



New Courage, Shared Action

The city of affordable housing,
clean air and strong communities

Volt

Election program - Local elections 2026 - Volt Eindhoven

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Dear Eindhovenenaar,

We are Jacco Rubenkamp and Inge Teklenburg, and together we are the co-lead candidates for Volt Eindhoven. Two generations born and raised in this city: Jacco in Stratum and Inge in Woensel-Noord. Together, we know this city through and through. We have both seen Eindhoven in good times and in difficult times.

Eindhoven is currently in a unique phase. The growth is good for our economy, but it puts the city and society under pressure. That makes this both a wonderful and a difficult time.

That is why it is time for a fresh, new approach. Volt looks to the future. We are working on a city that not only grows, but where everyone thrives and where innovative start-ups get the space to grow. A city where high-tech, the Brainport present, and the colorful past all find a place.

We look at what works elsewhere and would also fit here in Eindhoven. In Vienna, for example, housing is a right, not a privilege. Therefore, we want at least 40% of all new construction to be social housing. This will shorten waiting lists and make homes more affordable. We are fighting for a green city. Eindhoven is building upwards. Just like in Rotterdam and Lisbon, we want publicly accessible green parks on the rooftops of buildings. This way, the city remains green, even as we build higher. In the field of education, we look to Finland and Sweden. There, children have been receiving free school lunches for 80 years. This ensures everyone has a full stomach and all students learn the value of eating together. That is why we want healthy school meals for every child.

Whether it is Den Bosch or Düsseldorf, Rotterdam or Rome, every place has good ideas that we can use. Volt brings those good solutions to Eindhoven. To the outside world, we tell a clear story about the power of cooperation in the Brainport region.

Volt is cooperation. We dare to say: choose a loving society. So be part of the healthy growth of the city. Be part of a movement that makes Eindhoven social and affordable again. Vote Volt on March 18th.

With energetic regards, on behalf of the co-lead candidates,
Jacco Rubenkamp & Inge Teklenburg



1. Living in an attractive atmosphere

Volt wants everyone in Eindhoven to be able to live comfortably, affordably, and sustainably. That is why we are accelerating housing construction, densifying smartly, and making better use of existing buildings. At least 40% of new construction will be social housing. We ensure a healthy mix of owner-occupied homes, rental properties, and innovative forms of living. Greenery and livability come first, with space for people to meet, climate-proof neighborhoods, and accessible amenities just around the corner. This is how we build an affordable, vibrant city of the future together.



Housing is a fundamental right. Yet the housing shortage is large, and the costs of rent, mortgages, and energy are skyrocketing. There is too little flow in the housing market, starters cannot find a place, and the elderly are stuck. That must change, and we have concrete plans to tackle this. We learn from smart ideas from residents and successful projects at home and abroad. Everyone deserves to live pleasantly and affordably in a livable neighborhood with homes that have a healthy indoor climate, low energy costs, and are suitable for all stages of life.

Volt ensures that new homes are built for all house seekers. New construction with a mix of owner-occupied and rental properties, of which at least 40% is social housing. We create space for vulnerable groups, such as the elderly in care homes. This requires an active role from the municipality and cooperation with housing corporations.

Eindhoven must not only be a nice place to reside, but also to live. Volt wants to build quickly, but always with quality: sustainable and beautiful homes, pleasant neighborhoods, and enough amenities for everyone.

1.1 Accelerating Housing Construction

We are going to tackle the housing crisis in Eindhoven drastically and with priority by accelerating the construction of new homes. This means faster procedures, less bureaucracy, and better cooperation with housing corporations, project developers, and the region.

We do this by:

- **Accelerating construction projects:** Faster decision-making and permit granting by simplifying procedures and closer cooperation with developers and corporations.
- **Faster decision-making and permits:** We shorten lead times by making internal procedures faster and more efficient and running processes in parallel where possible. We ensure that this never comes at the expense of residents' participation rights.
- **Addressing bottlenecks:** With long-term planning and rapid intervention, we prevent problems that delay construction.

1.2 Breaking Through Objection Procedures Faster

Many housing projects are delayed due to numerous and lengthy objection procedures. Volt proposes a **pre-Council-of-State Check**: an extra assessment phase in which an independent advisory council evaluates objections. This way, we prevent objections with little chance of success, relieve the Council of State, and accelerate housing construction.

We do this by:

- **A pre-Council-of-State Check:** We introduce an assessment phase where it is examined whether an objection has a chance of success and whether there is a real interest involved.
- **Independent advisory council:** We establish an advisory council that carries out this assessment and provides advice. They also point out to objectors if their objection has little chance of success.
- **Costs of low-chance objections:** Should objectors proceed with a low-chance objection anyway, we want the objector to pay the costs.

1.3 Improving Student Housing

Volt wants to quickly improve student housing in Eindhoven. That means: more possibilities for house sharing, faster construction of student housing, and temporary housing solutions in existing buildings. We do not stick strictly to a maximum of 1 student house per 30 meters: the livability and carrying capacity of the neighborhood determine whether there is room for a student house. We want a mix of student houses, studios with shared facilities, and independent studios in the city.

We continue to support the Student Housing Covenant Eindhoven and work on an update with new insights, involving students. Regular consultation with initiatives such as *Eindje Bouwen* is important in this regard. Attention for international students: they often have difficulty finding a room (hospiteren). Good guidance in finding a home is needed so that they too can make a good start in Eindhoven.

1.4 Densification Vision for Sustainable City Growth

Eindhoven is growing but cannot expand beyond the city limits. To solve the housing shortage, we must use the space within the city smarter. Examples from abroad show that higher housing density increases livability and makes the use of facilities, such as public transport, more efficient. Volt therefore wants a powerful densification vision.

We do this by:

- **Smart densification:** We densify Eindhoven within the ring road and at public transport hubs. We spread housing construction better across the city with less pressure on the center.
- **Multifunctional land use:** We combine functions, such as 'living above shops' in neighborhood centers, as has already been done in *Ouverture* in Blixembosch.
- **Strengthening amenities:** New homes also mean investing in schools, sports facilities, care, and recreation.
- **Involving residents:** We actively involve residents in the plans and ask them to think along about solutions.
- **Better accessibility:** Densification requires strengthening the existing infrastructure, especially public transport.

Densification must fundamentally not come at the expense of greenery, clean air, and amenities, but should actually improve the city and public space.

1.5 Smarter Use of Space, Breaking with Traditions

Eindhoven is growing, but our space is scarce. Volt wants to move away from traditional building patterns like the well-known terraced houses with small gardens, which do not utilize space optimally. We opt for innovative forms of living that allow more homes per square meter without losing quality of life.

Inspired by cities in Southern Europe and Germany, where apartments, collective living forms, and green inner gardens are the norm, we want to use living space efficiently. Think of shared inner gardens, communal facilities, and an urban character of the neighborhood. This way, we combine space, greenery, sustainability, and social cohesion.

We do this by:

- **Smart use of space:** We build more compactly and efficiently, with a higher density of homes. Think of stacked housing and residential blocks with shared facilities, such as a communal garden or public space.
- **Greening:** Instead of separate, private gardens, we choose shared green spaces. These places promote meeting and strengthen the livability of the neighborhood.
- **Innovative building forms:** We choose innovative forms of living that save space and stimulate social connection, such as 'friends' homes', multi-generational homes, courtyards (hofjes), and private housing cooperatives.
- **Learning from successful examples:** We take inspiration from successful examples from, among others, Southern Europe and Germany, where shared facilities, such as washing machines, living rooms, and sports facilities are frequently used and contribute to efficient use of space and more greenery.
- **Reusing existing buildings:** Besides new construction projects, we will also utilize existing buildings. We will convert vacant buildings into homes. Large, expensive homes for which there is less demand can be split.

1.6 A City for Everyone

Volt wants an accessible and lively city where everyone feels welcome. Buildings and public spaces must make meeting and use possible for everyone.

We do this by:

- **Inclusive urban development:** We design public spaces, facilities, and greenery in such a way that they are attractive and accessible to everyone.
- **Life in the plinth of buildings:** The ground floor of tall buildings gets public functions such as hospitality, shops, or community spaces.
- **Public roof terraces and roof parks:** Roofs of buildings are used for public functions, such as green roof terraces or roof parks. This provides extra public space and contributes to the greening of the city, while stimulating social interaction and recreation in urban areas.

1.7 Green Gardens for a Climate-Proof Eindhoven

New construction offers a chance to make Eindhoven greener and more climate-proof. We want to stimulate residents to design their own gardens in a green and sustainable way.

We do this by:

- **Stimulating tree planting:** We encourage private individuals to plant trees.
- **Green gardens in new construction:** We design new building plots to be climate-adaptive and green, for example by planting trees and creating water storage.
- **Green fund for new homes:** Project developers contribute €500 per home to a green fund. New residents can use this budget to green and make their garden more sustainable.
- **Cooperation with local landscapers and designers:** Residents can get affordable plants, trees, and advice on the design of their garden via this fund.

- **Expansion to existing homes:** At a later stage, the initiative can be extended to existing homes, with support from local actions such as *Operatie Steenbreek*, *NK Tegelwippen*, and the *Struikrovers* campaign.
- **Green coaches:** A 'green coach' will be appointed in every neighborhood to help residents with creating and maintaining their gardens.

1.8 Design City with Quality as a Compass

Eindhoven is internationally known as a design city where creativity, technology, and innovation come together. Volt wants to strengthen that reputation by putting urban quality at the center of all new developments. We are not simply building buildings, but creating sustainable and inspiring places for the future.

We do this by:

- **High-quality architecture:** Buildings must be distinctive, with an eye for design, aesthetics, and materiality.
- **Building for the future:** New homes are energy-efficient and in line with the city's climate goals. This means that innovative construction methods must be used and attention paid to circular building and reuse of materials. Quantity must not come at the expense of quality. We build for the future.
- **Stimulating innovation:** Volt encourages the use of new technologies and construction techniques.
- **Diversity and cohesion:** Buildings fit into the existing urban structure and ensure a varied streetscape.
- **Clear assessment:** Clear criteria for urban planning, public space, heritage, and the appearance of structures.



1.9 Eindhoven as a 15-Minute City: Everything Close By

Volt wants to make Eindhoven a 15-minute city: a city where living, working, relaxing, sports, and meeting are within walking or cycling distance. This makes residents less dependent on the car and gives them faster access to facilities, greenery, and work. By smartly combining living, working, amenities, and nature, we utilize space optimally *and* increase the quality of life. This strengthens social cohesion.

We do this by:

- **Smart mix of functions:** Combining living with workplaces, greenery, and amenities.
- **Proximity first:** School, sports, and care accessible within 15 minutes by bike or on foot.
- **Less car traffic:** More local offerings mean more walking, cycling, and public transport use.
- **Green meeting places:** More parks, squares, and sports fields make the city healthier and more attractive.

1.10 Building a Strong Brainport Region Together

The demand for more homes does not stop at the city limits. As the Brainport region, we must build sufficient homes in the right places together. Together we can organize densification smartly *and* protect valuable natural and cultural landscapes.

We see the region as one urban network, connected by high-quality public transport, with multiple centers where people can live, work, and recreate pleasantly. This way, we keep the region attractive and livable, also for future generations.

We do this by:

- **Regional cooperation:** The building demand transcends borders, so we tackle this collectively within the entire Brainport region.
- **One densification strategy:** Municipalities coordinate plans to build efficiently and spare the landscape.
- **Collaborating with neighboring municipalities:** Municipalities such as Helmond, Best, Geldrop, and Veldhoven make an important contribution thanks to their good public transport connections.
- **Sustainable urban network:** We develop multiple easily accessible living-working locations focused on public transport and less car traffic.

1.11 Research into Merger of Veldhoven, Best, Oirschot, and Eindhoven

Within the Brainport region, municipalities are already working intensively together on cross-border challenges. Yet administrative fragmentation leads to slow decision-making and inefficient cooperation. While the tasks are becoming increasingly larger, we have long shared the same issues with our neighboring municipalities such as Veldhoven, Oirschot, and Best. Therefore, we want to investigate whether a merger of Eindhoven, Veldhoven, Oirschot, and Best yields more decisive power, better service, and more administrative coherence - in the interest of all residents.

2. Sustainable energy and a livable climate

Volt wants Eindhoven and the surrounding municipalities to lead the way in the energy transition. Our goal: fully sustainable energy and a circular economy by 2040. We are investing in greenery, biodiversity, and climate-proof neighborhoods; we are strengthening the green wedges and making the city more livable and healthier. Eindhoven will become a testing ground for sustainable innovation, with public heat networks that are affordable, fair, and partly owned by residents. We are committed to local CO₂ compensation for ASML's growth, a faster expansion of the zero-emission zone, and strong European cooperation. Together, we make Eindhoven green, clean, and ready for the future.



Volt wants Eindhoven and the municipalities in the Metropolitan Region Eindhoven (MRE) to lead the way in the energy transition. Our goal: fully sustainable energy and a circular economy by 2040. Climate change affects us all and does not stop at city borders. Insulation is our minimum starting point; on top of that, we do more. We are committed to strong regional cooperation and utilize the innovative power of Eindhoven.

We design the city according to the **3-30-300 principle**: from every home, at least three trees can be seen, 30% of the street has canopy cover, and there is a park or other greenery within 300 meters. Volt wants residential neighborhoods where as much energy is consumed as is generated. We invest in smart solutions, such as wind turbines and solar panels on roofs with systems like the Powernest from IBIS Power. By making use of local energy storage and dealing smartly with the power grid, we make energy cheaper and more accessible.

2.1 Collaborating in the Netherlands and Europe

We will not be able to solve the climate crisis alone. But as a municipality, we can do a lot, especially through cooperation. Volt focuses on strong European cooperation aimed at sustainability, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Interreg Europe, and Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. This accelerates our progress. We also strengthen cooperation with partner municipalities in Europe through conferences, workshops, and exchanges. This way, we learn from each other and achieve our climate goals faster.

Through this way of working together, we build a sustainable future in which local communities play an active role in achieving climate goals. Together we build a green, livable, and sustainable environment for all residents.

2.2 Green Eindhoven: More Biodiversity, More Livability

Eindhoven is growing, but our nature is under pressure. Biodiversity has been declining here for years, just as it has worldwide. But we can reverse this trend! Greenery in the city makes the difference: it reduces waterlogging, offers cooling, and improves the quality of life. That is why we are investing in a greener, healthier, and climate-proof city.



More Greenery, More Life

We give space back to nature and make the city greener in places where there is now mostly concrete and asphalt.

We do this by:

- **Giving land back to nature:** Maintenance on greenery is only carried out if safety is at stake. We accept a less orderly appearance because that benefits nature.
- **More diverse tree population:** More trees, more variety, space for roots, and leaving dead trees standing as shelter for birds and bats (if safe).
- **Sowing herb-rich grass:** Increases the chance of insects.
- **Replanting seedlings:** Young trees from local soil offer opportunities elsewhere in the city. Make seedlings available for free to residents in Eindhoven for their own gardens.

- **Green parking spaces:** Greenery in a parking space ensures that water soaks into the ground faster and provides more cooling.
- **De-paving the subsurface:** We replace concrete, asphalt, and tiles with greenery.
- **Green roofs and walls:** Cool the city and improve the living environment.
- **Urban Farming:** Greening ensures food production and offers a chance for education about where food comes from.

Space for Animals

More greenery means more life, but animals need a specific living environment. Volt focuses on:

- **Free-flowing streams:** for fish, water birds, and insects, among others;
- **Water retention:** also called wadis. This keeps our feet dry and is good for biodiversity;
- **More flora:** offers space for animals to find their place, for example by connecting areas;
- **Monitoring and improvement of the 6 V's:** Food (Voedsel), Shelter (Verblijf), Variation (Variatie), Reproduction (Voortplanting), Connection (Verbinding), and Safety (Veiligheid).



Customization and Cooperation

To strengthen biodiversity, we focus on targeted measures in consultation with residents and interest groups with expertise, such as *Trefpunt Groen Eindhoven*. We improve communication with residents by, for example, placing signs at trees or flowerbeds, neighborhood info in the mailbox, or social media.

Climate-Robust Tree Policy

Trees are essential for a healthy, future-proof city. They provide shade, cooling, and water retention and contribute to health and well-being. Volt strengthens the tree population with healthy trees and the right species in the right places.

Our approach:

- **Investing in existing trees:** Better growing space, mulch layers, less mowing, and de-paving where possible;
- **Proactively greening:** We look for new suitable places for extra trees;
- **Action plan 'from managing to investing':** Seeing trees as an investment, with an annual planting norm for a future-proof tree structure. All this with the thought 'invest now, profit later'.

Smart Measures for a Healthy City

Volt focuses on measures that strengthen biodiversity:

- **Less light pollution:** Dimmable street lighting with less blue light and motion sensors protects nocturnal animals;
- **Limiting free-roaming dogs and cats:** Prevent damage to biodiversity in vulnerable areas;
- **Combating invasive species:** The municipality informs and supports in combatting them.
- **Ban on harmful pesticides:** Only biodegradable alternatives;

- **Restoring groundwater levels:** Together with the water board, we ensure sufficient moisture in the soil;
- **Preparing for extreme rain:** Public space resistant to peak showers of 60 mm per hour in 2050;
- **Improving water infiltration:** Less paving, disconnecting more drains from the sewer, and smart solutions against pollution from runoff rainwater.

2.3 Preserving and Strengthening Nature and Cultural-Historical Landscape

Eindhoven has a unique landscape with three green wedges (Lichtbos, Genneper Parken, and De Karpen), forests, heathlands, and valuable cultural-historical elements. These areas are crucial for our biodiversity, health, and climate resilience. They capture CO₂, purify the air, store water, and offer space for relaxation. Volt wants to protect, strengthen, and better connect this nature for a green Eindhoven, also for future generations.



We invest in green connection zones for freer movement of animals and plants. We restore vulnerable nature by converting agricultural land into new nature and developing wet areas. We stimulate sustainable tourism with walking and cycling routes and we strengthen the recreational infrastructure. In new construction, we choose sustainable designs, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, and renewable energy to protect the landscape.

2.4 Strengthening Green Wedges and Softening Rough Edges

Volt wants to protect, strengthen, and better connect the unique green wedges with the surrounding neighborhoods so that they remain a sustainable link between city and nature.

We do this by:

- **Strengthening the green wedges:** We connect the green wedges better with surrounding neighborhoods, with more walking and cycling paths, preservation of existing greenery, and new planting.
- **Tackling barriers:** We improve the connection between city and nature by bridging or tunneling under obstacles such as roads, canals, and railway lines.
- **Development plan for rough edges (rafelranden):** We design the transition areas between city and countryside as attractive multifunctional green zones with recreational facilities and a smooth transition to the countryside.

2.5 Expanding the Role of the City Ranger

The City Ranger (*Stadsboswachter*) must get a larger and more active role. Volt proposes deploying one City Ranger per city district, with the ambition to expand this to one per neighborhood. The City Ranger plays a major role in informing residents about biodiversity and tells about the measures that residents can take themselves to promote this.

2.6 Expanding Zero-Emission Zone

Volt supports the introduction of the zero-emission zone (ZE-zone) but wants to move forward faster. Our goal is an emission-free Eindhoven before 2038. We are investigating whether the ZE-

zone can be expanded earlier to areas around the ring road, with priority for neighborhoods with the worst air quality. This is only possible if there are good alternatives, such as high-quality public transport, cycle paths, and zero-emission shared cars. An exception applies to disability vehicles. Enforcement is efficient and privacy-friendly, for example via scan cars. The municipality ensures clear and timely communication with residents and entrepreneurs.

2.7 CO₂ Compensation for ASML Expansion

The expansion of ASML on the BIC campus will increase CO₂ emissions. Volt wants the municipality to quickly map out these extra emissions and include them in the budget. We propose that ASML compensates locally. This can be done by ASML:

- contributing to making social housing more sustainable;
- co-paying for the construction of heat networks.

This way we ensure transparent and responsible compensation without 'greenwashing'.

2.8 More Affordable Heat Networks

Eindhoven must get off gas to keep energy affordable, combat climate change, and be less dependent on undemocratic countries. Volt chooses public heat networks that utilize residual heat and sustainable sources, with the goal of a climate-neutral network in 2040.

The current heat networks, such as those of Ennatuurlijk, are often too expensive. That is why we support the plan to establish our own Eindhoven heat company. This way we keep prices fair and control local. In addition, Volt wants:

- heat networks to largely come into public hands;
- residents to be able to become co-owners, as has been successfully done in Sweden;
- **freedom of choice retained:** connecting is voluntary, but getting off gas is mandatory. You can, for example, also choose a heat pump.

3. Broad prosperity and a future-proof economy



Volt wants to make Eindhoven a city where everyone can participate and benefit from growth. We are building a strong, fair, and innovative economy that offers opportunities for residents, entrepreneurs, and start-ups. We do this by connecting education, the business community, and government more closely, and by giving nature, livability, and sustainability a central place. We invest in vibrant neighborhood centers, affordable public transport, more job opportunities, and support for SMEs, start-ups, and innovators. In this way, we make Eindhoven less dependent on a single sector, strengthen cooperation, and ensure that economic growth goes hand in hand with quality of life and equal opportunities for everyone.

Volt stands for fairly earned and fairly shared prosperity: everyone must have opportunities to work, to undertake business, and to build their own income.

Vibrant Neighborhood Centers

Not everything has to take place in the center. Volt wants lively neighborhood hearts, with local shops, hospitality, art, culture, and attractive public spaces. This way, Eindhoven becomes a 15-minute city, where you find everything you need close to home. Areas like *Stadshart Woensel*, *Kastelenplein*, *Sectie C*, and *Franz Leharplein* offer possibilities to make the neighborhoods more lively.

Fair Chances for Everyone Growing up in poverty limits your chances. Volt wants to renew the Participation Act and opts for simplicity, trust, and more freedom of choice for residents. We make schemes like the Participation Contribution (*Meedoenbijdrage*) more accessible, which saves time and administrative capacity. Of course, we support residents who can use help organizing their finances. We are committed to a strong safety net, such as a more widely available Construction Depot (*Bouwdepot*), and are introducing 'basic jobs' for people who have difficulty finding work. We are also improving affordable public transport so that everyone can reach work, school, the doctor, family and friends, and recreational facilities. This way, everyone gets a fair chance at a better life and a suitable place of their own in our community.

3.1 Room for Entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Innovators

A vibrant neighborhood center with shops, hospitality, and cultural activities increases livability and the local economy. We build a lively center together with local entrepreneurs, cultural institutions, and event organizers. Investing in public space and infrastructure is essential to offer an attractive environment where people like to stay.

Extra Support for SMEs Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of our local economy. Volt advocates for a 'Small Business Act for Europe' to reserve 25% of government contracts for SMEs. In addition, we want to expand support programs such as InvestEU, with special attention to innovative companies.

By promoting local products and services, we strengthen the economy, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the sense of community. Local markets and events offer entrepreneurs the chance to present themselves, with extra support via subsidies and help with organization.



Start-ups, Scale-ups, and Innovation Sustainability and innovation are the key to a future-proof economy. Start-ups and scale-ups play an important role in this. By supporting start-ups, we promote employment and innovation and strengthen the competitive position of the region.

Volt wants to expand support for start-ups by:

- **International accelerator programs for growth:** We build on existing initiatives such as *The Gate* and *Brainport Development* and add an international accelerator program. This program focuses not only on students but also on start-ups and larger companies (scale-ups) that want to grow further.
- **Access to mentors and capital:** Start-ups get more opportunities to meet mentors, build networks, and gain access to European growth capital.
- **Affordable workspaces:** Volt ensures flexible and affordable workspaces and strengthens places such as the High Tech Campus, TU/e campus, and Strijp-S. Shared labs, incubators, and test facilities will be located here. These places remain accessible to all entrepreneurs, including companies with less capital or those not solely focused on technology.
- **Putting Eindhoven on the international map:** Volt wants to set up an international entrepreneur platform, with participation in tech fairs, targeted social media campaigns, and a network of Eindhoven ambassadors. We are also investing in a new conference center to give Eindhoven more global fame.

3.2 More Than ASML: Strengthening and Broadening

ASML is an indispensable engine for the region. But Volt does not want to make Eindhoven dependent on one sector or one company. We want a broad, innovative economy in which other sectors can also grow and flourish.

Our approach:

- **Retaining ASML and the chip industry:** We ensure an attractive business climate by investing in accessibility, housing, international facilities, and an attractive living environment for employees.
- **Sustainable establishment policy:** New companies must contribute to social value, sustainability, and livability. We focus on sectors such as health, cleantech, creative industries, defense, and energy storage.
- **Retraining and talent development:** Together with MBOs, HBOs, companies, and social partners, we are developing a tech retraining program. This ensures sufficient skilled personnel, also for the high-tech sector.

3.3 The Business Community Gives Back to Society

In Eindhoven, we work together: government, knowledge institutions, and companies. All joint investments lead to new developments and new jobs in a well-running economy. That is why we also appeal to the companies that benefit from this to give something back. We are investigating the possibility of no longer leaving this voluntary but establishing it as reciprocity.

Social contributions do not always have to be financial. This can also be in the form of free deployment in neighborhood or cultural projects, by means of (structural) voluntary work, making company resources available, or utilizing the qualities of employees for society.

The first step has been taken with *Brainport Voor Elkaar*. But there is more potential to develop this further, to make a larger contribution, and to make it less non-committal and more professional. This can be done through financial contributions, more matches, and better insight into social needs.

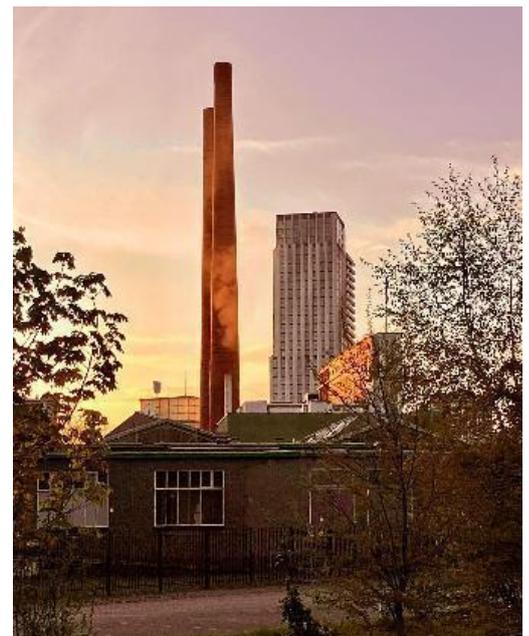
3.4 Smart and Sustainable Work Environments

Eindhoven is the second economic engine of the Netherlands and has a lot of growth potential. There is increasing demand for modern office and work locations. Companies are looking for flexible and sustainable workplaces that fit new working methods, such as hybrid working and sharing workspaces.

There is particularly a shortage of high-quality office space in the city center and around the central station, thanks to good accessibility and the central location. Sustainability plays an increasingly important role in this. We want to focus on a future-proof office network with sustainability, flexibility, and multifunctional use of space.

We do this by:

- **Strengthening the office network:** Development of high-quality office space around the central station to meet the growing demand for easily accessible workplaces.
- **Sustainable and flexible work locations:** Stimulating the construction and renovation of office spaces so that they are sustainable and flexible and suitable for hybrid working and 'coworking'.
- **Mix of functions:** Creation of a multifunctional urban environment, where living, working, and recreating come together, for more liveliness and more efficient use of space.
- **Excellent accessibility:** Ensuring good accessibility of the new office locations, both by public transport and by bicycle, to promote employee mobility and contribute to sustainable urban growth.





4. An attractive and healthy environment

Volt wants to make Eindhoven greener, cleaner, and healthier. We tackle pollution at the source and demand that companies meet the WHO advisory guidelines for clean air, water, and soil. We invest in nature, recreation, and safe swimming locations, such as the *Eindhovens Kanaal*. Together, we work on a clean city by reducing waste, stimulating circularity, and supporting local initiatives. Additionally, we want to clear public spaces of commercial advertising to make the streetscape quieter, safer, and more attractive.

Everyone wants clean air, clean water, and a healthy living environment. Yet production processes, traffic, and intensive use of our space still pollute our air, water, and soil. Volt tackles this at the source and chooses a city that puts health and nature first.

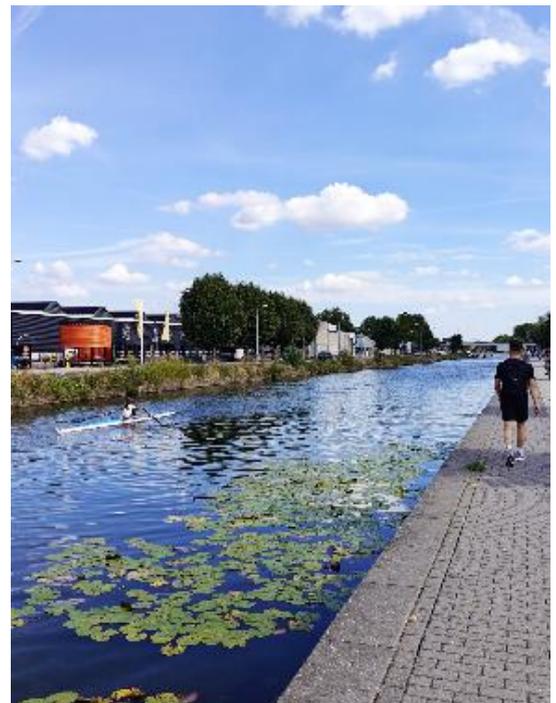
Large companies in Eindhoven will only receive a permit if they meet the health standards of the World Health Organization (WHO). This way, we protect you, your children, and your neighbors against unhealthy air. Volt also advocates for Eindhoven to join the Clean Air Agreement (*Schone Lucht Akkoord*), with the goal: less particulate matter, cleaner streets, and a healthier city for everyone.

Nature is not a luxury to us, but a pure necessity. Green and blue spaces provide air, rest, and room for exercise. Eindhoven already has beautiful "green wedges" for walking, sports, and relaxation. Volt wants to expand these nature areas and connect them better with the city. But we also look at the 'blue wedges': the water in and around Eindhoven. These places must become more accessible for relaxation, sports, and cooling off. Because a livable city is a city where nature and recreation are a given.

4.1 Outdoor Swimming, Year-Round

On warm days, you just want to be able to take a refreshing dip. And more and more people also like to swim in the winter. But in Eindhoven, there are almost no safe, public places to swim outdoors.

Volt wants all surface water to be clean enough to swim in. In the short term, we are starting with one clear step: a permanent location at the *Eindhovens Kanaal* where you can swim safely outdoors all year round. This creates space for relaxation, sports, and health, without risks to nature or safety.



4.2 Together for a Clean City

We see waste as opportunities and we strive for 'Zero Waste', with circularity as the norm. Through *repair cafés*, we extend the lifespan of products, and through thrift stores, we give items a second life.

- **Less waste next to containers** Waste placed next to containers (*'bijzet'*) often arises from ignorance, not ill will. Therefore, every neighborhood gets a **green coach**, who provides clear information on how to separate waste properly, with extra attention for internationals who are used to different systems. Additionally, we are working on improving containers to prevent dumping, for example through technology like sensors that optimize collection frequency.
- **Supporting local initiatives** We support local initiatives such as the *Troep Troopers* and clean-up campaigns around schools and supermarkets. We copy successful initiatives from other European cities. In Copenhagen, tourists can use a SUP board or boat for free if they fish litter out of the water. We also use the dog tax to provide free bags at dog walking areas.

4.3 Public Space Free of Commercial Advertising

Volt advocates research into advertising-free public space. This ensures a quieter streetscape, less distraction in traffic, and a more attractive living environment.

Space in bus shelters can then be used for relevant local matters, such as mini-libraries (*bibliotopen*) and cultural exhibitions. In Grenoble, a ban on street advertising led to less visual pollution and more appreciation for the city. That is possible in Eindhoven too.

5. A sustainably accessible city

Volt wants to turn Eindhoven into a city where everyone can move around quickly, sustainably, and affordably. We are investing in reliable public transport, safe bicycle paths, and modern transport solutions such as shared mobility and transfer hubs. In doing so, we ensure that people are less dependent on cars, that cycling becomes more attractive, and that more space is created for people, greenery, and livability. Eindhoven Centraal will become a major gateway for domestic and international travelers. There will be sustainable night trains and a future-proof bus station, and Eindhoven Airport will become the most sustainable airport in Europe. This is how we are building the accessible, healthy city of tomorrow.



Good accessibility is important for a livable, sustainable, and economically strong city. Eindhoven is growing, and so is the need for smart and clean ways to get around. Volt wants everyone—residents, visitors, and companies—to be able to move easily within the city, the region, and to the rest of the Netherlands and Europe. We are making room for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport. In doing so, we follow the **STROMP** principle: first walking (**Stappen**), then pedaling (**Trappen**), accessibility/rolling (**Rollen**), public transport (**OV**), shared mobility (**Mobility as a Service**), and lastly, the private car (**Privé**).

Therefore, we are investing in reliable public transport, safe bicycle paths, and new transport solutions such as shared mobility and transfer points (multimodal hubs). At these hubs, you can easily switch to public transport, shared mobility, or the bicycle. This makes sustainable travel more attractive than the car, and we work towards an accessible, healthy city that is pleasant to live in and ready for the future.

5.1 Eindhoven as a Cycling City

Cycling is the fastest and most sustainable way to travel through Eindhoven. It reduces traffic congestion, improves air quality, and contributes to a healthier city.

By constructing fast cycle paths (cycle superhighways) to surrounding villages and cities, people will cycle to work instead of driving. With the electric bike, distances of up to 15 km suddenly become a viable cycling distance. That is why Volt invests in safe and comfortable bicycle paths, good parking facilities, and cycling lessons for children *and* internationals.

Safe Cycling

Cycling must be safe for everyone. We are committed to:

- **Grade-separated crossings**, where cars pass underneath the road/path;
- **Well-maintained, separated asphalt bicycle paths**;
- **Safe routes to school** in consultation with schools, parents, and local residents;
- **Cars limited to 30 km/h** as the norm in the city, except on the ring road and radial roads;
- **Solutions for bottlenecks**, in consultation with residents and the Cyclists' Union (*Fietsersbond*);
- **A low-traffic city center**.



Easier Bicycle Parking More cycling requires more parking facilities. Volt wants:

- **Extra parking facilities** in the center and at shopping centers, including in spots currently occupied by cars;
- **To convert at least 5%** of car parking spaces in residential neighborhoods into bicycle parking facilities.

Learning to Cycle

Not everyone can cycle. Volt combines the children's bicycle plan with cycling lessons at schools. Children without a bicycle will receive a second-hand one via the municipality or the ANWB. We also encourage companies to offer cycling lessons for internationals.



5.2 Community Over Cars

Eindhoven is growing, and space in our city is scarce. Volt chooses to give that space back to people, greenery, and a livable environment, rather than to stationary cars. We are making the center low-traffic, but we keep the needs of people with disabilities in mind.

Livable Neighborhoods

When designing the city, everything revolves around the livability of the neighborhoods. In many neighborhoods, there is too little space to play, meet, and exercise. Volt is therefore committed to more squares, "woonerven" (living streets), and low-traffic zones. This increases safety, strengthens the sense of community, and gives children the space to play outside.

Smart Handling of Parking Spots

Parking spaces take up a lot of room that we could better use for housing, greenery, bicycle parking, or amenities. Volt wants:

- **Fewer parking spaces** and more room for a better living environment;
- **To phase out street parking** and, where possible, move it to underground garages;
- **Dynamic parking rates:** those who want to drive into the center at busy times pay more;
- **A progressive system for parking permits:** a second car becomes more expensive than the first;
- **No more discounts** for long-term parking or on shopping days;
- **To close parking garages** such as the Q-parks inside the ring;
- **To scrap free parking** in neighborhoods surrounding the center to prevent spillover nuisance.

5.3 Better Accessible Without a Car

Fewer cars does not mean less accessibility. We are investing in Park & Ride locations on the outskirts of the city. And we ensure that shared mobility is available there. We are committed to fine-grained bus connections to neighboring municipalities that run regularly and more frequently, including late at night. This keeps the center accessible without it being flooded with cars.

5.4 Eindhoven Centraal as an International Gateway

Eindhoven is growing into an international mobility hub. With two new platforms for international trains, Volt wants to focus on more night trains as a sustainable alternative to flying.

We are going to use the dividend proceeds from Eindhoven Airport for a subsidy fund, stimulating carriers to offer night trains to and from Eindhoven Centraal. We are also investigating innovative partnerships, where we provide subsidies in exchange for shares in investments in new connections. This makes the investments less risky.

Additionally, we want to make international bus transport more visible and attractive by integrating bus stops into the new bus station, with better visible travel information. This can stimulate sustainable connections to cities like Cologne and Paris. Moreover, the new bus station is being prepared for the future: with space for a tram in the future. The station must also be accessible via the Dommel tunnel. In this way, we make Eindhoven ready for fast, sustainable, and international mobility.

5.5 Eindhoven Airport, the Most Sustainable Airport in Europe

Eindhoven Airport must become the most sustainable airport in Europe. We stick to 30% less noise nuisance and are committed to a full switch to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). As a 24.5% shareholder, the municipality uses its position to play an active and agenda-setting role in the sustainability transition during shareholder meetings.

We stimulate train travel by heavily taxing or, if possible, banning flights to destinations that are directly accessible by train. We invest the proceeds from the municipal dividend of the airport into sustainable alternatives, such as night trains and fast public transport connections between the airport and Belgian stations, so that traveling without a car becomes a matter of course.

5.6 Innovation in Mobility

Eindhoven is changing from a car city into a city where pedestrians, cyclists, shared mobility, and smart solutions take center stage. To achieve this, we must innovate. Volt wants Eindhoven to become a testing ground for sustainable mobility. We create space for mobility start-ups, invest in transport hubs, and test self-driving vehicles on new High-Quality Public Transport (HOV) lanes. We take an example from Utrecht, where shared cars feed electricity back to the grid to reduce congestion on the power network.

We stimulate innovation with a 'sandbox function': temporary relaxation of rules to test new techniques, always with safety as a condition. We invest in smart solutions, such as traffic lights that give priority to cyclists and convenient digital routes for walking, cycling, and shared mobility. This is how we make Eindhoven *the* place where sustainable ways of traveling originate and where residents benefit from faster, cleaner, and smarter transport.

6. Innovative education with equal opportunities

Every child deserves an equal opportunity. Volt invests in a safe, inclusive, and inspiring learning environment, with healthy school lunches, appropriate education, and room to develop talents. We tackle the teacher shortage, stimulate innovation, and utilize European funds to make education in Eindhoven ready for the future. In this way, we create an educational system that helps every child discover his or her talents and lays a strong foundation for an inclusive society of and for everyone.



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We want an educational system in which every child is given the space to grow. That is why we invest in accessible development programs and stimulate the exchange of knowledge between schools and municipalities. We are expanding the Rich School Day (*Rijke Schooldag*) with a broader and more varied range of activities so that every child can discover where his or her talents lie. Cooperation with parents, caregivers, and specialized institutions is necessary to improve education; this also applies to knowledge sharing with other municipalities.

6.1 Appropriate Education for Every Child

Every child must receive appropriate education. This requires a wide range of different public schools in the region. Every child has the same value. We support this with programs that promote equal opportunities, free school meals, and by tackling low literacy. But children are sometimes very different in their backgrounds and needs. With in-depth training, teachers can better teach these very diverse groups of students.

6.2 Utilizing European Funds for Innovation

In addition to the contribution from the municipality of Eindhoven, it is also possible to apply for funds from the European Union to offer multicultural education and new teaching methods in the region. This will not only improve accessibility and equality but also provide new opportunities for students. Together we can work on an educational system that does justice to every child and contributes to an inclusive and strong society.

6.3 Effectively Tackling the Teacher Shortage

The teacher shortage requires targeted municipal support. Volt wants Eindhoven to actively cooperate with the national approach (*aanpaklerarentekort.nl*) within the BrabantOost education region. A central point of contact within the municipality can help schools with practical matters, such as priority for housing and matching supply and demand, for example by deploying expats and asylum seekers as lateral entrants. This policy must be anchored in the Local Educational Agenda (LEA).

6.4 School Lunches at All Primary Schools

A joint school lunch improves learning performance, reduces bullying behavior, and promotes healthy eating habits. Unfortunately, not all children get enough and healthy food from home. That is why Volt has campaigned in Eindhoven *and* in the House of Representatives for school lunches at all primary schools. So far, the rollout is limited to a few schools in socio-economically weaker neighborhoods. However, Volt believes that school lunches should be available to all children,

regardless of their background or socio-economic position. So explicitly *also* for children from 'wealthy' families. The school lunch must not cause stigmatization. The school lunch should be a pleasant moment for all children and teachers.

7. A healthy and resilient Eindhoven

Volt wants a healthy and resilient Eindhoven where everyone has access to the right care. We make mental healthcare (GGZ) free for young people up to 25, shorten waiting lists, and invest in prevention, support for informal caregivers, and accessible youth care. With simple regulations, customization via the Social Support Act (WMO), and a city that is accessible to everyone, we are building an Eindhoven where health and equal opportunities come first.

Care, welfare, and public health are important tasks for municipalities. Volt focuses on improving mental healthcare (GGZ), particularly for young people. Through extra budget from the national government and a new form of financing, we want to improve access to care and reduce waiting lists. Cooperation between GGZ and welfare organizations and better support for informal caregivers are important steps towards a healthy and resilient society. In addition, we focus on prevention, promote social participation, and simplify regulations.

We want to set up walk-in consultation hours and telephone helplines for psychosocial support, in collaboration with welfare organizations and GGZ institutions. In addition, we advocate organizing group therapies and self-help groups to strengthen social support.

7.1 More Attention to Prevention

Prevention is better than cure. We are setting up one counter where residents can quickly get the right help, supported by multidisciplinary care teams. We are in favor of the personal budget (PGB) because it gives the client control over their own care.

Furthermore, we are expanding the municipal task in the field of healthcare with prevention and developing programs focused on nutrition, exercise, and mental health. This lowers the demand for care and the healthcare budget. Volt is therefore in favor of these prevention programs being paid for from the national healthcare budget.

Volt recognizes period poverty and therefore makes menstrual products available for free in public facilities.

Preventing Debts from Becoming Problems

Debts cause a lot of stress and health problems. Early detection must therefore be improved to help residents faster. Via a barrier-free counter and budget coaches, we offer customized support, with one fixed contact person for the entire process. We start from the resident's wishes instead of what the system prescribes. The resident retains control, while the aid worker supports.

We also continue to stimulate cooperation between companies within the framework of *Brainport voor Elkaar*, for example via the Financial Fit program. Companies use this to train their employees to be financially fit so that they live less from paycheck to paycheck.

7.2 Strengthening Youth Care

Volt wants youth mental healthcare (GGZ) and youth care to become more accessible. Because three-quarters of psychological problems arise before the age of 25, we are making GGZ free up to the age of 25. Young people in youth care must be able to continue living in their trusted place until they are 23. We advocate neighborhood-oriented care teams, one counter for requests for help, and short lines of communication.

Actively Involving Children in Youth Care, According to the Finnish Model

Youth care should be low-threshold, affordable, and organized close by. We look at the Finnish model here, in which children are actively involved in policy and where prevention plays a major role.

Volt wants to:

- involve children in policy-making and implementation;
- have a subject called 'health' at school starting from the kindergarten years;
- offer voluntary preschool education from the age of two, to stimulate social mixing, offer structure to the daily program, and stimulate language development;
- establish neighborhood-oriented youth care centers where youth care, youth GGZ, and child protection reinforce each other.

7.3 Simplifying Financial Regulations

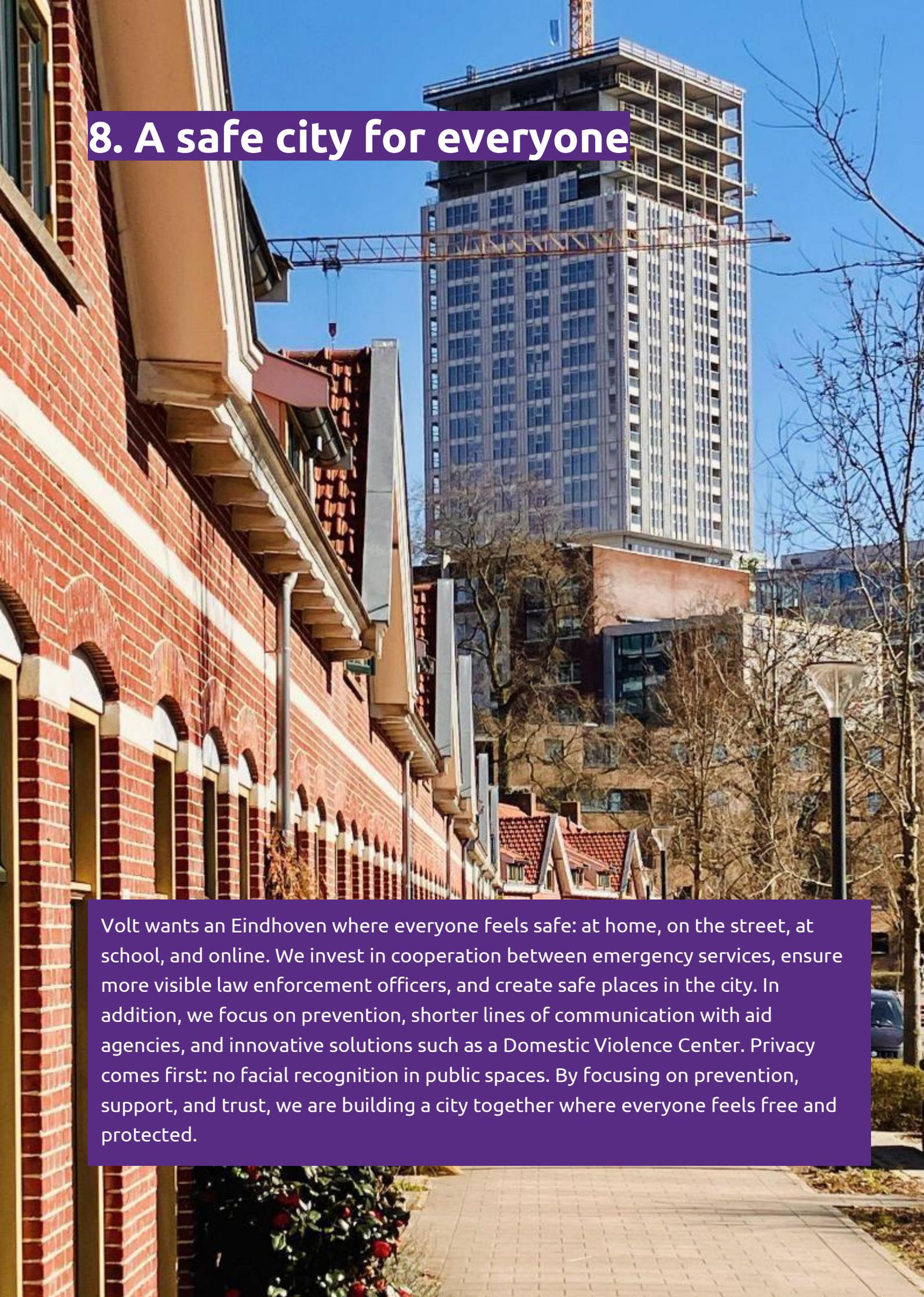
Financial regulations must be easy to apply for. People who need financial help must be helped clearly and quickly. That can be done in the following ways:

- **Apply once:** Get what you are entitled to directly with all minimum income schemes.
- **Clarify what is in 'special assistance':** The clearer the rules are, the better residents know where they stand.
- **More construction depot (*Bouwdepot*):** This is a first step towards a basic income, and we want to expand this to more target groups.
- **Basic income:** We look at municipal initiatives to realize a basic income.
- **Debts are not a revenue model:** The Council for Public Health and Society calls debt an official public health problem.

7.4 Continuing to Participate Thanks to the WMO

The Social Support Act (WMO) supports people who are not (or no longer) fully self-reliant, for example with help in the house, home modifications, or a mobility scooter. Volt wants this care to remain well-funded in the future.

Volt believes that both the resident and the employee should keep control. Give employees sufficient time and let them determine together with the resident what needs to happen on a given day. This ensures more mutual respect and job satisfaction and provides space for signaling problems behind the front door. The first 'kitchen table conversation' is always in person.



8. A safe city for everyone

Volt wants an Eindhoven where everyone feels safe: at home, on the street, at school, and online. We invest in cooperation between emergency services, ensure more visible law enforcement officers, and create safe places in the city. In addition, we focus on prevention, shorter lines of communication with aid agencies, and innovative solutions such as a Domestic Violence Center. Privacy comes first: no facial recognition in public spaces. By focusing on prevention, support, and trust, we are building a city together where everyone feels free and protected.

Those who do not feel safe do not live optimally. Insecurity limits the sense of freedom that residents experience and also affects health and development. The municipality is the guardian in making and keeping the living environment safe. Everyone should feel safe everywhere: on the street, at home, at work, at school, in public buildings, during recreation, and online.

All aspects of safety, from disasters to crime, must be covered. Emergency services and enforcement officers work together to ensure that help is provided quickly and effectively. A strong social foundation discourages crime, and sufficient and recognizable 'safety hubs' (safe places with trained personnel for support in unsafe situations) strengthen the feeling of safety. Volt also wants to improve the living environment so that all residents feel safe.

8.1 Increasing Safety on the Street

To reduce crime and harassment on the street, we need sufficient enforcement officers with the right resources. Together with them, we determine what is needed to let them do their job well. More visibility on the street increases the feeling of safety and increases the chance of catching offenders. Certainly when there is easy contact and mutual trust between residents and enforcement officers.

Strictly Tackling Aggression Against Enforcement Officers

Aggression against enforcement officers and other aid workers must be tackled strictly, but also aggression by enforcement officers against demonstrators. Well-informed and trained enforcement officers are better able to control situations and reduce tensions.

Eindhoven Without Big Brother

We do not want cameras with facial recognition in public spaces. The effect on the number and severity of crimes is limited, and they constitute an infringement on the privacy of residents and visitors.

First a House, Then the Rest

In Austria and Denmark, the "housing first" principle is applied to homeless people. A house offers them a home (for example, an address), and it gives just that push to tackle their problems. This reduces the need for long-term and intensive support. Special attention remains necessary for the reception and support of undocumented people.

8.2 Always Access to Emergency Services

In case of emergencies, accidents, and disasters, emergency services must always be reachable. Therefore, the roads for emergency services must be accessible under all circumstances. Emergency services must be well prepared for situations such as fire, (traffic) calamities, floods, power outages, snow, storms, and heatwaves. Clear agreements within and between teams in the region are crucial so that they can act quickly in case of unexpected incidents. The municipality plays a coordinating role in this.

Safe Environment

The municipality ensures a safe environment. We measure the quality of air, water, and soil and share this information with both residents and companies. In case of dangerous situations, we ensure that

residents are informed quickly. Even small interventions, such as removing obstacles on the street, contribute to a greater sense of safety.

8.3 The Right Approach to Prevent Crime

For an effective preventive approach to crime, it is important to choose the right frameworks:

- **Prevention is better than cure:** More commitment to prevention instead of just repression.
- **Do not think in separate neighborhoods:** Crime does not stop at neighborhood borders. While reports within Eindhoven are often presented per neighborhood, problems should be viewed across borders.

8.4 Strengthening Prevention and Signaling of Crime

Cooperation within and outside the region is essential to tackle crime. Organized crime must not be given a chance, certainly not if vulnerable groups such as children and young people are involved. Volt wants people 'in the line of fire' to receive sufficient tools to quickly recognize crime and unwanted behavior and pass it on to the authorities. Think of hospitality staff, first aiders, volunteers at events, and neighborhood watches. Through training on calamities and resilience, scenarios, and short lines to the neighborhood police officer, they can be well prepared.

8.5 Safe at Home - Drop-in Center with Help

For victims of domestic violence, we must keep the threshold low so that help is quickly and easily accessible. Volt therefore wants a Domestic Violence Center, following the example of Rotterdam (the Filomena Domestic Violence Center) and Flanders ('Family Justice Centres'). The focus must be on cooperation between aid workers and sufficiently available experts.

This (drop-in) center must be a place where victims can not only get information but where alarm signals are also recognized early. Aid workers to whom *Veilig Thuis* (Safe at Home) can transfer care work here. Professionals are also here who can help victims with administration, procedures, and debt counseling. Eindhoven already supports the House of Inner Strength, where (young) male sex workers are helped.

8.6 Strengthening Online Resilience

Online crime is growing and taking increasingly diverse forms: scams by webshops, identity theft, phishing, threats, or intimidation. The most vulnerable groups, young people and the elderly, urgently need support in online resilience to be able to move safely in the digital world.

9. An inclusive society

Volt strives for an Eindhoven where everyone feels welcome, safe, and heard, regardless of who you are or where you come from. We are committed to a society in which everyone is equal, regardless of background or identity. We desire equal treatment and remove barriers that block participation in society. That means investing in social safety for LGBTIQ+ people, women, and vulnerable groups. We ensure the full implementation of the UN Disability Treaty, and support for residents who have difficulty with digitization.



An inclusive city goes further than a diverse city. It is not only about different groups living there, but also that they all participate in society. Volt strives for all residents, disabled people, people from the LGBTIQ+ community, migrants, and other minorities, to feel safe, welcome, and at home in Eindhoven. A multicultural society succeeds if we strike a balance between adaptation of all groups (integration) and respect for mutual differences.

Volt believes that we can learn from each other and that we must stand up for each other. The needs and solutions for different groups and individuals vary greatly. We always continue to check whether policy is still appropriate and where customization is needed.

Volt thinks that the current efforts of the municipality in the area of inclusion and diversity can be more effective and efficient:

- **We lead by example:** Municipal employees are structurally trained in inclusivity, diversity, and social safety, as is already happening in Ghent and Oslo.
- **We measure impact:** We investigate the success of the 'Diversity & Inclusion Implementation Program'.
- **We cultivate 'Allies':** We train more residents to recognize unwanted situations such as discrimination and to respond adequately and safely. This increases social support and safety on the street.
- **We publicize initiatives:** Volt supports diversity initiatives that arise from residents and organizations and promotes them.

9.1 Complying with the UN Disability Treaty

Partly due to Volt, there is a Local Inclusion Agenda in Eindhoven, one of the requirements of the UN Disability Treaty. We are going to implement this agenda and start with the quick wins. It should not remain just beautiful plans on paper. We evaluate our own Local Inclusion Agenda based on the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report.

In addition, it is also necessary that:

- there are sufficient public toilets, also for people with a disability;
- there is more accessible hospitality;
- accessibility is taken into account in construction work;
- people with a visual or hearing impairment can still gather information independently, also in the public domain;
- public transport is accessible to everyone.

9.2 Eindhoven as a Rainbow Municipality: Inclusive for All Identities

We are proud that Eindhoven is a rainbow municipality and sign the rainbow ballot box agreement. Volt wants everyone here to feel safe, free, and welcome. Eindhoven will therefore work even more actively to prevent LGBTIQ+ violence and guarantee equal treatment. No one should feel forced to hide their identity.

Volt wants to change the following matters within the municipality:

- Improving social safety for LGBTIQ+, especially in communities where acceptance is low.

- Better access to special assistance for transgender people and broader granting of applications.
- More job opportunities for transgender people through conversations with employers and a more inclusive work climate.
- Stronger diversity and inclusivity policy within healthcare, police, municipality, and affiliated institutions. Support for initiatives such as *Roze in Blauw* (Pink in Blue) and *Roze in Wit* (Pink in White).
- Punishing "hate crimes" more specifically and better aftercare for victims.
- Increasing the willingness to report LGBTIQ+-related violence in Eindhoven.
- Better protection of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers against violence.

9.3 Reducing Inequality Between Men and Women

The world is still largely designed for men. You can see that, for example, in the area of healthcare, income inequality, and distribution of care within the family. The municipality can contribute and support women. Specific attention is needed for femicide, willingness to report, and follow-up on reports of unwanted behavior against women.

9.4 Eindhoven Remains Analogously Accessible Too

Not every resident manages to connect to the increasingly digital society. The municipality has the task to be there for these residents.

This includes the following measures:

- **Accessible websites:** All municipal websites must meet legal requirements for digital accessibility. Currently, only 13 of the 64 meet these requirements.
- **Digital self-reliance:** Online services in clear language (B1 level), with simple steps and clear instructions via examples, videos, and courses.
- **Personal help:** Sufficient physical locations for support with digital municipal matters.
- **Making authorization possible:** Family members and neighbors must be able to help easily with digital applications.
- **Reachable:** The municipality remains physically and telephonically reachable.
- **Retaining offline facilities:** Libraries, swimming pools, and other municipal services must also offer access without a smartphone or computer.

10. Residents create the city together

Volt wants an Eindhoven where residents create the city together. We stimulate neighborhood initiatives, support volunteering, and make it easier and more fun to contribute to your district. Whether it's greening your street, organizing events, helping neighbors, or setting up new projects: together we build a social, livable city for the next generations. This is how we make Eindhoven a place that belongs to everyone and where everyone can participate.



Involved residents are indispensable for a fun, safe, and future-proof Eindhoven. The more people feel involved with their street, neighborhood, or the municipality, the more the atmosphere and livability flourish.

Social involvement takes many forms. Thinking along about a public garden or playground nearby, helping neighbors, keeping the environment clean together, or organizing the neighborhood watch. Involvement depends on what residents want and can contribute, but also on whether they *know* that they can contribute.

10.1 Promoting Fair Volunteering

Volunteering brings people together and combats loneliness. Organizing an event (carnival, a neighborhood party) can bring neighbors together. It can bring withdrawn residents outside by giving them a task in their community.

Volt is going to promote volunteering and make it fairer by:

- **Promoting non-structural volunteering:** Many associations and initiatives struggle to find or retain volunteers. Initiatives like *NLDoet* put non-structural volunteering in the spotlight. Many participants can thus be made enthusiastic to do non-structural volunteering more often.
- **Inventorying improper volunteering:** Often women are relied upon as volunteers. This leads to a disadvantage for women in the labor market and causes unequal pay. We must look at which volunteer work should actually be paid work. If this is structurally the case, a plan must be made to remunerate these positions.

10.2 Supporting Neighborhood Initiatives

Residents who have ideas for their own neighborhood can count on support from the municipality. We help with finances and look for the right space together. We believe in trust and work together on beautiful initiatives.

We are not going to reinvent the wheel every time, but strengthen volunteering by 'professionalizing' together. We already know many beautiful citizen initiatives that promote social connection, such as *Pact Woensel Zuid*, *Stichting T+HUIS*, *Stichting Samimi*, and *Nieuwe Maan*. What makes these initiatives strong is the cooperation between organizations, companies, and residents, pooling knowledge and experience.



A handy example is the app *JijDoet040*, with which you can find volunteer work in Eindhoven in a simple way by swiping. We support new ways to bring volunteer work to attention in a fun and accessible way and also make it 'hip'.

10.3 Children as World Citizens

By making children curious at a young age and letting them gain various experiences, we ensure that they grow up into adults with empathy and a positive attitude in life. You learn respect for others and the world from an early age.

We stimulate this by:

- **Support for places and initiatives** where the curiosity of children and young people is stimulated, such as *De Ontdekkabriek* and *Speelpark de Splinter*. Here they learn by doing: discovering, initiating, working together, and exploring new horizons.
- **Making it more attractive to work with children**, so that a diverse group of people commits themselves in childcare, at schools, and at associations.

This is how we build a generation together that faces the world with an open mind.



11. Connection through culture, sport, and recreation

- **Culture makes Eindhoven lively and connected.** Volt wants more space for makers, a cultural center in every city district, and art and culture accessible to everyone. Eindhoven must invest more in culture, because we lag behind other large cities.
- **Sport connects.** Volt wants everyone to be able to participate and invests in accessible sports facilities, attractive walking and cycling routes, and targeted subsidies for vulnerable groups. This is how we make sport and exercise fun, accessible, and affordable for all Eindhovenaren.
- **Volt wants more space to relax, play sports, and enjoy nature,** with an eye for balance between recreation and the living environment. We invest in sporting events and attractive neighborhoods. We organize tourism sustainably and fairly. This is how we build a healthy, livable city where residents *and* visitors enjoy together.

11.1 Culture That Connects and Touches

Culture is the mirror of our society. It provides reflection, enrichment, and connection for our residents. Eindhoven residents can express their own creativity at countless associations and clubs on stage, or marvel at creativity from the audience. Culture facilitates meeting and thus ensures connected residents and safe neighborhoods. Volt sees culture as the living heart of the city. Eindhoven deserves more space for culture. Cultural makers experience a lack of affordable space and this lack is increasing in a growing city. We want to realize a cultural infrastructure that offers space for current and new Eindhoven residents.

A Cultural Center in Every District

Volt wants seven cultural centers: at least one in every city district. A cluster of cultural centers that are interconnected, with the current *Cultuur & Kunst Eindhoven* (CKE) as the central meeting place in the Woensel-Zuid district. In addition, these centers are the point of contact for the companies in the neighborhood and there are short lines of communication to vulnerable groups, such as refugees, young people from less wealthy families, and seniors.

More Space for Cultural Makers

CKE gets a coordinating role: it helps makers find rehearsal and performance spaces, it links companies to existing locations, and it realizes collective cultural buildings and incubators. Vacant spaces, such as schools, offices, cafes, and churches, are used more often for creative activities. When a district does not yet have a cultural center, this can be realized during redevelopment, as was the case around the Woensel shopping center and Kastelenplein. This creates an accessible cultural infrastructure where creative talents get the space to develop. Inspired by successful examples from cities like The Hague (a cultural anchor in eight districts), Rotterdam (with the project *Cultuur Concreet*), and Utrecht (with *Podium om de Hoek*).

Fair Distribution of Cultural Subsidies

Volt wants a fairer subsidy policy. Currently, only one party per cultural discipline receives a subsidy from the municipality of Eindhoven. So only one museum and one film house, while the other museums and film houses get nothing. That gives continuity to those parties, but is also unfair competition. Now too large a part of the subsidy ends up with large players. Like other large cities, Eindhoven must invest more in culture; in our proposal that is 260 euros per inhabitant per year.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Volt wants monumental buildings to be used sustainably. To prevent demolition or vacancy, the municipality can actively think along about repurposing. Most monuments are owned by private individuals. Making these buildings sustainable is a challenge. Creative solutions to meet (sustainability) requirements are sometimes necessary. The municipality can contribute to preservation by thinking along and stimulating solutions.

11.2 Playing Sports and Exercising Together

Sport keeps Eindhoven healthy, social, and connected. Everyone must be able to participate, regardless of age, background, or income. That is why we invest in accessible sports facilities, such as urban sports containers, and ensure attractive walking and cycling routes in all neighborhoods.

We stimulate sports participation through subsidies for vulnerable groups, for example for swimming lessons and special sports programs for the elderly. We also want to better inform residents about the sports on offer, so that everyone can find a suitable way to stay active.

11.3 Enjoying Recreation and Tourism in Balance with the Living Environment

Volt wants Eindhoven residents and visitors to get more space to relax, play sports, and enjoy nature, without this being at the expense of nature and livability. A good balance between promoting recreation and protecting the living environment is important.

We give priority to enriching recreation in neighborhoods that need it most. This concerns the construction and maintenance of walking and cycling paths and organizing events such as walking tours and outdoor sports competitions. When developing these facilities, attention must be paid to the effect of tourism on the local community.

Learning from European Examples

We are going to organize tourism sustainably and fairly. We draw inspiration from Copenhagen, where tourists keep the city clean via reward programs. In Eindhoven, such an approach can ensure less crowding, cleaner streets, and a better balance between residents and visitors.

Investing money and energy in the development of culture, sport, and recreation is always worth the effort. It is investing in a healthy, livable, social environment and always pays off: on the one hand in better health and more well-being for residents, on the other hand in more social cohesion and safety in neighborhoods and communities within Eindhoven.

12. Migration and integration as both challenge and opportunity



Volt sees migration as both a challenge and an opportunity. Asylum seekers deserve humane and fair reception, while at the same time, Eindhoven can tackle the labor shortage by better utilizing their talents. Newcomers must be given a full place in society, with a view to a livable city for everyone. Volt therefore invests in sufficient housing, an effective integration program, and close cooperation with residents, companies, and local organizations.

Volt advocates for a humane, fair, and sustainable reception policy in which asylum seekers actively contribute to society from day one. By offering work and learning opportunities, we accelerate civic integration and give newcomers the chance to build a future. Eindhoven has already realized 1,200 reception places and is achieving success with the 'Welkom in Eindhoven' (Welcome to Eindhoven) program, in which working and learning the Dutch language are central. Volt wants to expand this program with more flexible, sustainable reception locations and stronger cooperation with employers.

12.1 Getting to Work and Integrating as Soon as Possible

When we at Volt Eindhoven spoke with asylum seekers, it turned out that many of them are very eager to contribute. Volt wants them to get the chance in Eindhoven to start integrating from day one, and where possible, to start work or education. This promotes civic integration, increases public support, and prevents nuisance.

Expanding 'Welkom in Eindhoven'

Volt wants to expand and strengthen the successful 'Welkom in Eindhoven' program. In this project, asylum seekers work or study four days a week and spend one day on integration and learning the Dutch language. We are going to expand this with more flexible, sustainable reception locations and better cooperation with employers. This approach offers structure, accelerates language learning, and ensures that asylum seekers participate actively from day one. A meaningful daily routine also prevents nuisance.

Appropriate Work for Asylum Seekers

A number of asylum seekers in Eindhoven are already given the chance to work. This happens largely via *Ergon*, where they mainly end up in practical positions such as kitchen help, landscaping, and warehouse work. These possibilities must also be expanded: more workplaces must become available, and the municipality must cooperate more actively with employers to help asylum seekers get to work faster outside of Ergon as well.

In addition, Volt wants more appropriate work to be found for asylum seekers with relevant education or work experience. This requires better matching based on talents and involving more companies. In this way, we utilize the knowledge and skills of newcomers, accelerate integration, and help local employers fill vacancies.

Solving Local Labor Shortages

Many sectors in Eindhoven are struggling with a shortage of personnel, while there are asylum seekers who are eager to work. Volt wants to utilize these opportunities better by offering extra support to employers. They currently often run into complicated rules and procedures, such as applying for work permits and dealing with different types of residence statuses.

Volt wants Eindhoven to open a digital information counter where employers can easily find answers to practical questions: about contracts, permits, rights, obligations, and risks if an asylum seeker is not granted status. This makes it easier for companies to give asylum seekers a chance, helps talents get to work faster, and helps solve local personnel shortages.

12.2 Better Integration of Labor Migrants and Expats

Eindhoven is an international city with many labor migrants, expats, and knowledge workers. They contribute to the economy, but integration often lags behind. There are even neighborhoods where people feel they can no longer speak their own language. Volt considers it important that these newcomers also participate actively and become fellow citizens. That is why we want them to be stimulated more to learn Dutch – or just *Brabants* – and become more involved in the city. Together with employers, educational institutions, and local organizations, Eindhoven can stimulate language education, cultural programs, and meetings. This strengthens social cohesion, builds bridges between internationals and Eindhoven locals, and ensures everyone can feel at home.

12.3 Respectful and Future-Proof Reception

A humane and sustainable reception policy is not only good for asylum seekers but for all Eindhovenaren. By setting up reception locations flexibly, they can be used for other target groups, such as students, starters, or the elderly, if the number of asylum seekers decreases. This way, we utilize available space better and strengthen social cohesion in the city.

Clear Agreements with the Neighborhood - The neighborhood must be actively involved in new and existing Asylum Seeker Center (AZC) locations. Clear agreements will be made with residents so that no nuisance arises. Eindhoven must focus on a strong, inclusive society in which everyone profits from new social and economic opportunities.

Flexible Reception Locations - Volt wants to realize more reception locations that house multiple target groups. Temporary homes can, for example, be shared by asylum seekers, students, and starters. Here we take the recommendations from the report “Mixed living with status holders” into account, such as separating target groups where necessary, selecting based on motivation, and building a strong community.

Humane Reception - Volt believes that Eindhoven must receive people in a humane way. The current situation at, for example, AZC Meerhoven, where a large tent with partitions and open ceilings serves as sleeping accommodation, is unacceptable. We want to realize smaller, safer, and more comfortable reception places that contribute to peace and dignity.

No Wasting Money on Temporary Shelter - Temporary emergency shelter is often expensive and of mediocre quality. Eindhoven needs to provide permanent, sustainable, and flexible reception locations faster. This not only ensures better living conditions but also makes reception cheaper and more efficient in the long term.

12.4 European Approach

Volt's motto is 'Think European, act local'. This means that cooperation with municipalities in neighboring countries, such as Germany and Belgium, is desperately needed to regulate the distribution of asylum seekers properly. Fair and humane asylum policy does not stop at the border. Municipalities must receive sufficient resources to tackle the problems surrounding asylum and integration. Money and support from the National Government are urgently needed so that municipalities are able to receive asylum seekers and status holders in a humane manner.

13. Better democracy: a municipality that listens to you

A photograph of a man with white hair and glasses, wearing a red zip-up jacket, pointing his right index finger towards a hanging sculpture. The sculpture is made of numerous thin, light-colored sticks or twigs, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a starburst effect. The man is standing in front of a light-colored wooden wall. To his left, the number '8' and the words 'LIAS' and 'IST' are visible on the wall. In the background, there are other exhibits, including a red sculpture and a black sculpture. A white tray filled with more sticks is visible in the bottom right corner.

Volt wants an open and fair democracy in which residents truly participate in decision-making. No backroom politics, but transparent decision-making via a council-wide agreement and aldermen who are chosen via an open application process. With citizens' assemblies, participation guides, and living room meetings, we bring the municipality closer to the residents, increase trust, and ensure that every voice counts.

Volt believes that a strong democracy revolves around the active involvement of its citizens. The government and politicians should listen to them, and they, the citizens, should have influence on decisions that affect them. By using citizens' assemblies and an open attitude from the government, we can strengthen trust between the municipality and its residents. Together we then work on a community in which everyone gets the chance to make their voice heard and in which decisions are clear and workable. A democracy with equal opportunities for everyone is the basis of a healthy society.

A democratic municipality listens to its residents. Unfortunately, citizens are currently not involved actively enough in political decisions. It is possible: give citizens and companies in the municipality a say over, for example, energy supply and use the tools from the National Government for organized citizen participation. Citizens' assemblies and citizen forums involve residents in important issues in this way, such as safety. That helps to map out their concerns and ideas.

13.1 'Participation Guides' for Those Who Do Not Feel Heard

Residents do not feel heard in the so-called 'participation trajectories'. We advocate a new position: the independent '**participation guide**'. This person has the task of realizing the goals of the Participation Act and at the same time solving the problems that arise during implementation. This guide is an independent facilitator who does not work for the municipality, but for the residents, to ensure that the 'participation process' proceeds fairly, clearly, and effectively.

The participation guide is expert and neutral and guarantees the trust of all parties. The core tasks are:

- **Clarifying the rules:** The guide makes clear in advance what the goal of the participation is, what can and cannot be thought along with, and what degree of influence residents have. This clarifies expectations.
- **Guaranteeing inclusivity:** The guide ensures that all relevant groups, including people who are often not heard, are reached and involved.
- **Accessible communication:** The guide explains complicated plans and official terms in clear and understandable language (B1 level), so that everyone can join the conversation.
- **Fixed point of contact and feedback:** The guide is a fixed point of contact for the neighborhood and guarantees that residents always hear what has been done with their input, even if their proposal is not implemented.

13.2 Council-wide Accord for an Open and Transparent Administration

Volt wants to get rid of backroom politics. Decisions that affect Eindhoven must be made publicly, with room for debate and participation. It must be radically different. That is why we want to overhaul the system after the elections and switch to a **council-wide accord**: no more sealed-shut coalitions, but joint performance agreements with the entire city council on the most important tasks for Eindhoven.

In addition, we propose to choose aldermen via an **open application procedure**, assessed by council members from all parties. This makes the administration more transparent, ensures that aldermen work more independently, and gives parties more freedom to remain faithful to their election programs.

With this system, we make local politics fairer, more accessible, and more democratic, and we bring decision-making closer to the residents of Eindhoven.

13.3 Municipality Close By: Living Room Meetings

The municipality must stand closer to the residents. Therefore, we advocate for accessible **'living room meetings'** in neighborhoods and districts, where residents can talk directly with politicians, aldermen, and civil servants. Here residents can share their concerns, ideas, and problems.

It is not only important that they are listened to, but also that it becomes clear what happens with the input. In this way, we strengthen trust, improve cooperation, and make the municipality more accessible.

13.4 Involving International Residents through an Internationals Council

Eindhoven has a fast-growing group of international residents: knowledge workers, students, expats, asylum seekers, and status holders. Yet there is a lack of a democratically elected body in which they are structurally represented. Volt therefore wants to establish an **Internationals Council**, following the example of Frankfurt.

This council strengthens the involvement of international residents in local government, increases social cohesion, and contributes to an inclusive and democratic city.

Volt proposes to establish an Internationals Council in Eindhoven. This council:

- Consists of democratically elected representatives of international residents (non-Dutch nationality).
- Advises the college (Mayor and Aldermen) and the city council, solicited and unsolicited, on policy regarding subjects such as inclusion, integration, housing, education, and participation.
- Organizes dialogue with its constituency via public consultation evenings and consultations.
- Is recognized as an official advisory body.
- Cooperates with *Expatriate Center South*.

14. Locally strong, connected in Europe

Volt wants Eindhoven to cooperate more strongly in Europe to jointly tackle major challenges such as climate, migration, and innovation. By participating more actively in European projects, thematic city twinning, and collaborations, we benefit from each other's knowledge, subsidies, and solutions. Eindhoven must profile itself internationally as a modern, progressive tech city and involve residents more in the EU, partly through education and celebrating Europe Day. We are creating an international strategy. In this way, we strengthen democracy, increase our influence, and make Eindhoven more attractive for knowledge workers, start-ups, and investors.



Volt wants to bring the European Union (EU) closer to citizens and strengthen cooperation between municipalities in Europe. Climate change, migration, and other challenges require a cross-border approach. Strong European cooperation is indispensable for a sustainable future for everyone. To achieve this, Eindhoven must cooperate more actively with municipalities and regions in Europe to learn from each other and to adopt innovative solutions from elsewhere and adapt them to its own local situation. To this end, Eindhoven must organize events, cultural exchanges, and projects together with EU partner municipalities. We enter into (project-based) city twinnings with cities or regions with similar challenges or based on themes.

Eindhoven must make more use of existing European partnerships, for example via 'Interreg Europe', a European subsidy scheme for projects that helps municipalities develop better policy. By working together with other European municipalities, we can benefit from a broad network and learn from each other's experiences. This way, we can also tackle our problems smarter. We must take a more active stance in the various networks of which we are a member.

Volt wants Eindhoven to clarify the role that the European Union plays in the daily lives of residents, and also the benefits this offers. The connection between local governments and the EU strengthens democracy and gives municipalities more say in European decision-making.

14.1 Drafting an International Strategy for Eindhoven

Eindhoven is a member of various partnerships but often plays a passive role. Given the major challenges in the fields of mobility, social inequality, climate, biodiversity, and digitization, the city must develop a strategy that utilizes opportunities in Europe and maps out geopolitical risks. It must contain answers to the question of how we can prevent risks as much as possible. A strategy also enables us to set priorities and utilize financial opportunities that exist in a European context, for example, subsidies for the improvement of the city.

14.2 Profiling Eindhoven More Strongly Internationally

Eindhoven must profile itself more strongly abroad as a modern, progressive tech city. This requires a clear long-term plan, in which city promotion, economic cooperation with other countries, and attracting start-ups come together. Within the high-tech industry, Brainport is already well known, but outside that network, the city is still insufficiently visible. By telling a clear and attractive story internationally, with a recognizable appearance, a clear message, and with people who actively promote Eindhoven, the city becomes more attractive for foreign start-ups, knowledge workers, and talent.

14.3 Celebrating Europe Day

To increase awareness about the EU, Volt wants Eindhoven to celebrate Europe Day. This can be done by inviting artists and designers to highlight the importance of the EU and give it publicity in a playful, creative way. We free up an annual budget for festivities around Europe Day, with content by the creative community in the city.

Colophon

Volt

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