

THINK EUROPEAN. ACT LOCAL.

Electoral program Volt Nijmegen
Municipal Elections 2026

The Volt logo, consisting of the word "Volt" in a bold, sans-serif font, is centered within a white rectangular box.

Volt

Introduction

Volt Nijmegen: Good ideas know no boundaries

The future has great opportunities to offer. Here in Nijmegen, we are working on a better future where we guarantee security of livelihood and stimulate innovative and green entrepreneurship. Volt is a European party with members throughout Europe. We think European and act locally. That includes in Nijmegen. The challenges we face here in Nijmegen do not stop at the municipal border. Volt finds solutions across our continent and works across national, provincial and municipal borders.

Good ideas know no borders means that we see new opportunities to find solutions to outdated or unnecessary borders. Volt Nijmegen wants to build bridges between entrepreneurs, students, aid organisations, neighbourhoods and municipalities. By looking beyond borders, we are a breath of fresh air in Nijmegen politics. Volt wants Nijmegen to be ready for the European economy of the future. And we want to broaden the cultural offering. Volt knows that good ideas know no boundaries because we are represented in local municipalities in the Netherlands and across the border. In addition, we learn from our European network about local solutions that are already working in other places.

When it comes to social security, we want to base our approach on trust in our residents. Experimenting with a basic income, for example, is a typical Volt issue. The municipality must be there for its residents by offering accessible assistance. Volt wants to achieve this by encouraging aid organisations to work together more and simplifying regulations. We also give residents more confidence by making the environmental plan in their own neighbourhood more flexible.

Our solutions will always contribute to:

- The right to housing
- Cross-border cooperation
- Accessible social security
- Trust in residents
- Space for sustainable and social entrepreneurship
- A fresh, new form of politics

It is only by working together that we can build bridges in our society. Everyone must be heard and able to participate, regardless of their background or situation. Residents must have a say in decision-making, not after the fact. Digital innovation offers opportunities for people to be engaged with the municipality's plans. Volt wants European ideas, Nijmegen action. Will you join us?

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Chapter 1 Social Nijmegen focused on care, solidarity and prevention

A fair and social municipality is there for everyone.

Volt opts for a society in which security of livelihood does not depend on luck, network or chance. People must be given the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution, with or without a paid job. We are committed to preventing debt and to innovative ways of guaranteeing security of livelihood, such as a basic income. We invest in education and in neighbourhoods where inequality of opportunity is greatest.

For Volt, progress means greater solidarity with people in need, more support for those who need it, and a safe environment where everyone can develop freely. We want to take a creative approach to security of livelihood: not just thinking in terms of regulations per law or target group, but an innovative breakthrough approach that focuses on the lives of residents. Volt wants the municipality of Nijmegen to implement the core values of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

1.1 Poverty and social security

Worrying about money can affect every aspect of your life. It causes stress, health problems and can push people into a downward spiral. Volt wants to combat poverty in Nijmegen with innovative measures, for example by experimenting with a basic income. Society has become increasingly complex, especially for people with financial stress and debts. Nijmegen is a social city and has a multitude of regulations. Volt wants to work towards simplifying regulations. People need to know what they are entitled to and be able to apply for what they are entitled to easily. This also includes debt assistance: we want to make debt assistance more accessible so that people can get support before their debt situation gets out of hand.

What we consider really important:

Experimenting with far-reaching measures for social security

- Guaranteeing access to basic necessities, such as period products
- Investing in neighbourhoods where people have the most difficulty making ends meet

Volt opts for an approach that looks beyond treating the symptoms. In Nijmegen, residents should never be forced to choose between hygiene products, healthcare, groceries or heating. Volt therefore wants the municipality of Nijmegen to invest in livelihood security, and it is a priority for Volt Nijmegen that there are no cutbacks in this area. This means investing in debt assistance, safe housing and accessible healthcare. Volt wants to start an experiment in Nijmegen with a form of basic income. This is possible within the current social assistance law, for example through an experimental status. The goal: less stress, more room for meaningful choices and confidence in one's own strength.

1.2. Equal opportunities in education and for young people

Volt believes that every child should have the opportunity to grow, learn and develop to their full potential, regardless of their background. We want to ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to develop their talents, whatever those talents may be. This means that schools must be supported in offering stimulating and broadly oriented education, but also that a safe and social learning environment must be protected. In addition, we also want to teach our children how to deal with artificial intelligence, fake news and social media.

What we consider important:

- Education in which every child can develop to their full potential
- Catching up on language and other deficits
- Youth policy tailored to the world of young people

In order to give all pupils equal opportunities for the rest of their lives, every effort must be made to eliminate educational disadvantages. Homework assistance and extracurricular activities can be educational and fun and should be supported by the municipality. School trips that teach children about citizenship, Europe or cultural exchange with our German neighbours should be subsidised.

When it comes to youth care in Nijmegen, in the coming years we will focus on prevention of crises, early detection and accessible support close to home, with families retaining control. Professionals must be given the space to provide tailor-made services and to collaborate with each other instead of competing for subsidies. By providing rapid, appropriate assistance and focusing on 'normalisation', we want to prevent intensive youth care and forced placements outside the home as much as possible.

1.3. Integration and (labour) migration

In Nijmegen, there are no second-class citizens. Migrants and labour migrants also deserve equal opportunities to develop in Nijmegen. We are hospitable to people in need, and by working together across municipal boundaries and with various organisations, we ensure good reception. Integration is necessary here from day one. This means helping people learn Dutch from day one, to find a job and decent housing.

What we consider important:

- Provision of temporary shelter for people in need
- Integration and assimilation from day one
- Cooperation within the EU region to properly regulate labour migration
- Full commitment to combating discrimination in the labour market

Most migrants in the Nijmegen area are labour migrants. We want better regulated and separate employment contracts and rental contracts. To tackle this effectively, we

need to work together with our German neighbours via the EU region. In addition, Volt wants the bed-bath-bread scheme in Nijmegen to remain in place. Special attention must be paid to the support of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

1.4. Healthcare and ageing in Nijmegen

Health affects every aspect of your life. Although Nijmegen is home to many young people and students, several neighbourhoods are ageing. Through additional funding and a new form of financing, we want to improve access to healthcare and reduce waiting lists. Cooperation between mental health and welfare organisations and better support for informal carers are important steps towards a healthy and resilient society. At Volt, we look at how other European cities solve problems that we also face. For example, we learn from Mechelen in Belgium how they have their social services so well organised.

What we consider important:

- Supporting healthcare to keep pace with the ageing population
- Investing in preventive healthcare
- Accessible care for people with psychosocial problems

We expect Nijmegen to continue to grow in the coming years and that the city will have more than 200,000 inhabitants by 2040. The increase will be strongest among the over-70s. It is expected that by 2040, a quarter of the inhabitants of the Rijk van Nijmegen region will be aged 65 or over. This is expected to lead to capacity problems and growing waiting lists in healthcare, making care less accessible for vulnerable groups. Volt wants subsidised healthcare providers to work together to provide the best care for all residents. Older people deserve good care, which is why we must invest in the accessibility of care and smart housing solutions. The composition of the city is changing and the different generations of Nijmegen residents must help each other. This can be achieved, for example, through intergenerational housing. The long waiting lists for requests for assistance from residents under the Social Support Act (WMO) or the Youth Act must be reduced by providing more training for consultants.

1.5. Homeless shelter in Nijmegen

In recent years, we have seen an increasing number of homeless people in the city centre. According to Volt, this is due to a shortage of shelters and a bottleneck in the transition to housing. Housing gives homeless people the opportunity to stand on their own two feet again and get their lives back on track.

What we consider important:

- Humane assistance for homeless people with night shelters and a winter protocol
- Supporting aid organisations
- Increasing the number of shelters and housing

As a central municipality, Nijmegen plays an important role in providing shelter for homeless people. We believe it is important that sufficient good shelter remains available for people who need help. We therefore want to maintain the 24-hour shelter in the city centre and, if possible, even expand it at that location or another location in or around the city centre.

• **What makes Volt unique**

Advocating for a basic income to guarantee social security is typical of Volt. For Volt, this is about core values such as solidarity and security. Experiments with social security have been conducted throughout the country, a good example of which is the municipality of Arnhem. Here, they have experimented with taking over the debts of families in financial difficulties so that they can get back on their feet without constant financial stress. Volt Nijmegen wants to learn from this experiment and also from the introduction of a basic income for artists in Ireland. There, a selected group of artists and musicians received a basic income of €325 per week. The result was higher productivity, quality and better mental well-being.

Chapter 2 Liveable and accessible Nijmegen

The environment in which we live influences our lives every day. Your environment determines how you get from home to work and where you can spend your free time. To keep Nijmegen liveable, we need to make smart choices about how we use public space, the accessibility of the future and keeping space for culture, sport and recreation.

Volt wants Nijmegen to remain a pleasant place to live, work and relax in the future. This requires a flexible environmental plan that brings all these functions together. We want to make it easier for residents to live, work and relax close to home. This saves travel time and helps young families spend more time with their

2.1 A liveable environment

In order to live comfortably in the city, children need space to play. Liveability means being able to breathe clean air when you step outside and being able to exercise in your neighbourhood. This means that cars should be kept out of residential areas as much as possible. This is safer, encourages exercise and provides more space for greenery. In a changing climate, more green space also means less heat stress, which is particularly harmful to the vulnerable and elderly in our society. Everyone should be able to enjoy public spaces. To achieve this, accessibility must be improved and protected for people in wheelchairs or reduced mobility, the visually impaired, or people with other disabilities. Volt supports the Nijmegen Accessibility Handbook and wants it to form the basis for how we make our public spaces accessible to everyone.

What we consider important:

- Improving air quality through greening
- Protecting recreational areas such as parks and the Waal beaches
- Protecting and improving accessibility for people with disabilities

Greening streets improves air quality and prevents heat stress. With climate change in mind, greening is not only a luxury but also a necessity. Nijmegen can remain an attractive place to live by protecting its green environment, parks and the city park at Veur-Lent. By making the city greener, we can also ensure that everyone can move around freely, including people with disabilities.

2.2. Accessibility of the future

Everyone should be able to move around freely. To keep the city centre liveable, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport must be given priority. We are doing this by investing in public transport and sufficient parking spaces outside residential areas. Everyone should be able to get to work, and accessibility for the future means that we will do this in a sustainable way.

What we consider important:

- Good public transport in Nijmegen
- A car-free city centre
- We encourage the construction of two additional P+R locations around Nijmegen.

Volt is in favour of a car-free city centre. To achieve this, through traffic must be able to bypass the city as much as possible and there must be sufficient space for paid parking on the outskirts of the city. It is important to maintain exceptions for healthcare providers. Good public transport and cycle connections better connect the different neighbourhoods with each other and with the city centre. The city centre must be made more accessible through better bus connections. The centre must be made car-free, with exceptions only for residents and local traffic. By reducing motorised traffic, we will ensure a greener, healthier and safer city centre.

2.3. Space for culture, sport and recreation

Volt wants people to be able to work, live and relax in their neighbourhood. This means that sports are accessible to everyone and everyone has the opportunity to enjoy culture. Nijmegen already has a good culture programme in place, and we want to maintain that. Music, films, festivals, stages, art, museums and literature ensure that Nijmegen is and remains attractive for tourists to visit. Art and culture contribute to the city as a creative breeding ground for new residents.

What we consider important:

- More flexibility for culture and sports in the environmental plan
- Cultural exchange in Nijmegen and across the border
- Sports accessible to everyone

The importance of sports, recreation and culture should not be forgotten. New development projects must take this into account and existing neighbourhoods must also have access to these facilities. Cultural exchange can be facilitated across borders through a joint culture card with municipalities in the EU region. Sports must be accessible to everyone, regardless of their income. People who cannot afford to pay for sports themselves must be supported so that they can also participate. Volt greatly values art and culture. Cultural breeding grounds for new talent deserve our support. These places are important for the creative development of young people and are a fun, positive way to spend free time.

- **What makes Volt unique**

Volt wants Nijmegen to grow into a green, sustainable and vibrant city where art and culture flourish. We want to experiment with a basic income for artists and musicians, so that creativity is given room to grow. We want to nominate Nijmegen as the European Capital of Culture for 2033. And we want to create a joint cultural agenda with other border municipalities and German municipalities. By building across borders, innovating and experimenting, Volt shows that it is precisely by building bridges that we can broaden the range of cultural events in Nijmegen.

Chapter 3 **A new economy full of social and sustainable entrepreneurship**

Volt stands for fairly earned and fairly distributed prosperity. Volt believes that municipalities should be attractive to both large and small businesses, so that everyone has the freedom and opportunity to work and earn a living. Despite increasing prosperity, not everyone is benefiting sufficiently. Volt believes that everyone should be able to benefit from economic growth. Concerns about livelihood security must become a thing of the past. We want livelihood security for all Nijmegen residents and are therefore committed to a fairer distribution of prosperity.

To stimulate broad prosperity, Volt has an ambitious economic vision and wants to invest in economic opportunities across borders. We are working towards a better connection between education, the labour market and social policy. In this way, we ensure that everyone can participate. Work provides income and meaning. We particularly encourage social entrepreneurship. This refers to businesses that focus on 'impact first', for example by supplying local products that help Nijmegen society or by hiring people who have barriers to employment.

Nijmegen is in the privileged position of offering all forms of education, from ROC to HBO and University. The connection between this education and the labour market can be further improved by intensifying cooperation between the business community and education and by stimulating education in start-up, social and green entrepreneurship. With flexible training for sectors where there are or are likely to be labour shortages, we stimulate the economy and ensure that more people participate.

3.1. Broad prosperity, where everyone benefits from economic growth

The Netherlands is one of the most prosperous countries in the world, but not everyone benefits equally from this economic growth. This is bad news for residents and neighbourhoods that are lagging behind. Volt wants security for all Nijmegen residents and is therefore committed to ambitious and effective policies in the areas of the economy, poverty reduction and debt assistance. We want equal opportunities and security, so that prosperity in Nijmegen is distributed more fairly among residents and everyone can participate to the best of their ability.

What we consider important:

- A prosperous municipality for everyone
- Ensuring security of livelihood through innovative and effective poverty and debt reduction
- Stimulating (social) entrepreneurship in our region

People with financial problems are too often sent from pillar to post for help. We want to simplify regulations and the range of assistance available. The residents who need help the most must be able to find this help more quickly so that we can tackle these issues at an earlier stage or even prevent them altogether. This means not more regulations and aid organisations, but simple, accessible and effective support. By integrating social, sustainable and economic policy, economic and sustainable development go hand in hand with security of livelihood and social justice as a result. We urgently invite all residents, knowledge institutions, entrepreneurs and aid organisations in the city to help us achieve this. We want to work with them and other cities in Europe to ensure broad prosperity in Nijmegen.

3.2 Space for green and innovative business

A stimulating and facilitating municipality contributes to broad prosperity with well-being, growth, employment, and income. Nijmegen is an attractive municipality for both large and small businesses. In a student city like Nijmegen, the municipality can help sustainable and innovative entrepreneurs develop new ideas. Volt wants to make room for sustainable entrepreneurship, events, and tourism.

What we consider important:

- A green and sustainable municipality
- Supporting entrepreneurs to start and grow
- Investing in green energy

The municipality should focus on stimulating the local economy by supporting established, growing and start-up businesses. We support start-ups and organisations that do business sustainably in finding workspace. Large and small events or festivities should be easier to support. An ambitious economic vision also means looking at opportunities in Germany. The municipality can help entrepreneurs connect with new opportunities across the border and help entrepreneurs from across the border settle in Nijmegen.

3.3 Nijmegen and the Waal

The port of Nijmegen is one of the largest inland ports in the Netherlands and forms the connection between the river Meuse and the river Waal. It is an important logistics hub between Rotterdam and Germany. Volt sees this hub as an opportunity to stimulate sustainable economic development. We want to focus on the electrification of the port and making inland vessels more sustainable.

What we consider important:

- Electrification of the port
- Sustainable transport on the Waal
- Cross-border cooperation for sustainable technologies

The challenges we face in our municipality do not stop at municipal boundaries. And often not even at national boundaries. Volt offers a solution to this by working together across multiple municipalities and countries. Making activities on and around the Waal more sustainable is not easy, but together we can develop sustainable technologies and stimulate sustainability.

3.4 Support for entrepreneurs

Nijmegen is full of ambitious (social) entrepreneurs. Volt wants to help these entrepreneurs connect with investors and knowledge institutions in Nijmegen. With an emphasis on sustainable businesses, we want to bring together knowledge, money and vision to help local entrepreneurs move forward. We must help existing entrepreneurs become sustainable with tailor-made solutions.

What we consider important:

- A helpful platform for local and sustainable entrepreneurs
- Encouraging knowledge institutions such as Radboud University, HAN University of Applied Sciences and ROC College for further Education to collaborate with entrepreneurs
- No unfair government participation from the municipality

Some of the challenges faced by entrepreneurs do not stop at municipal boundaries. Volt wants us in Nijmegen to look beyond municipal boundaries to see how we can support entrepreneurs. Problems such as space for retail, business parks and electricity connections can be solved by working smartly with neighbouring municipalities. By looking beyond boundaries in the region, we can find smart solutions that help entrepreneurs move forward.

- **What makes Volt unique**

Volt stands for building a new economy. We want to make it easier for sustainable and social entrepreneurs to get the space they need. Volt sees that sustainability and industry can go hand in hand and wants to bring companies and students together to make this new industry a reality. At the same time, we see that prosperity is not something that should remain with the 'winners' of our society. Volt wants prosperity to be shared in a broad sense and for everyone to benefit from economic growth.

Chapter 4 A modern democratic Nijmegen

Democracy is not something distant and abstract, but a muscle that weakens if you don't use it. Residents should not feel alienated by incomprehensible rules or decision-making about their immediate environment without being consulted. Participation is an important aspect of a healthy democracy. If the municipality wants residents to participate effectively, it must also be genuinely willing to let them have a say in decisions. A strong democracy means that the municipality gives residents access to information and involves them in decisions that directly affect them. All council communication should be in understandable language, unless legal jargon is required.

The use of digital services can make the council's services faster and easier for residents. It offers opportunities to show what the council is doing, allowing everyone to see what is happening in their area from home. Physical information points are still needed to reach residents who are less digitally literate.

4.1. Involving residents in decision-making

Volt wants residents' voices to be heard. Residents have the right to vote and to contribute ideas, to decide and to participate. The municipality must take residents seriously in the decision-making process, not just as a sounding board after the fact. Information about plans, decisions and budgets must be digitally accessible in an understandable way.

What we consider important:

- Never reject advice from citizen participation without good reason.
- Allow residents to have a say about their environment.
- Citizen participation before making plans in your area.

The municipality has already experimented with resident participation on several occasions. However, residents' votes are only used as advice that can be rejected by the municipal council without further ado. This should no longer be possible without a valid reason and clear feedback to the participants and other stakeholders. Volt wants residents to be heard about their own environment and for their views to be listened to.

4.2. Digitalisation of the municipality

The government is digitalising at a rapid pace. This offers many opportunities, although it is important to recognise the risks. Volt wants it to be easier to find forms on the website, fill them in securely and make information accessible. Volt Nijmegen advocates lobbying the national government and the Association of Municipalities to reduce our dependence on non-European service providers. However, physical information points must remain in place as long as there are people who still have difficulty with this.

What we consider important:

- Accessible digital services for everyone.
- User-friendly and secure digital apps, forms and websites.
- Annual hackathon to improve the council's digital services.

Volt wants the municipality to hold an annual hackathon to help it further develop its digital services. A hackathon can help find technological solutions to the municipality's

challenges. These are solutions that enable the municipality to offer more services and forms digitally. This also presents a great opportunity for collaboration with and between knowledge institutions in Nijmegen.

4.3. Information security

Volt wants residents to have both physical and digital access to information. However, residents' personal digital information must be well protected. That is why the municipality of Nijmegen should not collaborate with digital service providers that do not respect digital privacy. Public values in digital services are better protected in Europe than in the rest of the world. Volt wants the municipality to emphasise secure and European digital services, so that residents' privacy is guaranteed.

What we consider important:

- Strategic and secure handling of information.
- Preference for European digital services.
- Both online and physical access to information.

The municipality must determine a strategy for digitalisation. Reliance on foreign digital services demonstrated what can happen, for example when the International Court of Justice was shut down. Volt wants the municipality to choose European companies that respect the privacy of residents.

• **What makes Volt unique**

Working towards democratic modernisation is typical of Volt. We want to be a breath of fresh air in politics and work on the future of Nijmegen without the baggage of old disputes. Democratic renewal is about increasing residents' participation in their own environment. We want the municipality to embrace digitalisation so that it can be held accountable by residents. Residents' input must be taken seriously and should no longer be dismissed as mere advice.

Chapter 5 Good and affordable housing in Nijmegen

Volt wants Nijmegen to be a city where you can live affordably and where everyone can enjoy a pleasant environment, now and in the future. Housing is a basic right and must be affordable for everyone. We provide affordable housing. We help to make homes more sustainable. Volt wants the percentage of social housing to increase to 35% in new housing projects to make housing more affordable. Volt Nijmegen wants people with disabilities to live in appropriate housing. This means, among other things, that there must be sufficient suitable wheelchair-accessible housing.

Progress is possible. Volt stimulates mobility in the housing market. We want to do this by promoting creative housing solutions such as intergenerational housing communities or other forms of housing that suit different age groups. This also meets the needs of an ageing population. Every move can set off a chain reaction, enabling more people to find suitable housing.

5.1. A city where you can live

Nijmegen is an extremely diverse city where many children, students, young professionals, families and elderly people live. Forty percent of households are single-person households. To keep this city liveable for all target groups, the municipality must make room for creative solutions. Volt wants the municipality to intervene to protect the right to affordable housing.

What we consider important:

- Restricting market forces in the housing market.
- More affordable housing, especially for single-person households.
- Enforcement of the Affordable Rent Act.

This means that new building projects must provide more affordable housing. We are in favour of enforcing an owner-occupancy requirement for buyers, which ensures that buyers will actually live in Nijmegen. It should also be easier to split large houses in two. The market has driven housing policy for years. Even now, the vast majority of houses are not built for the target groups that need them most. In development projects, building large homes must make up financially for affordable smaller housing. Only the mandatory percentage of social housing, which is often only 30% of a project, is affordable. Building mid-range rentals must also be further stimulated as many people with an average income are not eligible for social housing and are stuck because they cannot buy a house.

5.2. A student city where you can live affordably

Nijmegen is a lively city full of young students in various fields of study. The knowledge institutions in Nijmegen are a driving force for our economy. However, in order to remain an attractive student city, it must become easier and more affordable for students to come and live in Nijmegen.

What we consider important:

- The number of affordable student houses must grow in line with the number of students
- Student housing should be non-profit
- The Affordable Rent Act should be reinforced

It is possible to work with educational institutions and housing associations such as SSH&N and Talis to ensure that there are enough rooms for all students. By working together with parties that rent out rooms on a non-profit basis, we can make Nijmegen an affordable student city. This reduces pressure on the private rental sector and also ensures that more young people can get to know Nijmegen.

5.3. Making homes more sustainable and insulating them

Volt strives to ensure that residential areas do not consume more energy than they generate. This means focusing on making homes more sustainable and insulating them. Heating and cooling must be carried out in an increasingly sustainable manner in all homes. People with the smallest budgets often still have the highest energy bills, which Volt considers unfair.

What we consider important:

- Sustainable and future-proof heating networks
- Subsidising insulation and energy efficiency in order to combat energy poverty
- Combating energy poverty on a broad scale

Energy saving must be linked to broader poverty reduction and meet the needs of residents. If property owners do not meet the agreed standard insulation, they must be held accountable. We also want to support people who have difficulty paying their energy bills. Finally, Volt wants to encourage the establishment of energy cooperatives so that the profits of energy supply do not go to large companies, but benefit the community.

• What makes Volt unique

Like many progressive parties, Volt wants to increase the percentage of social and affordable housing in new housing projects. What makes Volt unique is that we want to stimulate the existing housing market by making it easier to split homes, repurposing empty buildings and making room for creative housing solutions.

Chapter 6 A sustainable and climate-neutral municipality

Climate change is a fact. We cannot ignore it. Volt is working towards sustainability and a climate-neutral society across Europe. It is at the local level that we put our common goals into practice. We want to invest in a new sustainable economy so that Nijmegen can be part of a green future. To this end, we want to support entrepreneurs in becoming more sustainable and help households make their homes climate-proof.

The municipality should help residents and entrepreneurs to take action. To make Nijmegen future-proof, action must be taken to make our neighbourhoods energy-neutral. In addition, the municipality must make the city resistant to heat stress and flooding.

6.1. Nijmegen climate neutral by 2040

Volt wants Nijmegen to be climate neutral by 2040. To achieve this, we want to encourage residents to make their homes more energy-efficient. The ultimate goal is that residential neighbourhoods will not consume more energy than can be generated within the region.

What we consider important:

- Energy-neutral neighbourhoods
- Tackling energy poverty
- Ban on wood burning by 2030

Energy-neutral neighbourhoods are not impossible. By focusing on small-scale heating networks, solar panels on roofs and insulation, we can make this possible in every neighbourhood. First, the municipality must focus on neighbourhoods with poorly insulated houses, which will contribute greatly to fighting energy poverty. In addition, we want to work with community members, housing associations and entrepreneurs in neighbourhood partnerships to make the neighbourhood as a whole more energy-efficient.

6.2. Nijmegen resilient to climate change

Volt wants to make Nijmegen more pleasant and liveable by creating more green spaces in a welcoming environment. To make Nijmegen future-proof, the municipality must replace concrete with greenery in every neighbourhood. Climate change is a fact, and we may be affected by it in various ways in the future. Heat stress and flooding can occur in different ways, and we want the municipality to be prepared for any scenario.

What we consider important:

- Every neighbourhood is a green environment
- Environmental plans that take heat stress and water management into account.
- Facilitating experiments in circular or sustainable construction.

More greenery and less pavement help to limit the rise in temperature and control water management, both against flooding and drought. We are committed to green streets, water-permeable soils and good water collection. Often, these measures also

make the living environment even more pleasant. Greening streets also offer an opportunity to make public spaces more accessible to people with physical disabilities.

6.3. Nijmegen as a circular society

Volt is working towards an economically sustainable Nijmegen. Working towards a circular economy is a typical Volt issue; we want to increase the reuse of raw materials. An important condition for this is proper recycling. In Nijmegen, we still separate our waste at home. However, other municipalities have already shown that post-separation can work better. This makes recycling easier for everyone and helps us all move closer to a circular society.

What we consider important:

- Encouraging recycling.
- Separating waste through post-separation
- Supporting entrepreneurs who sell recycled products.

Post-collection waste separation means that different types of waste are separated after collection. New smart methods can make recycling much easier for the whole of Nijmegen. In addition, Volt wants businesses that sell recycled products to receive more attention in order to further encourage recycling. We want to do this by, among other things, setting up a market for recycled products.

• **What makes Volt unique**

Volt is a highly green and social party. We believe that in building sustainably, we must start with the least insulated houses. Most of the people who have difficulty paying their energy bills live in these houses and it is therefore more difficult for these residents to insulate their houses themselves. We see sustainability as a way to both reduce energy poverty and protect the climate. Volt also looks to entrepreneurs who are socially and sustainably active and wants to help them by, among other things, speeding up the process of obtaining permits and setting up a market for recycled products. In this way, we can work together to build a sustainable economy.

Chapter 7 Nijmegen and Europe

If we do not create opportunities in the east of the Netherlands, we should not be surprised when young people leave for work in the The Hague-Amsterdam region, the Randstad. Here in Nijmegen, Volt wants to build opportunities across borders, both between the Randstad in the west and the German Ruhr area in the east. But being European is not just about doing business together. We also share values, culture, openness and democracy. If Nijmegen collaborates more with partners in the region, the city can participate more effectively in the European economy.

Volt wants the municipality of Nijmegen to invest in knowledge, expertise and capacity relating to European subsidy programmes. A European subsidy coordinator is needed. We must be more active in making use of European funds, knowledge networks and city associations. This must become an integral part of Nijmegen's municipal policy. Nijmegen should learn from (European) cities that do things differently (and what's more: better). Let us also collaborate more often in European networks and pilot projects. Nijmegen can make use of European programmes such as Horizon Europe, Interreg or the Just Transition Fund. These can be used to finance projects for social housing, heating networks, cycling infrastructure or digital inclusion. Volt wants the municipality to participate in European knowledge networks, such as Eurocities or URBACT, and convert this knowledge into solutions for Nijmegen.

7.1. Opportunities for Nijmegen in the border region

Investors find it difficult to connect with our entrepreneurs. Volt wants the municipality to help bring these parties together. This will enable entrepreneurs to be successful here in Nijmegen. Cross-border markets and the use of existing networks such as the EU region will help Nijmegen's entrepreneurs.

What we consider important:

- German and Dutch entrepreneurs know how to connect
- Making cross-border cooperation easier and more attractive
- Inviting German companies to job fairs

Volt wants an annual job fair for entrepreneurs in the region. The municipality can help Nijmegen entrepreneurs be noticed in Germany. Tax issues and various regulations often make cross-border entrepreneurship unnecessarily complicated. The municipality can also help in this by actively providing information or working within the EU region to develop more joint regulations.

7.2. Living and working across the border

Every day, thousands of people in the Nijmegen-Kleve region cross the border for work. Volt wants to make it easier for everyone to do so by public transport. In addition, the municipality can make working across the border easier by providing information and support.

What we consider important:

- Expanding public transport connections with Germany
- Supporting people who work across the border
- Offering job opportunities across the border, in Nijmegen

Working across the border should and can be easier, just look at other cities on the border. For example, Nijmegen can learn from the GrensWerk initiative in Enschede or public transport tickets that are valid across the border, as in Limburg. Current labour shortages can also be addressed by offering job vacancies in Nijmegen across the border.

7.3. Making European values visible locally

Culture affects us all every day. Culture is what makes us feel like Nijmegen residents, Dutch citizens and Europeans. Volt wants culture to be accessible to everyone. This means that culture must be brought to Nijmegen by creating a special permit category for cultural activities.

What we consider important:

- Cultural exchange made easier
- Subsidies for school trips about citizenship, culture and the EU.
- A cultural calendar for the EU region.

Volt wants people in Nijmegen to see what it means to be European. We want young people to enjoy more cultural exchange at school. We want museums and exhibitions across the border to be more easily accessible with a joint culture card. By looking across the border, Nijmegen can find new ways for different cultures to connect. Furthermore, a focus on German education is important to facilitate cultural exchange and offer young people more opportunities across the border later in life.

7.4. Train connection with Kleve

Accessibility is important for our business activities, which is why better public transport connections with the rest of Europe are important for our future. We choose to bring back the train connection with Kleve. Volt encourages the use of shared transport. We are committed to ensuring that Nijmegen is easily accessible from the region and the rest of the Europe. Nijmegen is located on the edge of the Ruhr area, but looking beyond our national borders remains challenging. Volt wants to take a cross-border approach to public transport.

What we consider important:

- Train to Kleve
- Expanding public transport connections with the rest of Germany
- Joint public transport pass in the border region

We are learning how Park & Ride facilities in Lille, Den Bosch and Aachen are set up to build two in Nijmegen as well. The connecting public transport must be reliable, fast

and high-frequency. These P&R locations on the outskirts of the city must be connected to train stations, larger bus stations and important destinations such as the city centre, the university campus and the industrial estate Winkelsteeg.

7.5. Support for Ukraine

Volt fully supports Ukraine. In Nijmegen, we can do more to accommodate Ukrainian refugees and support Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees have no meeting place in Nijmegen, and the Ukrainian classes on Sundays had to be discontinued because the municipality could no longer provide a space. In addition, the municipality of Nijmegen can support Ukraine in rebuilding their country, through the European Committee of the Regions by sharing information and resources.

What we consider important:

- Support for Ukrainian refugees
- Support for Ukrainian cities and regions via the European Committee of the Regions
- Venue for meetings and Sunday school for Ukrainian refugees

Many cities offer spaces for Ukrainian refugees to meet. Nijmegen should do the same. In Nijmegen, we need to seek dialogue with Ukrainian refugees to see how we can support them. The European Committee of the Regions also offers concrete proposals on how the municipality can help Ukrainian cities with rebuilding, simply by providing information. Volt wants the municipality to take an active role in this.

• What makes Volt unique

Volt wants to build across borders. Locally, we see many opportunities to do this. For example, we want Nijmegen to have an EU subsidy coordinator who can apply for various EU funds for new projects on behalf of the municipality and businesses. We see opportunities that are not yet being exploited in the EU region to further develop our economies and cultures together with other border municipalities. Volt Nijmegen wants to work closely with Volt Kleve in the municipal council to rebuild public transport between our regions. Working across the border can be made easier if we simply engage in dialogue with our eastern neighbours. By building bridges, we are creating new opportunities for Nijmegen.

THINK EUROPEAN. ACT LOCAL.

Electoral program Volt Nijmegen
Municipal Elections 2026

The Volt logo, consisting of the word "Volt" in a bold, sans-serif font, is centered within a white rectangular box.

Volt