivereine machen Kita’ and ‘Profivereine machen Schule’ – in order to foster an enthusiasm for physical activity from an early age and to strengthen children’s access to sport in the long term.

In order to identify sporting talent at an early stage and provide targeted support, we will systematically expand early talent identification and development. To this end, we intend to strengthen cooperation between schools, clubs and elite sports centres. Ensuring that the promotion of elite sport is compatible with a secure school education is a priority for us. Young athletes should be provided with flexible educational arrangements so that they can successfully combine competitive sport with their education. Furthermore, we support decentralised youth development programmes to make it easier for children and young people to access elite sport through shorter travel distances.

Elite sports schools are an indispensable part of Berlin’s sporting and educational landscape. They enable the successful combination of school education and competitive sport. We want to further strengthen them – with modern sports facilities and good training conditions.

Our aim is for every child in Berlin to learn to swim. We regard swimming lessons as a key component of safety measures and equal opportunities in sport.

We are committed to providing more opportunities for swimming lessons from the age of 3. We will significantly strengthen school swimming programmes so that every child in Berlin can swim safely by the time they start school at the latest. To this end, sufficient swimming facilities must be provided and organisational processes improved. We are also focusing on recruiting additional swimming instructors, implementing modern teaching approaches and improving coordination between schools and swimming pool operators.

The expansion of district swimming centres must be promoted in this regard.

The backbone of sport in Berlin is its clubs and the voluntary commitment of many

. Coaches, instructors, board members and volunteers do a fantastic job for our city every day. We will give greater recognition to this commitment, remove bureaucratic hurdles and simplify funding procedures. Furthermore, we are committed to better training opportunities and visible recognition. At the same time, we want to expand professional structures that support volunteers. Full-time contact persons, clear responsibilities, needs-based advice and straightforward funding programmes should ease the burden on clubs and strengthen the voluntary sector.

We want to strengthen sports provision in all boroughs and ensure low-threshold access. We support initiatives that bring together people from different backgrounds, generations and walks of life.

We will consistently take accessibility into account in all refurbishments and new builds of sports facilities and design sports programmes in such a way that they are open to all Berliners. In doing so, we are committed to modern standards, inclusive planning and close cooperation with all stakeholders.

Our aim is to further develop Berlin into Europe's leading sporting metropolis. This includes modern training facilities, reliable funding structures and optimal conditions for athletes across all disciplines. We regard elite sport as a key component of our city's international visibility and appeal. We support the modernisation of the Olympiapark and Sportforum Hohenschönhausen elite sport centres, including the Olympic Training Centre integrated within the latter.

We recognise professional sports clubs as an important part of social life in Berlin. We see them as sources of identification for many people and as important ambassadors for our city. Clubs such as Hertha BSC, 1. FC Union Berlin, ALBA Berlin, the Füchse Berlin, the Eisbären Berlin and the BR Volleys are sources of identification for many people and important ambassadors for our city – as are many other clubs across various sports. We want to create reliable framework conditions that enable economic stability, the promotion of young talent and social engagement. We support partnerships between professional clubs, schools and social institutions. We are proud of Berlin's diverse fan base and want to support it, for example, through fan projects.

We will strengthen professional sport as a flagship for Berlin and create modern conditions to ensure international competitiveness. We are providing constructive and reliable support for the construction of Hertha BSC's new stadium, the construction of a new arena for ALBA Berlin and the expansion of 1. FC Union Berlin's stadium. In doing so, we are mindful of cost-effectiveness, sustainability and the interests of the people of Berlin.

We expressly support a German bid for the Olympic Games with strong involvement from Berlin. The Olympic and Paralympic Games represent a major opportunity to showcase our city as a modern, cosmopolitan and dynamic metropolis. We see the Olympic Games as a powerful catalyst for sustainable investment in sports infrastructure, transport and urban development – for Berlin and far beyond. This will benefit not only elite sport,

but above all grassroots sport, through additional training facilities, new opportunities for physical activity and support programmes. We want to shape the bid with a focus on sustainability and develop it in close dialogue with the wider community. Existing sports facilities and infrastructure must be used intelligently and supplemented only where it makes sense in the long term.

We will actively promote major international sporting events and further establish Berlin as a host city. We regard major events as an important economic factor and a powerful driver for tourism and location marketing. We aim to develop long-term event strategies that ensure sustainable benefits for Berlin's sporting sector and the local economy.

Digitalisation opens up great opportunities for sport in Berlin. Modern technologies improve training conditions, streamline administrative processes and enable a more efficient use of scarce sports facilities. Digital infrastructure, such as LED video sports surfaces, creates additional multifunctional uses, supports innovative training concepts and opens up new possibilities for performance analysis.

We want to make targeted use of the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence for sport in Berlin. It can simplify processes, reduce costs and significantly ease the burden on clubs in their day-to-day tasks. We will therefore support sports clubs in their digitalisation efforts and in the use of artificial intelligence. Smart booking systems, transparent booking schedules and optimised management are intended to help make better use of existing capacity and make sports facilities more accessible.

We intend to promote digital access and booking systems for Berlin's sports facilities in order to facilitate easier access to these facilities at all times and thereby enable broader, more flexible use of sports spaces.

We also regard e-sports as an important component of a modern sporting city, which we intend to strengthen. The integration of grassroots e-sports into the sports administration is just as important a building block as the development of state-run funding programmes based on the now established charitable status. An e-sports academy supported by the State of Berlin is intended to assist with the formation of clubs in grassroots e-sports and the establishment of an amateur league, as well as to offer the necessary coaching licences, training and further education. We stand behind the E-Sports Team Berlin and want to secure its long-term future and make it internationally competitive. To raise Berlin's profile as an e-sports capital, the city should actively bid for major e-sports events and ensure equal access to public venues.

We are committed to preserving existing jetty facilities, as these form an indispensable foundation for water sports clubs and recreational users. We want to create planning certainty and remove bureaucratic obstacles so that clubs can operate their facilities in the long term.

We will continue to improve safety on Berlin's waterways without seeking to restrict leisure users or the providers and businesses affected. We will ensure order and

cleanliness on Berlin's waterways. We will promptly remove boats and wrecks that pose a danger to boat traffic and the waterways.

Honouring the ' ' (volunteer)

The voluntary work carried out by countless Berliners is a cornerstone of our community. It makes our city a great place to live, strengthens social cohesion and is an expression of our active commitment to one another.

Our aim is to make volunteering more attractive to all sections of the population and to significantly improve the framework conditions. This includes better support with travel costs. We will examine how volunteers can be given easier access to local public transport in future. In addition, we are focusing on increased cooperation with private partners to provide holders of volunteer cards with additional benefits and discounts.

Volunteering requires full-time support. Now that we have strengthened the district volunteer agencies in terms of both staffing and funding, it is important to maintain these structures. The State Volunteer Agency has been secured as a key player. A merger with the State Network for Civic Engagement is to be examined, with a view to establishing a central point of contact for volunteering. The learning centre we have newly established offers free training courses. This provision is to be expanded.

Volunteering needs a place to take place. With our 'spaces for engagement', hundreds of rooms are now being made available for voluntary work. We intend to roll out the successful pilot project for electronic locking systems further, thereby finally resolving the issue of opening and closing rooms. The use of district and state-owned premises should be available free of charge. A legislative amendment is to be made to this effect.

In particular, we also want to strengthen volunteering amongst older people. Many older people have valuable experience, time and a willingness to get actively involved. We will therefore review existing age limits for public voluntary roles and raise them where appropriate – for example, for lay judges or arbitrators.

Churches and Religions

Freedom of religion is one of the most important and defining fundamental rights enshrined in the Basic Law. State and religion are separated for good reasons. However, religious faith, churches and religious communities have a firm place in our society. We are therefore committed to the tried-and-tested concept of constitutional religious law and to the model of cooperation between church and state. Freedom of religion can only exist on the basis of the Basic Law, which gives expression to this freedom.

We have confidence in religion's potential to impart values and make an important contribution to the community. The freedom of churches and religious communities to influence society must therefore remain inviolable.

We are committed to the freedom of religion for all people, as guaranteed by the Basic Law. We understand this freedom of religion in a positive sense: religions should be a strong voice in public life. This includes regular exchange and dialogue with the various religious communities in this country.

We regard interfaith dialogue as an important contribution to social cohesion in Berlin. We intend to specifically promote relevant cultural projects, strengthen mutual understanding and resolutely counter anti-Semitic tendencies.

The vibrant and diverse Jewish community in our city is a gift in the face of the atrocities that originated on German soil with the Shoah, which represented a rupture in civilisation. Since the terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023, a level of hatred towards Jews that had long been unimaginable has been gaining ground in our country. The fight against anti-Semitism is a top priority in order to guarantee the safety of Jewish people and ensure social cohesion in our city.

Islamism is an extremist political ideology that abuses the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Basic Law. We are combating Islamism with the full force of our constitutional state. This fight is directed against those who incite hatred and violence and strive for an Islamist order in which there is no equality between men and women, no freedom of expression or religion, and no separation of religion and state. It is directed against those who oppose our democratic constitutional order, reject Israel's right to exist, endanger internal peace or violate the law. We are once again abolishing the Day of Action and Remembrance against Islamophobia.

Integration requires values and rules

Berlin is a cosmopolitan city and a home for people from all over the world. This diversity enriches our city. At the same time, social cohesion does not arise of its own accord. It requires clear rules, mutual respect and an integration policy that opens up opportunities and demands responsibility.

We want those who live in Berlin and Germany, whether permanently or for a few years, to integrate and become part of our society. This involves being open to our culture, respecting our legal system and values, and learning the German language. For us, integration is about both support and expectations. Integration is an opportunity, but also a commitment to making one's own efforts.

Language is the key to social participation and professional success. We want to further develop Berlin's language course provision at adult education centres in a targeted manner and, in collaboration with Berlin's business community and training providers, tailor it to vocational language

and integration into training and the labour market. We actively encourage participation in language and integration programmes. Anyone who wishes to live and work in Berlin must demonstrate a willingness to learn German and to actively integrate

Work provides structure, opportunities for interaction and prospects. In close cooperation with independent organisations, we want to expand employment opportunities under Section 5 of the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act to strengthen the integration of benefit recipients. Community service roles are to be offered in the boroughs and at social service providers. In this way, we strengthen personal responsibility, promote language acquisition in everyday life and facilitate social participation.

Integration is not a one-off project, but an ongoing task in the boroughs, for which professional and binding services are needed – tailored to all new Berliners, whether they come to us as asylum seekers, students or skilled workers. We therefore aim to establish central government-run integration centres in all boroughs, where language courses, advisory services and support services are brought together and coordinated. In this way, we will streamline processes, speed up procedures and ease the burden on volunteers.

We want to further improve communication between the administration and citizens. The State of Berlin's websites, application forms and official notices must be understandable, digitally accessible and service-oriented for all Berliners. Modern translation services and the use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence should help to break down language barriers and speed up administrative procedures.

We oppose the accommodation of refugees in sports halls and other public facilities. These venues must remain available to Berliners for sport, education and social life. Whilst their residence status remains unresolved, we advocate for orderly and centralised accommodation in well-equipped large-scale accommodation centres, which also include services such as schooling and support.

We are firmly opposed to any form of discrimination. We will strengthen the work of the Petitions Committee and eliminate overlapping structures with the State Anti-Discrimination Office and the Ombudsman for Citizens and the Police. We firmly reject the ongoing establishment of further publicly funded special structures for individual groups.

We will support international skilled workers, as well as Berlin-based companies and training organisations, in the processes of recruitment, migration, social integration and participation. We will speed up the recognition of foreign professional qualifications and simplify the procedures involved. At the same time, we will take firm action against unscrupulous intermediaries and illegal operators who exploit people from abroad and place them in precarious living situations.

Following Canada's example, we want to introduce a mentoring programme in Berlin in which volunteer Berliners accompany immigrants in their daily lives, facilitate initial contacts and support them as they settle in. In the long term, we are committed to a uniform model across the country.

We are campaigning for a review of the syllabuses for Berlin's orientation courses, the course materials produced by the State Agency for Political Education, the local political education centres and other state-funded courses and information materials. In future, the focus should be on topics such as personal responsibility, gender equality, freedom of religion, the prevention of anti-Semitism, financial independence and the rule of law.

Anyone wishing to become a German citizen must clearly commit to our country and its values. We expect a willingness to integrate into German society, recognition of gender equality, and the rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism, racism and extremism. This also includes an unequivocal commitment to Germany's historical responsibility and to the protection of Jewish life. If false information is provided, it must be possible to revoke naturalisation. We attach the utmost importance to the verification of documents and information in order to put a stop to fraudsters who make money from forged certificates or fraudulently obtain residence permits and passports.

Culture and Media

Culture is the lifeblood of Berlin. The extraordinary diversity of theatres, museums, orchestras, memorial sites, clubs, festivals and the independent arts scene makes the German capital a world-class cultural metropolis. Even in financially challenging times, it is essential to preserve the quality, diversity and appeal of the culture that so distinctly shapes our city. Culture is also a key factor in the city's appeal and strengthens social cohesion. It fosters encounters, opens up opportunities and contributes significantly to Berlin's appeal. That is why we are firmly committed to the importance of art, culture and creativity for the future of our city. Our aim is to safeguard cultural spaces, enable participation and further develop Berlin as a leading cultural centre in Europe.

We recognise that we owe the city's wide-ranging cultural offering and its appeal to its many artists. We support their valuable work by ensuring fair conditions and promoting affordable workspaces. We will continue to promote the workspace programme and focus on preserving existing spaces. Through the boroughs, we support exhibitions by Berlin-based artists. We provide funding for grants. For us, cultural education is just as much a given as artistic freedom, which is non-negotiable.

Culture must be accessible to all. We support low-threshold initiatives that reach every Berliner. In addition to state-funded institutions, this also includes private theatres, the independent arts scene and initiatives in public spaces. All these initiatives are an indispensable part of Berlin's cultural landscape, which stands for creativity, innovation and social diversity. Children's and youth theatre, in particular, as well as small theatres, are part of our city's cultural diversity. They foster creativity, education and social participation among the next generation and open up access to art and culture for young people.

We support access to culture for all and value programmes such as ‘KulturLeben Berlin’, which enable certain groups of people to purchase tickets at significantly reduced prices. We would particularly like to extend this offer to children and young people.

In an increasingly diverse society, shared values are essential. We therefore support projects and initiatives that promote democratic values and foster social cohesion. For us, this naturally also means that the projects we fund must unequivocally uphold the Basic Law and resolutely oppose extremism, anti-Semitism and all forms of group-focused hostility. In future, we will assess the impact of individual projects even more closely in order to provide targeted funding for those projects that contribute most significantly to social cohesion.

The historically determined concentration of state-funded theatres, orchestras, opera houses, museums and memorial sites shapes our city and attracts artistic excellence. For us, it is clear: high culture is not a luxury. It is an expression of an open, free and self-assured society and an important factor in Berlin’s appeal as a destination for tourism. We are therefore firmly committed to promoting cultural excellence and to safeguarding our city’s cultural infrastructure in the long term. This also includes the necessary investments in the preservation of significant cultural venues. We have set the renovation of the Komische Oper in motion; the Staatsoper is already included in the investment planning; and we are also pushing ahead with the renovation of the Philharmonie as part of the negotiations on capital city funding. To ensure a secure long-term future, we want to strengthen cooperation between the funded cultural institutions without them losing their quality as independent ensembles. Our model for this is the Oper Foundation.

The Transformation Fund we have established is designed to future-proof Berlin’s cultural landscape and harness potential synergies. For example, we aim to save costs by pooling storage space and establishing central framework agreements for ticket sales. With a joint events platform, we want to make Berlin’s vast cultural offering more visible and easier to book.

Artificial intelligence is also fundamentally transforming art and culture, opening up new opportunities for creative work, outreach and innovation. As a Capital of Culture, Berlin should lead the way in this regard. We therefore intend to make the AI conference – which took place for the first time – a regular event for Berlin’s cultural sector.

We aim to continue bringing together the creative arts, academia, politics and business. We wish to harness artificial intelligence as a creative tool. We will promote its responsible and legally compliant use, both for new artistic formats and as a supportive tool, for example to streamline administrative processes, application procedures and organisational workflows. At the same time, we aim to develop appropriate frameworks and fair rules for the use of AI in the cultural sector.

For us, culture and the creative industries belong together. That is why we want to integrate these two sectors even more closely and tailor funding practices more specifically to organisations that

engage in cultural work whilst also operating commercially. Funding guidelines should be made more practical so that commercially operating cultural institutions do not fall through the cracks between traditional cultural funding and business support.

We wish to further strengthen our district music schools. We will continue the process we have begun to phase out the predominant use of freelance contracts. We are aiming for a permanent employment rate of 90 per cent in the next legislative period. At the same time, legislation is needed at federal level to enable legally compliant employment, including on a freelance basis.

Even in the age of artificial intelligence, libraries remain indispensable as places of knowledge, education, social interaction and participation. This applies in particular to neighbourhood libraries, which are close to the community. In cooperation with the boroughs, we will therefore strengthen neighbourhood libraries and further develop them into places for social interaction and learning. Furthermore, we want to enable libraries to open on Sundays at both state and federal level.

The Central and State Library (ZLB) needs a new home at a single location that is easily accessible to as many Berliners as possible. In our view, a new location in the department store building on Alexanderplatz would be well suited for this. With the ZLB on Alexanderplatz, a cultural venue with supra-regional appeal would be created, harmoniously combining education, culture and urban life.

We will make even more systematic use of European funding from programmes such as Creative Europe, Erasmus+ and the ERDF for cultural projects in Berlin. At the same time, we advocate the development of transnational cultural platforms and digital cultural formats. We want to strengthen Berlin's position as a European hub for festivals, cultural innovations and new creative formats. We support the European Cultural Weeks in Berlin's boroughs, with a particular focus on cultural projects that strengthen social cohesion, promote democracy and combat all forms of extremism, particularly anti-Semitism.

With the establishment of the 'House of Jazz' in the former Allied cinema L'Aiglon, we are creating an international hub for jazz. At the federal level, we will campaign for further funding to support its long-term development.

We intend to develop the former Tempelhof Airport into a cultural venue that fully harnesses the potential of the historic building. To this end, we will work with relevant stakeholders to draw up a forward-looking utilisation concept and develop a viable strategy for involving private capital.

Together with Deutsche Bahn, we intend to develop S-Bahn arches as venues for art, culture and business. Through pop-up exhibitions and temporary formats, young artists in particular are to be given greater visibility and new opportunities for development. We will continue to identify which sites can be made available for cultural use and provide support for them.

Berlin's club culture is a defining part of our city's cultural life. It stands for openness, creativity and an urban way of life, and creates spaces for cultural innovation, artistic experimentation and social exchange. At the same time, it is a significant economic factor and an important component of Berlin's night-time economy. We remain committed to a culture-friendly urban development policy that opens up state-owned land more widely to the creative industries. Sites for creative venues and club use should be secured at an early stage and reliably safeguarded under planning law. We expressly support location partnerships between industry and the music and creative scenes. For us, the Berlin Club Commission remains an important network for self-organisation and advocacy. We want to continue promoting the international networking of Berlin's club scene.

Our aim is to foster a vibrant culture of remembrance that is not limited to empty phrases, but thrives on dialogue and critical engagement. We see it as our duty to promote the work of memorial sites, to initiate discussions with eyewitnesses and to develop project-based educational programmes. It is particularly important to convey to young people that freedom, democracy and the rule of law cannot be taken for granted.

We aim to strengthen engagement with German history in the long term and to continue to firmly anchor in the public consciousness the singularity of the Shoah, the process of coming to terms with National Socialism, and the SED dictatorship.

We intend to provide reliable and sustainable funding for existing institutions and initiatives in the field of remembrance through the city budget. In this way, we ensure the continuity of educational and commemorative work and strengthen historical awareness in our city.

We want to keep the memory of the injustices of the GDR alive and safeguard and further develop key memorial sites in Berlin. This includes, in particular, the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial as a central site for coming to terms with the injustices of the SED and the communist dictatorship in Germany.

We intend to preserve the site of the former Stasi headquarters on Normannenstraße as a historic complex and to consistently develop the Campus for Democracy. Together with the federal government and private owners, we will swiftly resolve outstanding development issues, safeguard listed buildings and facilitate new uses. Our aim is to create a vibrant space where coming to terms with the past, academic research, political education and cultural activities can find a permanent home.

We intend to further develop the former police prison on Keibelstraße into a memorial and educational centre on the SED dictatorship. In doing so, we are committed to working closely with the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial.

Checkpoint Charlie symbolises the division of Germany and Europe during the Cold War. We are committed to ensuring a dignified urban design for the site and its open spaces

so that history can be experienced first-hand, the site offers a high quality of visitor experience, and finally does justice to its historical significance.

We wish to develop the memorial site 'In memory of the fate of the victims of flight, expulsion and deportation' on Theodor-Heuss-Platz into a publicly accessible place of education and remembrance. Educational, digital and artistic elements are to complement the site. Furthermore, we are campaigning for its recognition as a state monument and its inclusion on the state list of monuments.

The history of our city – particularly during the era of the Electorate of Brandenburg, the Kingdom and Free State of Prussia, and the Weimar Republic – is an essential part of Berlin's identity and must not be allowed to disappear from the cityscape. The neglected remains of the customs and excise wall (Berlin's modern city wall) and the National Monument to the Wars of Liberation on Kreuzberg, for example, demonstrate just how much central sites of remembrance have lost their significance. The proper maintenance of these and other commemorative sites in accordance with heritage standards, and their visible integration into the capital's history, are essential. This also includes preserving historically established street names relating to this period, rather than renaming them. Preserving these places and names strengthens Berlin's historical self-image.

We are committed to strong and diverse public service broadcasting. We have drawn clear conclusions from the misconduct and loss of trust resulting from the rbb scandal. Through a new State Treaty, we have significantly strengthened oversight, transparency and compliance at rbb. The powers of the Broadcasting Council and the Administrative Board have been expanded, requirements regarding qualifications and accountability have been more clearly defined, and management structures have been streamlined whilst salaries have been capped. We intend to pursue this course of reform consistently. The rbb State Treaty is to be regularly reviewed for effectiveness, economy and efficiency, and further developed where necessary. Among the challenges facing the reform of public service broadcasting is the reorganisation of the broadcasting licence fee system following the pending ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court on broadcasting funding. In order to ensure the long-term stability of licence fees, issues such as the location of broadcasters must also be discussed more thoroughly.

The aim must be for public service broadcasting to refocus on its core tasks.

With the amendment to the State Treaty on the Berlin-Brandenburg Media Authority (mabb), we have modernised media policy in the metropolitan region and adapted it to the digital challenges of our time. Private broadcasting has been strengthened by the abolition of ownership caps for radio stations. At the same time, FM is being retained, whilst DAB+ is being further expanded. In this way, we are strengthening Berlin's position as the radio capital of Europe, with more than 80 free-to-air stations.

Berlin is Germany's number one film and cinema hub. To further strengthen this position, we have specifically improved the framework conditions for film and cinema. This includes providing around 25 million euros annually to the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, funding cinemas and the Berlinale, and setting up a guidance service to facilitate faster and

simpler filming permits. At the same time, we are firmly committed to Berlin's cinema landscape – from neighbourhood cinemas to large multiplexes – and are strengthening Berlin's position as Europe's largest arthouse cinema market. We are therefore campaigning for the reinstatement of nationwide cinema funding to support the technical modernisation of cinemas. We have specifically strengthened the European Film Academy and the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB). For the DFFB, we are creating modern facilities for training and film production at its new site in Moabit.

Berlin's games industry has developed positively in recent years and has become a real economic force. With projects such as the 'House of Games', we are further expanding Berlin's position as one of Germany's leading games hubs.

Europe and ' ' International

Berlin sees itself as an international metropolis at the heart of a strong and united Europe. We want to expand and strengthen existing international town twinning schemes and regional cooperation. Poland is already a key partner for Berlin. This close and trusting cooperation is already evident in numerous formats – for example, within the framework of the Oder Partnership or the town twinning scheme with Warsaw. Poland is one of the most dynamic countries in Europe. This presents a great opportunity for Berlin: as a bridge between Western and Eastern Europe, as a hub for innovation, and as a shared security and economic area. The CDU-led Senate has established two new, strategically important and highly symbolic town twinning partnerships with Kyiv and Tel Aviv. We intend to further expand and deepen these partnerships.

We are determined to continue our support for Ukraine consistently. For Ukraine is not only defending itself, but also our freedom and security. Conversely, cooperation with Ukraine helps Germany in the field of the security and defence industries. Berlin, too, can learn from and benefit from Kyiv, for example when it comes to strengthening our security and resilience.

Given Berlin's particular historical responsibility as the city where the Shoah was planned and organised, the partnership with Tel Aviv is both a source of joy and a duty. Tel Aviv and Berlin have much in common. We intend to capitalise on this potential by bringing together people and businesses from both cities and actively promoting cooperation projects in areas such as high-tech and innovation, art and culture, and education and science.

We want to strengthen and expand our overseas offices. Overseas offices such as the one in New York or the Berlin office in the Indian city of Bengaluru, which was newly established this year, are key drivers for tapping into new foreign markets and deepening international trade relations. We therefore intend to establish overseas offices in other major cities as well. The focus must be on global growth regions. These include the US West Coast, Istanbul, Dubai, Singapore and Tokyo. To market the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region

even more effectively, we intend to establish and operate these overseas offices jointly with Brandenburg in future.

We want to play an active role in shaping Europe. The CDU is the pro-European party. Berlin, more than almost any other city, has benefited politically and economically from European unification. Thanks to the EU's eastward enlargement, Berlin now lies at the heart of Europe, not only politically but also geographically. A large proportion of Berlin's foreign trade is with EU member states. It is therefore in Berlin's interest to further strengthen the European single market. Where appropriate, we want to continue driving forward European integration. European cooperation offers real added value, particularly in the areas of defence industry and internal security.

At the same time, we support the reduction of bureaucratic regulations – such as those relating to data protection or environmental law – in order to relieve local businesses of unnecessary red tape. The European Union must also have the financial capacity to fulfil its tasks. We therefore offer our constructive support to the consultations on the next Medium-Term Financial Framework. However, it is also clear that the regions and federal states must continue to be involved in shaping funding policy during the next funding period. Berlin therefore insists that cohesion funds continue to be managed regionally at local level in future. Berlin has benefited significantly in the past from EU funding programmes. To ensure that we can continue to make use of programmes for Berlin in the future, we intend to further expand the central funding management system that has been newly established within the Berlin Senate Chancellery.

What a united Berlin do NOT need

Berlin will
NOTHING
from the
Left

- ▶ Divisive identity politics
- ▶ Micromanagement of families
- ▶ Ideological dogmatism and fantasies of prohibition
- ▶ Converting nursery spaces into shared accommodation
- ▶ Reform of the law of parentage
- ▶ Cuts to sports clubs

**Berlin will
become.**

