

The rest of your life will be in the future

It is time to make the necessary choices. We are racing from crisis to crisis. Climate change, housing, increasing poverty, nitrogen, migration - they all have one thing in common: they have become crises because choices have been postponed for years.

Some politicians insist that the Netherlands can find its own answers to the challenges of the 21st century. But that is an illusion. If we want to control our future, it can only happen in one place: the European Union (EU). A strong and independent EU is the only way to maintain our security and well-being and to achieve a green future.

That is why Volt was founded six years ago. Young people across the EU stood up and said, "If the old parties don't do it, we will do it ourselves". Because we can meet all the challenges and we can turn problems into opportunities if we make the necessary choices now. These cannot be small steps; they must be bold, long-term systemic changes. Systemic changes that provide hope and paint a radically positive vision of the future, where people say, "I can't wait for it to be 2050!" That future and the systemic changes to get there are outlined in this election manifesto.

Radical for a United Europe

We are convinced that 2050 can be greener, fairer and safer than 2023. But it can only happen in one way: in a United Europe, a federal and democratic EU. We need to change our political system: the challenges are transnational, and our politics must be too.

- The EU must use its position as a significant power to be a global climate leader and to push countries towards a green future.
- By achieving budgetary union, the strength of the Euro will mature. So, European tax revenues and joint debt can finance climate and defence ambitions.
- With European taxes, we prevent multinational corporations from avoiding taxes by relocating across borders.
- With a European military, our security in an unsafe world is no longer dependent on the USA.
- With a European redistribution law, we can ensure a fair and humane distribution of refugees.
- We will write a European constitution to establish a United Europe, with more attention to all regions.

Radical for the climate

Volt takes a radical approach to the climate with no taboos: we need to pull out all the stops. The Netherlands and the EU must be climate-neutral by 2040 and focus on climate positivity. This is how we can build a clean future where we coexist with nature. Society will face drastic changes in the coming years; not everything that is possible today will still be possible the day after tomorrow. We have to make rigorous choices.

- We eliminate short-haul fossil flights, stop selling new fossil-fueled car engines starting in 2030, ban private jets and close the most polluting factories until they become sustainable. The exploitation of humans, animals and the planet cannot continue.
- We must create a European high-speed rail network, invest in green cities and urban cores, clean air and water, and green jobs.
- We need to eliminate fossil subsidies and redirect those funds toward clean energy, green businesses, and those who cannot afford to make sustainability changes without financial help. Only by taking care of each other can we achieve these changes.
- We advocate for a rapid shift from intensive to circular and nature-inclusive agriculture.
- We make public transport available everywhere according to need, even in sparsely populated areas.

Radical for equal opportunities

Volt wants to organise the distribution of funds across regions in a way that makes education, healthcare, employment, culture, and public services accessible to everyone in the Netherlands. Volt opts for equal opportunities for all EU residents in every region, in the city and in the countryside. The government operates on trust; everyone can be themselves, and the government stands for inclusivity. Future generations should not have to worry about their well-being; it should be a given.

- We create a European Social Union, where local standards ensure equal pay for equal work and equal workers' rights for the entire EU population, and every EU resident is guaranteed decent living conditions.
- We increase welfare benefits and the social minimum: everyone should have enough money for housing, energy, education, healthcare, public transport and digital access.
- Volt has a positive view of humanity: a view of trust, without discrimination and racism, with the human scale as standard.
- We create equal opportunities for all children by making childcare available to all children regardless of whether parents work or not, by making education inclusive and no longer funding religious education, and by making higher education accessible to everyone by increasing the basic grant. This way, everyone gets equal opportunities to develop.

Radical for a new socio-economic system

Volt chooses a complete socioeconomic revolution. We build a New Economy that focuses on broad prosperity, with the needs of society and nature at its core.

- Prosperity must be distributed more equitably. Work should pay more. Wealth, pollution, and corporations should be taxed more.
- We fully embrace the circular economy: destroying unused products will be prohibited, the functional guarantee and its duration will be extended in favour of the user and enshrined in European legislation. Fast fashion will be a thing of the past.
- It's time for a major tax cleanup. We will abolish all allowances, tax credits, deductions, exemptions and employer and employee premiums. These will be covered by a modified income tax and a new basic allowance as a step towards a universal basic income.
- We enable creative housing solutions and maximise the potential of converting vacant buildings. At the same time, we build new homes, make existing homes more sustainable with an insulation offensive and build social rental and purchased homes interspersed in mixed neighbourhoods.

Radical for democracy

Democracy needs fundamental renewal. Volt chooses trust, more participation and a voice for everyone from the age of 16. We are going through a time of great change and, in that context, we need each other - voters and politics. Volt chooses a 21st-century democracy, one that reinvents itself to serve its residents better, giving residents more influence and taking its role in the rapidly changing digital world.

- We lower the voting age to 16 and make the intergenerational equity assessment the leading principle for new policies, ensuring that we guarantee the consequences of policies for future generations are taken into account.
- We establish the world's first national, permanent citizen assembly, through which residents can directly influence political decision-making.
- We expand the lower house of parliament from 150 to 250 members, organise vision debates about the long term, and shift the focus of the House more toward legislation.
- We appoint a Minister of Digital Affairs to gain control over areas like artificial intelligence (AI) and to harness its potential properly.