

# BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Election Programme Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

# VOTE VOLT

FUTURE  MADE IN EUROPE

# HEY AMSTERDAMMER,

**For many of us, pride in Amsterdam runs deep. We often feel that we are Amsterdammers first and Dutch second. It's in the little things. We are big and friendly. Village-like and cosmopolitan. We have swagger and we care for each other. Whether that's because of the new entrepreneurship on the Zeedijk, the view from the ferry across the IJ, or when Ajax wins in the ArenA. Amsterdam is simply the most beautiful city in Europe. And our love for our city? It is unconditional.**

But still, I worry about the future. An entire generation is stuck in Amsterdam. Amsterdammers do everything that is asked of them: they study or work hard, they are flexible. But too many people, especially young people, feel rushed in a city that is becoming increasingly busy, expensive and uncertain. The city seems to be becoming less free and participating is complicated. Over the past eight years, affordable housing has remained out of reach for many. Due to expensive rents, among other things, Amsterdam is in danger of becoming a city of near- opportunities: near a home. Near certainty. Near a start.

That affects me. Because I see it around me. Because I hear it in conversations on the street, at schools and at night. And above all because a city that offers young people no prospects is also failing itself.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Amsterdam can once again be a city where you can build your future. A pleasant, diverse city where hard work pays off and where young people don't leave, but want to stay and return. Where everyone is welcome, you can live affordably, you can move freely and where you feel safe, day and night, in every neighbourhood. Volt consciously chooses that future: optimistic, European and focused on progress. A city where you can start.

We believe that good ideas know no boundaries. Amsterdam will not wait. What works in Copenhagen, Barcelona or Vienna in terms of affordable housing and safe streets, we want to apply in Amsterdam tomorrow. No endless talk. Just do what works.

1. That is why housing is number one for Volt. Because I see up close what it means when it doesn't work. My neighbours, two friends who share a house, live in a house with three empty bedrooms, but are not allowed to share them due to strict rules that are no longer appropriate in this day and age. At the same time, friends have been searching for years for a place in the city where they grew up. That's a problem. In a city where space is scarce, we need to use it more intelligently. By making flat-sharing possible again and investing in innovative solutions, such as a floating student campus on the IJ.
2. For me, freedom also means safety. My friends and I still cycle the longer route home if it means it is just a little better lit. With the standard text message after drinks: 'Did you get home safely?' Amsterdam only feels like home when you can move around your own neighbourhood without fear. That is why we want good night-time public transport and better lighting on cycle routes, and we want to tackle dangerous situations. For a safe route, day and night.
3. For me, a fair city means that opportunities do not depend on where you were born or how much money your parents had. Too often, I see people getting lost in rules and bureaucracy when they ask for help. That is why we need to bring back the human touch. With less bureau-

cracy, clear support and real attention for people who get stuck. That way, the system works for them again, instead of against them.

4. Amsterdam is a pleasant city, and it should stay that way. I want everyone to have the same freedom at night that I know, but then there must be enough places for nightlife. We want to continue investing in art and culture, use more vacant buildings for nightlife and, following Berlin's example, organise an annual Podiumnacht (Stage Night). At the same time, we want respect for this vibrant and pleasant city. We give entrepreneurs the space to do what they do best, namely entrepreneurship. We want to increase tourist tax and invest that money directly in Amsterdam. We are drastically expanding the number of parking meters and collection points in an offensive against litter and bringing back the 'train' and waste boats.
5. Finally, I believe that our democracy must move with the city that Amsterdam has become. A city where people not only want to contribute ideas, but also want to participate. Where young people, internationals and residents feel heard. With more say, new forms of participation and a voice for young people, we are giving people back control over their city.

With this election programme, we are choosing progress. We are choosing cooperation across borders. As far as we are concerned, this is our city, our pride, our home, and we will continue to build on it.

## **WILL YOU JOIN US IN BUILDING IT?**

*Juliet  
Broersen*

Juliet Broersen  
Lead Candidate Volt Amsterdam



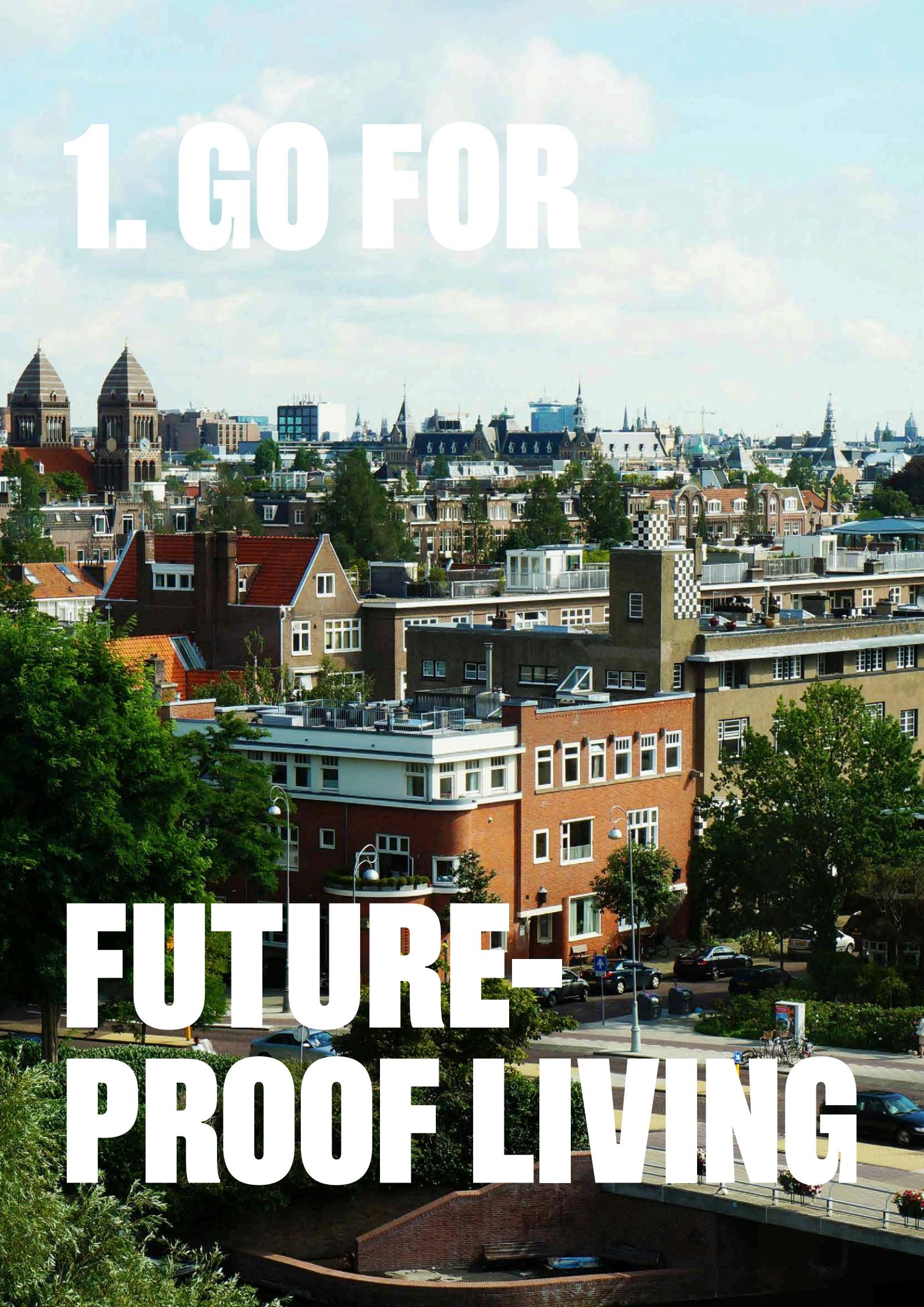
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# 1. GO FOR

# FUTURE- PROOF LIVING



## 1.1

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

Housing is a right, not a luxury. Everyone deserves a good, affordable home from which to build their future. But there is a shortage of affordable housing in the city. We are therefore fully committed to creating more living space. Volt opts for infill development in the city where possible and for expansion on the outskirts or outside the city where it makes sense. We will make the best possible use of the space that is already available: we will combat vacancy and transform existing real estate into housing. We will also build new homes and neighbourhoods, such as in Havenstad, and we dare to give priority to housing over heavy industry if necessary. And where there is no more room for homes on land, we will let them float on the IJ.

Public housing is a task for the government, and the municipality will take back control. We will ensure that local residents themselves also have a lot to gain from new projects, thereby getting housing construction moving again. We will continue until everyone in Amsterdam has a roof over their heads or a home.

When infilling and building, we will protect green spaces, water and heritage. Because densification should not be a stacking of bricks, but an opportunity for more Amsterdammers and Weespers to live in liveable and connected neighbourhoods with plenty of opportunities for socialising, exercise, work and nature. We will build our homes as we want to live in the future: climate-neutral, comfortable and affordable. We tackle mould in homes, accelerate sustainability and close the energy gap. So that everyone in Amsterdam can live in a future-proof home.

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## UTILISE ALL LIVING SPACE

Spending hours travelling by train to get to work or university. Still living with your parents. Not being able to move in with your friends or partner because the rules don't allow it. The housing shortage has a huge impact on the lives of Amsterdam residents. Meanwhile, we are leaving an entire housing stock unused. Thousands of rooms, floors and even entire homes in Amsterdam have been vacant for a long time, and we have a lot of unused industrial or commercial property. That represents thousands of housing opportunities for people who currently cannot find a place to live. We are going to change that. We will relax the rules, fill all vacant spaces and transform real estate and heritage into new homes. So that Amsterdam feels like home again.

- We are expanding Amsterdam. Volt wants to focus fully on splitting, topping up, adding on and extending. We are doing this by developing a potential map for each district and taking incentive measures in the form of pilots, experiments and subsidies. Where possible, we

are relaxing regulations and providing financial incentives to realise additional homes more quickly within the existing city.

- We must use the living space that already exists in the city as efficiently as possible. Volt is in favour of house number sharing: we are making it easier to split homes into multiple house numbers for first-time buyers and small households.
- We want to encourage and expand lodger rentals in Amsterdam. We are investigating whether we can relax the lodger regulations so that every lodger can offer living space to two people or households. We support successful initiatives that contribute to lodger rentals, such as bringing tenants and landlords together.
- Volt wants to encourage cohabitation and make it possible for more people. Currently, people on social assistance benefits are too often discouraged from living with others in a house because their benefits are reduced by the cost-sharing standard. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to explore ways to change this for residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.
- Vacant housing must be discouraged. Volt therefore advocates the Flemish approach, a method that tackles vacancy with an annually increasing municipal tax. This encourages owners to take action more quickly when their property is vacant. The national government must make this possible for municipalities.
- Volt wants to move towards more intensive enforcement with regard to vacancy, using digital detection methods such as energy consumption and Basic Registration of Persons data.
- Volt wants a clear municipal policy to transform more existing real estate into housing. To this end, the municipality is drawing up a local Transformation Acceleration Agenda, with clear transformation objectives and additional financial resources. In this way, we can use the available space for what we need most right now: housing.
- Volt wants to encourage the conversion of more spaces above shops into housing. To this end, we are setting up a municipal advisory body called 'Living above shops', which will help owners make use of unused spaces above shops and the subsidies available for this purpose. In this way, we are also contributing to an improved living environment in shopping streets.

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## A HOME THAT SUITS YOU

**Due to the housing shortage, many Amsterdammers are stuck in a home that does not suit their situation. This puts a brake on their future plans: think of the student who cannot come to study without a room, a young couple who want to start a family, a single person looking for a nice place for themselves, the new Amsterdammer with a residence permit waiting for a home, or the elderly Amsterdamer who would like to live on the ground floor. It is also difficult for people who work in crucial professions in the city, such as teachers, nurses and police officers, to find affordable housing. We are committed to finding suitable housing for everyone, with new-build homes that are better suited to those looking for housing.**

**Volt wants the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to be able to live in lively, mixed neighbourhoods. The municipality must therefore ensure a good mix of social, mid-priced and expensive housing. Currently, some neighbourhoods have mainly social housing or, conversely, mainly expensive housing. We will ensure greater flexibility to build what a neighbourhood needs.**

- Volt supports the ambition to build 40-40-20. Several reports show that, due to increased construction costs, among other things, this distribution is not feasible at present. We therefore temporarily maintain that at least 70% of all new-build homes in the city must be social or mid-range rental homes. We will temporarily assume a 30-40-30 distribution: of all new construction in the city, we will build 30% social housing, 40% mid-range housing and 30% private sector housing. The municipality may deviate from this per neighbourhood or district, as long as the total for the city is achieved and the mix in the neighbourhoods remains balanced. We also want the municipality to work with project developers and housing associations to investigate how this distribution can be achieved again. As soon as circumstances allow, we will return to the 40-40-20 distribution (80% social and mid-range rental).
- Thousands of students, from vocational to university level, are waiting to start their student life in Amsterdam. We want to add affordable student housing quickly. That is why we are starting a student campus of floating homes on the IJ near the future Oostbrug.
- We are also reinstating the student housing covenant. This covenant focuses on ensuring sufficient housing for (international) students in Amsterdam and guarantees the quality, affordability and distribution of student housing throughout the city. We are committed to mixed student housing, where Dutch and international students live together.
- We want new construction projects to contribute to strong and close-knit neighbourhoods. That is why we are reserving a percentage of homes in new construction projects specifically for young people and elderly people from the neighbourhood, so that they can continue to live in their familiar surroundings. In this way, we are strengthening social cohesion and ensuring that neighbourhoods do not lose their character and mutual connectedness.
- We explicitly include young people and older people in the Amsterdam Public Housing Approach. An urban covenant on housing for young people and older people will be established, with agreements on new construction and target standards for the number of new homes to be built for these groups in the city.
- We want older people to be able to live in a home that suits their stage of life. Every move to a home for older people also sets off a whole chain of moves. We will therefore accelerate the construction of zero-step and homes for older people.
- Volt wants to facilitate the construction of more flexible homes and tiny houses. We will make local regulations and licensing procedures more transparent for developers and (self) builders and support them in connecting to water, electricity and sewerage systems.
- Volt wants to spread the housing construction task in the region more evenly across the target groups for which homes are being built, such as first-time buyers, families, middle-income earners and senior citizens. People who move usually leave a home behind. One new-build home results in multiple moves, but this is not currently taken into account when determining housing construction. We want to better align the construction programme in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area with actual housing needs by also estimating the knock-on effects of new construction and basing the housing programme on all links in the relocation chain.
- We support the policy for caravan dwellers and ensure that they are structurally included in the development of our city.
- Volt endorses the view that international workers should be able to live in legal and good-quality housing. We support the municipality's Amsterdam Region Labour Migration Approach 2025-2027, which aims to strengthen the position of international workers in Amsterdam. We

are conducting an inventory of the housing available for this target group, and the municipality is making efforts to strengthen the enforcement of abuses such as overcrowding, substandard housing and other nuisances associated with labour migration.

## THROUGHFLOW OFFENSIVE

The housing shortage in Amsterdam and Weesp is not just a matter of too few houses: the shortages are also causing stagnation in the flow of house hunters to homes that better suit their situation. Every bottleneck in the chain means that multiple homes remain unavailable. Volt is fully committed to the turnover offensive, with more housing for the elderly, real incentives for home exchanges and priority for turnover. This will free up more homes and enable first-time buyers, families and the elderly to find suitable housing more quickly.

- We are setting up a single point of contact where home swappers can find each other for home swaps throughout Amsterdam. We are arranging for housing associations to retain registration periods and priority for moving house, so that moving house does not entail any risk.
- To help older people, large families and households in wheelchair-accessible homes to move to more suitable housing, Volt wants to focus on better guidance and information provision through information campaigns and relocation coaches. We will also remove financial barriers by ensuring that the rent is maintained when moving, providing a relocation allowance and adjusting the rent to income.
- To ensure greater mobility in the housing market, we are expanding the conditions of the Amsterdam relocation schemes 'From High to Low' and 'From Large to Better'. We are giving housing associations the freedom to offer tailor-made solutions in line with this ambition. We are retaining the priority labels 'elderly' and 'families' for social housing and are asking housing associations to investigate a priority scheme for moving within one's own neighbourhood.
- We also want to help residents whose homes are no longer in line with their income situation to move on. The relocation allowance and support from relocation coaches will also be available to tenants who move from social housing to mid-priced rental accommodation, private sector housing or owner-occupied housing.
- We support the Appropriate Housing Relocation Offensive policy, in which the municipality provides subsidies and adjusts regulations to enable more people to move to suitable housing.

## MORE COOPERATIVE LIVING

Volt envisions a future in which we live cooperatively more often. Residents develop a construction project together and can then manage, live in and keep the homes affordable. This housing model provides stable, non-speculative housing. Residents who unite in housing cooperatives have more ownership, lower costs and more connection with their fellow residents in the cooperative. Amsterdam is already experimenting with this, and the first projects are promising, but still small-scale and dependent on pioneers. Volt wants cooperative living to grow into a structural third pillar of the housing market, alongside social housing and owner-occupied homes.

- Volt wants Amsterdam to continue offering plots to housing cooperatives, expand the supply of plots where possible, and keep the Kaartenbak open for housing cooperatives that want to realise cooperative housing together in the future.

- The incentive loan for housing cooperatives will be continued. If it proves successful, we will make it a permanent scheme.
- We will focus more on cooperative and other collective forms of living and housing, including by facilitating and encouraging cooperation between initiators, developers, housing associations and care institutions. We support collective projects such as Knarrenhofjes, where elderly people live independently but in community with each other, intergenerational care concepts where young and old look after each other, management cooperatives where the property remains in the possession of the housing association and tenants take over the management tasks, and residential groups for people who want to live in greater social cohesion.
- Volt wants to give housing cooperatives space not only in new construction, but also in the transformation and sustainability of existing complexes that have become vacant.
- Each year, the municipality provides insight into the number of plots allocated to housing cooperatives, the housing projects that have been started and completed, and the affordability of the homes. This allows us to monitor when cooperative projects are successful and respond to any bottlenecks.

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## **EXPANDING WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CITY**

**We cannot fully solve the high demand for housing through infill development alone; we also need to create new space. The (re)development of new buildings, neighbourhoods and districts offers opportunities to create a bright and vibrant future for the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. We are creating neighbourhoods where there is plenty to do and where residents of all ages and backgrounds can meet: from young families to the elderly, from people in healthcare to those in technology, from tenants to buyers. Districts where important facilities such as playgrounds, schools, hospitals, shops and workplaces are close by and connected to public transport. And buildings that are multifunctional, accessible and social.**

- Following London's example, Volt wants to introduce a pilot for the Amsterdam street referendum. In this referendum, the entire street votes on plans for redevelopment or new construction that could also benefit local residents. For example, because they themselves will get better housing or facilities in return if they agree to the plans. A group of neighbours can submit a petition to the municipality to hold a referendum for the entire street: the construction plan will only go ahead if more than 60 per cent vote in favour and at least half of the street wants it. With this proven successful initiative, local residents become advocates for new construction projects and gain influence over plans that they themselves consider to be an improvement.
- Volt opts for high-rise buildings in locations where it makes sense, such as close to existing public transport hubs with fast connections to places where schools, shops, hospitals, work and other essential amenities are already located. High-rise buildings must be designed and integrated in such a way that they contribute to the cityscape and broad prosperity, and that nuisance to the environment, local residents and the view is limited. We exclude high-rise buildings in UNESCO areas, protected cityscapes and valuable landscape structures such as the Amsterdam wedges and the IJ.

- The plinths of new residential towers will be designed to contribute to social cohesion in a neighbourhood. Think of ground floor dwellings with front doors bordering the pavement, spaces for care institutions or small crafts and local shops. This also increases safety.
- Volt wants Amsterdammers to be able to live in lively neighbourhoods where, in addition to housing, there is also space for children's playgrounds, sports and exercise, green and blue areas, schools, shops and other small businesses, and public transport. We are committed to innovative social housing, such as (high-rise) housing that combines smaller flats with more communal facilities, such as attractive green-blue roof terraces, guest rooms and care facilities, shared lounges and comfortable home office and reading tables.

## **URBAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION**

Urban expansion, such as in Haven-Stad, presents a unique opportunity to do something new: to truly interweave housing, the economy and nature. Volt wants Haven-Stad to become an example of how a new neighbourhood can be bustling with activity, while at the same time offering space for quiet living, greenery and socialising. We are developing neighbourhoods in which entrepreneurship, the industry of the future and living fit together seamlessly. We also dare to make choices about which activities are suitable for which areas of Amsterdam. This area development requires strong cooperation between the municipality, project developers, housing associations, entrepreneurs, ecologists, urban planners, educational institutions and residents. Because only together can we build a neighbourhood where everyone feels at home. We find inspiration for this in Europe and closer to home, such as in Hafencity in Hamburg or in the public-private partnership in Brainport Eindhoven.

- We are focusing on transformation areas such as Amstel III, Sloterdijk and Haven-Stad, where outdated sites are being transformed into compact, green and mixed neighbourhoods.
- During the transformation, we analyse which crafts and activities can coexist with residential areas, such as a mix of small-scale, sustainable manufacturing companies in the neighbourhood. Where residential areas cannot coexist with industry, the municipality will oversee the relocation of the latter, including compensation where necessary (such as when parties terminate their leasehold early). Light sustainable industry that is not compatible with residential areas can continue its business activities outside the Amsterdam ring road. In the case of heavy polluting industry, relocation, in consultation with the government, will be accompanied by plans to make the area greener and more sustainable.
- Housing construction plans must be accompanied by an area plan, which assesses the availability of facilities (such as schools, shops, restaurants and social facilities), accessibility and quality of life. Volt wants to pay particular attention to green spaces, sports and exercise, art and culture, and healthcare facilities, such as general practitioners.
- To alleviate the housing shortage, we must do more than just infill and build within Amsterdam. That is why we do not rule out building on large breakthrough sites in other parts of the country. We see the most opportunities in transforming sites of heavy industry and intensive agricultural land into a mix of urban nature and residential neighbourhoods with amenities.
- We are investing in good public transport and general infrastructure to connect the new neighbourhoods outside the city with Amsterdam and surrounding facilities.

## **MUNICIPALITY TAKES BACK CONTROL OF PUBLIC HOUSING**

**Housing is a basic need, and it is up to the government to properly regulate public housing. Housing has been at a standstill for some time now, while rents continue to rise sharply and waiting times for social housing are far too long. It is also a challenge for social organisations, such as general practitioners and healthcare institutions, to find affordable commercial property.**

**Volt wants the municipality to finally take control again and ensure breakthroughs in public housing. Housing associations and project developers have other interests to pursue in addition to the interests of the city (such as national performance agreements or financial objectives), and the municipality sometimes has too little influence on what is built and for whom. The municipality is taking a more active role in housing projects and land development in order to ensure affordable housing and real estate once again. We identify and tackle bottlenecks in the housing sector. We also take measures to keep affordable housing affordable and to prevent speculation in housing.**

- Volt advocates the establishment of a public, non-profit housing company in Amsterdam, a Social Housing Organisation Amsterdam. By taking the general interests of the city as its starting point, this organisation can help the city where project developers and housing associations fail. In this way, the municipality ensures that there is a balance between different types of housing and that neighbourhoods remain liveable.
- The municipality will act more often as a co-financier of construction projects for affordable housing. When the municipality co-finances, clear, enforceable agreements are laid down in contracts with project developers, such as an open book obligation or affordability requirements.
- Volt wants to create more affordable owner-occupied homes for first-time buyers with a middle income. Volt supports experiments such as the 'Affordable Purchase', 'Purchase Start' and 'Starter Loan' pilots, in which the municipality gives first-time buyers a discount on the market price of a home, which is repaid from the surplus value when the home is sold. If proven effective, we will make the pilots permanent.
- We will introduce an annual 'breakthrough table' to identify and tackle bottlenecks in the Amsterdam housing market. Residents, private landlords, housing associations, housing corporations and the municipality will work together to identify recurring bottlenecks in construction projects, sustainability and housing allocation, and make concrete proposals for improvement. The municipality will use these to tackle unnecessary rules and processes.
- The municipality uses the profits from land sales and ground leases to pay for new social and mid-range rental homes, schools, parks and infrastructure. When the municipality issues land, sustainable building standards must always be included in the conditions. Volt wants the municipality to urge the national government to provide financial resources so that it can actually pursue a more active land policy.
- Within the leasehold system, we are committed to consumer protection. We do this by making the calculation of leasehold completely transparent, by engaging leasehold experts who support consumers and by investigating whether it is possible to reinstate the advantageous

transfer scheme to perpetual leasehold for an indefinite period. We are shaping changes to the leasehold system in a participatory manner, with consumers and experts involved at an early stage.

- In recent years, area development has cost the municipality more than it has yielded. The municipality is investigating the future of the equalisation fund and is also looking at other possible revenue models for area development and affordable housing.
- Volt wants the municipality to apply its right of first refusal more often in areas undergoing major transformation, so that the municipality can be the first to purchase land, thereby enabling affordable housing and mixed neighbourhoods.
- We advocate a public-private ‘Amsterdam Affordable Housing’ fund with contributions from large employers. The fund will be used exclusively for social housing and affordable mid-range rentals with long-term affordability agreements.
- Nationally, we advocate for an accelerated expansion of the National Fund for Affordable Owner-Occupied Homes. The municipality makes agreements with project developers and housing associations about the realisation of homes for first-time buyers in new construction projects.
- We strictly enforce the new housing permit for mid-range rentals and monitor that mid-range rental homes actually go to Amsterdam and Weesp residents with a mid-range income.
- We support the owner-occupancy requirement and are investigating where expansion, tightening and proper enforcement are needed. We are also looking at whether differentiating buy-out protection per neighbourhood contributes to a better mix of available homes in the neighbourhoods. We are open to investors who want to invest in the city, provided that their projects contribute to affordable new-build homes or housing cooperatives in Amsterdam. We want to limit investors who buy up homes to rent them out at excessively high rents by applying rent regulation and rental restrictions and by making agreements on affordability in new-build projects.

## **HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS**

Housing associations are responsible for public housing in Amsterdam. They are the municipality's most important partners in providing affordable housing for the city's residents who need it most. Volt wants housing associations to be able to build more affordable housing again and to be given more financial leeway to do so. Many Amsterdammers currently have little chance of obtaining social housing, which is why we are making agreements with corporations about the social housing stock and the allocation of homes.

- Volt wants to investigate whether municipal taxes for housing associations can be reduced. In return for a reduction in costs, there is an obligation to take extra steps to renovate and make social housing more sustainable. Volt also wants the municipality to urge the national government and the European Union to lower the corporate tax burden on housing associations and to make state aid rules more flexible. This will enable us to build more affordable and sustainable new homes on a structural basis.
- We support the national programmes ‘Samen Nieuw-West’ and ‘Masterplan Zuidoost’, which aim to improve the quality of life in those districts, even if funding from central government is withdrawn.

- For many Amsterdammers, the chance of finding social housing is small, especially without an urgency or priority label. Volt supports the pilot project in which 100 homes are allocated as standard to Amsterdammers without a label or urgency.
- Housing associations that want to undertake projects to expand the social housing stock in Amsterdam may, under strict conditions, sell social housing to finance this.
- We want tenants to always be able to return to suitable housing in their neighbourhood in the event of demolition or new construction. That is why we are making firm agreements with housing associations about return, rent protection and participation in the process. In this way, we prevent renewal projects from leading to displacement and ensure that renewal actually benefits existing residents.

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## A HOME FIRST: A ROOF OVER EVERYONE'S HEAD

We are building a future for Amsterdam in which no one has to live on the streets. There are still at least 11,000 homeless people in Amsterdam, including nearly 1,450 children. Some of them live on the streets, but the vast majority sleep on friends' sofas, in cars, or in empty houses or garages. We do not accept this in Amsterdam; a roof over your head is a human right. We will therefore eradicate homelessness by 2030 at the latest.

Volt believes in the 'Housing First' approach. We give people a home first, without them having to prove that they are ready for it. The rest – such as work, recovery, financial matters or care – comes later. With a home, you can regain control of your life and shape your future from a position of autonomy. This benefits the whole city, because people who are empowered in life make a positive contribution to society, the economy and the character of Amsterdam. Housing First is also the most cost-effective way to reduce homelessness. Amsterdam is already doing this, but we are going to focus much more on Housing First. This literally means building a future without homelessness.

- We are expanding the Housing First projects in the city. We are continuing and expanding successful initiatives by partners such as Team Eigen Thuis and Onder de Pannen. We are also giving social organisations, as well as residents' and entrepreneurs' organisations, more mandate and confidence to set up new Housing First projects themselves. Housing First projects for young people and parents with small children will be given top priority.
- The municipality will ensure that everyone who is given a (temporary) place to live through Housing First also receives a permanent counsellor for comprehensive support. This will enable people to bring about change in their lives more quickly.
- Without a registered address, you cannot receive social benefits (such as benefits or allowances). Volt wants the municipality to actively commit to providing homeless people in the city with a registered address quickly and easily.
- Volt believes that people in vulnerable positions need permanent housing solutions, not temporary fixes, in order to be able to participate fully in society again. We are therefore committed to the structural creation of more affordable, good-quality housing, including for people who are homeless or without a home.

- Since it will not be possible to offer all homeless people a permanent home in the short term, we will also continue to focus on increasing the number of temporary housing and shelter places. To this end, we will make use of existing spaces in the city, such as vacant offices, warehouses, schools, hotels and homes. In winter and during heat waves, we will provide additional shelter places.
- Regular shelters are often designed with the 'average homeless man' in mind. However, different groups of homeless people have different needs when it comes to shelter. Women who have become homeless due to domestic violence or divorce do not always feel safe in mixed shelters. (Young) LGBTIQ+ people who have been kicked out of their homes because of who they are often experience discrimination in regular shelters. Minors also need shelters tailored to their needs. Volt wants us to pay more attention to the people we provide services to at all stages of homelessness. We will set up sufficient shelter and housing facilities, in particular for groups of homeless people who are particularly vulnerable, including LGBTIQ+ people, families with young children, women and young people. The municipality will ensure that these facilities are available throughout the city.
- We will continue to focus on preventing homelessness through eviction. The municipality of Amsterdam is already working on this with housing associations, health insurers, energy companies, bailiffs, government agencies and other parties. We embrace this approach and will intensify it where possible, for example by improving early detection of payment arrears.
- We will combat homelessness and other abuses in labour migration. Employment contracts for international workers should not be linked to housing contracts, and Volt is strongly advocating this to the national government. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to support initiatives such as the Work in NL (WIN) information point, which informs international workers about their legal position in order to prevent abuses such as exploitation, homelessness and avoidance of care. The municipality is working together with surrounding municipalities where many international workers are employed.
- Only together can we truly eradicate homelessness. Volt therefore wants the municipality of Amsterdam to collaborate more actively with our neighbouring municipalities to achieve this. Together, we are setting up regional Housing First teams, which are specifically looking for suitable temporary housing locations on vacant sites in the region. The teams will take an integrated approach, so that homeless people are offered accommodation in a location from which they can easily travel to where they work, are employed or can find work.

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## **TACKLE MOULD: A LIVEABLE HOME FOR EVERY AMSTERDAM RESIDENT**

**A home should be a pleasant and liveable place. Due to mould and damp problems, this is not currently the case for thousands of Amsterdammers. This creates unhealthy and sometimes even dangerous living conditions – for all Amsterdammers, but especially for people in vulnerable groups, such as families with young children and the elderly. Volt wants to make Amsterdam completely mould-free. We are putting Amsterdammers at the heart of the mould approach by strengthening their residents' rights. We are pushing for innovative breakthroughs in mould control and allowing the local community to benefit from the approach.**

- Volt wants Amsterdam to be completely mould-free by 2030. We are fully committed to further developing the approach to finally tackle mould in homes in a structural way. Together with research institutions, students and the business community, we are developing new and practical solutions for preventing and combating mould and tackling challenges in the approach to mould. We ensure that the development approach does not delay the handling of mould reports from residents.
- In the case of serious mould, rent reductions or even temporary remission will apply until repairs have been demonstrably carried out and the mould has disappeared.
- Housing associations and the municipality outsource the repair of mould damage to local contractors, specialist companies and social enterprises where tendering rules allow. This benefits the neighbourhood and boosts confidence in the approach.
- The progress and results of mould control per housing association and district are published annually. The residents' perspective is also included. This allows housing associations to learn from each other in an effective approach.

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## **SUSTAINABLE AND LIVEABLE HOUSING**

**Volt wants the Netherlands to be climate neutral by 2040. That is why we must accelerate the fight against climate change, including in the built environment. We are finally setting ambitious sustainability requirements for buildings and seizing opportunities to combine housing construction with the climate transition. Sustainability also presents an opportunity to reduce social inequality and increase living comfort. Homes are switching to local, renewable energy sources, making us less dependent on fossil fuels from undemocratic regimes. We are halving our energy consumption and helping owners' associations to become more sustainable. Where possible, we are linking up with natural transition moments such as renovation or *end-of-life*. We are bringing energy security closer by encouraging our own generation and savings. The municipality is taking an active role as an ally of the people of Amsterdam and Weesp. In this way, we are ensuring a future-proof home.**

## **EQUALITY WITHIN THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

The energy transition is necessary – for the climate, for affordable housing and for the liveability of our city. But this transition will only succeed if everyone can participate. Sustainability must not only be technically feasible, but also socially and legally accessible. That is why we are closing the energy gap. The energy transition must not be exclusive; it must become a collective movement for and by all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.

- We are helping the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp out of energy poverty in a targeted manner, with an accelerated collective neighbourhood approach to insulation. For each neighbourhood, we are looking at how different target groups can best be helped and encouraged to insulate their homes. By organising joint purchasing campaigns per neighbourhood, insulation material can be purchased more cheaply. We are starting in the neighbourhoods with the highest number of EFG labels. In this way, we are improving the quality of life in neighbourhoods and taking a concrete step towards a climate-neutral city that future generations can also benefit from.

- Volt wants all homes in Amsterdam and Weesp that still have an E, F or G energy label to be made sustainable as soon as possible. We are accelerating the current performance agreements and want all EFG homes in Amsterdam and Weesp to be made sustainable under the new 2028-2031 performance agreements.
- We are introducing a ‘landlord scorecard’ that provides insight into which housing associations are performing well in terms of sustainability. This transparency creates public pressure and offers tenants more freedom of choice.
- Volt wants to strengthen tenant organisations with legal support and participation rights in sustainability projects, so that they become full partners in this necessary renovation of the city.
- All Amsterdammers are participating in the energy transition. We are strengthening the municipality’s Energy Bank and have set a target of helping 3,000 households suffering from energy poverty to save £300 per household per year. Volt also wants solar panels on the roofs of housing associations, for which there will be extra support and through the already successful promotion of solar energy. In this way, we ensure that the benefits of clean energy are distributed more fairly.
- With personal guidance and tailored advice for each neighbourhood, we will ensure that sustainability does not remain an abstract goal, but a feasible step for every resident of Amsterdam and Weesp. This can be achieved, for example, through neighbourhood teams that help residents with energy advice or energy-saving buddies.
- Volt wants to expand the role of energy coaches: they should not only provide information, but also actively take care of things for residents. The coaches will support residents in applying for subsidies and offer practical help in implementing energy-saving measures. Energy coaches and advisors are already active in the various districts, but due to a lack of cooperation between them, their working methods differ. Volt advocates a more uniform and collaborative approach. This means working towards a single point of contact, a single organisation name, a single website and a single approach.

## **SUSTAINABLE HEATING**

In Copenhagen, 98% of the city is connected to a sustainable district heating network. Biomass, residual heat and other sources make the system clean and reliable. Amsterdam can do this too, if we dare to make tough choices and go all out for local energy sources such as residual heat.

- All new homes will be built with the future in mind, with a focus on energy efficiency, comfort and climate neutrality. This means that new homes will be disconnected from the gas grid: new homes will be heated entirely by electricity or will use (sustainable) district heating.
- For older homes with a low energy label, completely abandoning natural gas is not always feasible. Volt therefore opts for a hybrid solution (sustainable electric heating where possible) as a realistic intermediate step.

## **ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLEX DECISION-MAKING WITHIN OWNERS’ ASSOCIATIONS**

Approximately 60% of homes in Amsterdam are covered by a Homeowners’ Association (VvE), which amounts to around 23,000 VvEs in the city. VvEs manage hundreds of thousands of homes and are therefore a crucial link in making homes in the city more sustainable. However, many

VvEs are lagging behind in terms of sustainability due to slow decision-making, uncertainty about subsidies and a lack of legal or technical knowledge. We will support VvEs and thus accelerate sustainability.

- The municipality of Amsterdam already offers free sustainability advice to owners' associations of homes in urgent need of maintenance in 170 selected neighbourhoods. An independent advisor investigates the possibilities for saving energy or installing solar panels. Volt wants to extend this approach to all neighbourhoods, so that every owners' association has access to expert advice.
- Volt proposes organising training courses and workshops in which homeowners' association boards learn how to make joint decisions about sustainability. We will ensure that every homeowners' association has access to a free consultation with a legal advisor and financial expert. They will help draw up sustainability decisions, amend the deed of division if necessary, and draw up financing plans.
- Volt will create a municipal voucher scheme to cover most of the legal costs of deed of division amendments in neighbourhoods with designated heating networks or major sustainability projects (for example, up to a maximum amount per flat). Volt also advocates framework agreements with notaries and homeowners' association managers, so that Amsterdam can handle large numbers of deed amendments in 'batches' at lower rates and with guaranteed turnaround times.
- Volt wants to deploy neighbourhood-focused homeowners' association coaches to help homeowners' associations with their subsidy applications for sustainability measures, such as the SEEH (Subsidie energiebesparing eigen huis, or Home Energy Saving Subsidy) and loans from the Warmtefonds (Heat Fund).
- We are building a digital platform where VvEs can follow their roadmap to sustainability, have direct access to model documents (such as sample resolutions) and connect with reliable contractors, installers and financial advisors. This makes it easier for VvEs to make sustainable choices and implement them more quickly.

## **BUILD YOUR FUTURE: TIME FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDING STANDARDS**

Volt believes that we must move towards a future-proof and completely climate-neutral Amsterdam. To get there, we will have to put sustainability at the heart of all our construction projects. Sustainability measures are still too often sacrificed when construction projects face financial headwinds, and municipal buildings do not always live up to their role as role models. Volt calls on the municipality to take immediate action: a transition to concrete, enforceable sustainable building standards for a liveable and future-proof Amsterdam.

- Volt wants uniform, binding sustainability criteria to be developed for all projects on municipal land or leasehold. New buildings must at least meet a set energy performance standard, with flexibility in terms of implementation, such as the choice of collective energy systems.
- We will use circular building materials for new construction or renovation, for which a green standard will be introduced. We are committed to innovative solutions such as energy hubs. By focusing on performance requirements rather than specific technologies, we offer more flexibility and increase the acceptance of sustainable innovations.

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

- We will embed sustainable building standards in municipal policy. It should no longer be a question of ‘sustainable, unless...’, but ‘sustainable, always!’. We are developing a programme of requirements for collective energy systems and the use of circular building materials.
- We are turning municipal buildings into inspiring examples by ensuring they meet the highest sustainability standards. We involve investors and developers in the process at an early stage and help them recognise the social and economic benefits of sustainable area development.

## 1.2

# MOBILITY

**Amsterdam is a city of movement. Every day, hundreds of thousands of people make their way through narrow streets, crowded cycle paths and busy stops. This often goes well, but not always. Space in our city is scarce, and not everyone feels equally safe or welcome on the move. Mobility is freedom. It is therefore more than just a matter of regulating traffic: mobility is also about how we divide space in the city, who we give freedom of movement to and who is excluded.**

**Volt puts people at the centre of traffic, not vehicles. Accessible and inclusive transport strengthens our independence and our connection with each other. We give pedestrians and cyclists plenty of space, build a reliable and affordable public transport network and ensure that shared mobility complements the existing transport options. We discourage polluting traffic and encourage clean transport. Cars remain welcome in the city for those who need them. In addition, we encourage hybrid, electric or shared driving as much as possible. We are committed to strong connections to surrounding municipalities and a robust regional and international rail network. In doing so, we are making choices that do justice to the future generation of Amsterdammers: fair, sustainable and inclusive.**

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## ROAD SAFETY

**Amsterdam is a city where you can reach many highlights and places on foot or by bicycle. That is a great asset. However, traffic can be chaotic and dangerous, with busy streets, fat bikes and confusing intersections. Volt is committed to a city where everyone can get around safely. From children cycling to school independently to elderly people who can cross the road without worry. Volt wants to see zero traffic fatalities in Amsterdam. Being able to cycle or walk safely in the city should be a given.**

- Volt wants to know exactly where most accidents happen and why. That is why we map the most dangerous places using data from ambulances, the police and insurers, as well as input from residents. This provides a clear picture of where the greatest risks lie, from intersections with unclear right of way to cycle paths where speeds collide. Based on this, we determine where the municipality should take action first, so that investments are made where they will save the most lives and prevent the most injuries.
- Intersections and streets with many accidents or near-accidents are given priority for redesign. Think of raised cycle paths that physically separate cars from cyclists. In this way, we make the city predictable and safe for everyone, from children to the elderly.
- Most traffic accidents occur at places where different types of traffic intersect. Volt opts for a city layout that makes traffic flows calmer and more orderly. By creating more one-way streets, we prevent chaotic traffic situations and dangerous manoeuvres. At the same time, the city remains easily accessible for residents and businesses.

- We are investing structurally in the construction, widening and improvement of pavements and cycle paths in combination with cycle streets. We are doing this not only in the city centre, but also in parks and neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Amsterdam. This will make all parts of the city safe and attractive to reach on foot and by bicycle.
- Volt wants to increase safety with better lighting in parks and on cycle routes, clear signage that is also understandable for visitors and internationals, child-friendly walking and cycling routes to schools, and kerbs that are friendly for bicycles, prams and wheelchairs.
- New rules only have an effect if they are complied with. That is why we are focusing on additional speed checks, with an emphasis on e-bikes, fat bikes and scooters. At the same time, we are investing in targeted campaigns to make road users aware of their responsibilities, such as wearing a helmet or not texting while cycling.
- We are using digital tools to make Amsterdam's traffic more sustainable and safer, where this demonstrably contributes to public value. Examples include smart traffic lights at busy intersections and cycle routes, counting sensors in busy areas and lighting in quiet areas that dims when there is no movement but becomes brighter when there is movement.

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## **MORE SPACE FOR PEDESTRIANS**

**Walking is the most sustainable way to get around: it costs nothing, does not pollute and makes the city more lively and healthier. Volt opts for a city that puts pedestrians first, creating more space, safety and liveability. In this way, we are making Amsterdam a city where walking is natural and enjoyable. A city where everyone can move around freely and safely.**

- Volt wants to create more space for pedestrians by encouraging the dual use of other spaces. Parking spaces that serve as car-sharing spots or charging points outside peak hours, logistics hubs that can also be used as bicycle parking facilities, and bicycle parking facilities that are moved to public transport hubs and central meeting places.
- Volt wants pavements everywhere to be sufficiently wide, obstacle-free and well maintained. When streets are redesigned, pedestrians will be given priority as standard: a safe, pleasant walking route will become the norm, not the exception. In places where the pavements are very wide, we will look at whether we can make space for other uses.
- Volt opts for a dense network of safe walking and cycling routes. We are creating new connections and improving existing paths so that all neighbourhoods – from the centre to the outskirts – are easily accessible.
- Volt also wants to create more residential streets and low-traffic zones. Cars are only guests there, while residents get their streets back to play, sit and meet each other. Accessibility for emergency services, care and residents remains a matter of course.
- Volt wants to focus on a Green Gallery, a green walking and cycling route along all parks and cultural highlights, connecting residential areas with the heart of the city. The gallery will provide cooling on hot days, improve air quality and reduce the pressure of mass tourism on the city centre.

- Extra attention will be paid to child-friendly school routes and safe paths for the elderly and people with disabilities. We will do this by making accessibility a standard feature of every project from now on.

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## AMSTERDAM, CITY OF BICYCLES

**Cycling along the canals, through Oud-West or under the Rijksmuseum. Cycling is truly Amsterdam. Cycling is the backbone of Amsterdam's mobility. It is clean, healthy and efficient, and makes our city unique worldwide. Volt is committed to a city where bicycles have space and everyone can get around safely and smoothly. Because Amsterdam must remain the cycling capital of the world in the future.**

- Volt wants more cycle streets that are designed for today's reality: regular bicycles, e- bikes and cargo bikes ride together, but not always at the same speed, and cars are guests. Wide cycle lanes and clear design create space for speed differences without dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.
- On narrow cycle paths, speed differences are dangerous. Volt is in favour of expanding the possibility for fast electric cyclists to ride on the carriageway as much as possible, provided that this increases road safety. Think of routes where the carriageway is wide enough and traffic is limited.
- For longer distances, Volt opts for fast, obstacle-free cycle routes that connect all parts of the city. On the plus and main networks, these routes will have a recognisable layout with red asphalt, clear markings and safe crossings. We also connect the city with the surrounding villages and towns by linking this cycle network to cycle routes in the metropolitan region.
- Bicycles must be able to be parked safely and neatly. Volt wants to create more bicycle parking facilities in residential areas for people who do not have their own storage space. We are also creating spacious, easily accessible bicycle parking facilities at stations and busy junctions. Wrecks and abandoned bicycles are actively removed.
- The rise of fat bikes and fast electric bikes brings new risks. Volt advocates clear rules at the national level, including registration and speed regulations, to enable enforcement. In Amsterdam, we will provide extra local supervision of dangerous riding behaviour and noise pollution.
- Volt wants green cycle streets to become the norm for cycle paths. Where possible, cycle streets will be greened, following the example of the Weesperzijde. These green cycle streets will be developed first in neighbourhoods with the highest heat stress. The ultimate goal is for cyclists to be able to move through the city via a green cycle gallery.
- When redesigning footpaths and cycle paths, greenery will be incorporated as standard wherever possible, for example in the form of façade gardens or green strips.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

An accessible and liveable city requires strong public transport. Public transport connects neighbourhoods with each other and connects the city with the outside world. Volt opts for a network that is reliable, easy and safe and that moves with the growth of the city. We are investing not only in the expansion of lines and reliable night-time public transport, but also in affordability and accessibility: public transport is for everyone. Volt is committed to a future in which public transport is the logical choice for travel: affordable, reliable and seamlessly connected to cycling and shared mobility. In this way, we are making Amsterdam accessible to everyone.

- Volt wants public transport to run reliably and more frequently at night and at weekends – not only for visitors who go out, but also for Amsterdammers and Weespers who work in healthcare, hospitality, logistics or other night-time professions. We are expanding the night network, with more night lines on the main axes, good connections to a night metro and existing night train connections. In doing so, we are paying extra attention to the safety of Amsterdam and Weesp residents who use public night transport, for example with good lighting, the presence of hosts and camera surveillance.
- The current public transport fare system is often unclear and expensive. For Amsterdam and Weesp residents on low incomes, there should be an automatic discount fare so that they do not have to choose between mobility and other basic expenses. We are looking at European examples, such as Vienna and Tallinn, where low or zero fares lead to increased use and fewer cars in the city.
- To relieve pressure on the city centre, Volt is committed to creating additional P+R locations at public transport hubs in the region. These hubs combine parking with transfer options to the underground, tram, bicycle or shared car and offer additional facilities such as charging points and shared bicycles.
- The growth of the city requires better connections with the surrounding municipalities. Volt wants high-quality public transport (HOV), such as fast bus lines with dedicated bus lanes, smart traffic lights and comfortable transfer points. We are also investing in the expansion of the metro network: the North/South line will be extended towards Hoofddorp/Schiphol.
- For the long term, Volt is opting for a fully-fledged East-West line. This line will improve the accessibility of Amsterdam and its neighbourhoods and can be co-financed by national and European funds.
- Volt continues to advocate for the completion of the metro ring via Central Station. By reserving funds for this in a timely manner, this major project remains feasible and affordable.
- The ferries across the IJ are an essential part of Amsterdam's public transport system. Volt wants them to remain reliable, frequent and free of charge. We are investing in making the fleet more sustainable so that the ferries can sail into the future emission-free.
- Volt wants to see better links between supplementary public transport (AOV) and regular public transport and shared mobility. People who are able to do so travel by tram, bus or metro, while cooperation with electric taxis and wheelchair-accessible shared cars provides extra

capacity and flexibility. Planning software also allows journeys to be bundled, reducing waiting times and ensuring that journeys are not cancelled, even in the event of staff shortages.

- Volt wants well-designed transfer points with ample bicycle parking spaces, shared bicycles and clear travel information. These mini-hubs at public transport stops, squares and meeting places make transfers quick and easy and create order on the streets. This is in line with European examples of successful 'mobility hubs'.
- Volt wants to expand green tram tracks as much as possible, following the example of the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal and the Hortus Botanicus.
- The roofs of bus and tram shelters will be green roofs with flowering sedum. In this way, the municipality will create a flower gallery throughout the city for wild bees and other animals.
- All public transport must be barrier-free and accessible. Volt wants safe stops with good lighting, clear travel information and facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly and families with prams.
- We are investing in public transport so that it fully complies with the stricter CROW standards for visual and physical accessibility. Broken lifts, poorly paved stops and unclear guidance routes should not be obstacles for people with disabilities. We are learning from successful examples in Europe, such as San Cristóbal de La Laguna, which won the Access City Award in 2024.
- The Amsterdam metro system is often inaccessible to people with disabilities or parents with young children in pushchairs. Volt advocates that public transport operators' apps should provide a real-time overview of obstacles to visual and physical accessibility, such as broken lifts at stations. The municipality encourages public transport providers and operators to quickly remedy defects and other obstacles in order to prevent dangerous situations and to offer compensation for additional costs incurred by passengers who have to make detours due to inaccessibility.

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## SHARED TRANSPORT

**Many cars, scooters, and motorcycles sit unused in the city for much of the day. This could be done more efficiently and sustainably. Volt wants to make shared transport a fully-fledged part of the transport system. In the future, you will be able to pick up a shared car, (cargo) bicycle or scooter in any neighbourhood within a few minutes, just as reliably as your own vehicle on your doorstep. We are also committed to sharing vehicles with your neighbours. We are seamlessly integrating shared mobility with public transport: at junctions and stops, we are creating mini- hubs where trams, metros and shared vehicles reinforce each other. Volt also wants residents of Amsterdam and Weesp with smaller budgets to benefit, through social sharing subscriptions and city pass discounts. Where shared transport grows, regular parking spaces disappear and space is freed up for greenery, play and pedestrians. Shared transport not only replaces cars, but also gives the city back its breathing space.**

- Volt wants more tram and metro stops and stations to become mini-hubs with public transport bicycles, shared bicycles and good bicycle parking facilities. This will make the 'last kilometre' from public transport to the final destination easy and affordable, and the bicycle will automatically connect to the bus, tram or metro.

- Initiatives for (electric) shared cars and (cargo) bikes receive active support from the municipality. This can be in the form of subsidies, clear parking spaces and permits.
- We want to encourage more Amsterdammers to actually share means of transport. The municipality will continue to experiment with ways to support and encourage neighbours and local residents to share cars, scooters and other means of transport. This is new and challenging, which is why the municipality is taking on a supporting and coaching role.
- Volt wants the province to invest in larger mobility hubs that bring together public transport and shared mobility. Think of transfer points where trains, buses, trams, shared cars and shared bicycles reinforce each other. For rural areas, where the market does not automatically pick up on this, we opt for tailor-made solutions so that smaller municipalities also remain easily accessible.
- Volt wants to work with the Transport Region to build an open ‘Mobility as a Service’ platform: a single app and a single pass that allows you to book, pay for and plan your tram, metro, shared car and (public transport) bicycle journeys. From door to door, with a public transport chip card or smartphone, just as simple as in Copenhagen or Tallinn.
- Each neighbourhood will have its own ‘mobihub’: a small area with shared cars, shared bicycles, scooters and cargo bikes. Always within easy reach, so that Amsterdammers know that transport is always available, even without their own car on their doorstep.
- Volt wants to allow shared bicycles and cargo bikes throughout the city, so that all Amsterdammers can benefit from this sustainable alternative. By expanding permits and working with providers to achieve optimal coverage, nuisance will be limited. Providers will pay a fair price for the use of public space.
- Companies can make their parking spaces available to shared cars outside office hours, or use their vehicle fleets for shared transport. Volt wants the municipality to make agreements about this and help entrepreneurs make the transition to more sustainable shared mobility.
- Shared transport does not stop at the city limits. Volt is committed to regional interoperability: a single system for shared cars, scooters and bicycles that works seamlessly across municipal boundaries.
- Everyone should be able to participate in Amsterdam, and that also applies to shared transport. Amsterdam must work with providers to develop inclusive shared transport.
- Taxis and supplementary public transport will become a calling card for the city. Transport will be fair and reliable, without discrimination, with equal rules for all providers, decent working conditions for drivers, transparency about journey data and guaranteed availability of supplementary transport and emergency care.

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## CARS AND OTHER MOTORISED PRIVATE TRANSPORT

Space in Amsterdam is scarce and valuable. Where a lot of space is currently taken up by cars and scooters, Volt wants to give space back to pedestrians, cyclists and greenery. Many residents of Amsterdam and Weesp depend on motorised transport for work, care, adapted transport or logistics. Volt has therefore opted for a course in which the car is increasingly less often the first means of transport of choice, but is fairly integrated into a liveable, healthy

**city. We are phasing out fossil fuels, but during the phase-out, the combustion engine remains welcome.**

- The transition to electric transport can only succeed if the charging infrastructure grows along with it. Volt therefore wants sufficient charging points to be available in all neighbourhoods for cars, scooters, bicycles and boats, with the municipality ensuring that these run on green electricity as much as possible. This applies not only to residents, but also to businesses and logistics transport, so that the entire city can benefit from an emission-free vehicle fleet.
- Cycle paths must remain safe for cyclists. Volt therefore wants scooters and mopeds to be banned from cycle paths and for this to be consistently enforced. At the same time, we are encouraging the switch to clean and quiet electric alternatives.
- Traffic noise is a silent polluter that is often underestimated. Volt wants Amsterdam to take additional measures to reduce noise pollution from motorcycles, cars, buses, trams and trains. This can be achieved with quieter road surfaces and innovative measures such as acoustic speed cameras that automatically detect nuisance.
- Volt wants the municipality to use digital access systems to keep the city liveable and accessible. With number plate recognition and smart traffic filters, we will ensure that only local traffic, such as residents, care providers and emergency services, has access to low-traffic zones. A prerequisite is that the systems are transparent, user-friendly and privacy-friendly, with clear communication about who has access and when, and with room for customisation for businesses and logistics.
- Volt wants to ensure that the police, fire brigade and ambulance services can still get to the scene quickly in a busier and slower Amsterdam. We link vehicles to smart traffic systems such as *Talking Traffic* and the Urban Data Access Platform (UDAP). This gives emergency services automatic priority at traffic lights and road users receive timely warnings to make way.
- We use journey data from emergency services and traffic information to improve routes with structural delays. In this way, we create fixed, fast corridors to hospitals, fire stations and police stations. This ensures shorter response times and greater safety, without compromising the benefits of the '30 km per hour city'.
- Amsterdam is joining the European Mobility Week. Together with hundreds of other municipalities across Europe, we are giving free rein to experiments and activities that promote and raise awareness of sustainable mobility. We are also participating in the car-free day being organised across Europe this week.

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## **CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE IJ**

**The IJ connects the city with the rest of the world, but still forms too much of a barrier within the city itself. Noord is growing rapidly and deserves fast, safe and sustainable connections with the rest of Amsterdam. The current ferries are important and, as far as Volt is concerned, will remain part of public transport, but more is needed to connect the city in a future-proof way.**

- A permanent river crossing will give cyclists and pedestrians a reliable and fast route between Noord and the rest of the city, without having to wait for ferries. Volt wants the plans for the Oostbrug to be implemented and the council to release the funds set aside for this.
- In addition, we advocate saving now for the construction of the West Bridge over the IJ. In this way, we will ensure that sufficient capacity is created in the longer term to keep Noord accessible and prevent future investments from becoming unaffordable.

## **SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT LOGISTICS**

Logistics is part of city life: from parcels and groceries to supplying shops and restaurants. But the way this is currently organised causes a lot of congestion, emissions and dangerous situations. Volt opts for smart, clean and efficient logistics, helping businesses to become more sustainable and making the city more liveable.

- We want lorries to deliver their goods to the outskirts of the city, after which smaller, clean vehicles such as cargo bikes or electric vans take over distribution. This reduces the number of vans and lorries in the city centre, resulting in lower emissions and less traffic congestion.
- Amsterdam must become completely emission-free in terms of logistics by 2030. This means that the municipality itself must set a good example by using bicycle couriers and emission-free transporters, and encourage companies to do the same.
- Volt utilises the power of the canals, the IJ and the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal. More multifunctional loading and unloading quays will be built where goods and waste can be transported into and out of the city by ship. These locations can be used flexibly, for example during the day for supplies and in the evening as parking spaces or public spaces.
- Volt helps companies make the transition to emission-free logistics with subsidies, clear rules and cooperation. We encourage joint hubs so that entrepreneurs can better bundle their supplies, share resources and reduce their costs.
- Suppliers and logistics services must be able to do their work without the stress of immediately blocking the entire street or getting in the way of other road users where this is not actually necessary. Volt wants to set up more special loading and unloading areas in busy streets and neighbourhoods so that delivery vans can stop briefly and efficiently. This reduces nuisance for local residents and other road users and makes things easier for the suppliers themselves.
- Volt encourages new forms of sustainable urban logistics, such as cargo bike networks and electric ships. We also focus on experiments in which companies learn from each other and carry out pilot projects together to become more sustainable more quickly.

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## **PARKING**

**Vehicles give us freedom of movement, but parking takes up a lot of space. Every stationary car takes up space that could be used for greenery, play areas or safe footpaths and cycle paths. When it comes to parking in the city, we are therefore faced with the choice of how to use the scarce space available. We want to reduce the number of parking spaces on the street. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that some Amsterdammers and visitors depend on their cars for work, informal care or due to a disability. There must always be space for them.**

- Where possible, we are removing parking spaces and converting the space into green areas, shared mobility or meeting places. Think of wider pavements, shady trees or a playground where cars are currently parked. In this way, we are making the city healthier, more attractive and more liveable.
- No new (underground) car parks will be built; instead, we will opt for smarter use of the parking space that already exists. Volt wants the municipality to collaborate with companies, offices and institutions that have parking spaces that are empty in the evenings and at weekends. By opening up these spaces to local residents or visitors, we can use the capacity more efficiently and avoid unnecessary new construction.
- Volt wants a fair approach to retaining and allocating existing parking spaces. Amsterdam residents and visitors who need their cars for care, irregular shifts or due to a disability must always be able to find a parking space. The municipality actively regulates this through exceptions and adapted permits.
- We are expanding the visitor parking scheme and simplifying it so that it can also be easily used by, for example, installers and repairers who visit to carry out work.
- The current parking system is unfair: a large SUV often pays just as much as a small city car. Volt wants to differentiate parking rates and permits based on emissions and weight. Large, polluting cars pay more, while smaller and cleaner cars park cheaper. Together with other major cities, we are urging the government to amend the law to make this possible.
- Green parking spaces have the same construction costs as regular parking spaces, but are better for drainage in the city. We are going to conduct a feasibility study into which types of green parking spaces can be installed in which locations in Amsterdam, so that this can be used in area development or street reconstruction.

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## PASSENGER SHIPPING

**The canals belong to all of us: residents, visitors and entrepreneurs. Volt wants a future-proof policy for passenger shipping that does not reward the quickest solution, but sets out a long-term vision. Together with the industry and residents, we are working to develop sustainable, quiet and social passenger shipping that suits Amsterdam.**

- Permits, moorings, window times and boarding and disembarking points must henceforth be part of a single coherent policy. Volt wants an integrated framework that creates clarity for all parties. This will give entrepreneurs the certainty they need to invest in quality, sustainability and innovation, while ensuring the quality of life for residents.
- Not every canal is the same. Volt wants the municipality to consider what is appropriate for each boarding and disembarking point, taking into account traffic, residents and the type of shipping company.
- Amsterdam currently lacks a clear vision for the future of its canals. Volt wants the city council to set a course towards 2040 and 2050: what functions will the canals have then and what functions will they not have? Such a future plan will put an end to ad hoc measures, lengthy court cases and ongoing uncertainty for residents and entrepreneurs.

- Mooring places and exclusive locations must be allocated transparently: how many places there are, under what conditions and at market rates. Volt wants this to always be done with input from the sector and clear criteria.

## **UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT THROUGH THE CITY**

For many residents of Amsterdam and Weesp, moving around the city without any problems is the norm. But the city is not equally well designed for everyone. Accessibility to our public spaces is not a side issue, but a basic requirement. This means that we must ensure barrier-free buildings, wide pavements, lifts, safe crossings, enough public toilets, sufficient rest areas and other facilities that make public spaces more accessible. Volt is committed to an inclusive city, where everyone can move freely and no one is excluded.

- All public buildings in the municipality must be accessible. These include city offices, schools, museums and hospitals. We believe that these buildings must comply with the new standards for accessible buildings set by the Dutch Standardisation Institute (NEN). These new standards are stricter than the current legal standards, which do not always take sufficient account of the limitations that people have or may experience.
- In 2024, Amsterdam ranked 63rd in the list of toilet-friendly municipalities. Volt believes this needs to improve. We aim to ensure that everywhere in Amsterdam there is a public and (wheelchair) accessible toilet available within 500 metres, with a sitting toilet for women, grab rails, a lowered sink, a baby changing area and free sanitary pads and tampons.
- To continue to encourage organisations to make their buildings, grounds and websites accessible, we will continue with the programme *to increase social and physical accessibility* until all organisations are accessible.
- We assess new municipal plans for buildings, streets, paths, parks and (public) transport in the design phase with a diverse group of experts by experience. They know better than anyone what makes a city accessible or inaccessible, but too often they are not involved in such plans, or are involved too late.

## 1.3

# AMSTERDAM AS A SPORTING CITY

A square where children play football, parents meet each other, and older people play boules. A neighbourhood where you feel healthy, happy and connected. That is the power of sport. Yet not everyone has the opportunity to participate. Because there are long waiting lists at sports clubs or because membership is too expensive. Because people do not know what sports are available in their neighbourhood or what form of exercise suits them. Volt wants to change that. Sport should be accessible to everyone, because sport is more than just exercise: it's about coming together, feeling stronger and belonging. Sport can combat stress and loneliness. That's why money spent on sport is not an expense, but a gain for the neighbourhood and good for your health.

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## ALL OF AMSTERDAM GETTING ACTIVE

Exercise is not yet a matter of course for everyone in Amsterdam. Only 60% of Amsterdammers meet the exercise guidelines, and for one in five, sport is not part of their routine at all. Women, people with disabilities, the elderly and residents of certain districts in particular get less exercise. Volt is committed to exercise for everyone.

### MORE SPORT AND EXERCISE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- We expect preschools, nurseries and childcare centres to incorporate sport and exercise into their policies. Children are motivated to exercise through initiatives such as the Miffy Exercise Diploma. The municipality supports these organisations by sharing proven practical examples, providing subsidies and deploying community sports coaches.
- Volt supports the Amsterdam council's ambition that all schools will be working with the Dynamic School Day by 2030. The community sports coach can support schools in this.
- Break-time sports also offer opportunities for pupils to exercise more often. Volt aims to ensure that every primary and secondary school in Amsterdam offers break-time sports at least once a week.
- We will continue to focus strongly on swimming proficiency. Amsterdam schools that offer swimming lessons receive support for both swimming instruction and transport. We also support after-school swimming lessons. Parents who cannot afford the cost of swimming lessons are reimbursed through the Youth Fund for Sport & Culture.
- Volt aims to have every school and every neighbourhood carry out the Exercise-Friendly Environment Scan (BVO Scan) to assess how exercise-friendly and accessible schools and

neighbourhoods are. Volt wants to start with schools and neighbourhoods in the districts with the most health challenges.

- Volt wants to support vocational colleges in Amsterdam in their ambitions to get students to exercise more, particularly in courses that train them for physical (heavy) work. Volt advocates that every vocational college in Amsterdam should draw up an exercise and sports policy and enter into partnerships with surrounding sports fields.
- The municipality supports vocational schools in installing sufficient bicycle racks and constructing safe bicycle and walking paths around the school.

## **MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADAPTED SPORTS AND PARASPORTS**

- Volt wants more attention to be paid to adapted sports in Amsterdam and advocates the organisation of parasports events, such as the European Youth Parasports Championships and the European Wheelchair Basketball Championships. We want to combine this with a marketing campaign to raise awareness of these events.
- We support the national approach 'Sport for people with disabilities is a matter of course in 2030'. We are working with the City of Amsterdam and other organisations to achieve this goal.
- Volt wants the municipality to launch an active information campaign to raise awareness of the range of adapted sports on offer.
- Sport and exercise for people with disabilities must be easily accessible and professionally supervised. We want regular and adapted sports to be better integrated. Volt therefore wants the municipal club support in each district and in Weesp to select and support at least one sports centre.
- Sports providers must be supported with courses so that trainers can learn to adapt training instructions to members with disabilities.

## **INSPIRING OLDER PEOPLE TO EXERCISE MORE**

- An awareness campaign for older people will be launched to highlight the benefits of regular exercise. In addition, Volt also wants to improve the provision of information about existing schemes such as the Stadspas sports allowance, so that more older people will make use of them.
- The Amsterdam Stadspas still offers too little for older people on a limited income. That is why Volt wants the municipality to actively recruit sports providers to offer sports for older people and to join the Stadspas.
- Volt wants neighbourhood sports coaches to focus on collaboration between care and sports providers in the neighbourhood. We also want to support and inspire care homes and nursing homes to organise group activities focused on exercise.
- Volt wants the municipal budget to include a specific category for senior citizens within the 'adults' category, so that they are included and monitored as a separate category, just like young people.
- Volt advocates that Amsterdam join the Adult Fund, so that the tuition fees for sports activities for adults living on the minimum subsistence level are paid and they are actively and individually supported in this by intermediaries from the fund.

- We want more annual events such as an 'Amsterdam Senior Olympics' or the 'National Rollator Run', with accessible sports activities such as boules to promote exercise and socialising.

## **SPORT IS INCLUSIVE**

- We promote inclusion in (top-level) sport by asking clubs to pay more attention to anti-discrimination and (sexually) transgressive behaviour, for example by including this in a club's rules of conduct. Confidential advisors are mandatory for (groups of) sports clubs that receive subsidies from the municipality.
- In order to reduce the exercise gap in certain neighbourhoods, we want to pay special attention to sports for girls and women, such as girls' football or fitness exclusively for women.
- Volt wants the municipality to commission research to gain insight into why certain groups of Amsterdammers exercise and participate in sports less often or not at all, broken down by neighbourhood.

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## **A SPORTY CITY**

**Sports providers play a key role in a sporty city. The range of sports on offer does not yet reach all Amsterdammers and does not always match what they are looking for or need in terms of sport or exercise. The better this works, the more people will exercise and play sports together. Volt wants a strong and future-proof range of sports on offer in every neighbourhood. We invest in neighbourhood sports coaches and encourage cooperation between sports, welfare, education and healthcare. In this way, Amsterdam is growing into a city where sports and exercise are accessible to everyone.**

- Neighbourhood sports coaches, club coaches and exercise coaches can really make a difference. Volt therefore wants to increase the number of these positions, as well as municipal club support. These positions will be further professionalised through training, career paths and specialisation.
- Volt wants neighbourhood sports coaches to identify specific, non-sporting target groups for each neighbourhood and set up an integrated programme for them. This programme will bring together welfare, education and healthcare providers with neighbourhood initiatives, associations and entrepreneurial sports providers.
- Associations play an important role in bringing people together to participate in sports, which is why we want to strengthen them. Most associations rely heavily on volunteers. Volt therefore wants to provide partial funding for structural, paid (part-time) positions such as Association Manager and Sports Park Manager at selected associations with proven growth potential.
- Volt wants to continue with the current Strong Sports Clubs subsidy. We emphasise expanding and promoting the range of activities on offer for target groups who do not (yet) exercise regularly, and for sports providers that fulfil a social function (e.g. prevention centres, martial arts schools, sports foundations).

- We are committed to ensuring a proportionate, appropriate range of activities and equal participation in sport in all neighbourhoods of Amsterdam. To achieve this, it remains necessary to invest specifically in the districts where the gap is greatest.

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## ALWAYS A PLACE TO EXERCISE NEARBY

**We want all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to have access to a place to exercise anywhere in the city. The range of sports facilities is currently too limited. Skate parks, play streets and outdoor swimming areas: Volt wants to create more sports locations in public spaces. At metro stations, ports and car parks, we make maximum use of every square metre. With multifunctional sports locations, green exercise areas and indoor sports gardens that are also open to the neighbourhood. In this way, we invite everyone to participate actively.**

- Volt wants to encourage sport and exercise in public spaces, for example by equipping bus stops, underground stations and squares with micro-exercise facilities such as step machines, stretch bars or 'waiting fitness' elements. We also create accessible footpaths that encourage people to meet and exercise.
- Volt advocates for the multifunctional use of space, such as (public) buildings being used as sports and exercise areas, for example at schools, car parks and in the courtyards of residential complexes.
- Volt wants the municipality to actively collaborate with housing associations so that small sports and play areas can also be created in inner gardens.
- Volt supports initiatives that give more space to urban sports in the city, such as skate parks, freerunning and 3x3 basketball courts, because they appeal to a growing group of young people and adults. We advocate the redesign of underutilised spaces such as wide pavements, squares or areas under viaducts into urban sports zones.
- Volt wants sports grounds to be better lit in the evenings with sustainable (flexible) LED lighting, so that they remain safe and inviting for young people and workers even after sunset.
- Volt endorses the advice of the Sports Council and wants to make the subsidy scheme for outdoor sports club facilities (known as the '1/3 scheme') more easily available to smaller, less wealthy clubs with growth potential. Volt also wants to increase the budget for this subsidy scheme, as it lags behind other cities.
- Volt wants the sports standard to be adhered to when building new neighbourhoods and districts. In addition to sports halls and swimming pools, attention must be paid to walking, running and cycling routes, more exercise equipment for young and old, football pitches and paddling pools.
- In order to optimise the availability of sports facilities in the region, municipal boundaries should not be the determining factor. Volt therefore advocates cooperation with neighbouring municipalities in the planning and use of sports facilities.
- Amsterdam is known for all its water, but there is still too little water available for sports and exercise. Volt wants to change this by creating more sports jetties, rowing and SUP routes and swimming areas where safe and controlled use is possible.

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

- Volt wants to increase the number of paddling pools. We also want to investigate the costs and possibilities of keeping outdoor swimming pools open all year round by heating them and covering them flexibly.
- Following Denmark's example, Volt wants to investigate whether (small) swimming pools can be installed in harbours.
- To encourage children to play outside, we are committed to creating one playground per 300 homes and one playing field per 1,000 homes. Child-friendly zones will also be created with wide pedestrian, cycling and play areas and limited access for cars. We will determine how the child-friendly zones will be designed in consultation with residents.
- Following Mechelen's example, Volt advocates a pilot project with play streets, where streets are closed to traffic during school holidays and set up as play areas to encourage children to play outside and improve social contact in neighbourhoods.

# 2. GO FOR

# A CLEAN, GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE CITY



## 2.1

# A CLEAN, GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE CITY

We want to make Amsterdam a liveable and future-proof city. A liveable city is first and foremost a clean city. The streets of Amsterdam are littered with litter, overflowing or broken rubbish bins and bulky waste. Amsterdam needs to be cleaner. We are giving the city back its clean streets in all neighbourhoods. We are using old and new techniques to improve waste collection and deal with litter.

To keep Amsterdam liveable even with more heat and rain, we need more green and blue spaces in the city. We will green areas such as Dam Square. We will ensure that you can find places or paths throughout the city where you can cool down. We will combat light pollution. We will also take good care of our water, nature and animals.

We want the city to remain liveable in the future. That is why we are aiming for a climate-neutral Amsterdam by 2040. In the future, our waste processing and energy supply must not pollute but renew. The waste processing company and district heating networks will then be supplied by local sources, circular and publicly owned. We will solve grid congestion, harness the power of wind and repair things instead of throwing them away. In this way, we are building a city where the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp will want to live for a long time to come.

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## RESIDENTS DESERVE A CLEAN CITY

We will give Amsterdam clean streets and a waste system that works. The city has become increasingly dirty in recent years. It is time to clean up Amsterdam and keep it clean. Volt is committed to a city where waste bins indicate when they are full, where waste boats replace trucks, and where technology helps to clean up litter. We are making source separation the norm, so that waste does not remain rubbish but becomes a raw material.

Everyone must contribute to a clean city: residents, businesses and the municipality. We are tackling the persistent differences in cleanliness between neighbourhoods so that the same standard applies everywhere. We are investing in daily cleaning, more visible enforcement and rat-proof waste bins to prevent waste nuisance and vermin. In this way, we are giving the people of Amsterdam and Weesp a city they can be proud of.

- The city must become cleaner: every neighbourhood deserves clean streets. To this end, we are applying a tailor-made approach for each neighbourhood. Together with residents and the entire waste chain, we are drawing up a waste plan for each neighbourhood. In doing so, we are looking at which measures are really necessary and feasible. We are starting in neighbourhoods where waste separation by citizens themselves is easily possible, such as De Pijp, Noord, Rivierenbuurt and Weesp. There, we are providing sufficient, recognisable separation points for residual waste, organic waste, paper/ cardboard and PMD within walking distance.

- Other solutions per neighbourhood include deposit points, the use of waste boats, extra collection points for organic waste or textiles, clear communication in multiple languages and strengthening involvement by adopting containers.
- At the same time, we are investing in cleaning. We are following the advice of the Clean City citizens' council and will once again use the 'train' (refuse collection vehicle and street sweeper) and image-based cleaning based on reports and camera images. Until the additional measures have been implemented, extra people will be deployed to keep public spaces tidy.
- Volt wants to place more emphasis on source separation rather than post-separation. Source separation results in cleaner waste streams and enables high-quality reuse, such as the recycling of packaging material. It is a cheaper solution than post-separation and raises awareness among Amsterdam residents.
- To reduce the problem of litter, we are increasing the number of deposit machines and collection points for bottles and cans. To this end, we are working together with Statiegeld Nederland and entrepreneurs. We are lobbying for digital refunds (as in the UK, Belgium and Luxembourg) and providing clear information so that all residents know where and how to return their cans and bottles.
- Volt wants to actively collaborate with industry organisations such as Verpact to develop effective solutions to litter caused by deposits and broken waste bins. The municipality supports these efforts where necessary, but the investment effort lies with the industry organisations. This may involve modifying waste bins or other interventions that are effective in practice.
- We use data to optimise waste collection, such as dynamic waste collection based on RFID tags and fill level sensors that signal when a waste bin is full. We actively inform citizens that they can report a full container in the Amsterdam App. This data is also used to optimise waste collection.
- We help companies reduce packaging through a covenant. This will be signed by the municipality, industry organisations such as Verpact, large chains and entrepreneurs in Amsterdam. We advise entrepreneurs on switching to reusable packaging, avoiding unnecessary space in packaging and separating waste streams.
- We utilise alternative modes of transport, such as transport by water, and encourage cooperation through asset sharing (e.g. sharing refuse collection vehicles between waste companies) to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, we use logistics hubs on the outskirts of the city to shorten the last mile to the city and improve both road and water transport.
- We are expanding the use of existing cameras to enable automatic detection of litter on the streets or waste next to containers, for example by using the parking enforcement vehicles that already drive through the streets. Privacy must be guaranteed in this regard.
- We provide clear and understandable communication about waste separation, both online and offline. We use colour-coded containers, pictograms and QR codes that link to information in different languages and formats, so that all users (including tourists, internationals and people with low literacy skills) know immediately how to dispose of waste correctly.
- We will ensure that all recycling centres are equipped with cargo bikes, so that all Amsterdammers have the opportunity to dispose of their waste.
- We facilitate cooperation between companies via a municipal innovation platform: a place where different organisations in the waste chain can share best practices.

- Through the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), we facilitate cooperation and uniform data exchange between producers, municipalities and waste processors who work together to design solutions for packaging reduction and waste prevention.

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## **AEB AS A DRIVER FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

**The company that processes our waste also pollutes our city. The Afval Energie Bedrijf (AEB) incinerates waste and uses it to supply heat and electricity to tens of thousands of households. But the company is also still responsible for a large proportion of Amsterdam's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is time we worked towards a more future-proof waste processing system that does not pollute but innovates.**

**For years, waste processing in the city revolved around profit rather than responsibility on the part of AEB and the municipality to transform waste management. Overdue maintenance, safety issues and administrative neglect have damaged the trust of Amsterdam's residents. This must not happen again.**

**Volt is choosing a new course. We will make AEB a company to be proud of, with expert management, structural maintenance and clear targets for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. The site will become an innovation park for recycling and green energy. In this way, AEB will change from a polluter to a pioneer – and waste will become the starting point for a cleaner city.**

- Volt is using the recommendations from the AEB council survey (2021) as a basis for concrete changes at AEB. We are submitting a proposal to the municipal council to update the shareholder framework. This explicitly states that the public interest (safe waste management, climate goals) and the repayment of loans to the municipality of Amsterdam always take precedence over profit distribution. We want AEB to reserve a percentage of its annual turnover for maintenance and replacement of parts.
- We will stipulate in the shareholder strategy that AEB must report publicly each year on progress towards strategic goals such as sustainability, safety and maintenance. We request that the management publish an annual public overview in understandable language.
- A visitor centre will be built on the AEB site so that Amsterdam residents can see how the circular economy is taking shape.
- AEB's strategic plan sets a course towards 2030, with plans for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and 30% waste separation, among other things. These sustainable ambitions must be realised. That is why we insist on the timely realisation of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and encourage the reuse of CO<sub>2</sub> in, for example, concrete or the chemical industry.
- AEB remains an important producer of district heating and electricity. We support investments in heating infrastructure so that more residual heat from AEB can be used to heat homes (replacing natural gas). AEB must also examine how its production can contribute to grid balancing.
- We will keep AEB in public hands for at least the next ten years, provided this is financially viable. Sale is not taboo, but only negotiable if it can be demonstrated that the public interest will be better served.

- We are calling on the government to allow waste imports as long as they result in net climate gains. Modern facilities such as those of AEB can process foreign residual waste more cleanly than elsewhere, provided that transport is taken into account. Imports help to keep the facility profitable as long as the Netherlands still lacks sufficient circular processing capacity. Importing waste from the region is a priority, and we will phase out waste imports as soon as possible.

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## GREENING THE CITY

**A green city is a healthy city. The Vondelpark and the canals, but also the trees in your street make Amsterdam liveable. 'Green and blue' provide cooling, collect rainwater and offer space for relaxation. But nature is under pressure from urbanisation and housing construction. At the same time, heat waves are becoming more frequent and rainfall more intense. Volt wants the city and nature to work together. We are fully committed to green and blue in the streets, squares and on rooftops. Residents will be given an active role and more say in the greening of their neighbourhoods. We will also establish clear green standards, so that greening is not an afterthought but a structural policy.**

### SPACE FOR GREENERY

- Volt wants to connect green areas. This can be achieved by creating green walking and cycling paths between parks, focusing on green courtyards, creating green facades and roofs, and sowing herbs and flowers on (temporarily) vacant land and empty building sites. In parks and recreational areas, we want as many native trees and plants as possible, which bloom in different months. In these areas, there is a replanting obligation: when a tree is felled, a tree of at least the same size is planted in the same or another location.
- As much greening as possible will be applied in the redesign of public squares. Following the example of Paris' Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, the squares in front of the town hall and district offices will be transformed into green zones, such as at Papaverweg 33. In this way, the municipality itself is setting a good example by contributing to the greening and cooling of the city.
- The city's most iconic location, Dam Square, is completely paved. To reduce heat stress here and to show that greening is possible *everywhere*, Volt wants to green Dam Square.
- Existing tree pits will be enlarged and sown with native and organic herb and flower mixtures and ground cover plants. Tree pits will be created around trees that do not yet have them. We will involve local residents as much as possible in this process. The municipality also actively encourages the adoption of tree pits.
- We will stop mowing where possible, and if mowing is necessary, we will mow in a nature-inclusive manner. Mowing of green strips and lawns will only take place when strictly necessary, and not during the spring breeding and nursing season.
- In places where perennial ryegrass currently grows, this will be replaced (during maintenance) by ground cover plants that hardly need to be mowed.

- To ensure a healthy living environment for humans and animals, the municipality must engage in dialogue with (agricultural) businesses about stopping the use of chemicals that are harmful to humans and the environment, such as pesticides.

## TOWARDS A BLUE CITY

- In order to better cope with the consequences of climate change, we want to focus on creating a blue city. We are making the existing Weatherproof approach mandatory in the redesign of public spaces and a climate risk analysis mandatory for new projects.
- Following the Green City citizens' consultation, we want to construct underground water storage facilities and under sports fields. We are creating wadis in neighbourhoods with a lot of paving. These lowered green areas temporarily collect rainwater and allow it to infiltrate the soil. Sunken flower beds (rain gardens) collect rainwater and relieve the sewer system.
- Blue-green roofs combine vegetation with a water reservoir under the roof. They reduce heat stress, insulate buildings and buffer rainwater. These will become standard in new office and apartment complex construction.
- We are following the advice of the Green City citizens' council and making agreements with farmers and the water board to develop water reservoirs and manage water levels more flexibly. In this way, we are committed to increasing our water storage capacity.

## AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF AMSTERDAM

- Volt advocates a neighbourhood-oriented approach to adapting the city to climate change, based on available data from the Climate Adaptation Dashboard and heat stress maps. Local residents have a say in how their neighbourhood is approached and can contribute ideas.
- Each district allocates an annual budget for green and blue proposals, which residents can vote on. We involve ecological advisors in all projects, who can advise on plant species and techniques.
- We also want to appoint a city forester, who can act as an ambassador to citizens and businesses and reinforce the work of the city ecologists.
- The municipality continues to support existing accessible residents' initiatives such as neighbourhood vegetable gardens, façade gardens, green façades, greening gardens (tile removal), enlarging tree pits and creating (small-scale) gardening areas in the city.
- What is learned young is done green: we therefore want the municipality to offer primary schools space to help maintain green spaces in their neighbourhood.
- Allotments play an important role in Amsterdam. They offer Amsterdammers the opportunity to garden and enjoy green spaces, and they are among the most biodiverse places in Amsterdam. When part of an allotment complex has to make way for housing or other buildings, we want the green space to be compensated for elsewhere in Amsterdam.
- The municipality must make concrete agreements with allotment gardens to allow more Amsterdammers to enjoy their gardens, for example by creating school gardens or providing nature education and by extending opening hours.
- We organise an annual Green Accountability Day. Here, the municipality, Amsterdammers, (green) social organisations and the business community can evaluate plans and discuss new challenges and opportunities.

## STANDARDISATION

We use standards to accelerate the greening of the city. We set minimum requirements for greenery, with room for specific needs per neighbourhood and project.

- We want to green neighbourhoods with the 3-30-300 rule: always at least three trees close to your home, at least 30% tree canopy in every neighbourhood for shade and cooling, and a park within 300 metres of your home.
- Volt wants to transform at least 10% of the urban area in Amsterdam into green zones or blue space by 2040, and at least 15% by 2050. We also include the greening of private properties in this, because we want to encourage Amsterdammers to transform their roofs, gardens and facades into blue and green oases.
- To strengthen biodiversity, restore peat meadows (grasslands on peat soil) and meadow bird populations, Volt wants a feasibility study into rewetting. We are investigating whether it is feasible to rewet at least 30% of the peat areas in the municipality of Amsterdam by 2030.
- Volt's goal is that by 2030, at least 10% of the land of every farm in Noord and Weesp will be used for nature restoration, such as the construction of hedgerows, field margins with native and organic flowers, and the planting of native trees and shrubs to cool livestock. The use of herb-rich grass is encouraged and the use of perennial ryegrass is discouraged. To this end, Volt wants to draw up an action plan together with Amsterdam farmers and nature organisations.

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## RIGHT TO REPAIR

**We throw away too much. From headphones with only a broken connector to vacuum cleaners that have lost their suction power. Items that can easily be repaired end up in the rubbish tip or incinerator. Because buying a new one is easier and sometimes cheaper than repairing it. Volt wants repairing your belongings to become the norm again. We are making it attractive and affordable. For example, with a repair voucher – an approach from Berlin that we are keen to reuse. We are also launching an online platform, supporting the Repair Cafés and working on the European Repair Directive. This is how Amsterdam is going to make it happen.**

- Following Berlin's example, we are introducing a repair voucher that gives a 50% discount on repairs. This makes repairing more attractive.
- There will be a website ('Repair your city') where you can find local repairers, read reviews and book an appointment immediately. We will link this to existing initiatives, such as ShaRepair.
- Repair Cafés are worth their weight in gold. A good example is the Repair Café in the Jordaan, where people with residence permits and local residents make things together. Volt wants to invest structurally in existing and new cafés.
- In line with EU legislation, Volt wants all shops in Amsterdam that sell electrical appliances to also offer spare parts. No point of sale without service.
- A teaching package will be developed that will enable schools to organise a repair day twice a year. This will teach pupils to repair their own belongings and give children with practical skills an extra opportunity to develop their talents.

## TACKLING GRID CONGESTION

**The energy transition is crying out for acceleration. Without electricity, there can be no sustainable and warm homes, no full batteries and no future-proof economy. But the electricity grid in Amsterdam is full. Businesses cannot expand, cars cannot be charged and solar panels cannot sell their energy.**

**Volt tackles grid congestion with structural solutions. We save energy, utilise residual heat and make it easy for neighbours and businesses to share power and data. And we are accelerating the expansion of the power grid, with clear priorities and cooperation between the municipality, grid operator and businesses. This will clear the grid congestion and move Amsterdam forward in the transition.**

- Volt focuses first and foremost on energy saving as a structural solution to grid congestion. We are intensifying insulation programmes and focusing on energy-efficient appliances and behavioural change.
- For business parks, the municipality will take a more active coordinating role in strengthening the energy saving obligation and will seek cooperation with the province in this regard. Companies are currently obliged to implement measures that pay for themselves within five years. We will ensure that the environmental services gain a better understanding of which companies are subject to the energy saving obligation and improve communication about this.
- We will relieve the strain on the electricity grid by accelerating networks for other forms of sustainable energy. District heating is an important example of this. Amsterdam must expand its heating network so that fewer homes need electric heating at peak times. The use of green hydrogen and local green gas can also smooth out peaks.
- We will encourage residents and businesses to consume or generate electricity at other times. 'Smart charging' of electric cars – charging at night or when there is plenty of sun or wind – helps with this. We are following Utrecht's example and will use shared cars as batteries that store and feed back energy. We are making agreements with companies that use a lot of energy to shift or temporarily reduce their peak demand.
- Volt wants to invest specifically in expanding the electricity grid where there are bottlenecks. In Amsterdam, this will require dozens of substations, thousands of transformer stations and hundreds of kilometres of cable. With the existing TASK Force Amsterdam (a collaboration between the municipality, Liander and TenneT), we will ensure that permit applications are processed quickly and we will reassess the aesthetic rules surrounding substations so that they can be installed more quickly.
- We encourage the development of virtual energy networks, such as the Amsterdam Port Energy Cooperative (ECAH), where companies bundle their local generation and consumption and share capacity. Following the example of the port of Rotterdam, where companies exchange real-time data on electricity, residual heat, steam and hydrogen, we are committed to transparent data sharing within industrial clusters in order to jointly identify bottlenecks and use energy sources more efficiently.
- We only support home batteries and medium- and high-voltage batteries if they can be shown to operate in a grid-neutral or grid-positive manner.

- Municipalities often lack sufficient insight into the grid capacity in their neighbourhoods. Volt wants Amsterdam to have real-time access to grid information so that we can act proactively. We also work together with surrounding municipalities, because electricity does not adhere to municipal boundaries. Regionally coordinated planning prevents surprises and utilises economies of scale.
- We are using all available instruments to speed up the resolution of grid congestion. We are concluding city-wide agreements with, for example, the data centre sector, housing associations and public transport companies on spreading their energy consumption and sharing infrastructure.
- Amsterdam is becoming a testing ground for smart energy grid solutions. We are initiating experimental projects, such as a neighbourhood where residents participate in real-time demand management (smart grid pilot) in exchange for a discount, or an industrial area where a shared battery system absorbs peaks in demand.
- The municipality wants to help companies save energy and gain insight into their consumption. We facilitate systems that enable companies to keep track of their energy data and see which recognised energy-saving measures they can take.

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## **THE POWER OF WIND, SHARED BY EVERYONE**

The wind has been blowing through Amsterdam for centuries – now we are harnessing that power for the future. For centuries, the power of the wind has been used to grind grain and drain polders. Today, that energy can once again power our city in the energy transition. Volt advocates a balanced and diverse mix of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, as well as nuclear energy.

In a compact city like Amsterdam, space is scarce and many people live close together. That is why we must be careful about where and how we generate sustainable energy, so that people can live, sleep and enjoy their neighbourhoods without worry. The possible installation of wind turbines in Amsterdam is therefore a complex issue. There are legitimate concerns about noise, shadow flicker and the distribution of benefits and burdens among residents. In addition, previous projects have shown that the participation process regarding the installation of wind turbines in the city has not always been adequate.

Volt was previously critical of wind turbines in or near residential areas, because we felt that the disadvantages for residents outweighed the benefits. At the same time, we cannot continue to postpone or defer our sustainability goals. As a large consumer, Amsterdam has a responsibility to generate sustainable energy locally. We were and are opposed to careless and disruptive placement, but with stricter rules and better locations, wind turbines can be placed responsibly. First, we will examine whether everything can be realised in the harbour, and only if that proves truly unfeasible will other locations be considered.

We do not want to install turbines at any cost. We opt for new wind turbines in locations where this is responsible, with the port as a priority. Health and quality of life are preconditions for this: with strict standards for noise and shadow flicker, monitoring and a complaints desk. Residents will be given timely insight and structural influence on nuisance reduction, not just

**after the fact when everything has already been decided. And they will benefit through local ownership, so that wind energy is not only sustainable, but also fairly distributed.**

- New wind turbines will only be installed at locations that have been assessed as suitable in the EIA plan in terms of health, noise and ecology. There is a clear preference for the port area (Westpoort). Research into the possibilities is currently underway.
- People should be able to live and sleep without worries. That is why we actively limit the nuisance caused by wind turbines, with clear distance rules, less noise at night and good monitoring of nuisance.
- When planning wind turbines near residential areas, Volt wants residents to be involved from the outset, to have full insight into effects such as noise and shadow flicker, and to be able to benefit through local ownership, with a target of at least 50% local ownership.
- A permanent complaints desk will be set up for residents, where complaints about nuisance can be registered. In addition, real-time monitoring of noise and shadow flicker will be made publicly accessible. This will increase transparency and give local residents a greater sense of control. Annual evaluations and residents' meetings will ensure that issues are addressed quickly and that measures are tightened up where necessary.

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## A SUCCESSFUL HEAT TRANSITION

**District heating should be self-evident, affordable and publicly owned. Volt is committed to a successful heat transition, inspired by the Danish model, which focuses on affordability, public ownership, transparency and sustainability. Now that the construction of heat networks is lagging behind, municipal policy is shifting towards individual heat pumps and away from collective networks. Volt, however, opts for collective heating. Investing in heating networks is crucial, especially now: they use local residual heat that would otherwise be lost, relieve the strain on the electricity grid and can make heating affordable for everyone. That is why Volt wants the municipality to take control and set up its own heating company, managed for and by the city's residents. No profits for foreign shareholders, but a fair distribution of benefits and burdens for the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. We will provide them with clarity about where a heat network will or will not be installed. In neighbourhoods without a heat network, we will help residents find a good alternative. In this way, we will make the transition reliable, affordable and accessible to everyone, with the goal of a natural gas-free Amsterdam by 2040.**

- Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to set up its own heating company. This can be done in collaboration with Alliander and/or EBN (Energie Beheer Nederland), as long as the municipality retains control. The Municipal Heating Company (GWB) will be at least 51% owned by the municipality. In the first phase of the Municipal Heating Company, it will be investigated whether existing heating networks within the municipality can be taken over.
- Local ownership means that the municipality of Amsterdam itself determines how heat is generated, purchased and distributed. This enables us to link the heat supply to local sustainable sources, such as residual heat from Amsterdam companies or, in the future, geothermal energy (earth heat). In this way, we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels from abroad and ensure a future-proof, self-sufficient energy system.

- The Municipal Heating Company will operate according to the Danish concept of 'Plan Big, Start Small', which involves first investigating which areas have potential for a heating network. We are drawing up a phased plan for how we can expand over the next 15 years, starting at a promising location where (residual) heat sources are available and a lot of heat is consumed.
- The municipality wants to give as many residents as possible access to sustainable, collective heating. At the same time, we do not want to burden residents with high heating prices. That is why we are installing heating networks in areas where we can guarantee that this will result in the lowest social costs, even compared to individual solutions.
- We reduce heat loss by reusing residual heat within industrial hubs: residual heat from one company is then used in the processes of another company.

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## **CLEAN CITY WATER AND STURDY QUAYS**

**Amsterdam lives with water, but its quality is deteriorating. This is partly due to intensive water use for housing, agriculture and recreation, combined with the effects of climate change. As a result, biodiversity is declining and greenhouse gas emissions from oxygen-depleted shallow waters and health risks from algae and bacteria are actually increasing. Volt wants to ensure that everyone in Amsterdam can swim, play or sail safely in clean city waters. We are also tackling the challenges surrounding Amsterdam's quays: in the coming years, 200 kilometres of quay walls will have to be renovated to prevent subsidence and deterioration.**

- Amsterdam has a number of official swimming areas, such as the Marineterrein and the Nieuwe Meer. People are also increasingly swimming in canals, ponds and lakes that are not designated as official swimming areas. The municipality provides information about water quality in unofficial swimming areas by means of signs or letters to households, but there is no live insight into water quality for Amsterdam residents. Volt wants Amsterdam residents to have real-time insight into water quality, for example via the municipality's website or the Amsterdam App.
- During the redevelopment of public spaces, small sections of public waterways are still regularly being removed. Volt wants the municipality to conduct research into whether the removal of canal and street embankments will help to alleviate heat stress and drought, for example. Increasing the water surface area in the city will make more water available to cool the city during extreme heat.
- Volt strives for a circular water system. We want to reuse water as much as possible. We do this by focusing on the use of rainwater in the built environment. We encourage large water users to use water more sparingly.
- Volt wants to further expand the use of aquathermal energy in the city. Based on the pilot project 'Opportunities for Sustainable Quay Restoration: Green Light District', quays are being designated that are eligible for sustainable renovation using aquathermal energy.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

In Amsterdam, we live alongside countless animals – from pets to blackbirds in the park and carp in the canals. However, the city is not a pleasant place for all animals. Wild animals are losing their habitats due to urbanisation, pollution and traffic. The changing climate brings new challenges for animals in the city, such as heat stress and the disappearance of shelters and breeding grounds. Volt wants Amsterdam to become a model city for animal welfare. Because what is good for animals is often good for people too.

- When constructing, renovating or designing public spaces, we install nesting boxes for birds and bats, create green and blue roofs for birds and insects, and adjust lighting with sensors or lower intensity. We ask businesses to turn off their lights in the evening and choose light colours that cause the least disturbance to animals.
- Volt wants to accelerate the approach to light pollution. We combine the goal of improving light quality for people, animals and nature with the call for greater visibility and safety in the city. We do this, for example, by using the latest techniques for light intensity, light distance and colour combinations. Light pollution is not a local phenomenon. Volt therefore wants Amsterdam to exchange knowledge with other European cities, stimulate the sustainable lighting industry and push for stricter EU regulations on maximum light intensity and sky glow.
- Volt believes that everyone should be able to take good care of their animals. We will maintain financial support for veterinary costs for residents of Amsterdam and Weesp with a Stadspas.
- If people are (temporarily) unable to care for their animals, we will prevent animals from ending up on the streets or in overcrowded shelters. We will structurally strengthen the Animal Ambulance and shelters and launch information campaigns against the impulsive purchase of pets.
- Volt wants to invest in rat-proof bins, reduce the impact of people searching for deposit money, and use proven prevention methods such as natural predators.
- We want both wild animals and pets to be healthy and have a good life, which is why we support the approach in the Animal Welfare Agenda 2024-2026. Structural resources will be increased and continued after 2027, and initiatives will be evaluated at the start of the new administrative period so that successful initiatives can be scaled up.

# 3. GO FOR

# A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR EVERYONE



### 3.1

# SECURITY OF LIVELIHOOD FOR EVERYONE

Everyone in Amsterdam should be able to live a secure life. But for many residents, that is not the reality. Having to choose between groceries or paying the energy bill, not knowing whether they will be able to pay the rent this month, or dreading going out: figures show that no less than 6.6% of people in Amsterdam live in poverty. We cannot accept that. Volt is committed to security for all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.

Volt puts people at the heart of poverty reduction, not rules. We don't want temporary fixes, but real systemic change. We simplify support so that people living in poverty no longer have to get lost in procedures, but simply receive the help they deserve. Income support and debt assistance must be made much more accessible to the people of Amsterdam and Weesp, so that they can get back on track towards a debt-free future. We also give young people with debts their future back.

Livelihood security is also about empowering people. We are bridging the gap between the labour market and people with disabilities who are ready to work. Together with employers, we are working on an inclusive labour market that offers opportunities for everyone.

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## A BETTER SYSTEM FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

Volt wants everyone in Amsterdam to be able to live in security. If you have financial worries, they can dominate your entire life. The income support system should help people out of this situation, but in practice it is mainly complicated and creates extra stress. The system therefore needs to be simpler and fairer. In Amsterdam, we will provide simple and active income support that guarantees social security. This will not hinder the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp, but will help them.

- The social minimum must be increased. Until the national government has arranged this, the municipality will continue to apply relaxed income limits to Amsterdam's income schemes, such as special assistance and individual income supplements. We will relax these limits even further if necessary to guarantee the livelihood security of residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.
- The municipality must be even more proactive in informing residents of Amsterdam and Weesp about the income schemes to which they are entitled, for example by pre-filling known details in application forms or sending targeted communications to residents who may be entitled to a supplement. We are also investigating the possibility of granting income schemes to people who are entitled to them without them having to apply for them. With the option to easily deregister, of course, because residents of Amsterdam and Weesp remain in control of the schemes they wish to use.

- We are going to experiment with an accessible and inclusive Virtual Income Desk, where residents can see which Amsterdam and national schemes they are eligible for based on information already known to the government. Ultimately, we want to work towards a single desk where residents of Amsterdam and Weesp can apply for all income schemes at the touch of a button.
- Volt wants to simplify the existing Amsterdam income schemes by standardising the conditions and application and payment periods as much as possible and reducing the evidence requirements. Currently, the complexity of these schemes leads to confusion and uncertainty among residents.
- We are replacing many of the separate participation schemes that currently have to be applied for individually (such as the Child Credit and the Student Allowance) with a single Opportunity Budget. The amount is calculated per person, based on their living and family situation, income and assets. The budget also takes into account the special position of self-employed persons. We are making the Opportunity Budget freely spendable, so that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp can make their own choices when it comes to spending.
- Amsterdam must become a pioneer in combating poverty based on trust. Sometimes giving money without conditions is the most effective and inexpensive way out of poverty. The municipality is drawing up a vision that includes plans to provide structural, unconditional support to specific groups of residents who need help. We will continue successful pilot projects, such as the project in which 300 Amsterdam households received £150 per month, and make them structural.
- Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to work nationally to improve the social security system and increase the social minimum, so that it is high enough to cover the real costs of living.

## **TACKLING POVERTY AMONG WORKERS**

Working very hard and still just – or just not – managing to make ends meet. Tens of thousands of Amsterdammers experience this. An income is no longer a guarantee that you can pay for your home, bills and groceries. In Amsterdam, we do what we can for this group of Amsterdammers.

- We are setting up a central, easily accessible advice centre specifically for self-employed people. Here, they can obtain information and advice from someone with knowledge of entrepreneurship, including low income and debt. The centre will have flexible opening hours in the evenings and at weekends. We want to set up this advice centre in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities.
- The municipality will ensure that at least one neighbourhood team per district extends its walk-in and telephone consultation hours outside office hours with a wide range of services. This will ensure that Amsterdammers who work during the day and need (financial) assistance can easily contact the neighbourhood team.
- The municipality will organise walk-in sessions at locations where low-income workers often have to be anyway, such as at or near schools, childcare facilities, churches, mosques and supermarkets. There, they can get help with filling out application forms, for example.
- A municipal approach will be developed to better reach and support working residents of Amsterdam and Weesp who are living in poverty. We are forming an alliance with local and regional employers so that they can provide effective support to employees with financial

worries and refer them to the municipality for assistance. The municipality will set up a targeted publicity campaign to actively approach these employees. The municipality will also use the contact moments it already has with these residents to inform them about their options. Volt wants to set up an advisory board of experts by experience to help shape the approach.

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## **DEBT-FREE AGAIN QUICKLY**

**Around 60,000 people in Amsterdam have debts that they consider problematic. In addition, it is becoming increasingly common for people to be unable to pay their most basic fixed costs for housing and living, because these have become so high. Once you are in debt, it is not always easy to get out of it. The accumulation of interest and penalties can turn a small debt into an increasingly heavy burden. We want to break this vicious circle by preventing debt in a targeted manner and offering help with money worries at the earliest possible stage. Mobile teams bring this support directly to the people: proactively, accessibly and without taboos.**

- Volt wants the free financial consultation hours to reach even more residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. In collaboration with the neighbourhood teams, the municipality will organise additional financial consultation hours in libraries, community centres, shopping centres and other locations where many people gather. We offer extra help during certain periods, such as income tax filing season.
- We will continue to proactively approach residents with payment arrears and offer help at an early stage through the Vroeg Eropaf teams. The municipality will make agreements with major public creditors (such as the Tax and Customs Administration and DUO) and local parties to pass on reports of payment arrears, so that the Vroeg Eropaf teams can offer timely assistance to residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. Volt also wants to experiment with a separate Vroeg Eropaf team for and by young people, in order to better connect with the experiences of young people.
- Amsterdam residents must be able to quickly obtain the right help with debt throughout the city. Volt wants the municipality to provide comprehensive debt assistance services in all districts.
- To supplement the debt assistance services in the city, we are also setting up mobile teams that visit different neighbourhoods. This is inspired by the mobile advice van that drove around London for three months to talk to people without a permanent place of residence or residence status who are in debt. The aim of the mobile teams is to lower the barriers to approaching the municipality with financial concerns. The assistance provided by the mobile teams will be free of charge.
- We give experts by experience a permanent place in debt assistance. They know better than anyone what it is like to live with debt and what can help to get out of it. For example, accompanying someone to an appointment with the administrator, opening letters together or simply providing support or tips.
- Volt wants to break the taboo surrounding poverty and debt and lower the barriers to seeking help with debt. The municipality will set up public campaigns featuring authentic stories from residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. For each target group, we will use communication chan-

nels that appeal to them, such as well-known Amsterdam influencers who make the subject discussable for young people.

- Aftercare will become an integral part of the debt assistance process. Amsterdam residents who have completed debt assistance will continue to receive free budget coaching and remain in contact with the municipality for at least two years. We are taking a broad approach to aftercare, empowering Amsterdam and Weesp residents after debt assistance: financially, physically and mentally.
- Volt believes that social debt collection policy should be the new standard. We therefore encourage creditors to introduce a social debt collection policy for collecting overdue payments, with more personal contact and tailor-made payment arrangements, for example through the Creditors' Coalition.
- A national approach to preventing debt must be developed: we are tackling the debt industry's revenue model, restricting deferred payments as much as possible and banning gambling advertisements. The municipality is urging the national government to take action in this area.

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## **YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT FINANCIAL WORRIES**

**When you are young, the future should be wide open, with plenty of opportunities to develop and build the life you dream of. But more and more often, those dreams for the future are being put on hold. One in five young people in the Netherlands is struggling with money problems. The cost of living is becoming increasingly expensive and young people are increasingly having to choose not to go to university or leave home because they can no longer afford it. Working hard for your future and still not knowing if you can move forward? Volt believes that this has to change. Today's young people are building and paying for tomorrow's society. Investing in the financial health of young people is therefore investing in the future.**

- We give young people aged 18 to 26 with problematic debts their future back. To this end, we are improving the Debt-Free Start for Young People approach. All young people who are unable to repay their debts independently within three years will have access to this approach, regardless of how large or small their debts are. The municipality takes over the debt and the young person repays it over two years. This can be done in cash, but also by making a social contribution to the city. After those two years, you are debt-free.
- Homeless young people deserve extra attention from the municipality, because they often cannot make ends meet and cannot fall back on parents or carers. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to start a pilot project in which at least 100 homeless young people aged 18 to 21 receive 1,000 euros every month for one year, as an unconditional gift. We also actively support them in finding a home or room quickly.
- We offer financial consultation hours at all secondary schools in Amsterdam to engage young people in conversations about money at an early stage. The municipality is making additional budget available for this purpose.
- We will also enable all schools in Amsterdam to offer budget lessons to young people under the age of 18, with extra attention to the risks that often cause money problems for young people: online gambling, deferred payment, phishing and crypto.

- Volt is in favour of increasing the minimum youth wage, the basic grant and the supplementary grant. The municipality is lobbying the national government for this.

## LET EVERYONE USE THEIR TALENTS

**As far as Volt is concerned, it is not people who are distanced from the labour market, but the labour market that is distanced from people. Throughout Amsterdam, talented people with disabilities are ready to start working, but they cannot find jobs in the city that are well suited to them. For employees who, for example, have poor eyesight, are in a wheelchair, have dyslexia or are dealing with mental health issues, the labour market and the workplace still too often present barriers. Volt wants the municipality to open its doors wide to this group of Amsterdammers.**

- As the largest employer in Amsterdam, the municipality of Amsterdam sets an example. Volt wants the municipality to make an active effort to hire people with disabilities and thus offer accessible workplaces. Volt wants the municipality to at least meet the target set out in the Job Agreement Act.
- Wherever people with disabilities turn to the municipality, Volt wants them to be able to receive appropriate assistance in finding work throughout the organisation. To this end, the municipality is organising training courses for its employees so that they can recognise and help people with (invisible) disabilities, or refer them to the appropriate services.
- The municipality is creating 300 neighbourhood jobs for Amsterdam residents who have been receiving social assistance benefits for some time and who are able and willing to work but cannot find suitable employment. Together with district, neighbourhood and residents' organisations, we determine which tasks are associated with these neighbourhood jobs, so that they contribute to a better life in the city. Amsterdam and Weesp residents can easily enter the neighbourhood job, develop themselves and move on to other work.
- For those who are unable to move on from a neighbourhood job to regular work, the municipality of Amsterdam offers structural job solutions. This allows employees to continue working in an environment that feels right for them and prevents them from becoming dependent on social assistance again.
- We are also continuing with the 'Jobs in Youth Work' project, through which the municipality offers temporarily subsidised jobs in youth work to young people who, due to their personal circumstances, would otherwise find it difficult to find work. We provide information about this project at schools, festivals, sports clubs and community centres, for example.
- We want everyone in Amsterdam to have the opportunity to participate, even if working does not come naturally to them. That is why we continue to actively support the social development company Pantar and sheltered employment, and we are committed to the further development of the company so that it remains future-proof. In this way, we are building an inclusive labour market in which everyone can contribute and grow to the best of their ability.
- We are exploring whether the municipality can set up a hub for inclusive technology, in which educational institutions, social development companies and other businesses work together to develop technology that can help people with disabilities.

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

- We encourage employers to use inclusive technology in their companies that increases the opportunities for employees with disabilities to find work at these companies. Examples include real-time translation software for the hearing impaired or (motorised) exoskeletons for people who have limited or no muscle movement. The municipality is making subsidy funds available for this.
- We are setting up a Social Innovation Fund, which provides one-off or multi-year loans to social entrepreneurs who want to set up workplaces for people with disabilities but have difficulty obtaining financing for this. We are also making this fund attractive to small social entrepreneurs.
- The municipality will initiate a covenant with Amsterdam's small and medium-sized enterprises, containing concrete agreements on creating more workplaces for people with disabilities and designing inclusive workplaces.

## 3.2

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Everyone deserves a healthy and happy life. The city must do everything in its power to contribute to that life. Instead, we see people having to wait endlessly for care or encountering complicated bureaucracy. That has to change. We are building a society in which the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp can live mentally and physically powerful lives. If you need care, you should be able to get it within a reasonable time, so that your symptoms do not unnecessarily worsen. No endless waiting lists, referrals or rushed consultations, but contact with professionals who have time for you in your neighbourhood. And if you are chronically ill, you should not have to prove it every year, but the municipality should relax its rules so that you can receive care. Because when your health is not good, you want the city to be there for you.**

**Volt wants us to improve the healthcare system. We do not accept that young people and children walk around feeling bad, but we will fix youth care. Care providers will receive the support and appreciation they deserve. We are committed to a city where people can ask for help with mental health issues without taboos and where health inequalities between neighbourhoods have been eliminated. We are fully committed to prevention and innovation to improve our health and care. This will ensure that care remains available for future generations.**

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## CARE AND ASSISTANCE IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD

**Care and assistance should preferably be available in your own neighbourhood: close to home, accessible and familiar. Volt supports the municipality's neighbourhood-oriented approach and wants to take it further. We provide organisations that do important social work in the neighbourhood with security and consistency through long-term funding. Volt also wants comprehensive healthcare provision and a community centre in every district. And for Amsterdamers with a chronic or progressive condition, we provide better service and more customised care. We organise more complex or highly specialised care and assistance at city or regional level. We will build on the existing care organisations and networks and strengthen their cooperation to improve care provision in their own neighbourhoods.**

- Volt wants everyone in the neighbourhood to be able to get help easily. That is why neighbourhood teams and organisations that perform core functions within the social base (such as youth work, street corner work and community centres) receive long-term funding for at least six years. When awarding these grants, we pay extra attention to prevention and an inclusive and accessible range of services. We are retaining short- term subsidy schemes for grassroots initiatives.
- We want a comprehensive and recognisable range of support and care services in each borough, provided by a limited number of key partners. That is why we require support and care organisations to submit a joint application per borough for multi-year grants. With one core partner as the main applicant. This prevents fragmentation of the provision and unnecessary consultation time. When offering activities, we focus on the preventive effect.

- We want an accessible community centre in every neighbourhood, where local residents of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs can feel welcome.
- To ensure that neighbourhood teams and the social base are familiar places for all local residents, we give experts by experience a permanent position within these organisations. We use the Amsterdam Network of Experiential Knowledge (ANE) as a city-wide platform for the structural and equal deployment of experts by experience in the social domain.
- There is a great deal happening in Amsterdam's neighbourhoods, on the initiative of residents, volunteers and professionals, but not every resident is aware of this. That is why Volt wants a central online platform where all Amsterdam neighbourhood initiatives can be easily found. Initiators can request assistance here for communicating about their initiative. To this end, we are improving the website 'wijamsterdam.nl'.
- The municipality now grants Wmo indications to people with chronic or progressive conditions for an indefinite period. We see even more opportunities to apply customisation to Wmo indications, for example by granting the indication on a monthly basis rather than on a weekly basis.
- General practitioners often have too little time to ask their patients further questions and offer broader assistance. That is why we want to have generalist practice support staff (POH-G) working with general practitioners. To make this possible, Volt wants to continue the Powerful Primary Care pilot, which started in four general practices in 2019. We are making it more attractive for GPs to make greater use of the POH-G role.
- Amsterdam has good neighbourhood teams, but many residents still waste time and energy on different counters, intakes and referrals. That is why we are making it clearer where they can go for help and ensuring that they always receive assistance, wherever they turn to the municipality. Where necessary, this means one permanent coordinator for the resident and one integrated plan involving all relevant parties. Neighbourhood teams, mental health services, social support services, youth services and debt assistance services work together in a structured and area-specific manner to ensure that support is logical and coherent. We reduce bureaucracy and give professionals the space to do what is necessary.

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## **MENTAL WELL-BEING**

**We see that the mental health of more and more people is under pressure. Housing shortages, financial difficulties, performance pressure, social media or other concerns: our modern society challenges our mental well-being in many ways. Volt believes that it is possible to build a society together that does not mentally exhaust us, but strengthens us. We tackle the causes of mental health issues, but we also work towards a society in which it is normal to talk about stress, depression and burnout. We will invest more in initiatives that combat loneliness, taking inspiration from Finland. Extra attention will be paid to groups where mental health issues are more prevalent.**

- We will ensure that every professional in the public sector is able to identify mental health issues, discuss them and refer people to professional help. To this end, the municipality will provide courses with extra attention to the differences in how mental health issues manifest themselves in people.

- We will continue to focus on accessible support for young people with mental health issues, such as helplines where young people can chat, text or call, and drop-in centres where young people can go to talk about their problems. We will continue to evaluate these services on an ongoing basis to ensure that they meet the needs of young people.
- We are exploring the need for (more) accessible support for groups where mental health issues are more common, such as women, LGBTQIA+ people and newcomers. This support must be available. Where necessary, we will do this by adapting existing support services.
- We are setting up a regional mental health network (MGN). Within this network, general practitioners, professionals in the social domain and mental health care providers will make agreements on appropriate support for Amsterdam residents with mental health issues. This collaboration will enable problems to be identified earlier, waiting lists to be shortened and space to be created for people with complex and severe problems.
- We are breaking the stigma surrounding mental health issues and are committed to an open and understanding approach to mental health, encouraging residents to seek help sooner. We are doing this through online and offline *communities*, in which ambassadors and experts by experience raise awareness of mental health issues, and through targeted campaigns.
- To combat loneliness, we set up physically accessible meeting places in the neighbourhood that are open to everyone. A good example of this is the Finnish ‘Circle of Friends’ programme, which aims to reduce loneliness among older people. Under the guidance of trained volunteers, these small groups meet regularly and meaningful relationships are formed.

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## APPRECIATION AND SPACE FOR CARE PROVIDERS

**Care workers are at the heart of our care system, but they do not receive enough appreciation for their work. People who are committed to the well-being of others must be given the space, resources and autonomy to do their work well and with satisfaction. Informal carers also support the care system, but they often have to do so without support. This has to change; we are going to take care of our care providers.**

- Volt wants the municipality to urge the national government to provide structurally adequate funding for healthcare.
- We are setting up teams of ‘regulation lighteners’, consisting of healthcare professionals and experts. They determine which rules are unnecessary or can be simplified. These teams then discuss with the local council and other partners how the regulatory burden can be reduced.
- We make fair payment of healthcare personnel a strict condition for municipal healthcare procurement. They should earn the same as in comparable jobs in the public sector. In this way, we show our appreciation and make this work more attractive.
- We encourage greater say for healthcare professionals within their organisations. This leads to better decision-making, increases engagement and improves the quality of care. In tendering procedures, we therefore ask healthcare organisations how they arrange this say, and organisations where employees have more say are given priority.

- We provide respite homes in every neighbourhood, which can temporarily take over care tasks from informal carers. We also provide targeted support for (young) informal carers, such as a mentor, a confidential advisor at school and homework assistance.

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## WE GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A FUTURE

**As a young person, you should be able to develop to your full potential, on your way to a bright future. Instead, many young people in Amsterdam struggle with mental health issues, loneliness and feelings of hopelessness. The youth care system leaves these young people out in the cold, often forcing them to wait months for care. Volt wants young people to get their lives back and feel seen and supported. That starts with a care system that works. We opt for prevention and rapid support. We look beyond youth care alone, to solutions that can be found in education, parenting, exercise and positive connections.**

- We are strengthening the Parent and Child Teams (OKTs) so that they can focus more on prevention. We are doing this by making extra funds available. We aim to reserve 25% of the OKT budget for prevention.
- We encourage the deployment of Youth Practice Supporters (POH-J) at every GP practice. They form a bridge between the GP, the family and the broader care network (such as OKTs and neighbourhood teams). We reserve structural resources and make agreements with health insurers about funding.
- We ensure that specialist youth care is structurally available at primary and secondary schools in the municipality. By giving youth care professionals a physical place in the school team, youth care becomes accessible and familiar to pupils and parents. We start with schools with high care needs and an increased risk of dropout or disadvantage. We then expand to other schools.
- We are continuing the 'Blijvend Veilig' (Staying Safe) approach with structural funding. With this approach, families experiencing violence receive a single plan and a single team to help them throughout the entire process.
- We ensure a more comprehensive range of youth care providers. We believe that the municipality can take more control to prevent fragmentation, overlap and gaps in the range of services on offer. To this end, we make agreements with providers. These include a duty on providers to find solutions when gaps arise and contracting based on how actively providers contribute to cooperation and closing such gaps.
- Some young people find it difficult to find a balance in their use of substances or to break free from an addiction to, for example, alcohol, drugs, gambling, gaming or sex. We believe it is important that these young people receive timely and accessible help. That is why we support organisations that focus on education in schools, preventive interventions and treatment for schoolchildren and students. We see added value in peer-to-peer projects, where young experts provide information based on their own experiences.

## INNOVATION FOR BETTER CARE

Good care for everyone is the basis of a healthy society. But the care system is under severe strain. There is an increasing demand for care, while the number of care providers is decreasing. Staff and budgets are under considerable pressure. Volt sees innovation and organisational improvements as the keys to making healthcare future-proof. We are committed to innovating technology that supports healthcare providers, allowing physical and digital healthcare to reinforce each other, and implementing improvements that contribute to the quality of care.

- Volt wants a single accessible digital platform where healthcare and welfare organisations in the city can be found based on a person's preferences, location and health insurance. We have deliberately chosen a platform that is independent of big tech. We are building on the process that the municipality has already started.
- We are committed to a combination of physical and digital care (*blended care*). In healthcare, a lot of time is lost on actions and processes that can now be automated. The transition to blended care is often slow, due to high investment costs and because it takes time for people to get used to it. That is why we want the municipality to encourage *blended care* by providing subsidies to healthcare providers. Subsidies will only be granted to healthcare providers who guarantee that care will remain accessible to people who are not digitally literate or have limited digital skills.
- We are setting up an urban healthcare innovation hub, where healthcare providers, healthcare users, start-ups, students, researchers, companies and the municipality work together on innovations in healthcare. We are learning from successful European initiatives (such as the Barcelona & Madrid Health Hub) and linking up with existing initiatives in the city.
- We will improve knowledge about healthcare technology by setting up an innovative house of the future and making it accessible to a wide audience. This house will show residents, healthcare providers and health insurers how technology can be used for healthcare.
- We see opportunities for simpler and more secure data exchange between parties in healthcare. The advantage for patients is that they can share their health data with healthcare providers while maintaining their privacy. We urge the government to regulate this at the national level.

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## FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH

Volt stands for a healthy life for all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. However, there are significant health disparities in the city. People with low incomes or a migrant background live shorter lives on average and experience health problems more often. These disparities are clearly visible within Amsterdam, especially in the North, New West and South-East districts. Volt wants to change this. With an approach that looks beyond the healthcare domain and goes beyond merely treating symptoms. In this way, we offer everyone a fair chance at health.

- We want to increase the security and opportunities for residents of Amsterdam and Weesp by investing in areas where the need is greatest. We do this specifically in areas such as poverty reduction, education, career development and social security.
- Volt wants the municipality to invest structurally in accessible healthcare and welfare services, while paying attention to further facilitating and stimulating cooperation between the social and medical domains. This requires suitable and affordable real estate in existing and new neighbourhoods.
- Every resident of Amsterdam and Weesp should be able to live in a healthy environment. Volt therefore wants the municipality to review the licensing system for water, air and soil quality. The system will be based on WHO standards, which are stricter than the current ones.
- We want to improve health opportunities for the most vulnerable groups by investing where the need is greatest. People from these groups often benefit less from policies and interventions than groups that are already relatively well off. That is why it is necessary for the municipality to seek advice from institutions with expertise in identifying these target groups in Amsterdam.
- For residents who are not digitally literate, healthcare is currently less accessible. Volt wants healthcare to be accessible to all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. That is why we are ensuring that every healthcare and welfare institution in Amsterdam completes Pharos' '4x Access Checklist' to assess whether it is digitally accessible.
- We are investigating which effective lifestyle interventions can be used. These can range from smoke-free zones near schools to discourage vaping, advertising bans, healthy meals in all schools and the introduction of school dentists. We are doing this in equal partnership with informal networks, key figures and professionals.
- We provide healthy meals in primary and secondary education by making agreements with parties about making food available that would otherwise be thrown away. We are exploring this with large organisations in the city that have kitchens and canteens, including the municipality itself. This ensures that healthy meals are not thrown away, but made available to young people in our city.
- Volt believes in the importance of food education, so that young Amsterdammers know which foods are healthy or unhealthy, how and where they are produced, and what sustainable alternatives are available. School boards are encouraged to join school gardens and to teach pupils about the food chain, both indoors and outdoors.
- Everyone has the right to access healthcare and medical care. Refusing care to, for example, uninsured homeless people and people without residence permits is inhumane and contrary to the duty of care. Volt wants the municipality to investigate how often this occurs and to take action.
- Volt wants everyone in Amsterdam to have access to the care that suits them. That is why we are strengthening support for transgender people by reducing waiting times, organising better referrals in primary care and supporting local assistance and community groups. In this way, we ensure that transgender residents of Amsterdam and Weesp do not have to wait years for care and feel seen, safe and supported in their city.

### 3.3

# EDUCATION: BUILD ON YOUR TALENT

Education prepares Amsterdammers and Weespers for their future. Fair opportunities in life should not depend on where you grew up or how much money you had at home. That is why Volt wants to give every child equal opportunities in education. We invest in equal access to school and facilities for all toddlers, preschoolers and schoolchildren. Children should be able to learn and develop at their own pace. We ensure that they do not have to choose a direction too early, but are given more time to discover their interests. In this way, we bring equal opportunities closer.

Teachers should be able to do what they entered the profession to do: teach. We reduce the workload by relieving teachers of all kinds of burdens, because better education is something we create together. We make school buildings healthier, more accessible and more sustainable. This makes school a pleasant and safe place for every child to learn.

Students belong in Amsterdam and are given plenty of opportunity to enjoy their student life in the city. Volt believes that the city is at its best when everyone can grow and innovate throughout their lives. We ensure that Amsterdammers and Weespers of all ages can continue to develop broadly and keep pace with the labour market. We are better aligning education with the sectors where major labour shortages create significant job opportunities. In this way, we are working together to respond to the social challenges of tomorrow.

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## AN EQUAL START AT SCHOOL

All children have the right to equal opportunities for development. However, where you are born often determines your future. Children who are just as capable as their classmates do not always have the same opportunities, for example due to differences in their home situation, the expectations of those around them and the structure of the education system. The differences that arise in early childhood continue throughout the rest of a child's school career and later on in the labour market. Volt wants to break this cycle. We are convinced that equal opportunities in education start with an equal start.

- Volt wants children to have the opportunity to develop through play and parents to be able to connect with each other. That is why we support the Spelinlopen, where young children can play with toys and each other for free, and where parents can meet. Volt is investigating the effectiveness and accessibility of the Spelinlopen to determine whether more locations are desirable.
- Volt supports pre-school and early childhood education in Amsterdam. Here, young children expand their language and maths skills, motor skills and social-emotional development through play. We maintain and index existing subsidies for this.

- Following Utrecht's example, we are also setting up a solidarity fund in Amsterdam to distribute parental contributions more fairly across schools and offer all children equal opportunities for additional activities such as sports days. In collaboration with the Amsterdam-Diemen PO Partnership, the municipality is initiating discussions with school boards to set up such a fund.
- Volt wants every child to have access to preschool. The income-dependent contribution that parents have to pay for this sometimes forms a barrier. To improve access, we want to conduct a feasibility study into the possibilities of making preschools free for up to 16 hours per week for parents with a Stadspas.
- Every child learns at their own pace. Volt is in favour of the Kopklas, where pupils receive an extra year of primary education to improve their transition to secondary education. The municipality invests in this through existing subsidies for schools.
- Pupils can best catch up on their language skills during regular school hours. That is why Volt wants to invest in additional teaching assistants at schools where children are more likely to experience this problem. Summer schools can also have a positive effect on tackling educational disadvantage, which is why subsidies for these will also be maintained.
- Volt wants to investigate whether information about facilities for young children, such as play-groups, preschools and baby, toddler and preschooler swimming lessons, is reaching everyone effectively. If necessary, we will launch an information campaign, for example through health clinics and Parent and Child Teams.
- The use of home languages in education promotes language development and learning performance among pupils whose mother tongue is not Dutch, such as French, Polish or Turkish. Volt wants the municipality to continue to encourage and support schools to offer more opportunities for the use of home languages in primary and secondary education, for example through a reading corner with books in multiple languages.

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## PROSPECTS FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

**Volt believes that every child deserves appropriate education. Many children in Amsterdam and Weesp enjoy going to school. Unfortunately, there is a growing group of children who receive no or limited education. This may be due to medical or psychological problems, or because the education does not suit their situation. Or because there are challenges in their family or home situation. Volt wants to offer prospects to children who are at home without education. We ensure that professionals work with the child and parents to draw up an action plan. This keeps the child in the picture and allows us to quickly offer the right help and thus a path to the future.**

- Absenteeism in the first month of the school year is a good predictor of absenteeism for the rest of the school year. Every school is committed to good absenteeism registration and procedures. They do this for both authorised and unauthorised absences. The municipal Compulsory Education Department supervises this.
- The municipal Compulsory Education Department is being strengthened so that compulsory education officers can do their work more effectively. We are addressing the shortages currently facing the department by hiring additional officers and improving cooperation between the municipality, education and the social domain.

- We want every child who is absent from school for more than 16 hours per four weeks on a structural basis and without valid reason to have a personal plan within three months. This plan will set out agreements between the school, parents, child, compulsory education department, Parent and Child Teams and other parties involved.
- We want every school to have a Parent and Child Advisor and a compulsory education officer, who will serve as permanent points of contact for reports of children staying at home.
- We want to appoint a truancy coordinator for each borough and urban area. Together with the relevant Parent and Child Advisor and truancy officer, the coordinator will assess which approach is appropriate for the pupil and their home situation. They will draw up an action plan together with the parent(s) and the pupil. The truancy coordinator will also coordinate contact between the various parties. The coordinator will remain involved until there is a solution for the pupil.
- The municipality makes performance agreements with the Primary and Secondary Education Partnerships (PO and VO) to achieve comprehensive educational provision. This means that there is a suitable place available for every child, regardless of their support needs.

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## **LET YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS**

**Volt wants every child – regardless of their background, postcode or home situation – to be given ample opportunity to discover what they are good at. Children are pigeonholed at a very young age. The school recommendation at the end of primary school strongly determines their future, even before they have had the opportunity to really develop and find out what they are good at and what they would like to do. This is a missed opportunity, both for the children and for society. Volt believes that every child has the right to develop their talents and abilities. We propose that education should really provide the space for this, with more time for pupils to choose their direction and differently structured assessment moments.**

- Where possible, we encourage community schools. These are schools where there are many other facilities in or near the school building (such as childcare and sports clubs) and where pupils with different school recommendations attend school together.
- In the new multi-year urban programme, we want to focus on curriculum development, professionalisation and a different approach to testing. Insights from the Monitor and evaluation of the Broad First Year Bonus will be included in this programme.
- We are making agreements with secondary school boards (the OSVO) about introducing a two-year broad transition period. This will give pupils more time to develop their talents before choosing a direction. Research has shown that a broad transition period promotes equal opportunities.
- Teachers, pupils and parents are actively involved in educational decisions made by the municipality and the school in order to increase equal opportunities. We therefore encourage the use of parent and pupil panels. In addition, we organise an annual Amsterdam Education Dialogue in which panel members, school representatives and policymakers come together. Research results and data can also be used to implement targeted policies.

## WE TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

**Every child has the right to high-quality education. Teachers work with heart and soul, but experience sky-high workloads. They are not only teachers, but also social workers, youth workers and confidants. Volt wants teachers to be able to do what they entered the profession to do: teach. That is why we want a powerful offensive to tackle the teacher shortage and reduce workloads. We are calling in extra support from all directions, from more personal assistance for teachers to intensive involvement of parents and help from society and the business community. Together, we can improve education.**

- Volt wants to continue with the measures in the Teachers' Agenda 2023-2027. We are paying extra attention to training lateral entrants, tackling the workload of (new) teachers, deploying support staff and maintaining priority for rental housing and financial compensation for travel expenses. Volt also supports the lobby for the (metropolitan) salary allowance.
- We want to see if extra funding is possible for more support staff, such as school social workers, school coaches, youth workers, and teaching assistants. Initiatives, such as the Personal Assistant to the Teacher programme at the University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam, will be rolled out more widely. Schools in neighbourhoods with the biggest teacher shortages will get priority for these services.
- We want to extend the successful approach of the Amsterdam Family School to more primary and secondary schools. The Family School is a school where children can develop in a broad sense and where parents are closely involved. These schools offer support in the areas of education, care and work. Volt wants to conduct a feasibility study into the introduction of subsidies for schools that want to make the transition to the Amsterdam Family School model.
- We offer teachers more support to teach lessons on social themes without this creating extra work pressure. We do this by focusing on extra teaching assistants and making high-quality teaching modules accessible.
- We work with artists, entrepreneurs, youth workers and other inspiring individuals to design extracurricular programmes. These programmes cover topics such as creativity, technology, sustainability, citizenship and entrepreneurship.
- We want to make existing effective projects such as 'The library at school' more widely available in order to increase equal opportunities. For lessons that promote reading, digital literacy (including awareness of the use of social media and apps) and creative education from the Amsterdam Public Library, we provide subsidies when schools are unable to bear the costs themselves.
- Volt wants the Amsterdam Education Knowledge Network to be extended to preschools and secondary schools. This approach will enable teachers to share knowledge and collaborate, and schools to monitor the overall quality of education.

## HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

In Amsterdam, we want children not only to learn about a sustainable future, but also to experience it. A green strip with trees in the schoolyard seems like a green start. But as soon as the window is opened, the sounds and smells of rushing traffic enter the classroom. This has serious consequences for the health of our children. Volt wants to ensure a healthy learning environment that runs on clean, fresh air and renewable energy. We are turning grey playgrounds into green oases where children can play, learn and discover. Not only the school benefits, but the entire neighbourhood: school gardens are opened up and school playgrounds become pleasant meeting places. In this way, we are working together to build healthy, sustainable schools as the beating heart of the neighbourhood.

- We are making sustainable energy generation the standard in new school construction and renovation. The use of data (e.g. from smart meters or CO<sub>2</sub>-controlled ventilation) can help schools take targeted measures and save costs. We assist with financing through the municipal Sustainability Fund and facilitate joint procurement processes. We include sustainability as an explicit condition in the tendering criteria for renovations.
- We provide a municipal team of experts to help schools choose, tender and install smart technology for sustainable school buildings. This includes the use of smart meters, CO<sub>2</sub>-controlled ventilation and energy management systems. A selection of schools will trial this for one year. If the experience is positive, we will roll out this initiative to other schools in phases.
- We will tackle the indoor climate in schools by improving insulation. Older buildings without double glazing or roof insulation will be given priority.
- We are also improving acoustics by ensuring that all schools meet at least class B of the Requirements Programme for Fresh Schools. This creates a learning environment that supports intelligibility and concentration. In special education, we aim for class A levels for acoustics.
- We ensure that schools have sufficient high-quality teaching materials to enable pupils to learn about sustainability (such as energy saving and waste) in their own school buildings. By actively involving pupils and staff, we achieve immediate savings and raise awareness of sustainability.
- We maintain and strengthen the network of school gardens in Amsterdam so that all primary school pupils can participate in nature and environmental education. In addition to their educational function, school gardens are made accessible to the neighbourhood. We encourage after-school activities such as nature clubs and green after-school care.
- We will build on the success of the Amsterdam Impulse Schoolyards (AIS) programme. We will continue to make existing and new schoolyards climate-proof. These playgrounds are designed to encourage children to play, exercise and learn about nature. Schoolyards must be accessible to all children. Volt wants to encourage the use of inclusive play facilities. That is why inclusive accessibility has been included as an assessment criterion in the continuation of the AIS programme.
- We are investing in making school buildings self-sufficient and sustainable. We are laying down criteria for sustainability and a liveable school climate in new building plans.
- We are expanding the Healthy Schools Amsterdam programme to bring the remaining 10-15% of schools below the health standard up to standard.

## BRING EDUCATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET TOGETHER

Amsterdam has a rich offering of further education, with no fewer than four vocational colleges, four universities of applied sciences and two universities. We see that young people do not always choose to study in one of the sectors facing shortages (such as healthcare, construction, technology and education), even though there will be high demand for labour and therefore many job opportunities in these sectors in the coming years. Volt sees this as a task and an opportunity for the municipality: to strengthen craftsmanship, to make important sectors attractive and inspiring for students, and to offer people lifelong variety and development. We want closer cooperation between schools and the labour market, so that young people have plenty of job opportunities. And so that they can make study choices that suit their interests and talents as well as the labour market.

- Following the example of the Amsterdam MBO Internship Pact, Volt wants the municipality to enter into a broader Craftsmanship Pact with companies, schools and social organisations, in which agreements are made about learning and working pathways, retraining and further training, and guidance for new entrants. This will help young people find jobs more quickly, strengthen sectors facing shortages, and ensure that practically trained people, technicians, builders and craftsmen retain a solid place in the Amsterdam economy.
- We make agreements with MBO institutions to allow students to contribute their ideas on social issues in the city on a structural basis. We organise MBO Challenges, in which the municipality presents issues and students choose the issues that are relevant to their course.
- We want to retain the Healthcare Internship Fund and are urging national politicians to do so. This will enable healthcare providers to offer more internships to MBO and HBO students. The fund will be used to finance the guidance that is so badly needed to support students and keep them on board.
- We want all MBO students in Amsterdam to have the opportunity to gain international experience. That is why we encourage all Amsterdam MBO schools to participate in the European Erasmus+ programme and organise exchange programmes with other European cities to create more international internships. In this way, we increase students' opportunities on the international labour market and give everyone equal opportunities for an international experience.
- In collaboration with companies, we are expanding support for lateral entrants with retraining programmes and flexible work-study programmes. We are making agreements with educational institutions, companies and social organisations to develop accessible Lifelong Learning programmes for sectors facing shortages.

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## THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

Amsterdam is a real student city. The 125,000 students (vocational, higher professional and university) form a large and diverse group in our city. Students bring ideas, energy, creativity and knowledge development to Amsterdam. This is indispensable and makes Amsterdam a lively and vibrant place. They are the engineers, artists, entrepreneurs, nurses and teachers of

**tomorrow. We want the voice of students to be heard in the town hall and for students in the city to have space for study, meeting and development. A city that invests in and listens to its students invests in its own future.**

- We want extra study spaces to be available in the city during exam periods. The OBA will have longer opening hours during this period. Just like in Ghent, we want the council to make agreements with local organisations to make extra space available.
- We are investing in affordable workspaces, rehearsal rooms and studios for students. Together with schools and student representatives, we are mapping out the supply and demand for these spaces and making agreements to ensure sufficient supply. We are also explicitly including students in the Amsterdam City Council's Atelier and Broedplaatsen policy.
- We want Amsterdam to be a vibrant student city. Active student organisations are essential to this. Organisations that promote student interests and offer students a place to get to know the city and each other, and that actively combat abuses (such as internship discrimination) are actively supported by the municipality. To this end, the municipality provides spaces where student organisations can come together. We expect them to be transparent, accountable and demonstrably committed to a safe environment.
- We pay extra attention to new or small student organisations that are not yet established and find it difficult to find space to organise themselves. For example, we support the establishment of a student association for vocational students and pay extra attention to providing a suitable and comprehensive range of services for international students, so that they too can quickly find a home base in the city.
- We want vocational students to be able to enjoy their student life to the fullest and therefore have the same benefits as higher professional education and university students. Volt therefore wants to continue the Vocational Education Agenda. We will also remove the terms 'low-skilled' and 'highly skilled' from government policy. We will also ensure that all students have equal access to municipal facilities in the areas of art, culture and sport, including discount cards, memberships and events.
- We will ensure that there is a structural dialogue between representative student organisations and the municipality on issues such as student housing, events, safety and mental health. We will also pay attention to international students in this regard.

## 3.4

# AN ACCESSIBLE AND HUMANE GOVERNMENT

Many residents of Amsterdam and Weesp only have contact with the municipality when they collect their driving licence, renew their passport or receive their voting pass. But for a large group of fellow citizens, this is not the case. They depend on the municipality in their daily lives, for example because they need care and assistance. Those who need the municipality's help the most often get stuck in the service system. Volt believes that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp should be able to rely on a humane and helpful local authority, especially when it comes to complex and urgent requests for assistance. Services must be simpler, better and more humane.

- We support the local authority's ambitions to change its own organisation. Despite the hard work of civil servants, the local authority is currently too often bogged down in bureaucracy and paperwork. The organisation must be simplified, with clear powers and responsibilities. We also place more emphasis on implementation in policy plans. To make room for this, we dare to discontinue programmes that have no proven effect. In this way, we are working towards an organisation that can tackle the complex social issues of the city, with room for contact with the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.
- Residents who need long-term assistance from the municipality will be assigned a case manager. This person will be the point of contact for the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp, will proactively contribute ideas about the assistance the municipality can offer, and will ensure that requests for assistance are directed to the appropriate departments within the organisation. This will relieve the burden on Amsterdam residents and ensure they quickly receive the assistance to which they are entitled.
- We ensure that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp with vulnerable and very urgent requests for assistance are given priority. Civil servants are given the opportunity to flag these cases internally and intervene if policy unintentionally leads to dire or unjust situations.
- We ensure that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp do not have to explain their situation or request for assistance every time they contact the municipality.
- We will ensure that the municipality works for its residents in Amsterdam and Weesp. We will introduce shadowing days, during which civil servants will shadow fellow citizens to see how policy works in practice and to experience the ways in which residents get stuck in municipal services. This will allow us to see where things go wrong, improve services and bridge the gap between the government and residents.

# 4. GO FOR

# AN INNOVATIVE CITY ECONOMY



## 4.1

# AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind innovation and quality of life in the city. From the baker on the corner to scale-ups, from creative makers to financial service providers and major industrial players. Volt fully supports entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs provide jobs, innovation and a vibrant urban culture. The municipality must offer entrepreneurs space and security: fast and predictable permits, affordable workspaces and support for sustainability and digitisation.

Our city is connected to a global economy. Major developments such as digitisation, international tensions and climate change are affecting the sectors in which Amsterdam excels. This calls for a new vision. One in which we no longer focus solely on growth, but use entrepreneurship and innovation to tackle the major challenges of our time. And in which we measure prosperity not only in terms of money, but also in terms of health, nature and other things of value.

Volt stands for this new course. We focus on broad prosperity and balance growth with people, animals and the environment. The economy of the future requires conscious choices: about which activities we give freedom and space in the city and which sectors need to innovate in order to fit in. Amsterdam's industry is going green, urban agriculture is focusing on innovation and tourism is becoming more conscious and less mass-oriented.

Volt believes that good ideas know no boundaries. We think European and act locally, bringing solutions that work well elsewhere to Amsterdam. We are organising our tourism like Copenhagen, our start-up sector like Paris and our regulatory burden like the European Commission: one rule in, one rule out. The municipality will become a driver of major European transitions and, as the city's largest employer, a leader in the labour market of the future. In this way, we are building a future-proof Amsterdam economy.

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## ROOM FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The city is full of energy, good ideas and enterprising Amsterdammers. Volt wants entrepreneurship and craftsmanship to flourish in the city. Because a liveable city is one where amenities are within easy reach and where housing, employment, business and social functions all come together in vibrant neighbourhoods. Volt is building a city for everyone. That is why it is essential that there remains room for local entrepreneurs, craftsmen and the manufacturing industry, because the city is also becoming too expensive for this group. Volt advocates more municipal control and attention to ensure that there remains a place in the city for these parties.

- Volt wants area development to focus on strengthening vital, vibrant neighbourhoods where living and working go hand in hand. This means that, in addition to housing, there will also be space for business, experimentation and employment. By cleverly linking social, spatial and

economic challenges, neighbourhoods that are both economically and socially sustainable will be created.

- By setting up a work corporation, Volt wants to offer parties with social added value a place at work locations. In this way, we stimulate local entrepreneurship, a healthy mix of economic activity and offer space for employment for vulnerable professions that would otherwise be priced out of the market.
- In tourist and other monofunctional areas, Volt encourages a healthier mix of living, working and social functions. Successful examples such as NV Zeedijk can serve as inspiration: collaboration between public and private parties to give buildings a more sustainable and social purpose. In residential areas without commercial activity, Volt wants to work with housing associations and developers to create more space for workplaces and small-scale businesses.
- Volt wants to give local entrepreneurs, makers and craftsmen the space to flourish. Together with the sector, we want to set up an Urban Manufacturing Corporation. Its purpose is to support, advise and protect the manufacturing industry. Zoning plans must continue to allow space for small-scale production in mixed neighbourhoods.
- We are reforming the council's land price policy towards entrepreneurs so that social added value is better taken into account. In this way, we are ensuring that these local entrepreneurs can remain in the city.
- Volt wants to establish agreements on social added value for large area and real estate projects, such as local employment, work placements and contracts for cooperatives.
- Volt wants the municipality to encourage property owners, housing associations and other companies and organisations to create temporary and affordable workspaces for freelancers and self-employed people, for example in vacant buildings and shared office spaces. The municipality is setting a good example by already doing this in its own properties.
- Volt wants Amsterdam to actively protect and strengthen the cultural and creative sector by preserving affordable workspaces and studios, involving creators more closely in urban development and structurally recognising culture as a fully-fledged economic pillar of the city.
- Volt wants Amsterdam to make broader use of the BIZ instrument (the Business Investment Zone), including in neighbourhoods and areas where there are currently few BIZs. In addition, Volt advocates a stronger network function between BIZs, so that they can exchange expertise, data and successful practices and work together on themes such as sustainability, safety and vibrant city centres.
- The municipality supports BIZs not by taking over their work, but by collaborating on professionalisation: knowledge sharing and linking BIZs to universities and knowledge institutions. Volt also wants the municipality to provide even better support to start-ups and small BIZs in the establishment phase, with process guidance and a broadening and increase of the one-off start-up contribution.

## THE AMSTERDAM MARKETS

- The municipality works with local markets on professionalisation and innovation, enabling markets to respond to changing consumer behaviour and attract new target groups. Entrepreneurs receive support in renewing their formula.

- Volt encourages and provides space for experiments with new market concepts, such as (more) evening and weekend markets, theme markets (sustainable, vintage, local food) and (neighbourhood) markets that combine cultural programming with sales.
- The market master will be given a broader role as a connector between entrepreneurs, residents and city districts. The market master will continue to ensure that the rules are enforced, but will also be a connector and driving force for change.

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## **INCLUSIVE, SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**New ideas, groundbreaking products, digital services. The residents of Amsterdam and Weesp are good at setting up new businesses and attracting existing entrepreneurs with growth opportunities. Volt wants to promote this system into a coherent ecosystem, in which social and inclusive entrepreneurship is a structural part of broader economic policy. We give socially responsible entrepreneurs the space to grow. Because when they grow, Amsterdam grows with them.**

- We encourage sustainable entrepreneurship and support entrepreneurs in the development and implementation of socially just, sustainable business models with clear added value for society, such as steward ownership. We do this through targeted support, knowledge sharing and a municipal procurement strategy that gives priority to sustainable entrepreneurs.
- Volt wants a modern government that facilitates entrepreneurs rather than frustrates them. An action plan to reduce the administrative burden will be introduced, and we will also introduce a structural brake on bureaucracy. In doing so, we are following the example of the European Commission, which applies the 'one in, one out' principle to keep legislation efficient. For every new local rule that increases the burden on entrepreneurs, there must be relief elsewhere. In this way, we force the municipality to continue to critically examine the usefulness and necessity of new and old rules.
- We promote inclusivity by supporting programmes such as EQUALS, which focuses on female, non-binary and migrant entrepreneurs. We are developing accessible coaching and mentoring programmes, inspired by successful European examples such as Mentor'IN in Brussels and NatAlli in Ukraine. Our aim is to increase the number of entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups by at least 30% within five years.
- With social impact bonds, we directly involve Amsterdam residents in financing social and sustainable projects, such as affordable housing, equal opportunities and poverty reduction. The municipality guarantees a return when pre-agreed social goals are achieved. We want to realise at least €10 million in impact investments within three years.
- We are strengthening employees' connection with (the objectives of) the company and binding them more closely to the city. We are doing this by exploring the possibilities of employee participation in companies and expanding and utilising social impact bonds. In this way, we want to ensure that employees and the city can share in the profits of companies. In public tenders issued by the municipality, we reward companies that apply such an approach.
- The municipality of Amsterdam and its public institutions are powerful economic players in their own right. Volt strives to ensure that every euro of public money contributes as much as possible to sustainability, equal opportunities and social added value. This means circular

procurement, fair working conditions, diversity in contracting and transparent management of municipal participations.

## INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Volt wants a city where innovation is not just about technology, but about solving the biggest challenges of today and tomorrow. The municipality must act as an accelerator and link innovation more closely to social challenges and goals. We must provide structural support and scale up successful initiatives. After all, innovation only becomes a real success when it also makes a measurable contribution to sustainability, equal opportunities and broad prosperity.**

- We want to make Amsterdam a European breeding ground for start-ups. That is why, following the example of 'Station F' in Paris, we want to set up a large-scale start-up centre where young companies, researchers and investors can work together under one roof on sustainable and digital solutions. In this way, we will strengthen the European innovation network, accelerate the transition to a future-proof economy and retain talent and economic activity in our city.
- We want Amsterdam to collaborate with other European cities to strengthen innovation throughout Europe. That is why we encourage start-ups to gain a foothold outside the Netherlands, help scale-ups that want to establish themselves here, and connect organisations to the European Startup Network. In this way, we are building a cross- border ecosystem in which knowledge, talent and innovation can flow freely, and together we are making Europe the best place for entrepreneurship.
- Volt wants to make revolving finance available to start-ups and scale-ups that would otherwise find it difficult to obtain financing. We want to enable the growth of these companies with a specific focus on the implementation of innovations, based on the Innovation Challenge and Living Lab network. We are learning from HEID in The Hague and working with InWest (the development company for the province of North Holland) to make such a fund possible.
- We are setting up more structural Innovation and Impact Zones (I&I zones), such as those at the NDSM shipyard and in ArenaPoort. Here, companies, cooperatives and social initiatives can experiment with more flexible rules and fast procedures for solutions to urban challenges. Examples include projects aimed at accelerating the energy transition, developing affordable and circular housing, climate-adaptive design of public spaces and combating social inequality.
- Volt wants existing innovation hubs (such as the Marineterrein) to collaborate, creating a cohesive ecosystem in which successful innovations can be tested, rolled out city-wide and scaled up beyond the city.
- To ensure continuity, we are setting up a permanent innovation consultation forum where the municipality and the business community can discuss the progress of AI adoption and examine how we can remove barriers in regulations or usage.
- We will organise an annual innovation competition around an urgent Amsterdam issue, such as climate adaptation, sustainable mobility or protein transition.

## A STRONG AND FUTURE-PROOF SME SECTOR

- SMEs must be able to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by AI. We are setting up AI training centres for entrepreneurs, in collaboration with organisations such as the Amsterdam Economic Board and Amsterdam AI, to help entrepreneurs use AI in an ethically responsible and innovative way. These centres also support SMEs in identifying the risks of AI for their organisation.
- We want Amsterdam entrepreneurs to be better protected against cyber threats. That is why, as in Rotterdam, we are setting up a cyber buddy programme in which specially trained ICT students assist SME entrepreneurs with practical cyber resilience training, customised checks and the implementation of basic measures. In this way, we support them in recognising, identifying and preventing digital attacks, increase the digital resilience of our local economy and limit the damage caused by cybercrime.
- We are strengthening the Amsterdam economy's ties with Europe by actively supporting entrepreneurs in utilising European knowledge, networks, financing and (international) expansion. The municipality helps entrepreneurs apply for European subsidies such as Horizon Europe and Urban Innovative Actions, with the aim of successfully supporting at least 50 entrepreneurs annually.
- We are raising awareness among Amsterdammers of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, which offers new or aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn from experienced entrepreneurs. This enables entrepreneurs to expand their European network and work together on local challenges with European solutions.
- The municipality encourages training, coaching and networking meetings for self-employed persons to promote cooperation, innovation and growth. The municipality can use this network to share information about support in the event of a temporary drop in income.
- Entrepreneurs can visit the advice centre for entrepreneurs in city districts with questions about retraining or temporary income support, for example. The knowledge available at these advice centres is being expanded, so that innovative and social entrepreneurs can also visit with questions about collaboration, scaling up and subsidy applications, for example.

## FOOD PRODUCTION OF THE FUTURE

Volt envisions an agricultural sector that focuses on plant-based proteins and innovative food production. Amsterdam can be a pioneer in the transition to the food production of the future. Food cultivation that we can no longer accommodate horizontally due to limited space will move upwards. By focusing on vertical farming, cultured meat and innovative protein production, we can produce food locally and sustainably without using a lot of space.

- Innovative food production is becoming a new focus within the municipality's food strategy. By setting out a clear vision for the future, we are offering much-needed prospects for this sector. Good examples include the use of vacant offices for vertical farming and the protein transition.
- Sustainable food production will be included in the city's innovation programme. Modern food production, such as vertical farming, offers many opportunities to optimise productivity per square metre, reduce food miles and spread energy demand. Together with growers and network operators, we are investigating how these companies can be optimally connected to

the grid. Companies focused on the protein transition, such as cultured meat and seaweed as a substitute for animal meat, are also part of this agenda. This will create an affordable alternative for consumers.

- Volt stands for a sustainable, green agricultural sector with stable and fair incomes for farmers, focused on local communities. Organic, regenerative and land-based agriculture, which restores the soil and stores CO<sub>2</sub>, is the future. Volt advocates a transition to the cultivation of various crop types that can bind large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, such as hemp and bamboo, as a source of sustainable raw materials.
- The land in the Lutkemeerpolder is unique agricultural land. Volt wants to preserve as much of the currently undeveloped plots as possible for sustainable food production. This will preserve part of this area for local food production, nature education, employment and strengthening and connecting the community. Volt sees opportunities to use the undeveloped land, and possibly also part of the existing distribution halls, to create an urban food hub. In this hub, locally produced food will be processed and knowledge institutions, farmers, start-ups and social organisations will work together on new plans in the field of circular food production and urban agriculture.

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## A COOPERATIVE ECONOMY

**Whether you are a self-employed person, an SME or the owner of a private limited company, in Amsterdam, as an entrepreneur, you must be able to build the future of your city both individually and collectively. Volt stands for a cooperative and community-based economy. This is not an ideological goal, but a practical and modern model that works. We are turning Amsterdam into a city where residents not only work, but also co-own its future. The municipality rewards green and innovative entrepreneurship by ensuring clear and predictable rules. We encourage small cooperatives to strengthen their position together and large cooperatives to drive major transitions.**

- Volt wants the municipality to establish coherent conditions that combine goals, rules and tools for cooperative and community initiatives. This will create coherence between the city's economic, social, sustainable and spatial agendas. Existing regulations and subsidies will be brought together and supplemented with new instruments. This will provide clarity for residents and entrepreneurs and better support initiatives that create social added value.
- Volt wants the municipality to establish city-wide support for the community economy, as a point of contact for all cooperatives and collectives. This point of contact can provide advice on space, procurement, financing, legal forms and regulations, so that initiatives get off the ground more quickly and are better supported in their social and economic contribution to the city.
- We encourage Community Wealth Building in city districts by making local procurement agreements with institutions (e.g. in healthcare or education) and corporations, setting up cooperative supply chains and strengthening local employment.
- Many smaller entrepreneurs and cooperatives want to participate in municipal contracts, but are held back by scale and complexity. Volt wants the municipality to split large contracts into smaller pieces (lots) so that neighbourhood businesses and cooperatives also have a chance.

By making tenders more accessible and simplifying framework agreements, we strengthen the local economy and stimulate innovation from the bottom up.

- Large institutions such as schools, healthcare organisations and housing associations have considerable purchasing power, but this is not yet benefiting the local economy to a sufficient extent. Volt wants to establish a structural consultation process in which these parties and the municipality agree on local procurement targets. This will keep more money and jobs in the city and help us build sustainable, local supply networks.
- We help Amsterdam companies where necessary, but encourage them to move forward on their own as much as possible. We are setting up a revolving Growth Fund for the Collaborative Economy, with small start-up loans, working capital and guarantees for cooperatives and other democratic or social enterprises.
- Volt wants to set up a support base that temporarily helps start-up initiatives get off the ground. To this end, we are making limited structural resources available for support. This includes legal, administrative and tax support, or templates and guides, with a phased approach to self-reliance. This is supplemented by training and coaching and the building of a self-reliant network.
- The municipality will start supporting cooperative partnerships between freelancers and self-employed persons, so that they can collectively purchase, insure or take on assignments.
- The municipality encourages professionals and those with practical training to unite in cooperative companies. By taking on assignments together, sharing knowledge and organising local ownership, they strengthen their position, increase their income and create more security. Volt wants the municipality to support these initiatives with access to assignments, networking and municipal procurement opportunities.
- We support larger cooperatives in driving major transitions. The energy transition, housing crisis and pressure on healthcare require long-term cooperation with organisations that are locally rooted and have broad support. That is why an urban development programme for cooperative administrators is being set up, focusing on governance, property management and sustainable financing. This will enable energy cooperatives to invest in wind turbines, solar roofs and heating projects, housing cooperatives to build and manage properties, and healthcare cooperatives to develop sustainable neighbourhood locations.

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## A FUTURE-ORIENTED LABOUR MARKET

**Every day, AI and automation are replacing more and more tasks in all kinds of sectors. If we do not respond to this now, there is a risk that jobs will disappear on a large scale before people have the opportunity to change with them. Volt wants to work towards an inclusive labour market of the future, in which technological progress does not lead to exclusion, but to more opportunities. People working in sectors at high risk of automation will be given ample retraining opportunities to use AI to their advantage in the labour market. Amsterdam will become a centre for the AI education of the future, and we will better align that education with the labour market. This will enable everyone to participate in digital development.**

- Volt wants the municipality to set up a retraining fund to cushion the impact of AI on Amsterdammers and Weespers who work in sectors with a high risk of automation. We are

launching an Amsterdam job plan to train 1,000 Amsterdam residents each year to use AI in their work, or to train lateral entrants in essential sectors where there is or is likely to be a shortage. The training courses will be offered and funded in collaboration with public and private educational institutions and sector funds.

- The municipality will develop an AI Skills Scan in collaboration with knowledge institutions and private initiatives. This will enable residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to discover where their talents lie and what new skills they can develop to remain future-proof in the labour market.
- We are turning Amsterdam into a centre for future-oriented education, where young people and lateral entrants at every level of education can grow into the professionals of the future, such as in AI. In addition, we are making AI education available, with extra attention for underrepresented groups in this field. We are doing this following the example of the Finnish 'Elements of AI', which is already available in Dutch.
- The municipality is setting up a labour coalition with employers, knowledge institutions and social partners. This coalition works together in various sectors to better align education with the future labour market, inspired by Brainport Eindhoven. Participating employers are committing to retraining: as soon as their sector is threatened with large-scale automation, they will draw up a transition plan for their staff (including training and guidance to other positions) in collaboration with trade unions and educational institutions.
- The municipality is launching pilot projects with mobile AI Labs, where job seekers can gain practical experience with robotics and data analysis tools. These labs offer accessible access to technology and guidance from professionals. We are launching the pilot project in Amsterdam Zuidoost and Nieuw-West.

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## **SEX WORK**

**Sex work has been part of Amsterdam's city centre for centuries; it is one of the city's oldest professions. Sex work is work, and sex workers are entitled to a safe, legal and respectful working environment. We are strengthening their legal position, creating more workplaces and providing space for new forms of independent and cooperative entrepreneurship in the sex industry. We are working hard to increase safety for sex workers and are taking a targeted approach to combating abuses. Active management will be put in place in the neighbourhood to prevent nuisance. In this way, Amsterdam and sex work will continue to belong together.**

- Sex workers are an equal part of the service sector. We are committed to granting sex workers the same legal status as other self-employed entrepreneurs in this sector. Sex workers will also be given access to essential services for their business operations, such as a business bank account, insurance, or mortgage.
- The municipality includes the requirements for hygienic working conditions in the operating conditions, so that operators must provide these requirements to sex workers.
- We tackle human trafficking in the sex industry with targeted checks, a hotline that is available 24/7, and trained teams that actively approach sex workers. Victims receive immediate safe shelter, medical and legal assistance, and long-term support towards recovery. Close cooperation between the municipality, police, healthcare providers and NGOs ensures that exploitation is detected and stopped more quickly.

- We provide sufficient safe workplaces for sex workers so that they do not have to end up in an illegal circuit. Volt wants to break through the maximum policy. We support an increase in the number of workplaces for sex workers, for example by allowing sex workers to work from home under certain conditions (as is already the case in Hilversum, Tilburg and Rotterdam) or by setting up other new forms of self-employment together with colleagues.
- The municipality also encourages cooperative forms of entrepreneurship and ownership in sex work, in close contact with the industry.
- Sex workers keep their opening hours until 6 a.m. in order to guarantee their safety and anonymity.
- *Opting-in* offers sex workers the opportunity to make use of services provided by operators without operators being taxed as employers. This allows sex workers to establish themselves (more) independently, which also benefits their safety. We are investigating whether we can include the conditions for *opting-in* in the licensing of operators.
- Volt does not want an erotic centre (EC) in Amsterdam. Volt is not convinced that an erotic centre will help to reduce congestion in the city. After all, we have seen in the past that closing windows in the Red Light District does not reduce the number of tourists. In fact, it is conceivable that a centre would only attract additional tourist flows. It is also unclear how an erotic centre would combat exploitation or improve the position of sex workers. That is why Volt is opposed to this expensive and controversial experiment.
- There will be active neighbourhood management to prevent nuisance, and there will be workplaces that are (partly) run and managed by sex workers from marginalised groups.
- We are investing in induction days for new sex workers at the Amsterdam Centre for Sex Workers (ACS). During these induction days, new sex workers will receive information about their rights (and obligations), how to access the police and healthcare, and their rights in relation to landlords of workspaces. It must also become much clearer how sex workers can complain (anonymously) about landlords of workspaces.

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## TOURISM

**Amsterdam still manages to amaze, entertain and delight large groups of people. And given the growing global prosperity, this will continue to be the case in the future. Tourism is an important source of income for Amsterdam, but the balance between mass tourism and quality of life has been lost. Volt wants visitors and residents alike to feel at home in the city. To achieve this, we need to spread tourists more evenly across the city and region, reduce pressure on the city centre and reinforce the authentic, recognisable city for Amsterdammers themselves. After all, a city where residents feel at home will remain attractive to visitors in the long term. The city is not a game you can play in an afternoon: we focus on visitors who stay longer, contribute to the local economy and show respect for the city and its residents.**

- We are combating the 'theme parkification' of the city. Volt wants to ban Mario Kart tours and other attractions that cause (excessive) nuisance. We also discourage shops that focus entirely on tourist impulse purchases, such as Nutella or stroopwafel shops, and we tackle crowds caused by popular social media hypes, such as TikTok queues.

- We want to further increase the tourist tax. This will be increased by 1% annually to 16.5% in 2030. This will provide more financial resources to improve the liveability of the city, bring perspective and peace of mind for entrepreneurs, and as a side effect, it will also reduce tourist pressure. Thanks to a predictable, step-by-step and multi-year increase, we retain control, everyone knows where they stand and we create space to invest the proceeds in jointly improving the city. The proceeds can be used to fund liveability initiatives and shop transformations.
- The rate for day tourism will increase. This can be achieved, among other things, by imposing heavier taxes on certain activities that attract large numbers of day tourists. Amsterdam residents will be involved in deciding how the funds are spent.
- Volt is in favour of closing the Amsterdam Passenger Terminal (PTA) by 2035. Volt also wants to halve the number of river cruise ships by 2030.
- Overtourism is also a problem in other EU countries. Volt wants Amsterdam to work more closely with other Dutch and European cities to spread tourists more evenly and combat overtourism. The municipality is intensifying its cooperation with cities such as Venice, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Florence and Dubrovnik to exchange experiences and come up with effective rules and initiatives to combat overtourism.
- Volt supports the course set by the municipality of Amsterdam in the 'Implementation Programme for the City Centre', which focuses on increasing the housing supply and creating a liveable city centre with green spaces, culture and a diverse range of shops and restaurants. The hotel stop will also remain in place.
- In Copenhagen, tourists are encouraged through discounts to travel to the city using sustainable means of transport or to do volunteer work while staying in the city. The municipality supports initiatives aimed at enabling tourists to make a positive contribution to the sustainability and liveability of the city.
- We want hotels not only to make a profit from tourism, but also to add value to their neighbourhood. That is why we are promoting the concept of neighbourhood hotels, where existing hotels also serve as meeting places or workspaces for local residents. The municipality can support projects by collaborating, for example, in developing a quality mark for hotels that demonstrably fulfil a neighbourhood function. In this way, we can make better use of the existing tourist infrastructure for the people of Amsterdam themselves and make tourism something that contributes to the liveability of the city again.
- (International) Amsterdammers and Weespers also receive visits from friends and family from far away, and many do not have room to accommodate one, two or more people in their apartments. Volt wants to encourage hotels to offer accommodation at reduced rates to guests of local residents, as is already the case with the guest studio in the Kolenkitbuurt neighbourhood.

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## DRUG POLICY

**Amsterdam's cannabis policy has always been based on pragmatic and progressive thinking. We want this to remain the case. The policy should not be based on (pre)judgements, but on facts and research. Time and again, it has been shown that prohibition does not work: demand**

**does not decrease when drugs are banned, but illegal trade does increase. Legalisation and regulation are therefore much better measures. This allows us, as a municipality, to keep control, for example by looking at a better distribution of coffee shops and limiting nuisance.**

- The acceptance and legalisation of cannabis is growing worldwide. The so-called resident criterion excludes foreign visitors, but in practice mainly increases illegal street trading, resulting in more nuisance and insecurity. Volt believes that we should focus on regulation and equal treatment, not exclusion. That is why Volt wants tourists to remain welcome in Amsterdam's coffee shops.
- Amsterdam will lobby The Hague for the complete legalisation of cannabis products. The cannabis experiment shows that legalisation leads to better products, standardisation and better information provision, making products safer and allowing the industry to finally break away from the underworld.
- As long as the current tolerance policy applies, we must continue to work on the safety of coffee shop owners and limit any nuisance. It can help if coffee shops are evenly distributed throughout the city, so that supervision remains manageable. Experiments show that opening or relocating coffee shops to new locations does not lead to nuisance. Volt wants the municipality to break this taboo and allow relocation if coffee shop owners so desire. This will be done in consultation with residents and businesses. Safety for everyone is paramount.
- Volt advocates controlled decriminalisation of specific drugs, following the Portuguese example, combined with effective education on safe use. Volt supports initiatives that work with Amsterdam residents to investigate how specific types of drugs such as MDMA (ecstasy) and LSD can be legalised, such as the 'ecstasy shop'.

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## THE INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE

**Sustainability is not only a responsibility, but also an economic opportunity. Heavy industry in Amsterdam is an important economic driver, but at the same time one of the city's biggest polluters. Amsterdam must offer space to companies that invest in clean technology and tackle pollution head-on. The health of the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp is paramount. We encourage industry to make the transition to hydrogen, biogas and residual heat, and we are investigating safe alternatives such as small modular nuclear reactors. In this way, sustainability is not only good for the climate, but also for our jobs, our health and the city in which we live.**

- A healthy working and living environment is paramount. We are making public health the top priority when setting limits on polluting, harmful substances. That is why we are reviewing the licensing system for water, air and soil quality.
- In addition, we are ensuring that the European Zero Pollution Ambition is achieved earlier, so that we can quickly live in a climate-neutral and pollution-free city.
- We also want the North Sea Canal Area Environmental Service – in line with other countries – to be equipped to monitor violations of permit standards using new technology and to impose fines in accordance with the law.

- Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to urge the national government to introduce a European tax on industrial air pollution (nitrogen oxide, particulate matter and sulphur dioxide). The amount of the tax will correspond to the extent of the environmental damage.
- We facilitate the use of hydrogen and biogas infrastructure, among other things by making these more expensive options financially attractive. In addition, Volt wants Amsterdam to collaborate with other industrial hubs to exchange knowledge and best practices, so that sustainable technologies can be implemented more quickly and efficiently.
- We are investigating the possibility of using nuclear energy in the form of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at industrial clusters, as this is a safe alternative that causes less grid congestion and can be cheaper than hydrogen and biogas.
- Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to actively participate in the national and European debate on industrial sustainability.

## THE FUTURE OF THE PORT

The port of Amsterdam is undergoing major changes. The port area is home to more than 1,500 technical, logistical and maritime companies, which together account for approximately 70,000 jobs and €7 billion in added value. Currently, the port is still the largest petrol port in the world and the industry in the area is responsible for 17% of the city's CO<sub>2</sub>emissions. But the transition has begun: coal transhipment is rapidly declining, circular activities are taking shape and the necessary infrastructure, such as electricity lines, is being installed. Another positive development is that the municipality has purchased the ADM site in the port to relocate business activities and thus realise the Port-City project.

The Port of Amsterdam (PoA) is an independent company with the municipality of Amsterdam as its sole shareholder. As the 'landlord' of the port area, the Port of Amsterdam has the opportunity to stimulate sustainability. Volt recognises that industry can only be made sustainable if the entire production chain is involved, rather than just individual companies. This sustainability requires a long-term perspective and a proactive attitude that anticipates the future rather than waiting for it to happen.

- A port transition fund will be established. A percentage of the profits from the Port of Amsterdam will be deposited into the fund. In consultation with relevant parties (such as the Port of Amsterdam, the Municipality of Amsterdam, the North Sea Canal Area Programme Office, and the North Sea Canal Area Environmental Service), the money from the fund will be invested. Possible objectives for the fund include strengthening the Environmental Service for supervision, investing in essential infrastructure such as electricity lines, purchasing nitrogen space for green infrastructure, and a human capital programme with public-private partners.
- We are learning from the successful Amsterdam Port Energy Cooperative, in which 30 companies link and share scarce grid capacity and local generation and storage facilities. Volt wants the City of Amsterdam to take an active role in encouraging the expansion of such collaborations among industry in Amsterdam. The City of Amsterdam is the appropriate party to take the initiative in helping to set up more Energy Cooperatives in industrial areas in Amsterdam, with the condition that this has a net- neutral or net-positive effect. A position will be created within the city council for this purpose, which will take the initiative in setting up collaborations with industry, Liander and the Environmental Service.

- Damen Shiprepair plays an important role for the Dutch Ministry of Defence and must therefore be retained for the Netherlands and for North Holland. However, this large- scale shipyard currently stands in the way of the development of Haven-Stad in Amsterdam. Volt supports the relocation of Damen Shiprepair to another location in North Holland on the North Sea Canal (or elsewhere in the Netherlands) and sees the recently purchased ADM site as a possible location. Volt emphasises the importance of the municipality working with the national government and the province to support Damen in their relocation, taking into account Damen's specific requirements with regard to a location.

## THE FUTURE OF THE AIRPORT

Amsterdam is affected by Schiphol Airport, due to noise and nuisance from tourism. Aviation also needs to become more sustainable, and the city must use its influence as a shareholder to accelerate this sustainability. For shorter distances, we want to see a significant reduction in the number of flights and more sustainable alternatives become a realistic, logical travel option. There is no place for private jets and there must be a legal obligation to reduce emissions. In this way, we are working towards cleaner air and fairer choices for travellers – with an eye for the health of Amsterdam's residents and the climate.

- Volt supports the introduction of a distance-based flight tax (based on the German and British models). This will increase the prices of short-haul flights and encourage passengers to consider more sustainable alternatives such as train travel. Volt also wants to introduce a kerosene tax.
- Volt wants the municipality, as a co-shareholder, to commit to limiting the number of flights to 400,000 per year, in particular by drastically reducing the number of short-haul flights. Air France currently flies ten times a day between Schiphol and Paris Charles de Gaulle, even though the train is a good alternative. Volt also supports a ban on private flights at Schiphol.
- Volt advocates the development of an extensive network of high-speed trains and night trains throughout Europe that is accessible and affordable for all travellers. This means constructing new international railway lines to European cities and improving the train network within the Netherlands. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to support the EU policy of replacing flights within Europe with trains as much as possible and doubling the number of international trains for this purpose. To this end, the municipality is promoting the replacement of the majority of flights between Schiphol and London with trains as soon as possible. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam, also via EuroCities, to support the launch of the Amsterdam-Barcelona night train.
- We actively encourage Schiphol to reduce noise pollution, for example by significantly limiting the number of night flights to a maximum of 27,000 per year.
- In addition, we want a reduction in annual emissions (in line with the Paris Agreement) to be legally binding for major emitters such as Schiphol. This can be controlled by rules on the type of aircraft that are allowed to land at Schiphol.
- At European level, Volt is committed to extending the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) to intercontinental flights (currently, the ETS only applies to flights within Europe).

## 4.2

# DIGITALISATION

The City of Amsterdam must also be digitally accessible to all residents. However, Amsterdam's apps and websites are far from easy to use for everyone. Volt wants much greater digital accessibility for existing and new applications. From now on, the municipality will develop and update apps for and with as many different Amsterdam users as possible. We will also give all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp access to a computer at a central location in their neighbourhood. To this end, the municipality will no longer discard equipment, but reuse it. This will enable everyone to participate online and digitally.

We use smart technology to make the city more liveable and AI – where responsible – to improve municipal services. In doing so, we never lose sight of the residents of Amsterdam: we monitor privacy, transparency, explainability and cyber resilience. In the future, Volt also wants to only allow data centres that are sustainable, contribute to local and social goals and come up with their own solutions for network congestion in the city.

Volt wants to move towards a digitally strong Amsterdam in a digitally independent Europe. In this way, we reduce our dependence on big tech or undemocratic regimes. European municipalities are joining forces digitally to build applications that connect and complement each other throughout Europe. For us, that power is open source, making us a driving force behind the European digital transition.

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## EVERYONE ONLINE

The municipality must be there for all people in Amsterdam. Volt therefore wants all Amsterdam residents to be able to use the municipality's digital services. However, websites and apps are often not designed with older people, people with disabilities or newcomers in mind. Yet an accessible digital government is crucial for them. If it were up to us, we would ensure that everyone could apply for a parking permit online or find information about healthcare allowances. We will ensure that the municipality not only complies with accessibility legislation on paper, but also works to achieve real access in the real world with the people of Amsterdam. In this way, we are building a digital city where no one has to be offline.

- Volt wants all apps, websites and digital forms of the municipality of Amsterdam to comply with international standards for digital accessibility (at least level WCAG 2.1 A) as soon as possible. We are starting with the most important and most widely used platform: amsterdam.nl must achieve accessibility status A as soon as possible. The municipality will then improve the more specialised applications in phases. To ensure that accessibility is maintained, we will continuously monitor these digital systems.
- The municipality will set up easily accessible feedback channels where all residents can provide feedback on the digital tools used by the municipality at any time. Examples include a special accessibility line or built-in feedback buttons.

- When purchasing digital products and services, the municipality of Amsterdam will pay much more attention to how accessible they are. In doing so, we are following the recommendations of Ireland's National Disability Authority: from now on, we will devote at least 10% of the award criteria in all tenders to accessibility. This means that suppliers can score higher if their products meet international accessibility standards or if they have experience in accessible development.
- Volt wants Amsterdam to expand volunteer programmes such as the Digicoach project, the OBA's digital walk-in consultation hours and the municipal Inclusive Digital City programme. We are developing these projects into a city-wide volunteer programme in which young people help those with low (digital) literacy skills to acquire digital skills.

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## THE SOCIAL DIGITAL STANDARD

**Volt brings digital services closer to the people who live in the city. If it were up to us, websites, apps and other digital communication would be developed in collaboration with the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. Residents would contribute ideas, which the municipality would use to design services that work for everyone. Ultimately, we want Amsterdam to become a European leader in the field of social digital development. This will make Amsterdam a city where technology is inclusive and serves society.**

- The municipality's digital services must be social and inclusive. The Municipality of Amsterdam is launching a pilot project to put the Social Digital Standard of the Digital Citizenship Foundation into practice. Digital tools are being developed according to the principles of 'open source, unless', interoperability, reusability, privacy by design and functional replaceability. Amsterdam is taking on a leading role in working with other large cities to achieve economies of scale, for example a shared open-source app for parking permits.
- We will test the municipality's apps, websites and other digital services with the people who actually use them. Inspired by the United Kingdom's 'testing GOV.UK with real users' project, the municipality is drawing up a plan to systematically collect real user experiences from residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. This includes user tests, annual surveys and interviews with fellow citizens from a wide range of target groups. In this way, the municipality is building digital services that really work in the daily lives of the city's residents.
- Volt recognises that participation in the digital society is a choice and not an obligation, but wants to enable everyone who wants to participate digitally to do so. The municipality offers a comprehensive and professional range of workshops, online tutorials and help desks to Amsterdam residents to help them make the most of digital resources. We are also raising awareness of this offer.
- Accessibility must be included in the design process of digital tools from the outset, not just added later. We apply the Universal Design principle to all new Amsterdam digital resources: from the outset, we design the applications with as many groups of Amsterdam and Weesp residents in mind as possible. It is not the existing processes, but the people who are central to every development project. Projects always start with user research.
- The municipality will actively involve Amsterdammers in the development of digital tools during the design phase through co-creation, citizen panels or peer groups. We will lay this

down in a new participation standard for digital projects. The municipality is investigating whether we can use a digital platform for citizen participation, as Barcelona does.

## EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

**Everyone in Amsterdam should be able to connect to digital life. Whether it's chatting with a friend, booking a hotel online or sorting out your tax affairs, a large part of your life takes place in the digital world. Access to digital equipment is therefore essential, but for many city residents it is too expensive or too challenging. Volt wants all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to have access to a computer. We will ensure that modern, functional equipment is installed in community centres, where all residents can go to arrange essential services or maintain their contacts.**

**Volt wants to kill two birds with one stone by recycling the municipality's discarded equipment. The municipality's computers are often still in good condition and can be brought back into service with a simple operating system update. This will make the digital world a lot more accessible, save money and be good for the environment!**

- The municipality is drawing up an action plan to provide neighbourhood teams and community centres in Amsterdam with better digital resources. We are making an inventory of which devices, such as laptops, computers and smartphones, are missing or outdated in the neighbourhood centres and are drawing up a distribution plan to supplement or replace them. Neighbourhood centres in areas with the largest digital divide will be given priority. When allocating devices, we also take into account the needs of specific target groups, such as the elderly and people with a migrant background.
- The municipality is using the community centre plan to boost the reduction of digital waste and is launching an internal digital recycling programme. When the municipality replaces its computers and devices at the end of their life cycle or earlier, they are automatically channelled for internal reuse instead of traditional recycling. IT devices or parts that are still in good condition are reused: the municipality erases old data and equips the devices with up-to-date software, operating systems and security and user-friendly software. This ensures that they are delivered ready for use for distribution to community centres.
- We are also setting up an initiative to supply *refurbished* smartphones and computers to residents of Amsterdam and Weesp who are in dire need of this equipment, as well as to social projects. We collect second-hand devices from technology companies, educational institutions and other external partners and prepare them for reuse and distribution. We are setting this up following the example of the Digital Inclusion project in Luxembourg, where refugees, job seekers and other volunteers help repair second-hand equipment. In this way, we combine sustainability with poverty reduction and the acquisition of valuable skills.
- We are looking into whether the community centre plan can be rolled out more widely if it proves successful, for example by working with housing associations to offer integrated digital facilities in the community centres they manage.

## A DIGITALLY INDEPENDENT EUROPE

**Volt wants to move towards a digitally independent Europe. Digital dependence makes us geopolitically vulnerable – online and in real life – to external attacks that could shut down our services. We are also too dependent on commercial American tech giants, which have too much power and are not guided by ethical principles.**

**Public services must operate on public terms. We are entering into European partnerships to take steps towards greater digital independence. In doing so, we are pooling the digital strengths that Europe has to offer and building digital applications that can be interconnected throughout the EU. The municipality will go fully open source and we will give the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp more insight into how their data is used. In this way, we will build a strong Amsterdam in an independent Europe, step by step.**

- Every European city has its own digital strengths. Volt wants Amsterdam to capitalise on this and, together with other European cities, build on the Eurostack and the ‘digital autonomy competence centre’ to jointly develop European, digitally independent tools and environments. For example, Barcelona provides an online participation platform, Amsterdam develops secure cloud storage and Helsinki develops the digital identity layer. This collaboration prevents duplicate investments and research, increases scalability and strengthens control over technology.
- Together with other European cities, Amsterdam is developing a large shared European library for public AI tools. In doing so, we are building a network of AI tools that are interoperable throughout the EU and enabling Europe to become competitive and independent in the world. All applications in the library are developed or hosted securely in-house to ensure privacy. We are also linking an AI Skills Academy for civil servants and residents to the library to train them in how to use the applications.
- Digital applications and environments must be able to connect with each other throughout the EU. Volt wants Amsterdam to actively collaborate with other European cities on the development of common standards, policies and frameworks for interoperability. Volt wants to build on existing initiatives such as Living-in.EU and Common Ground, so that our digital systems are interchangeable and comply with European public standards.
- Through e-Estonia, we are entering into a partnership with Tallinn to further develop Amsterdam in the field of digitisation. In this way, we are promoting a joint digital infrastructure that is independent of large commercial providers.
- Volt wants the municipal digital environment to run entirely on open source operating systems and applications, without dependence on closed commercial operating systems. We will continue to actively participate in the ‘proof of concept’ of the government’s open source collaboration software.
- The municipality is developing a Vendor Lock-in Index. Each year, this index provides insight into how dependent the municipality is on specific digital suppliers for each domain: who supplies the software, how replaceable the software is, what exit strategy is included in the contract and whether the software complies with open standards. This allows us to steer towards independence from Big Tech.

- We are investing in knowledge building and in an ecosystem in which public digital innovation is not only technically strong, but also contributes to social goals. We organise hackathons and development sessions with the open source and open internet communities. We are setting up a 'Commons Cloud Consortium Amsterdam', in which the municipality will collaborate structurally with social partners and local companies to bundle knowledge, infrastructure and software and share this with other authorities.
- Volt wants the municipality to continue investing in knowledge relationships such as the European Commission's Smart Cities Marketplace and the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, which it itself started with New York and Barcelona. Amsterdam will set up and host an annual European Digital Cities Summit, where European cities can share their best practices on, for example, open data and public-private innovation ecosystems. We also want Amsterdam to organise joint expert sessions with European partner cities on topics such as digital inclusion, artificial intelligence and open data.

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## **RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL PUBLIC SPACE**

**Amsterdam has an increasing number of 'smart' sensors, algorithms and digital systems on its streets. This offers great opportunities to make the city work better for its residents: from green lights for cyclists in the rain to earlier waste collection and better air quality. But digitisation should not come at the expense of privacy or control. Volt therefore wants technology to serve the people of Amsterdam. With clear rules, transparent registers and room for residents to have a say. We invest in digital infrastructure and use data to make the city cleaner and its residents safer (online). In doing so, we learn from other Dutch and European cities. Always with an eye for ethics, openness and in the interests of the people in the city.**

- The municipality of Amsterdam is using the capacity of its leading IT open source team to drive the digital transition of the Dutch and European governments. To this end, Amsterdam is investing in its own public and open source digital infrastructure. We are giving the Digitisation, Innovation and Information Team a broad mandate to develop public alternatives for applications and digital platforms itself. Think of an open events platform, where neighbourhood initiatives and cultural events can be found. These platforms run on Amsterdam servers or the European public cloud, do not use tracking and respect privacy.
- The municipality is switching to privacy-friendly and secure applications and ethical alternatives to social media and other functions for communication with residents.
- There are more and more sensors in public spaces that collect data. Volt wants the municipality to expand the Amsterdam sensor register into a comprehensive and complete digital map of all sensors that collect data in Amsterdam. The municipality will ensure that more companies register their sensors, that the quality of the information in the register is high, and that more residents of Amsterdam and Weesp are aware of the register's existence. The municipality will make the generated, non-traceable data available so that entrepreneurs, researchers and residents can also come up with their own applications for it.
- Volt wants the municipality to seek cooperation with other Dutch and European cities in networks such as the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights and Eurocities, in order to share knowledge and work together towards higher authorities.

## DIGITAL RESILIENCE: AMSTERDAM CYBER-READY BY 2030

Volt wants Amsterdam to be at the forefront of digital security. We are building a city where residents know that their data is safe, where businesses are resilient to digital attacks, and where the government takes cyber threats seriously. Digital resilience is a public duty. Amsterdam will thus become the first city in the Netherlands with an open, democratic, and future-proof cyber policy.

- The digital threat in the Netherlands is significant. There have been incidents in Amsterdam involving ransomware, DDoS and cyber attacks from other states. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to become more digitally secure, so that residents' personal data is better protected and the city can continue to function in the event of a cyberattack. We will ensure that the municipality better secures its most important computer systems, closely monitors its suppliers and trains its employees to recognise risks.
- Volt wants the municipality to view digital resilience not only as an internal task, but also as a public service it provides to the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. From 2027, the municipality will set up a structural assistance programme for people who have fallen victim to digital crime. In collaboration with neighbourhood teams, libraries and the Digmaal Veilig Thuis (Digital Safe Home) initiative, the municipality will offer accessible online and physical assistance for cybercrimes such as phishing, online extortion or identity fraud.

## DEMOCRATIC AI GOVERNANCE

AI has become an integral part of our lives, but it is also an elusive phenomenon. AI systems are increasingly using so-called logical models to determine who is entitled to assistance, education or care – without residents being able to understand how or why. Residents of Amsterdam and Weesp should not be at the mercy of uncontrollable decisions made by a computer system. We want residents to have control over AI and be able to check the outcomes for arbitrariness. They must be able to see the steps involved in AI decision-making and be able to contribute their own ideas and participate in decisions about the development of the AI tools that the municipality wants to use. In this way, we will make Amsterdam a city where technology is transparent and people remain in control.

- Volt believes that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp should have a say in the development of AI tools that the municipality wants to use for decisions that affect them. One example is the Smart Check algorithm for social assistance, which was discontinued after the citizens' panel expressed serious privacy concerns. Volt supports making this type of participation structural, with formal powers and feedback to the municipal council.
- Amsterdam and Weesp residents should be able to gain insight into the use of their data. For all digital systems where a risk analysis (DPIA) is carried out, the research must be made public. This way, Amsterdam residents can trust that digital systems are used fairly, transparently and in the public interest.
- We are setting up physical and digital usability labs where city residents can test AI applications, provide feedback and, together with developers, propose improvements to the tools. In this way, we ensure that AI tools are truly usable and have fewer blind spots.

- All steps in AI development and decision-making are made publicly transparent through open registers. Citizens can see how their input is processed and what considerations have been made. This makes the municipality accountable for its AI policy.
- All municipal AI systems must comply with 'explainable AI' (XAI) standards. Whether it concerns a parking fine or the property value of a house, every decision made by or with an algorithm must always be explained visually and comprehensibly to the citizens of Amsterdam.
- Every citizen is the owner of his or her own identity. Volt wants the municipality to advocate in The Hague for a ban on imitating personal identity with deepfakes and for a national reporting centre where people can report abuse by or with AI.

## AI AS AN ACCELERATOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Volt wants the municipality to set an example as a digital service provider. Where responsible, we use AI to reduce waiting times, relieve civil servants and better help citizens. Everything is done transparently and explainably: technology must work for people, not in their place.

- The municipality itself demonstrates the opportunities offered by AI by using it to improve its services. The municipality is making an inventory of AI opportunities for all municipal departments to improve or automate processes. The focus is on using AI for non-critical tasks where the risk of errors in processes affecting residents is low and where it really supports municipal employees. We are expanding successful AI projects such as ChatAmsterdam, the AI assistant developed in-house that helps civil servants write texts and summaries. This means that civil servants spend less time on routine work and citizens can get answers more quickly.
- We use AI as an accelerator of progress, but with one important caveat: AI applications must always be transparent and verifiable for the residents of Weesp and Amsterdam. Volt recognises that participation in the digital society is a choice and not an obligation. That is why you should always be able to choose to be helped by a human being at the municipality instead of an AI tool.
- The use of artificial intelligence should not be invisible: citizens and employees should know when an algorithm or AI tool is involved in municipal decisions or activities. Volt therefore advocates clear communication with labels and notifications when AI is used, for example as a chatbot, but also to analyse or summarise documents.

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## SUSTAINABLE DATA CENTRE POLICY

**In a digital and modern city, data centres are unavoidable, but these centres should not be at the expense of the climate or the living environment. Due to problems with network congestion, the expansion of data centres is severely limited for the time being. Volt wants data centres that wish to establish themselves in Amsterdam in the future to contribute to the solution themselves: they must actively help reduce the pressure on the electricity grid and use energy more efficiently.**

**In the future, we will only offer space to sustainable data centres that contribute to local or social goals, such as knowledge development or the use of residual heat for district heating. We encourage energy efficiency and innovation, and we give priority to data centres that truly**

**benefit the city and its residents over large-scale hyperscales. In this way, we combine digital power with green responsibility and ensure that both reinforce each other.**

- Data centres must be sustainable, public and responsible, and contribute to an independent Europe. In a digital world where more and more data is being consumed, the municipality must ensure a future-proof data centre policy.
- We are allowing data centres themselves to contribute to finding solutions for the overloaded power grid. Due to grid congestion, the establishment and expansion of data centres in the city will in principle not be permitted in the coming years. Data centres that wish to establish themselves in the city or expand must propose solutions for grid congestion in the city, such as grid reinforcement, or for connecting the data centre to a heat network or direct customer such as another company.
- Even once the grid congestion has been resolved, the establishment or expansion of data centres in the city will only be permitted in the future if they meet strict sustainability requirements and integration conditions. We are tightening up the Data Centre Establishment Policy to this end. This requires intensive consultation with network operators, energy suppliers and surrounding municipalities – Amsterdam is taking the lead in this.
- The establishment of data centres must be carefully considered within the limited urban space. Only data centres that demonstrably offer social added value will be given space. In this way, we prevent energy-intensive ‘hyperscales’ that do not fit into the urban environment.
- In the future, we aim to only allow data centres with a public or strategic purpose to establish themselves in the city. Initiatives such as hosting government services in a European cloud or academic research are more likely to be successful than purely commercial hyperscales. Amsterdam’s data centre policy will focus on attracting and facilitating ‘responsible data centres’ that increase European digital independence.



# 5. GO FOR

# DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY

## 5.1

# A STRONG AMSTERDAM DEMOCRACY

**In a strong democracy, residents feel heard, taken seriously and involved in decisions about their city. But in Amsterdam, people often feel excluded from politics. Volt believes that residents should have a real say in decisions about the city. As far as Volt is concerned, Amsterdammers should be able to spend part of the city budget themselves and elect their own mayor. We will give residents more tools to have a say or exert influence. In doing so, we will strengthen the voice of young people and internationals in the city.**

**The municipality must continue to earn the trust of the people of Amsterdam and Weesp. This starts with greater transparency about how the municipality makes decisions and how the council votes. We are also building a strong local democracy, with sufficient independent countervailing power. And with a municipal council that better reflects the residents and can do even more for them.**

**Volt stands firmly for freedom of expression. We protect everyone's fundamental right to demonstrate peacefully in Amsterdam. The police must ensure that you can continue to stand up for your values in the city safely and without intimidation. We also invest in strong, safe, independent and diverse local media. We combat fake news and influence by algorithms. In this way, we keep information reliable for everyone in the city.**

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## MORE SAY AND INFLUENCE FOR RESIDENTS

**Volt wants the voice of residents to really matter. They know better than anyone what is going on in their city and what is needed. We will give the residents of Amsterdam the opportunity to have a say in how the municipality spends its money. We will also give them more say and influence on policy. In this way, we will build a strong and active local democracy.**

- Volt wants residents to be able to choose which initiatives for the city or their neighbourhood are paid for with municipal funds. That is why we are introducing city- wide participatory budgeting, following the example of Paris. Residents can submit initiatives to improve Amsterdam and have a say in which initiatives the municipality will pay for and implement. The municipality will allocate an annual budget for this and implement the selected initiatives, together with the initiators. We will ensure a simple, transparent and inclusive participation process, building on the experiences with the existing neighbourhood budgets.
- Volt wants the municipality to establish a permanent Amsterdam citizens' council, inspired by the model of cities such as Eupen, Aachen and Ostbelgien. This is a permanent body for which we will select a diverse group of Amsterdammers, Weespers and internationals to serve. At the end of their term of office, they will rotate and new residents will be selected by lottery. The citizens' assembly can give solicited and unsolicited advice to the municipal council, but also

ask questions to politicians as the ‘voice of the residents’. Members can also propose specific topics for individual citizens’ assemblies, in which a group of randomly selected residents discuss the topic in several meetings and draw up recommendations. In this way, we give the residents’ voice a structural place.

- Until a permanent citizens’ assembly is established, we will ensure that residents have the right of initiative to convene one-off citizens’ assemblies.
- Volt wants to organise an annual Motion Market, as Lelystad already does successfully. At the market, residents can share and promote their ideas and proposals for motions. Councillors help them to convert the most popular ideas into motions, which are submitted to the municipal council. If a majority votes in favour, the motions are implemented.
- Volt wants to strengthen direct democracy at the neighbourhood level, as is done in Switzerland. That is why we are making neighbourhood referendums possible in the city by amending the referendum ordinance. This will give Amsterdammers more say on issues that affect their own neighbourhood, such as green spaces, road safety and local amenities.
- Other European cities, such as Barcelona and Helsinki, have been successfully using a digital participation tool for years to allow residents to participate in all kinds of ways in decision-making and policy-making. Volt wants to establish a similar digital participation platform in Amsterdam, where residents can discuss, advise and vote on the future of Amsterdam. This platform will include AI-supported tools, such as automatic translations, so that young people, migrants, internationals and residents with limited digital skills can also participate fully.
- We want to actively involve young people aged 12 to 18 in politics. That is why we are launching a pilot project called ‘Themastemmen’ (Theme Voting). In this project, young people do not vote for parties, but indicate which party they think has the best ideas for each theme. This allows them to easily express what they think is important for the city. The results will be taken seriously: the council will respond publicly to the results and explain what it has done with them.
- Young people should be able to have a say in their future and in who represents them in the city. Volt therefore wants young people aged 16 and over to be given the right to vote in municipal elections. The municipality is lobbying the national government to achieve this.
- The number of people voting in elections has been declining for years in our city, particularly in North, South-East and New West. That is why Volt wants to make young people more aware of the importance of local democracy – and in particular of voting – by offering teachers more support in lessons and discussions on this theme in secondary schools, vocational colleges, colleges and universities.
- Volt wants the municipality to invite young people who turn 18 to the town hall and district offices for an introduction to local democracy. In this way, we welcome an important target group into local democracy, so that young people know how to find their way to the ballot box and to greater participation and influence.
- Volt wants Amsterdam to organise regular city discussions between the council and the international community in all boroughs and the city area, and for the municipality to actively organise and facilitate meetings between internationals and locals. In this way, we build mutual understanding and strengthen the sense of a shared city.

- Volt wants the municipality to actively involve internationals in local democracy, for example by informing them more actively about their right to vote, providing them with more and more frequent information, and investigating which barriers, such as language, can or should be removed to enable better participation.
- Volt believes that the city's residents themselves are the best eyes and ears. The Amsterdam app has been around for a few years, but many people are still unaware of it. This app allows people to ask questions to the municipality, report nuisance caused by litter and noise, and submit requests for repairs, for example to broken playground equipment. Volt is committed to promoting this app on a large scale and ensuring that all questions, reports and requests are dealt with quickly by the municipality.

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## **STRENGTHEN LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

**Local democracy is the beating heart of our society. This is where decisions are made that affect the daily lives of Amsterdam's residents. The mayor, councillors, representatives and independent supervisors represent the interests of Amsterdam's residents, but those residents do not always have direct influence or insight into this. Volt wants to strengthen local democracy by giving the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp more influence over who governs their city. We are making the election process more accessible and the work of the council more transparent, and we are providing better support to elected representatives in their work. We are grateful for the initiatives taken by residents themselves to improve the city, and we give them the support and appreciation they deserve.**

- Amsterdam will have an alderman for European Affairs, who will actively connect our city with Europe.
- If it were up to Volt, Amsterdammers would elect their own mayor in a direct election in the future. The Netherlands is the only European country where this is not yet the case, even though the mayor is at the head of the city's day-to-day administration. We are pushing for a change in the law at the national level to make an elected mayor possible.
- Until the mayoral election is introduced, the municipality of Amsterdam is already starting a pilot project called 'My Mayor' to gain experience in involving Amsterdammers in the selection process. In this pilot, Amsterdammers will already have a say in the profile of the mayor that the city council uses.
- Volt wants district committees to retain their current say on local issues and gain more visibility in local decision-making. We are open to granting additional powers to district committees, provided this contributes to the overall effectiveness of the city. Volt opts for a model in which district committees are not administrative islands, but active partners in a coherent city administration. The Weesp urban area will retain its own identity in this model.
- Research by the Amsterdam Court of Audit in 2024 showed that many polling stations do not meet accessibility standards, especially in Nieuw-West and Zuidoost. This hinders the right to vote for voters who depend on such access (such as people with disabilities) or who benefit from it. We are improving the accessibility of polling stations during elections and the communication about this to voters. In this way, we give everyone the opportunity to vote easily and quickly.

- We are committed to a reliable and transparent government. That is why we continue to cherish and strengthen the role of the Court of Audit, the Ombudsman and other independent supervisory bodies in critically monitoring the city administration and giving Amsterdam residents a voice. In this way, we ensure that power is always accompanied by countervailing power and that the city is governed fairly, openly and justly.
- We want Amsterdam to continue to make choices based on knowledge, not on the issues of the day. That is why we are investigating the establishment of an independent Scientific Council for Amsterdam Policy, a kind of WRR for the city, which will help the municipal administration to look ahead and assess policy for its long-term effects. In this way, we will ensure that Amsterdam makes sensible, fair and future-proof decisions, also for the generations after us.
- Major European cities such as Berlin and Madrid work with full-time councillors. This improves the quality of council work and at the same time lowers the barriers for residents to stand for election as councillors. Volt wants this to be possible in Amsterdam too, so that councillors can focus fully on their work for and with the people of Amsterdam, and the council becomes a better reflection of the city. Together with other major cities, we are lobbying the national government for an increase in remuneration, more council seats per city and modern leave arrangements.
- Amsterdam residents must be able to easily check how council members represent them. However, it is currently difficult to find out how they voted in council meetings on the municipality's website. We are making the voting behaviour of council members much more transparent by showing who voted what for each agenda item and political proposal.

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INITIATIVE OF AMSTERDAM RESIDENTS

Amsterdam residents are brimming with creative ideas that can help the city move forward. Local residents who want to take action themselves sometimes encounter rules or restrictions. We give plenty of space to initiatives that come from within the city itself. Volt wants the municipality to trust in the power of residents and to invest structurally in local initiatives that really know their neighbourhood and help it move forward.

- Volt sees neighbourhood platforms as an important part of local democracy. They bring residents' and entrepreneurs' organisations together and give the neighbourhood a voice. That is why Volt wants to encourage the establishment of neighbourhood platforms, offer appropriate support and ensure that these neighbourhood platforms are fully-fledged discussion partners for the municipality on issues that affect the neighbourhood.
- We support social initiatives by residents of Amsterdam and Weesp by reinstating the successful 'Integrated Social Initiative' subsidy scheme. The scheme will have simpler conditions that are better aligned with the wishes of the initiators. For example, by allowing them to report on their initiative with photos or videos. This will enable even more residents and organisations to implement their ideas for a more beautiful city.
- We recognise the value of long-established associations and community centres that have been active in neighbourhoods for many years. We want the municipality to provide structural support for their work through multi-year schemes.
- We want Amsterdam to show appreciation and support for the thousands of volunteers who keep our city running. That is why we are ensuring that organisations such as the Vrijwilligers

Centrale Amsterdam (Amsterdam Volunteer Centre) receive support. In this way, we are strengthening the power of Amsterdammers who selflessly devote themselves to their neighbourhood, sports club, care institution or shelter, the real glue that holds our society together.

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## OPEN AND TRANSPARENT CITY ADMINISTRATION

**Trust in politics must be earned time and again. This starts with a government that is transparent about its decision-making. However, for many residents of Amsterdam, it is not always clear what decisions the municipality makes and how it justifies them. This causes frustration and weakens support for the municipality's decisions. Volt wants to increase the transparency of city government – and thus trust in politics. We give residents more insight into how decisions are made. We also ensure that information about decision-making is understandable and easy to find. This allows you, as a resident of Amsterdam or Weesp, to see what the municipality is doing for you.**

- Volt wants to make the council's public information more transparent, accessible and inclusive. We will ensure that letters, emails, flyers and other communications from the council are understandable to every Amsterdam resident and better tailored to the recipient. The council will provide a clear explanation in several languages for every decision. We make rules, policy decisions and the documents on which those decisions are based easier to find on the website. The municipality provides relevant information to the residents of Amsterdam in understandable language, in various forms (such as text, audio and visual) and through various channels.
- We will catch up on the backlog of requests for disclosure of information held by the municipality (WOO requests), so that residents have faster access to public information.
- Volt wants the municipality to launch an experiment for a municipal lobby register, based on the Irish model. The Netherlands lags behind in transparency when it comes to interest representation. A lobby register will give Amsterdam residents more insight into which parties the municipality has been in contact with in the context of working visits and decision-making.
- We will improve digital systems to make information about the municipality available to residents, councillors, journalists and other interested parties more quickly, more completely and in a more user-friendly manner. We are committed to creating an easily searchable digital archive and offering appropriate support to people who want to request information.
- Volt wants the municipality to commit to 'active openness' by making government information public as standard and immediately, unless other laws prevent this, for example in relation to privacy. Countries such as Sweden show that this works: there, openness is a fundamental right and government information is, in principle, made public immediately, often within one working day and without the need for a request for disclosure.

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## STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE

**Peaceful demonstration is a fundamental right. In our democracy, every Amsterdam resident has the right to safely express their opinion, gather with others and call for change. Volt wants to protect the right to demonstrate and freedom of expression. The police must ensure that**

**demonstrations proceed safely and smoothly, without people being deterred by intimidation or violence. That is why the rules for demonstrations must be clear and the police's actions must be predictable and de-escalating. We are investing in better cooperation and communication between the police and organisers. So that you can continue to stand up for what you truly believe in in Amsterdam.**

- We will continue to deploy the police peace unit at demonstrations and strengthen it where necessary. This specialised unit plays an important role in de-escalating tensions, building trust between demonstrators and the police, and safeguarding the right to peaceful protest.
- We will ensure that organisers can easily register a demonstration via a user-friendly online form and that they can stay in contact with the municipality and the police.
- We want the municipality to make every effort to enable every demonstration, even if it has not been registered or has been registered too late. No notification, or late notification, is never a reason to restrict a demonstration, let alone ban it. The same rules apply to every demonstration, whether registered or not.
- The number of demonstrations in the city has grown explosively in recent years. This requires a great deal of effort on the part of the police. We want the municipality and the police to engage in dialogue to see what is needed to ensure that the growing number of demonstrations proceed smoothly and peacefully.
- We believe it is important that demonstrators are able to protest peacefully and are not discouraged from doing so by the police. We take reports of the use of surveillance technology seriously. Volt believes there is no place for the use of real-time facial recognition during demonstrations.

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## **FREE AND INDEPENDENT INFORMATION**

**Independent and diverse media are indispensable for democracy to function properly. They are our source of reliable information, they keep those in power accountable and they provide a forum for debate. The rapid development of online and social media and AI brings new opportunities, such as greater participation by Amsterdammers and more transparency. But it also brings new risks, such as disinformation and influence by algorithms. Volt wants to invest in strong, secure and independent local media. Media that are accessible to everyone, that make diverse perspectives visible and that inform citizens well.**

- Volt advocates a sustainable financing model for local media that guarantees their independence. We will maintain the subsidy scheme for neighbourhood media and ensure objective, non-discriminatory and transparent criteria for the allocation of subsidies. We believe it is important that different perspectives in the city are reflected in the local media. We support local media in finding alternative (European) funding.
- We encourage more local media coverage of EU affairs, so that Amsterdammers are better informed about what is happening in the EU and what that means for themselves and the municipality. For example, we encourage live reporting of European parliamentary meetings, as well as interviews with members of European institutions or Amsterdammers working on EU projects.

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

- We are working with media organisations, the police, PersVeilig and the Dutch Association of Journalists to improve the safety and security of (local) journalists. They must be free and safe to do their work, without intimidation, threats or violence. Consider, for example, a duty for organisers of demonstrations or public gatherings to draw up a safety plan for journalists, including press areas, press officers and contact persons.
- The dissemination of reliable information is an important foundation for democracy. People with a public voice (such as journalists, scientists, columnists, artists and politicians) must be able to speak freely, including in the digital world. As far as Volt is concerned, there is no place for disinformation, fake news, unfounded allegations and discrimination in public local media. These media must adhere to journalistic codes and applicable law.
- Volt supports local library branches in the city districts, so that all Amsterdammers have access to knowledge, culture and a reliable information base. We want Amsterdammers up to the age of 27 to have access to a free library card, now and in the future. To this end, structural funds must be made available in the municipality's (education) finances.
- We are strengthening the media literacy of Amsterdam residents by offering lessons on (digital) information in libraries. This enables residents to learn to deal critically with information and recognise fake news.

## 5.2

# HUMANE AND FAIR RECEPTION

People seeking protection in Amsterdam from war, persecution or other humanitarian crises must find a safe haven here. Asylum reception must be based on the solidarity that we ourselves would hope to receive if we ever had to flee. Volt wants Amsterdam, as the capital, to do its fair share in providing shelter to people who flee to our country and to distribute that shelter fairly throughout the city. We are committed to structural, small-scale shelters, located in the middle of the neighbourhood and close to amenities. This way, the shelters become part of neighbourhood life. In the shelters, people have independence and can participate in city life from day one. There is also room in Amsterdam for refugees who resettle here because they are in a vulnerable situation in the country to which they have fled.

Volt stands for humane reception, always. Volt wants us to provide everyone with the basic facilities to which they are entitled as human beings. People who have fled their country are given access to good care. The municipality of Amsterdam must continue to provide bed, bath and bread for everyone in the city, as well as social housing for people with a residence permit. Education is crucial for a promising future. We therefore ensure that young people can pursue higher education so that they can build a future with prospects.

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## HUMANE ASYLUM RECEPTION

We provide humane accommodation for asylum seekers in safe, inclusive and structured asylum seekers' centres (AZCs). We also provide more small-scale accommodation and locations tailored to refugees from vulnerable groups. At these locations, residents can cook, contribute ideas and prepare for a future outside the location. To this end, we are creating permanent housing solutions and flexible transit locations so that the chain does not get stuck. Local residents are involved in the creation of new locations or housing initiatives and in the arrival of their new fellow citizens.

- We are implementing the Distribution Act and focusing on structural reception centres for refugees and on creating more small-scale reception locations. Asylum seekers' centres are being set up in neighbourhoods of the city, in locations close to amenities. We ensure a balanced distribution of reception centres across the city based on the capacity of the neighbourhood.
- The reception centres are open and inclusive. Residents can participate in discussions about the ins and outs of the reception centre and make an active contribution by volunteering at the location. It is safe, clean, quiet and offers privacy. People have the opportunity to cook for themselves. There are also shared spaces for meetings and access to Wi-Fi to keep in touch with people at home.
- There should be more small-scale reception centres for people who are seeking asylum or do not have valid residence permits and who belong to vulnerable groups, such as single women,

families with young children, the elderly and people from the LGBTQIA+ community. They should be able to work on starting their lives in Amsterdam in a safe environment.

- We want people seeking asylum, people who have been granted residence status and local residents to be able to meet each other more often. When a location for an asylum seekers' centre is allocated, local residents are informed and actively asked to support their new neighbours in getting to know their new environment, thereby increasing mutual familiarity. We provide an attractive, spacious and safe neighbourhood room in asylum seekers' centres where residents and local residents are welcome. Volt also wants to facilitate joint neighbourhood activities and annual consultations with local residents.
- In the case of new centres, local residents are involved in the plans at an early stage, for example through information meetings. In order to increase support, we want city residents to be able to submit suggestions for suitable reception and transit locations. This is what the municipality of Houten did via the Houtenpraatmee platform.
- If necessary, the municipality can fall back on medium-sized central (emergency) reception locations.

## **SHELTER FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT RESIDENCE PERMITS**

- Volt supports the intensive guidance provided to vulnerable people without residence permits under the Amsterdam Undocumented Migrants Programme Implementation Plan (POA), commonly known as the bed-bath-bread scheme or the National Aliens Facility, and advocates for structural funding for this programme.
- Open drop-in centres offer people without residence permits access to a hot meal, assistance and community. That is why we are committed to maintaining them through long-term and structural funding. We are expanding the number of drop-in centres in districts where there is currently a shortage.
- We advocate for structural funding for day and night shelters during the winter period and during heat waves.

## **PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

- We are in favour of mixed housing: we encourage small-scale locations and housing initiatives where people with residence permits live together with other Amsterdam students, young professionals and elderly people, with professional guidance. We are modelling this on Plan Einstein in Utrecht, where 300 newcomers live together with 30 young professionals from Utrecht in a shelter.
- Volt believes that people with residence permits should also be eligible for priority access to social housing. Without the option of giving them priority, the flow from asylum seekers' centres will stagnate and people with residence status will remain on the sidelines for an unnecessarily long time. In collaboration with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), Amsterdam must urge the national government to withdraw the *bill to abolish priority for status holders in social housing*. The abolition of priority is contrary to the prohibition of unequal treatment. Even if the priority scheme for people with residence status is abolished, we will continue to work hard to find them housing within a reasonable period of time.

## INVEST IN TRANSITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

- Volt advocates investing in flexible housing solutions such as 'transitional accommodation', such as small residential units, converted office buildings or vacant school buildings, as an intermediate step towards independent living. This will enable (single) people who have been granted a residence permit to leave the asylum seekers' centres more quickly and people who have fled Ukraine to leave their shelters. This will allow them to integrate and build an independent life in the city.
- We offer the 3,000 people who have fled from Ukraine to Amsterdam the prospect of a life of their own in the Netherlands. Expensive accommodation in hotels is being replaced by accommodation in sustainable and safe locations, with play areas and green surroundings for children and young people. Ultimately, we will provide transition locations in the city where they can live independently.

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## LANGUAGE EDUCATION

**Volt wants all refugees in Amsterdam to have the opportunity to participate in city life as fully as possible. Learning the Dutch language helps them to shape their contribution to the city. Volt wants there to be no obstacles for refugees to learning Dutch and for everyone who wants to learn the language to have access to high-quality language education.**

- We are proud of the organisations and initiatives in the city that are committed to helping refugees build a new home in our city. Volt wants the municipality to support organisations with proven impact and effective initiatives for newcomers. This can be done, for example, through subsidies and the provision of space.
- We offer people with a residence permit the prospect of integration as early as possible. We will continue with the Early Start approach. This allows people with a residence permit who are linked to Amsterdam to start their integration process from the asylum seekers' centre, even if it is located outside the city.
- Volt wants the municipality to investigate the current bottlenecks in learning the Dutch language for refugees who are new to the city, both within and outside the integration process.
- We also want the municipality to investigate whether (better) guidance for people who come to Amsterdam for family reunification or formation (family migration) can have a positive effect on their integration.
- We want language providers to offer language courses that are tailored to the circumstances and learning opportunities of the refugees who come to take the course. Volt wants the municipality of Amsterdam to make performance agreements with each language provider on this matter.
- Practical learning is important within language programmes and learning pathways of the integration programme. Where possible, language lessons should focus on professional practice, as the municipality of Arnhem already does. This can be particularly interesting for sectors with labour shortages, such as healthcare and technology.

- Volt wants to convert the incidental funds from the Migration, Asylum and Undocumented Persons Programme into structural funds after 2026. This will support organisations and agencies that contribute to the integration of people who are new to our city.

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## **HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE**

**People who flee their country do not do so lightly. They leave everything behind because of war, violence or oppression. This leaves deep scars, such as trauma, anxiety and depression. They do not always receive the appropriate, rapid assistance they need. Volt believes that everyone has a right to care. This applies to residents of Amsterdam and Weesp who have lived here for generations, as well as to people who have fled their countries and have just arrived here. That is why we ensure that this group knows what their rights are. We make information understandable and offer them accessible and appropriate care, provided by care workers who take their cultural background into account.**

- We want people without valid residence permits to have access to care and assistance. Like other European cities such as Barcelona, Madrid and Zurich, we are committed to introducing a municipal pass, specifically for undocumented people in Amsterdam, which will provide them with proof of eligibility for basic services. Trust in the government among this group is often low. The municipality will therefore engage in dialogue with local organisations and the target group to identify concerns about the use of such a pass.
- We are exploring ways to give people without a valid residence permit greater access to healthcare with the help of technology, for example through applications that allow them to keep their medical records secure, so that they can be better helped by healthcare providers.
- We are also ensuring that healthcare providers are more familiar with national financial arrangements to cover healthcare costs for people without insurance, such as the CAK's Uninsurable Foreigners Scheme and Subsidy Scheme for Medically Necessary Care for the Uninsured.
- We prepare people with residence status who are staying in an asylum seekers' centre or (emergency) shelter outside the municipality for their move to Amsterdam. This move is often a stressful and confusing period for them. The municipality comes to their aid with targeted communication in different languages, including animations and visualisations, and via the City Rights App.
- We offer appropriate psychosocial assistance in their own language as much as possible, for example by using the interpreter telephone service, taking into account their cultural background. Volt wants the municipality to make funding available for proven initiatives for psychosocial assistance, preferably at or near reception locations.
- We ensure that people who have fled their country, people who have applied for asylum, people who have been granted a residence permit and people without a valid residence permit are structurally involved in municipal policy that affects them. We also involve local organisations that support them.
- We want to set up mobile teams where (groups of) newcomers in Amsterdam who do not usually approach the municipality can easily turn to if they wish. For example, for information

about their rights or for a referral to professional help if necessary. The assistance provided by the mobile teams is free of charge.

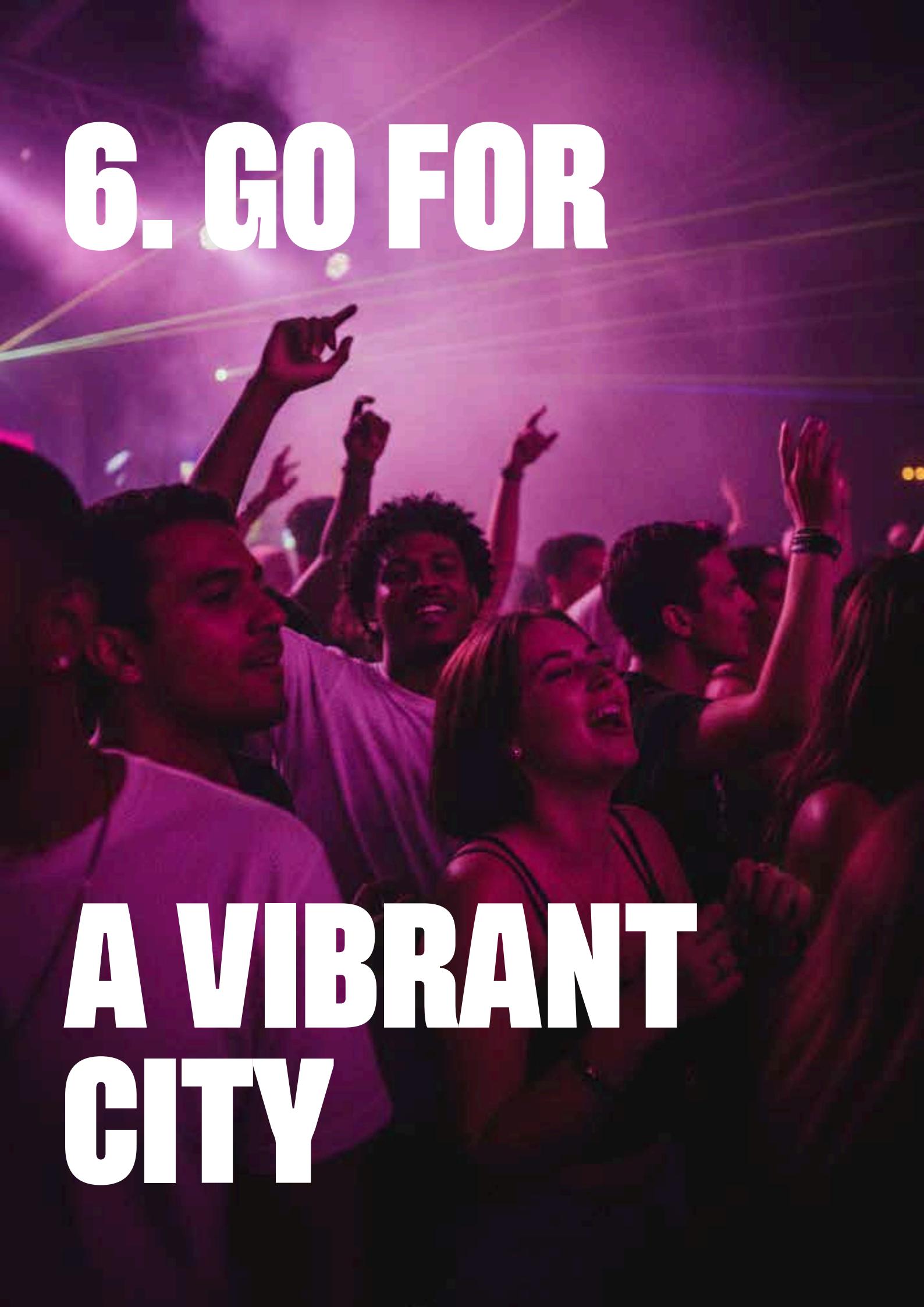
## MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

**Everyone should be able to live a meaningful life. Many companies are eager to recruit new employees, while many new residents of Amsterdam would love to find work or study. Volt sees opportunities in this and wants to ensure that these two groups find each other. We guide people who have fled their country, applied for asylum or obtained a residence permit to an internship, volunteer work, job or education. We ensure that young people who do not (yet) have residence papers can continue their education after the age of 18. This allows new Amsterdammers to build their future and contribute to the city.**

- We offer people with a residence permit sufficient opportunities to develop quickly, work and contribute to society. For example, by offering them a work-study programme as soon as possible, so that they can gain work experience during their integration, including in sectors where there are shortages. We work together with vocational and higher professional education institutions, social organisations and the Greater Amsterdam Regional Employment Centre to set up a suitable range of work-based learning programmes.
- We see great potential in the Startbanen pilot project, in which people with a residence permit who settle in Amsterdam from the reception centre are immediately offered a paid job. If successful, we will expand this project and make it structural. We are also building on the insights gained by the municipality from the 'Asylum seekers at work' pilot project and continuing with the Traineeship for Status Holders.
- We want the municipality to commit to further expanding the 'Amsterdam Works for Everyone' covenant to local SMEs, so that they too can help people with residence permits to become self-sufficient.
- We are making agreements with Vrijwilligers Centrale Amsterdam (Amsterdam Volunteer Centre) to create sufficient volunteer positions for refugees, asylum seekers, people with residence permits and people without valid residence papers. We draw inspiration from the 'Curing the Limbo' project in Athens, where refugees receive training in language, ICT and personal development. They can immediately put their newly acquired skills to use in volunteer projects, together with other residents of the city. The municipality of Amsterdam is making subsidies available to expand the range of volunteer work on offer.
- We offer people who apply for asylum guidance and opportunities to do an internship or work during their asylum procedure. We believe that the sooner they can participate, the better it is for themselves and for the city. The municipality is drawing up a plan for this with, among others, the COA, employment agencies, local refugee organisations and local employers (organisations).
- People seeking asylum must be able to work on their future from day one in a way that suits them and their dreams. We deploy (language) buddies at an early stage to increase their sense of connection with the city and its people.
- The City of Amsterdam ensures that everyone going through the asylum procedure in Amsterdam quickly receives a BSN number, so that the barrier to work or education disappears.

- We want to guarantee the right to education for young asylum seekers and young Ukrainians. Access to higher education in particular is limited due to high tuition fees. Volt wants a new covenant to be concluded with educational institutions for this purpose, with an accompanying study fund.
- Volt wants young people without residence permits to be able to continue their education after the age of 18. We want to extend the agreement on access to higher education to include vocational education, so that more young people without residence status have the opportunity to pursue appropriate further education. We are also making agreements about internships. We are making the alternative study fund, which was set up as a trial under the agreement to reimburse the tuition fees of young people without residence permits, a permanent feature.
- At the national level, we are advocating for making it easier for refugees, asylum seekers and people with residence permits to work or to follow paid vocational training or work- study programmes. This requires more resources from the national government, so that the municipality of Amsterdam can better guide them towards employment.

# 6. GO FOR



# A VIBRANT CITY

## 6.1

# ART, CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Listening to music that gives you hope in difficult times, watching a good film or performance on your night off, finding meaning in a commemoration, or celebrating freedom in a parade. Art and culture make life worthwhile. They provide inspiration and connection. Or reflection and a critical note. That is why we invest heavily in art and culture in Amsterdam.

Volt stands for a strong cultural sector and a secure existence for creators and institutions. Art should be by and for everyone. We therefore distribute it more fairly across the city, so that all districts have plenty of public artworks, creative hubs and entertainment venues. We make cultural buildings accessible to more people and art visits affordable for more people, so that everyone can participate in art and culture.

We tell the stories that live in the city, including the hidden stories. Volt wants even more people to identify with the commemorations and exhibitions in the city. We will better protect Amsterdam's valuable heritage and make it future-proof. We will give heritage a new function and make it more sustainable without losing its character.

Celebrating gives us freedom. We are working on a diverse range of events that attract more local residents and a thriving nightlife. Celebrations are becoming more sustainable, safer and more accessible to everyone. And because we live close together in the city, we limit the nuisance for neighbours and the pressure on nature. This allows Amsterdam to thrive.

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## A STRONG AND THRIVING CULTURAL SECTOR

Art and culture connect people. In recent years, the arts and culture sector has been hit hard by large-scale national cutbacks and the pandemic, and is under even more pressure due to rising costs and uncertain contracts. Volt is committed to a strong cultural sector in which creators are given space and appreciation. We do this by investing in people, places and collaboration – both locally and across Europe. We are increasing the budget, making the subsidy system fairer and more accessible, and strengthening the position of creators. So that art continues to fascinate and flourish.

- In recent years, the arts and culture budget of the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts (AFK) has been insufficient to offer all applicants with a positive assessment a multi-year subsidy contract. That is why Volt is committed to increasing the AFK's budget for multi- year subsidies within the framework of the Arts Plan.
- The municipality of Amsterdam will at least maintain the existing budget for all one-off and periodic subsidy schemes and support for art and culture (such as for performing arts, companies, exhibition spaces, creators & projects, film and video art and other forms covered by the budget) and apply annual indexation.

- We will make the financing of Europe-wide cultural projects, such as Culture Moves Europe and Creative Europe, accessible to the municipality and creators. Volt wants to create a European network of cultural partner cities, where creators and institutions can connect with creators in other Member States in order to qualify for European subsidies. The municipality supports regional hubs and local breeding grounds to expand this network and help creators with their European subsidy applications.
- Volt wants to make structural collective rate agreements for freelancers with all cultural institutions that receive multi-year funding, effective 1 January 2027. These rate agreements will also become a condition for receiving municipal subsidies for festivals and events with more than 2,000 visitors (after a transition period). The municipality itself sets a good example: the same collective rate agreements apply to events organised by the municipality.
- The municipality is investing more in cultural infrastructure by making vacant buildings available for art and culture. From exhibition spaces and breeding grounds to spaces for night-time culture. Vacant shop windows can also be used as temporary exhibition spaces. We are reserving part of the investments for the creation of permanent breeding grounds. In the future, spaces must remain available for new talent.
- The municipality will make it possible for creators to also use their studios as living quarters via the environmental permit, as long as the studios meet the noise and quality requirements of the Building Environment Decree. This means that (starting) artists and creators will not have to pay double costs.
- Volt wants the municipality to work with property owners and the Amsterdam Committee for Studios and (Residential) Work Premises (CAWA) to create more live-in studios each year. We are also committed to a transfer scheme and are investigating how we can make it easier to share studios and breeding grounds.
- Volt wants the municipality to allow mixed use of buildings more often. In all districts, we will look for opportunities to use unused space for mixed use, such as a combination of creativity, entrepreneurship, sports and greenery.
- We are investigating whether the space under the Basisweg viaduct – the longest viaduct in the city – can be used as a space for creative entrepreneurs, following the example of Tussen de Bogen. Think of art workshops between the bridge pillars and one elongated open-air artwork that runs under the motorway.
- From now on, the municipality will monitor the availability of cultural facilities, free cultural space, breeding grounds and nightlife on an annual basis and incorporate this into its policy. In the event of uneven distribution across the city, the municipality will intervene more quickly.
- Creation remains human work, also in the future. Volt believes that in an innovative creative sector, the copyrights of creators must be protected. We are committed to transparency and licensing obligations and a digital watermark at national and European level. No copyright arises on (parts of) content or works generated with GenAI.

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## **ART AND CULTURE FOR EVERYONE, BY EVERYONE**

**All residents of Amsterdam and Weesp should have the opportunity to discover what form of culture, art or heritage enriches their lives. But not everyone can enjoy this. Admission tickets**

are becoming increasingly expensive and in some neighbourhoods the choice is limited. Volt is committed to a city where art and culture can be found everywhere. Where children discover music and dance at school and where creators from all corners of the city are given equal opportunities. And we are investing extra in the three districts with the least art. Because only when everyone participates can Amsterdam truly continue to thrive.

Volt wants everyone to be able to enjoy art and culture in Amsterdam. For people with disabilities, we are making cultural buildings more accessible and programming more inclusive. We also give the new generation the opportunity to become acquainted with art and culture from an early age, in order to broaden their horizons. We also give adults who have less exposure to art the opportunity to participate in culture. This allows more residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to be part of art in their own way. On stage, behind the scenes, in the auditorium or as narrators of their own stories.

- We ask municipal museums and cultural institutions to make extra efforts to make their offerings accessible to visitors who experience barriers to cultural visits. Examples include the use of interpreters for the blind at performances or low-stimulus evening openings. We include this in the conditions for municipal subsidies.
- The buildings that house municipal museums and cultural institutions must meet a higher accessibility standard (at least the new NEN 9120).
- All young people must have access to art and culture. Volt wants museums under the responsibility of the municipality to be free to visit for young people under the age of 27 on the first Sunday of every month.
- Following the example of Berlin and the overwhelming success of Museum Night, the municipality is working closely with the theatre sector to organise a Theatre Night: a theatre festival in the capital where night-time culture and theatre come together and people can get acquainted with drama, comedy and musical theatre in a unique, accessible way.
- We are increasing the budget for the Culture Bus so that it can introduce even more children, parents and school supervisors to Amsterdam's arts and culture offerings.
- According to Volt, cultural education is indispensable for children's development. The municipality will continue to co-finance the 'Cultuureducatie met Kwaliteit' (Quality Cultural Education) programme so that primary schools can continue to offer cultural lessons in their curriculum. Volt is lobbying the national government to increase the amount per resident that municipalities receive for cultural education.
- Cultural participation boosts your self-confidence, makes you more productive and stimulates your imagination. Volt wants to expand successful projects such as 'more music in the classroom'. That is why we are making more money available to schools, associations and community centres. We are targeting schools and neighbourhoods where children, young people and adults have little contact with art and culture, in order to promote greater equality of opportunity.

## **GIVING MORE CREATORS ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM**

Creators can produce the most beautiful art, but in order to obtain funding, they currently have to generate a lot of paperwork. Volt wants to fund art and culture based on trust in the creators. We are working with the sector towards a subsidy system that works better and gives more access

to a wide range of creators. We are also working to promote greater equality and combat discrimination against creators who are currently excluded.

- We are experimenting with simplifying application procedures for cultural subsidies. The City of Amsterdam is launching a pilot project in which we are trying out all kinds of ways to remove paper barriers from the system. These include applying for smaller subsidies with a video or audition instead of an extensive subsidy application, ways to let the public distribute part of the subsidies, and relaxing accountability requirements for young creators.
- The municipality is creating or expanding subsidies for Amsterdam-based creators and cultural institutions in order to bring underrepresented stories and art forms to the fore (such as more street art in the city). If permits, exemptions or authorisations are required to get an art project off the ground, the municipality will support the applicants in this process.
- Volt wants the cultural offering to reflect the diversity of Amsterdam in stories, creators and forms. That is why we continue to apply diversity criteria when awarding subsidies, but we emphasise a fairer distribution of resources rather than controlling content. We are making assessment committees more diverse and giving them the responsibility to support a balanced mix of creators and organisations. This creates more room for creative autonomy, while making the cultural offering more inclusive and representative.
- We are increasing the number of public artworks by and about women, people with a bicultural or migrant background, and people with disabilities, for example by including this in tender requirements. We are giving residents of Amsterdam and Weesp from the neighbourhood or urban area the opportunity to have a say or even choose which artist will create the artwork or which artwork will be installed.
- Organisations and creators from underrepresented groups will receive extra support from the municipality with their grant applications.
- We are making the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts' 'Development' subsidy scheme structural. We are adapting it so that, in addition to young cultural organisations, young individual creators (up to the age of 27) can also submit an application.

## **A BOOST FOR THE THREE BOROUGHHS WITH THE LEAST ART**

All Amsterdam boroughs have their own unique culture and characteristics. This is not yet reflected in the arts and culture sector: the range of art on offer and the facilities for creators are still very unevenly distributed across the city. While we are working on a fairer and more accessible system, we are also going to catch up in the boroughs where there are too few cultural facilities for the number of residents they have.

- From now on, the City of Amsterdam will give an extra boost in each Arts Plan to the three districts with the fewest public artworks, the fewest breeding grounds and the fewest young creators. Because we measure which districts these are for each category every four years, art will soon be more evenly distributed across the city. In the coming period, neighbourhoods in Nieuw-West, Noord and Zuidoost will receive the extra investments.
- In the districts with the fewest public artworks, we want the municipality to ensure that there is more art in the streets and parks. Purchases for public artworks will be allocated disproportionately to Nieuw-West, Noord and Zuidoost throughout the Arts Plan period. Local residents and artists will be consulted on the purchase and placement of the art.

- The municipality will actively seek locations in Nieuw-West, Noord and Zuidoost that it can make available for new breeding grounds and hotspots. Existing art workshops will receive support.
- We will also give young creators in Nieuw-West, Noord and Zuidoost a boost. There will be (digital) service desks where (young) creators and young cultural organisations can go for support in applying for start-up budgets, project subsidies and cultural loans.
- We will continue with the special budget for cultural facilities in the neighbourhoods (Wijkimpuls) of the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts. Each subsidy round will determine which city districts are eligible for the programme.
- We are asking the seven museums, theatres and cultural institutions that fall under the responsibility of the municipality to bring their cultural offerings to other parts of the city. For example, by also staging performances in theatres in the rest of the city, or by holding exhibitions in new areas, which will strengthen the bond with more residents of Amsterdam and Weesp. We will include this in the subsidy conditions.

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## **FUTURE-PROOF HERITAGE**

**Amsterdam is bursting with buildings that show where we come from, from old factory halls that have been transformed into hotels to former churches that have been converted into the heart of pop culture. Our heritage connects the past, present and future. Yet valuable, historic buildings are disappearing from the streetscape due to vacancy, decay or even demolition. This means that not only history is lost, but also materials and raw materials. We are committed to monuments and heritage that move with the times. We do this by making buildings more sustainable without losing their character. By better protecting what is in danger of disappearing. And by giving vacant buildings a new function. In this way, Amsterdam remains a city that grows, innovates and cherishes its history.**

### **MAKING HERITAGE FUTURE-PROOF**

In order to be climate neutral by 2040, Amsterdam must seize every opportunity to make municipal monuments and heritage sustainable as quickly as possible. Volt wants an integrated approach that combines sustainability with the preservation of historical value. Owners and residents are indispensable to making this transition a success. We tackle sustainability as much as possible at natural moments, such as during major maintenance and renovation.

- The municipality is committed to accelerating the sustainability of heritage. We are giving the Sustainability Department extra capacity for this purpose.
- Volt wants the municipality to adopt an integrated approach to modernising and making monuments more sustainable, without compromising their historical value. We are modelling our approach on Bath (United Kingdom), where the municipality and social organisations have jointly set up a successful integrated advisory service for owners of monumental homes. In Amsterdam, we want the Sustainable Heritage Desk to work closely with housing associations, owners' associations, energy companies, owners and residents to make monuments more sustainable while preserving their history.

- The Sustainability and Monuments & Archaeology departments must work together to implement the *Roadmap for Making Monuments More Sustainable*, which aims to achieve a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions in monuments by 2030. They will identify the categories of monuments that we currently have in the city and which measures are most promising in helping to make those monuments sustainable quickly. The municipality will make these measures easier and encourage owners, municipalities and project developers to implement them in the short term.
- It must be clearer to owners and residents what changes they are allowed to make to listed buildings in order to make them more sustainable. For each listed building category, the municipality will clarify in the existing guidelines which sustainability measures do not require a permit and which do. The municipality will also publish an overview of what you are allowed to change without a permit in order to increase your enjoyment of your home.
- Housing associations play an important role in making heritage sustainable. Volt wants housing associations and the municipality to actively exchange knowledge and collaborate on projects to seize every opportunity to make heritage sustainable.
- Volt wants the municipality to provide extra support to cultural organisations located in monumental buildings. For example, the Monuments and Archaeology Department can advise them on drawing up sustainability plans and the Sustainability Department can support them in applying for (European) subsidies.

## **PRESERVING HERITAGE: GIVE IT A NEW FUNCTION**

The world is constantly changing, which is why we must allow our heritage to change with it. Old factory halls, former churches, historic farms. More and more industrial, religious and agricultural heritage is at risk of becoming vacant. We can preserve this type of heritage and simultaneously solve challenges for the city by transforming these buildings into new social or community functions. The municipality is doing this together with the partners who know best what their neighbourhood needs: the residents of Amsterdam and Weesp.

- The municipality will support owners who want to give their heritage a new public, social or societal function. The municipality is committed to allowing additional or new uses, so that industrial buildings, religious heritage and vacant farms can be transformed into (youth and senior) housing, art studios and breeding grounds. The municipality also helps owners with their plans and permit applications. In this way, Amsterdam is helping to increase the housing supply, make it suitable for all stages of life and keep it affordable.
- We will involve residents more actively in the procedure for repurposing and reallocating heritage sites. When new plans for heritage sites are discussed or decided upon, the municipality will involve residents from the neighbourhood or urban area through citizen forums or public consultation evenings.
- The municipality monitors the successes, challenges and best practices in its approach to combating urban vacancy. It uses this knowledge to take faster action in the future on initiatives to repurpose or redevelop buildings in order to prevent or combat vacancy.

## **BETTER PROTECTION FOR AMSTERDAM'S HERITAGE**

Much of Amsterdam's heritage is quietly disappearing. This is a shame, because it also means that part of our collective memory and our stories are fading from view. Demolishing young and large

buildings is also very bad for the environment. Volt wants us to preserve the cultural, industrial, religious and agricultural sites that give the city its character. We are improving the protection of Amsterdam's heritage: not only on paper, but also in the real built environment. It is also time that we literally appreciate the value of 19th and 20th century buildings by having them assessed and protected. We will also make it possible to designate young heritage as monuments from a sustainability perspective, in order to prevent waste through demolition.

- We are improving the legal protection of monumental buildings and heritage. We are doing this by incorporating the new revised valuation map of Amsterdam's heritage and the new monumental order system that the municipality is currently developing into the environmental plan, so that the municipality and project developers must take this into account in their construction plans.
- We are strengthening the municipality's commitment to preserving cultural, industrial, religious and agricultural heritage. The Monuments and Archaeology Department will be given extra capacity for this purpose.
- The municipality will ensure that the registration of monuments is always up to date. All buildings that have been granted protected monumental status (order 1) must be entered in the monument register as soon as possible, so that they are actually protected against demolition and renovation.
- Appreciation for 19th-century buildings has increased. Volt believes that Amsterdam buildings from that period that are now worthy of monument status should be protected. The municipality is committed to supporting the designation of more buildings as municipal monuments based on the revaluation of these 19th-century buildings.
- Volt wants an assessment of which 20th-century buildings deserve protection. The municipality is therefore conducting a study into the current cultural-historical, urban and architectural value of 20th-century buildings. For 20th-century buildings whose value has been established, the municipality is committed to supporting the granting of protected status to this heritage as soon as possible. This includes heritage from the years 1965-1990 (Post 65 heritage).
- Volt wants housing associations to work together more effectively to preserve heritage and to prevent certain cultural-historical buildings from being demolished or disappearing completely in various projects at the same time.
- The demolition of large or relatively new buildings is bad for the environment and unsustainable. Volt wants 'sustainability' to be included as a requirement and selection criterion in the Amsterdam Heritage Ordinance and the accompanying 'Monuments Policy Framework' when designating monuments. This will enable the Monument Designation Committee to protect even young buildings in certain cases on the basis of sustainability considerations.
- We are making the procedure for designating municipal monuments more democratic. To this end, we are stipulating that the Monument Designation Committee must now consult with owners, residents and local residents as a matter of course before deciding to nominate a building as a municipal monument.
- The Monument Designation Committee must make greater efforts to work more transparently: its meetings must be open to the public and citizens must be able to view the agenda and documents.

## REMEMBRANCE CONNECTS

Our city is full of stories that must never be forgotten. Stories of resistance and loss, of freedom and resilience. Remembrance is not only about looking back, but also about acknowledging, understanding and moving forward together. Increasingly, new voices are finally being given a place in this process, such as in the future National Slavery Museum or by involving the descendants of Indonesian and Indonesian resistance fighters in the wreath-laying ceremony during the National Remembrance Day in 2025. Volt wants to make room for the stories of all the city's residents and give new perspectives a place in remembrance. In this way, we keep our history alive and our city connected.

- Volt wants all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp to feel represented in the way the city commemorates and in the stories told in public spaces. The municipality supports initiatives from society that have clear significance for Amsterdam and its history, and helps to make them visible. The municipality also collects information from residents about which stories are still missing in the city. In this way, commemoration remains something that the city does together: with room for difference but in solidarity with each other.
- Volt wants us to combine the preservation, restoration and expansion of Amsterdam's memorials with sustainable initiatives, following the example of 'the tree that saw everything' for the commemoration of the Bijlmer air disaster. Artists and members of the affected community are involved in the creation of new monuments.
- For larger commemorations, such as the abolition of slavery and the National Remembrance Day, the municipality makes subsidies available to schools that want to programme teaching packages on anti-discrimination or social interventions. In the run-up to the opening of the National Slavery History Museum, we will ensure that school education programmes pay more attention to activities related to Amsterdam's history of slavery.
- The municipality must tell the broader story of slavery, contract labour and colonialism to the people of Amsterdam. The municipality provides financial support to museums and cultural institutions that tell this story in their projects and exhibitions.
- We are making information about the history of slavery more accessible by digitising archives on slavery, colonialism and contract labourers, as well as their legacy and the resistance against them.
- Streets and tunnels with names such as Piet Heintunnel and Coentunnel will be renamed after Anton de Kom, Tula or Boni, as proposed in the advisory report 'Route to Recovery' by the Black Manifesto.
- The municipality encourages and supports the return of looted art and cultural heritage to their rightful owners.

### Events of all shapes and sizes

There is always something to do in Amsterdam. From a summer street party with your neighbours to a square full of stalls during a market and a steamy dance floor at ADE. Amsterdam's events bring people together and make the city lively and creative. At the same time, that liveliness also requires balance, because not everyone experiences a festival as a party, and our nature and night's

sleep also deserve protection. Volt is committed to an Amsterdam events sector that is sustainable, accessible to everyone and in balance with the environment. Where large and small initiatives are given space and where residents feel heard. So that Amsterdam remains the creative and lovely city that it is.

## **A MIX OF LARGE AND SMALL EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE CITY**

We ensure a more diverse range of events, so that there is something for everyone. In addition to the major crowd pullers that put the city on the map, we also support smaller events, because they can connect city and neighbourhood residents. Volt stands for an inclusive and social environment. That is why we encourage events that are inexpensive or free, and give new organisers the opportunity to experiment.

- Volt supports the course set by the municipality of Amsterdam in its new festival and events policy, with an eye for diversity, sustainability, accessibility and safety. Volt wants fair opportunities for new and existing organisers on the Amsterdam events calendar. That is why we place more emphasis in our events policy on how unique the concept of an event is, rather than just on innovation.
- The municipality offers organisations the space to experiment with the range of events on offer. We want the municipality to continue to make a multi-year incentive budget available for this after 2028, because organisations do not dare to undertake distinctive and innovative projects without financial security.
- The municipality has investigated that Amsterdam organises enough large, leading events with many visitors from outside the city, but that Amsterdammers would like to see more small-scale events aimed at the residents of the neighbourhoods and districts themselves. That is why we are retaining the annual budgets that the municipality currently allocates to neighbourhood-related events. Local residents themselves help decide on the activities that are organised in their neighbourhood.
- Volt wants the municipality to make agreements with organisers of larger festivals and events on how they will work together to give visitors with smaller budgets a discount on admission.
- All events in the city will be assessed in advance, during set-up and during the event itself, on how physically accessible they are in practice. The municipality will not do this itself, but together with experienced visitors and other external experts who really know what would make an event more accessible. The municipality will take the results into account in future permits and organisers will apply them to their next editions.
- We are investigating whether the municipality can apply rent differentiation in the events sector. A large commercial organiser would then pay a higher rent than a small, free event. In this way, we encourage the provision of smaller events that are free or charge a low entrance fee.

## **TAKING FELLOW RESIDENTS AND NATURE INTO ACCOUNT**

Bustle is part of a vibrant city. Festivals and other celebrations must be compatible with peace and quiet, work, living and recreation. One in three Amsterdammers experiences traffic or noise nuisance during events. The many festivals in parks and on the streets also have an impact on the city's green spaces and wildlife. We are committed to a balanced events sector that takes into account the quality of life of local residents and the impact on nature and biodiversity.

- Volt is proud that major festivals such as Amsterdam Dance Event take place in Amsterdam. In order to retain the larger high-profile festivals and events in the future, Volt wants the municipality to work with the organisers to investigate whether more events can be spread across multiple locations or (partially) relocated to the industrial outskirts of the city. During these events, we encourage overnight stays outside the city.
- We support the council's current policy on sustainability requirements for events and the protection of vulnerable green spaces. Failure to comply with the relevant permit conditions will be taken into account when granting future permits.
- To protect the animals in our parks, no events with more than 500 visitors will be held during the breeding and nursing season in the vulnerable nature areas designated on the parks' action maps for dealing with vulnerable nature.
- For every event that receives Amsterdam subsidy, the organisers must indicate how well they score on the Sustainability Ladder for Events (step 1 is the minimum legal requirement and step 5 is completely climate neutral, circular and inclusive). This allows the municipality to monitor how sustainable and inclusive all events in the city are.

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## A THRIVING NIGHT-TIME CULTURE

Amsterdam's nightlife is vibrant. From cosy brown cafés on the canal to Museum Night and losing yourself on the dance floor at Leidseplein. At night, you can be yourself. Nightlife is indispensable for a vibrant city; it is the place for meeting people, self-expression and liberation. Amsterdammers of all ages say they want to get even more out of the night: more variety, later hours and greater inclusivity.

Volt wants to invest in a strong and diverse night-time culture. Together, we will build the nightlife that Amsterdammers want. With new music and dance styles for night owls and more space for entrepreneurs and professionals who work at night. With clear agreements on sustainable partying and solutions for nuisance to local residents. We will preserve the nightlife that already exists, but also bring it to other parts of the city so that even more night owls can enjoy it.

- Volt wants to prevent established entertainment venues or cultural sites from disappearing due to urban renewal and complaints about noise and other nuisances. We are following the example of London, where project developers are always required to provide soundproofing and insulation when building new homes near entertainment venues. We are investigating whether we can also apply this principle in Amsterdam and enshrine it in law. In this way, we can protect cafés, clubs, music venues and theatres that have been established for decades against complaints from new residents and build vibrant neighbourhoods.
- The monthly Night Culture Consultation Hour organised by the City of Amsterdam for creators, artists and organisers in the nightlife sector has been a success. Volt therefore wants the City to hold this consultation hour more often and at more locations throughout the city.
- Together with the Night Council, Volt wants to investigate whether we can offer City Pass holders a discount on their tickets for events.

- To stimulate a vibrant day and nightlife, we are increasing the number of 24-hour licences for clubs and catering establishments. We will distribute these to businesses throughout the city, in places where this is possible without causing too much nuisance.
- We are making Amsterdam's nightlife culture more accessible and inclusive by spreading the offering across the entire city. We are continuing the catch-up programme in Noord, Nieuw-West and Zuidoost that the municipality has initiated in the Nightlife Culture Implementation Agenda 2023-2026, so that the cultural infrastructure – and therefore nightlife – in those areas gets a boost.
- Amsterdam's night-time transport network lags far behind internationally. Berlin, Copenhagen, London and Vienna all have extensive night-time transport services. This is better for night workers and makes it easier for night-time revellers to go out throughout the city. Volt proposes that the municipality investigate European public transport initiatives, such as the EASIER project of the Technical University of Denmark, to see if we can also move towards an extensive and safe night network in Amsterdam. This includes Southeast, North and other districts.
- In order to have a climate-neutral Amsterdam by 2040, nightlife must also become more sustainable. Volt wants the sustainability requirements for events to also apply to night-time events.
- Nightlife organisers who receive Amsterdam subsidies must indicate how well they score on the Events Sustainability Ladder. This allows the municipality to monitor how sustainable and inclusive the city's nightlife culture is.
- Most noise pollution from nightlife occurs around closing time. Volt wants to limit this noise pollution with a smart opening hours plan for each neighbourhood, district or location. In specific cases, this plan also allows nightlife venues to remain open until 7 a.m., so that any nuisance coincides with the start of the day.
- Paradiso has been an icon of Amsterdam's pop music and nightlife culture for decades. We must cherish and preserve this. Volt supports Paradiso's renovation plans to make the landmark building future-proof and sustainable while preserving its monumental value and reducing noise pollution for local residents. Volt wants the municipality to free up funds to partially finance the renovation.

# 7. GO FOR

# A SAFE CITY IN A FREE EUROPE



## 7.1

# FREEDOM AND SAFETY FOR ALL

In Amsterdam, you should be able to be yourself completely. We want to be a city of freedom, equality and opportunity. Yet we are far from that, and many people still experience discrimination because of their origin, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation. Volt wants to build on the Amsterdam that performed the world's first same-sex marriages 25 years ago. A city that stands for freedom and self-expression. We are building a city where everyone can be themselves: not just during Pride or Keti Koti, but every day and night, everywhere. Because if it is not a melting pot of cultures, characters and people, then it is not Amsterdam.

Amsterdam must also be safe for everyone. We take strong action against violence, hatred and intimidation. Crime often transcends domains and national borders, so our approach to combating femicide, organised crime and cybercrime does the same. And because we are stronger together, we ensure connected, resilient neighbourhoods and trust between care providers and residents.

Volt is working towards a free and democratic Europe, with Amsterdam as a safe haven for freedom and independence. Not only for our residents and visitors, but also for journalists, scientists and activists who are threatened abroad because of their work or beliefs. In this way, we are striving for freedom for everyone.

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## FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND SEXISM

There is no place for discrimination, racism and sexism in our city. We are tackling this issue head-on, and the municipality, police, schools and social organisations are working together to transform society. We are working to create a city where you can walk the streets safely, be who you are, show your faith or love who you want, without facing aggression or violence. We are ensuring that ethnic profiling is a thing of the past and that the municipality is at the forefront of this fight, both internally and externally. Because only when everyone feels free to be themselves will Amsterdam be truly free.

- We will continue with the City of Amsterdam's overarching approach to combating all forms of discrimination, racism, sexism and exclusion. We promote the emancipation and inclusion of groups that are affected by these issues. Volt is convinced that this requires a structural approach and that Amsterdammers do not benefit from temporary, isolated initiatives. We will continue with the 'Come on Amsterdam!' campaign.
- We provide structural (financial) support to programmes, initiatives and meetings that aim to bring people from different backgrounds and beliefs together. We involve role models to promote social norms against discrimination and racism. A good example is the initiative proposal 'Bekend maakt bemind' (Familiarity breeds affection), which Itay Garmy (Volt councillor) and Sheher Khan (Denk councillor) submitted in 2023.

- We invest in inclusive education in all schools. This includes teaching packages and information about diversity, colonial history, sexual and gender diversity, LGBTQIA+ rights, anti-discrimination, awareness of (sexual) violence against women and (sexual) transgressive behaviour. We are making funding available both to provide teaching materials free of charge and to ensure sufficient resources for educational programmes run by organisations. In this way, we want to reach all secondary schools in Amsterdam.

The municipality is committed to reaching, supporting and facilitating as many schools as possible.

- Volt wants the municipality to strive in its recruitment policy to be an organisation that accurately reflects the diversity of Amsterdam. After all, the different perspectives, backgrounds and experiences that different employees bring to the table are of great value. A diverse composition also helps to recognise and tackle discrimination, racism, sexism and exclusion more quickly. At present, there is a particular lack of diversity in the highest positions within the organisation. Extra effort must therefore be made in the recruitment policy for these positions.
- Volt wants a public campaign to raise awareness of the Amsterdam Region Discrimination Hotline (MDRA) so that residents who are victims of racism, sexism and discrimination can report it and receive support.
- The municipality must set a good example by providing a safe and inclusive working environment where racism, discrimination, sexism and bullying are not tolerated. Volt is concerned about the results of previous studies, which show that many municipal employees experience undesirable behaviour. In our opinion, this calls for an internal cultural change, clear rules of conduct and careful registration and follow-up of reports.
- We are combating ethnic profiling by the police with a combination of measures. One measure alone is insufficient, given the complexity of this problem. That is why we are focusing, for example, on greater diversity in the police force, training police officers to make them aware of prejudices, accessible registration of checks by officers (such as stop forms), clear guidelines for arrest and search, and the deployment of 'discrimination investigators' within the police force and from the National Expertise Centre on Discrimination (LECD).

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## NO PLACE FOR VIOLENCE, HATRED AND INTIMIDATION

**Everyone should be able to feel safe – at home, on the street and at night. But in Amsterdam, that is not a reality for everyone. Hate, intimidation and (domestic) violence should never be normalised. Volt wants a city where respect and safety are a given. Where victims are protected, where help is readily available and where we actively prevent violence. So that all residents of Amsterdam and Weesp can live their lives safely and freely.**

- We will continue with the regional approach to violence behind closed doors, such as domestic violence and child abuse. We train professionals to better recognise the signs, including among residents from other cultures or who do not speak Dutch.
- We are committed to preventing violence, hatred and intimidation. We can learn from the *Mentor's in Violence Prevention* programme used in Sweden. This is a training method in which young people and young adults are trained as mentors to discuss attitudes and behaviours

related to gender-based violence, bullying and intimidation. In this way, we train critical bystanders who can safely address situations and hold up a mirror to more people.

- Volt wants us to provide accessible and well-known reporting centres where victims of violence, hatred and harassment can turn to. This requires greater awareness of existing reporting centres, for example through awareness campaigns. Too often, victims do not report incidents because they think their experience is not 'serious' enough or that reporting is pointless if they do not know who the perpetrator is. Victims must also be able to report incidents digitally and anonymously.
- We are increasing the accessibility, findability and awareness of the Sexual Violence Centre. The adequacy of the resources available to the centre is being monitored. If necessary, financial support from the municipality will be increased in order to continue to meet the needs of victims.
- Volt wants the municipality to explore what other technology it can use to help victims. Such as the 'victim device' that Rotterdam uses successfully, which can detect the location of a perpetrator's ankle bracelet and notify the probation service if they come too close. Or the EviSafe app, which allows victims of sexual and domestic violence to collect evidence hands-free or alert someone else in life-threatening situations.

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## **TAKING ACTION AGAINST FEMICIDE**

**In the Netherlands, a woman is murdered every eight days, and more than 70% of female murder victims are killed by a (former) partner or family member. In the vast majority of cases, these murders are not isolated incidents, but the culmination of a long-term and escalating pattern of violence. Many of these women had previously reported stalking, threats, isolation or violence, without this leading to adequate protection. A cross-domain approach is therefore needed to prevent the murder of women. Amsterdam must take a leading role in preventing femicide by strengthening the social infrastructure and stimulating cultural change.**

- We are proposing a targeted approach to prevent femicide, with a focus on early detection, recognition, awareness, education and accessible care. This includes provisions for perpetrators and victims and arranging long-term support and aftercare for victims. We are drawing on the experience of the Sexual Violence Centre and Veilig Thuis (Safe Home).
- We will offer femicide training for social workers and organise a municipal public campaign on the signs of intimate terror and recognition of the pyramid of violence.
- When signs of domestic violence are detected, we focus on the swift application of the Temporary Restraining Order Act and on providing effective assistance to victims, (potential) perpetrators and children involved.
- We support the establishment of the Stop Violence Against Women Platform by the Amsterdam Police Unit and the Amsterdam Public Prosecutor's Office to better support female victims of (sexual) violence. For example, police officers receive additional training to better recognise signs of (sexual) violence against women and to intervene earlier in cases of imminent violence, abuse and femicide.

- We ensure (regionally) that there are sufficient safe and appropriate shelters for domestic violence victims that meet the standards of the Istanbul Convention, with a focus on safety, trauma care and tailored support. We maintain a minimum standard of 1 shelter per 10,000 inhabitants.

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## SAFE AND RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS

**Feeling safe starts in your own neighbourhood. A neighbourhood where you can walk home without worry, where children play outside and where the local police officer is close by when needed. Yet residents of Amsterdam and Weesp sometimes experience nuisance or insecurity in public spaces. Increasing security can also conflict with the privacy or other rights of local residents. Volt wants neighbourhoods where people know, help and talk to each other. To this end, we are strengthening the trust that residents of Amsterdam and Weesp have in each other and in the government. And if safety ambassadors are unable to resolve a conflict, people can turn to the new neighbourhood courts.**

- We are focusing more on safety ambassadors in the districts and neighbourhoods. Think of neighbourhood fathers and mothers, youth workers and other key figures. They are indispensable for a safe city. These ambassadors are in direct contact with local residents and can identify feelings of insecurity, de-escalate unsafe situations and better connect residents, the police and the municipality. These safety ambassadors are recognised and heard as equal partners.
- We are committed to the broad application of restorative justice in social conflicts in the city, such as conflicts at school, in the neighbourhood or with social workers that have resulted in violence or other criminal offences. The emphasis is not on retribution by punishing the perpetrator, but on repairing the damage and promoting reconciliation between those involved.
- Volt also supports the ambition to establish a neighbourhood court in each district for small, simple legal cases, following the example of the neighbourhood courts in Venserpolder, Zuidoost and Geuzenveld-Slotermeer.
- We offer appropriate help to people with misunderstood behaviour, based on the proven *Peer-supported Open Dialogue* (POD) approach. This approach is widely used in Finland and England and increasingly in the Netherlands. Central to this approach are immediate assistance, the principle that nothing is discussed about the client without the client, and involving the client's network from the outset to help determine what is going on and what help is needed.
- We are committed to measures in public spaces so that Amsterdammers can feel safe. We base this on the CPTED principles, a global approach to creating socially safe public spaces. CPTED stands for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.
- Volt supports a nationwide ban on consumer fireworks. We support a cautious municipal policy with regard to exemptions for fireworks and New Year's Eve bonfires, unless these are demonstrably safe and widely supported by the community. Volt favours alternatives, such as light, laser and drone shows, which are much safer and more sustainable, and also cause less nuisance and damage to people, animals and nature.
- Digitalisation offers opportunities, but misuse also threatens security, for example through the illegal use of large-scale real-time facial recognition or dragnets. Volt wants a mandatory

human rights assessment for new legislation in the security domain. In this assessment, we check whether the proposed measures meet the minimum requirements for the protection of residents' fundamental rights and freedoms. Where possible, we are cautious about the use of real-time facial recognition technology in public spaces and focus on alternatives, such as better lighting, the use of human surveillance and crowd management (the safe gathering and movement of groups of people).

- Volt is fundamentally cautious about the use of CCTV surveillance in public spaces and prefers human surveillance and social interventions. However, in streets or neighbourhoods where safety for residents seems to be becoming untenable, we make CCTV surveillance possible as a supporting measure to reduce street crime and serious nuisance, as long as there are capacity problems within the police force.

## **CLOSE-KNIT NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT TAKE ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

Close-knit neighbourhoods are stronger and more resilient in times of need or challenge. Whether it's heavy rainfall, a pandemic or a digital attack, in connected neighbourhoods where people help each other, we can get through tough times better together. At present, many neighbourhoods are not yet well prepared for this. Volt wants to ensure resilient and social neighbourhoods in Amsterdam, where local residents know how to take action when something goes wrong. Where people know each other, can share information quickly and collaborate with government, education and social organisations. This way, we ensure that you are not alone.

- We are introducing 'resilience ambassadors' in all neighbourhoods. These are committed residents, entrepreneurs or professionals who help to disseminate information, involve the neighbourhood in preparations and act as a point of contact in crises. Such ambassadors are already working successfully in South Limburg.
- We are identifying public spaces that can serve as temporary shelters in the event of an acute threat, such as car parks or underground stations. We are actively communicating this information to residents, including through our resilience ambassadors. We are building on international examples (such as Germany and Finland) where shelters are publicly known.
- We are working with educational institutions (vocational, higher professional and university) and the British Red Cross to offer students first aid training so that they are able to provide first aid in emergency situations.
- We are exploring how we can use technology to quickly share information in crises and connect residents who need help with people in Amsterdam and Weesp who want to offer assistance. In doing so, we are learning from Dresden, which gained a lot of experience in this area during the floods in 2023, when the Facebook group *Fluthilfe Dresden* mobilised 50,000 followers within a few days to help with sandbags, food, shelter and transport.

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## **TRUST BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Police officers, firefighters, ambulance personnel and special investigating officers keep our city safe every day. Often under great pressure and sometimes at risk to their own lives. These emergency workers deserve respect in their work, but are increasingly confronted with aggression and violence. We cannot accept this. It also happens that Amsterdammers feel**

**they have been treated unfairly by the emergency services. Volt stands for a society where residents and emergency workers do not oppose each other, but work together. We invest in contact between them, offer good support to emergency workers who encounter aggression and violence, and ensure that complaints are handled independently. In this way, we increase trust and make the city safer every day.**

- We invest in initiatives to help residents, special investigating officers and the police get to know each other better. These include neighbourhood meetings in a sports canteen, community centre or café. But also through projects such as Politiekids and Politie Hunt, which give children and their parents insight into police work and help build a good relationship.
- Violence and aggression against special investigating officers, police officers and other emergency workers is unacceptable. We are committed to developing a single uniform registration system for incidents. This system will ensure uniform registration of physical and online incidents and a simplified reporting process. We pay extra attention to online threats against emergency workers and ensure rapid follow-up to remove threatening content and track down perpetrators.
- We offer appropriate support to emergency workers who have experienced aggression and violence, including their families. We use the revised *Guideline on psychosocial support in high-risk professions* as a guideline. After a report is made, the victim is contacted within 24 hours by a trained support team.
- We ensure better practices in emergency services by setting up an independent complaints hotline for complaints about the police, special investigating officers, firefighters and other emergency workers. This hotline investigates complaints or incidents objectively. The hotline is easily accessible to all residents of Amsterdam and offers clear, fast and transparent assistance. In England and Wales, this approach has increased public confidence in the police and the rule of law, as citizens feel they are being taken seriously.
- We offer victims of improper conduct by emergency services appropriate legal support and emotional assistance. We work closely with Victim Support Netherlands, the Legal Desk and the National Ombudsman. It must be clear to victims what help they can receive, and the municipality and emergency services must actively share this information with victims when they report a complaint.

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## DIGITAL RESILIENCE

**Safety in the digital world is just as important as safety on the streets. More and more residents of Amsterdam and Weesp are encountering online crime. Whether you are a young person being blackmailed with images or an older person who has experienced fraud while banking online, anyone can become a victim. The internet knows no city or national boundaries, so online safety requires cooperation at every level – local, national and European. We teach children how to protect themselves online and help older people strengthen their digital skills. In this way, we ensure that every resident of Amsterdam and Weesp feels safe online.**

- We remain committed to the digital rights of residents of Amsterdam and Weesp within the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CC4DR), which also includes cities such as Helsinki, Barcelona

and New York. This means that we actively contribute to protecting privacy, digital inclusion and transparency in the use of technology.

- We invest in free training and courses for young people, older people and other residents who are at increased risk of becoming victims of online crime. These training courses give them insight into online risks and how to deal with them. We offer these courses at schools, community centres and libraries.
- We set up accessible local reporting and helplines for online crime to identify problems at an early stage, prevent them from escalating and provide support where possible. These reporting and helplines offer rapid assistance in cases of fraud, identity theft and cyberbullying.

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## **TACKLING (ORGANISED) CRIME ACROSS BORDERS**

**Amsterdam is an open and international city – and that is its strength. But it is precisely this openness that also attracts crime. Criminal organisations know where to find our city to launder money, trade drugs and recruit young people. They drag legal companies and services into illegal activities and often operate across city and national borders. Volt wants us to tackle organised crime with strong, cross-border cooperation. Amsterdam is joining forces with other municipalities, the national government and European partners to combat crime that undermines the safety and society of our city.**

- We are strengthening the Regional Information and Expertise Centre (RIEC) and the Undermining Brigade. We want more resources and capacity to expand controls, respond more quickly to signals and carry out targeted interventions in risk sectors such as hospitality, real estate and logistics.
- We will continue to focus on Bibob tests and expand them where necessary to prevent municipal permits, subsidies, tenders and real estate transactions from being misused for criminal activities.
- We will ensure that the designated reporting centres and security protocols for threatened entrepreneurs, civil servants, journalists, administrators and political office holders become better known and more accessible. Where necessary, we will set up additional reporting centres and security protocols.
- Volt wants the municipality to advocate in national politics for additional police capacity to combat crime in the city. Currently, much crime goes unpunished due to a lack of capacity. That is why Volt wants additional detectives and neighbourhood police officers who can focus on cybercrime and subversion.
- We will strengthen cooperation with De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), the Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD), FIU-Netherlands, European cities and initiatives (such as the Anti-Money Laundering Authority, which is also based in Amsterdam) to track down criminal financial flows.

## AMSTERDAM AS A SAFE HAVEN

We will make Amsterdam the centre for freedom, democracy and independent information. At various points in history, Amsterdam has been a vibrant mix of cultures, a hub of entrepreneurship and opportunity, and a place where you could truly be yourself and be free. But what once seemed self-evident – a free press, an independent judiciary and the right to protest – is once again under pressure today. We must continue to fight to preserve these values. Freedom of expression remains one of the most important pillars of a free city. Volt wants Amsterdam to be a safe haven in Europe for people who stand up for freedom and human rights. Free thinkers can count on protection, support and the space to continue their work here.

- We are setting up an international centre of expertise for media in exile. This centre can facilitate knowledge sharing between refugee journalists, focus on the joint use of facilities (for example, for journalistic productions or digital security) and improve cooperation with local, national and global media.
- We will set up a ‘welcome desk’ for (threatened) journalists, activists and academics who want to settle in Amsterdam. We will provide information about accommodation, legal support, temporary housing, psychosocial assistance and integration. We will also refer people to NGOs, educational institutions and media organisations.
- In a free city, knowledge institutions are the driving force behind independent thinking and research. They must be protected from undesirable influence by politics, commerce and ideology.
- We offer support to refugee journalists, academics and activists so that they can continue their work. This includes providing shared workspaces with (digital) security or mentoring programmes that connect them with local journalists, academics or human rights experts.

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## SAFE PARTYING

A night of music, dancing and socialising should be fun and safe for everyone. Whether you’re partying in a club, in a square or in the park, no one should feel unsafe or excluded. Yet it appears that this is still far from being the norm everywhere. Women, people of colour and LGBTQIA+ people in particular are confronted with inappropriate behaviour or poor security at parties, events or on their way home. We are committed to an Amsterdam where everyone can party safely. We set clear requirements for organisers, invest in well-trained security personnel and work with nightclubs and festivals to improve social safety.

- Everyone should be able to attend festivals and events safely, and we are taking concrete additional steps to ensure this. Every festival must have a prevention stand with information about safe partying and a female confidential advisor. Every festival or event must have a direct emergency number for the security service on duty, which you can call or text if you feel unsafe. All these measures are clearly stated on the website and on signs at the event.

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Volt Amsterdam 2026–2030

- Volt wants the council to monitor the number of reports of unsafe situations at festivals and events. Organisers who do not respond adequately to incidents could lose their subsidies and licences in the future.
- The ClubEthics project, an initiative of the Nachtburgemeester foundation to make nightlife safer and more inclusive, will receive funding until at least 2030. This will enable the Nachtburgemeester to continue setting up campaigns, organising workshops and training courses on social safety, and expanding a platform that holds clubs accountable for making nightlife safer. The municipality is also making spaces available and helping with information provision and advice.
- The municipality is initiating a covenant between hospitality businesses, the police, the municipality and the Nachtburgemeester to ensure a safe and inclusive nightlife for every resident and visitor to our city.

8.

HOW WILL  
WE PAY FOR  
THIS?



## 8.1

# HOW WILL WE PAY FOR THIS?

Volt wants Amsterdam to remain financially strong so that we can invest in the future of the city. We are facing major social and ecological challenges, from housing and mobility to climate and equal opportunities, and these require a municipality that uses its resources wisely. We monitor a healthy balance between income, debt and reserves, so that the city remains financially resilient, even in times of uncertainty. What matters is that future generations can build on a stable financial foundation.

Transparency is a core value for Volt. Amsterdam residents must be able to easily check where public money is going, so that trust and involvement can grow. That is why we want to continue the course of making budgets and annual accounts more understandable and accessible. We also encourage residents to have a direct influence on the spending of municipal resources through participatory budgeting.

The municipality must manage public funds carefully. We want sound financial management, with taxes no higher than necessary to continue to provide good services. The tourist tax will be gradually increased by 1% to 16.5% in 2030; we will always assess any adjustments to other rates on the basis of necessity, fairness and affordability.

In addition, we are actively looking for other ways to finance our ambitions. We do this by working together with the European Union, social organisations, companies and investment funds that want to contribute to the development of the city. This allows us to achieve more for the city without further increasing the burden on Amsterdammers.

Volt wants the municipality to use its resources effectively, not only through the budget, but also in the way it works and procures. A future-oriented municipality procures sustainably, socially and locally. By collaborating with other municipalities, we exploit economies of scale, and by setting clear social and sustainable conditions, we ensure that public resources deliver social added value.

Prevention is central to our thinking: investing in health, education and a clean living environment prevents more expensive problems later on. The municipal organisation itself must also become simpler, more effective and more people-oriented. Less external hiring, more trust in professionals and digitisation increase the capacity to realise the city's ambitions. In this way, Amsterdam will remain financially healthy, socially just and ready for the future.

**“GOOD IDEAS  
KNOW NO  
BORDERS.”**



**VOTE VOLT**

FUTURE  MADE IN EUROPE