

# ONE STEP FURTHER

**Election programme Volt Delft**  
**Local elections 2026**

The Volt logo, consisting of the word "Volt" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, set against a white rectangular background.

## Foreword by the party leaders

The residents of Delft are full of ideas, talent and solutions that improve everyday life in Delft. They are committed to their city. Yet not everyone feels that they are being listened to or that their talents are being utilised. For us, politics is precisely about this: about people moving forward together. We stand for open and honest politics, in which residents are heard and appreciated and can contribute their ideas.

With our election programme **Een stap verder (A step further)**, we show what we stand for. We believe in the power of dialogue over polarisation, in facts over fear, and in humanity over entrenched power. We are committed to providing suitable housing for every resident of Delft and to creating a cool, clean and green city.

We believe that real change starts with people taking responsibility for their city and for each other. That is why we invite you to take a step further with Volt and build the future of Delft:

**Future. Made in Delft. Vote Volt.**

**Dianne Elsinga and Bernhard Thieme**



## A step further

### Volt goes a step further

In 2022, Volt won two seats on the Delft City Council and, from the opposition, laid the foundation for a new voice that promotes “thinking European and acting local”. The focus was on participation, sustainability, housing, culture and ethical governance. We broke through “business as usual”, held discussions based on facts and best practices, and brought about change by looking for similarities rather than differences. In doing so, Volt went a step further than was customary in the municipal council, and Volt will continue to take that step further in the coming council term.

### Preserve what is good - improve where necessary

Delft is a wonderful city to live in. We want Delft to be fair, green and connected. A city where everyone can participate and where we build the future together. You can read exactly how we want to achieve this in the rest of our election programme. For the voter in a rush, Volt Delft’s plans can be summarised into the following themes:

- more participation and decision making in the hands of our residents, entrepreneurs and social organisations;
- emphasis on well-being, quality of life and preventive healthcare, so that every resident of Delft feels welcome, safe and healthy;
- sufficient affordable housing in Delft, with at least 35% social housing.

### Volt Delft always seeks cooperation

Our times are marked by major challenges: international peace and security, climate change, the nitrogen deposition crisis and the loss of biodiversity. People are concerned about growing social inequality and the consequences of (labour) migration. This puts pressure on equal opportunities and social cohesion in Delft. Increasing polarisation also contributes to this.

These issues affect all residents of Delft, and the municipality cannot solve them alone. Volt therefore seeks cooperation with neighbouring municipalities, the province, the national government and the European Union. Volt wants Delft to have more input in partnerships with other municipalities, both regionally and

provincially. Think of the “Metropoolregio Rotterdam Den Haag” (MRDH), in which 21 municipalities work together, so that Volt can also steer towards the themes that are important to us here.

Volt also wants to make better use of the strength of Delft’s residents, social organisations and entrepreneurs. They are part of the solution, but opportunities for co-creation are still too often overlooked. Many problems can indeed be tackled locally – with neighbours, in the street or in the neighbourhood. That is why Volt wants to commit itself to strengthening the neighbourhood-oriented approach during the coming council term.

### Volt Delft wants a council agreement

Volt strives to ensure that all residents of Delft feel represented and heard. That is why Volt advocates a council agreement. A council agreement is a means of establishing broad cooperation and common goals within a municipal council, separate from (or alongside) a traditional coalition agreement. It is used to create broad support: not only coalition parties, but as many political groups as possible agree on what they want to achieve together.

During the last council term, Volt worked to develop municipal policy based on shared principles and priorities, with more emphasis on cooperation. A council agreement is a suitable means of continuing this approach in the next term.

## The Volt Delft Compass

**Politics is about making choices. Volt Delft makes those choices by first listening, understanding, weighing up interests... and only then making a decision. In doing so, Volt Delft applies the following eight principles.**

### **Volt connects people**

Choices that connect groups of people carry more weight than proposals that strengthen connections within a single group.

### **Volt believes in the power of citizens**

Initiatives from those who do, residents, social organisations and entrepreneurs are preferred over initiatives from policymakers.

### **Volt focuses explicitly on future generations**

Solutions that offer long-term benefits are preferred over solutions that mainly offer short-term benefits.

### **Volt is committed to greater equality**

We give priority to solutions that improve the lives of people who are struggling over measures that mainly benefit people who are already well off.

### **Volt takes a human approach**

We consider the advantages of small scale (e.g. human contact) to be more important than the advantages of economies of scale. A city where people know, see and meet each other works better than a city that operates on a larger scale and is therefore more anonymous.

### **Volt serves the interests of nature and people.**

The interests of people and nature should outweigh economic interests.

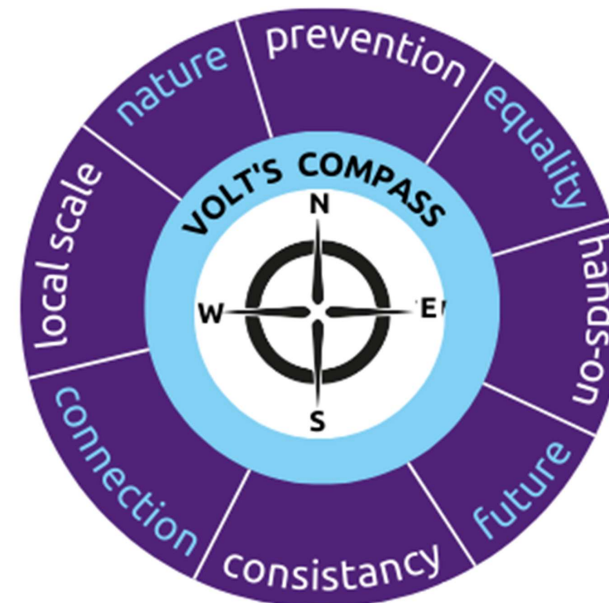
### **Volt opts for structural solutions**

Tackling problems in a coherent manner is preferable to one-dimensional solutions. This prevents solutions from leading to new problems elsewhere.

### **Volt focuses on prevention**

Preventing crises prevents suffering and saves money. Volt prefers prevention over repairing damage after the fact following the Dutch saying "prevention is better than cure".

**That is what you can count on when you vote for Volt.**



# Outline of our election programme

## 1 Delft, a connected city.

Greater involvement of Delft residents, a municipality that listens better and works together for a democracy that really works. How will Volt ensure that Delft becomes a connected city?

## 2 Delft, a sustainable city.

In a liveable, sustainable city, people and nature are in balance. This also applies to our city. How does Volt ensure that Delft remains a beautiful city for future generations?

## 3 Delft, a prosperous city.

Volt wants a fair and equitable economy that focuses on well-being and ecological recovery. How does Volt ensure that our broad prosperity is maintained?

## 4 Delft, a city of opportunity.

Everyone should have equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and the labour and housing markets. How does Volt ensure equal opportunities for everyone?

## 5 Delft, a smart city.

Technology is developing rapidly and offers opportunities for Delft. How does Volt ensure that Delft becomes a smart city?

## 6 Delft, an international city.

How does Volt Delft ensure that Europe and Delft reinforce each other?

## 1 Delft, a connected city

It is time to breathe new life into our democracy.

Many residents feel that they have little influence on what happens in their neighbourhood and city. Volt believes it is important that the people of Delft have a say in the future of their city, district and neighbourhood.

Voting once every four years is not enough.

Volt wants residents to have more say, control and ownership so that they can actively contribute to the development of Delft. We call this “the connected city”: a city where people feel heard and where everyone can contribute to a liveable and vibrant city.

- **Everyone contributes to Delft:** residents and the municipality all make an effort to create a liveable city with strong neighbourhoods and pleasant communities, drawing on the available knowledge and experience of our city. The municipality trusts, supports and does so with as few rules as possible.
- **Accessible information:** municipal information is clear and available to everyone in a timely manner – including people who are less digitally literate.
- **Digital and personal contact:** The council's website and app provide access to all services; however, personal contact remains available to offer tailored assistance.
- **Make art and culture important:** art and culture inspire and bring people together. Volt wants all residents of Delft to have access to art and culture.





## Everyone contributes to Delft

**In a connected city, residents and the municipality work together to create a pleasant and liveable environment – in the city, the district, the neighbourhood or the street.**

**We share information and ideas easily via accessible platforms. This can be done digitally, but also close to home, during meetings and conversations. Delft's residents choose for themselves how and to what extent they want to be involved or informed. Everyone is invited to contribute ideas and come up with their own plans to make the neighbourhood more beautiful and better. Volt strives for more space for collaborations to form, so that residents can contribute ideas and development. Volt strives not for "light" participation, but real decision-making power and ownership in the hands of citizens. We will work within the municipality to develop social and spatial policy for this purpose.**

**We work from a foundation of trust: rules are kept to a minimum. Volt also considers it important that opportunities and budgets for neighbourhood connections are not limited to vulnerable neighbourhoods.**

### Room for initiative and citizen leadership

A connected city cannot exist without the input of its residents. Their knowledge and experience are indispensable: they know better than anyone what is going on in their neighbourhood. More and more residents of Delft are taking responsibility for their living environment and for each other's well-being. Initiatives by residents and social organisations play an important role in solving social issues.

As residents increasingly take responsibility and realise their own ideas, the role of the municipality is also changing. It does not always have to take the lead itself, but encourages and supports where necessary. Residents and businesses are encouraged to develop plans to improve their environment.

Volt wants the municipality to assist in the implementation of these plans, for example by providing advice, knowledge, financial support or by adapting policies and regulations.

### Drawing on the experience of Delft residents

When developing plans for Delft, we must make better use of the knowledge and experience of its residents. After all, no one knows a neighbourhood as well as the

people who live there. Yet residents still too often hear the argument: "It's already been decided." This leaves concerns unaddressed and erodes trust in politics. Volt wants to change this and actively invest in new forms of citizen participation. Through experimentation, we will discover which approaches are most effective and which are less effective. Some initiatives Volt wants to explore:

- **Citizen's survey:** A periodic survey provides insight into how residents experience the situation in the city, which issues they consider important and where they believe improvements can be made. Volt advocates improving regular citizen surveys to better align policy with what is important to the people of Delft.
- **Citizen budget:** A sum of money that a municipality sets aside so that residents (of a district or neighbourhood) can decide for themselves how it is spent. Residents can submit plans (e.g. for a green zone, playground, neighbourhood party, meeting place, road safety) and then – often by voting or making joint decisions – determine which projects will be implemented.
- **Neighbourhood and citizens' councils:** For complex issues, neighbourhood councils or randomly selected citizens' councils can provide valuable advice on policy and choices. This helps us build a strong democratic culture in which residents have a real say. In time, such councils could even become permanent, with powers similar to those of the municipal council.
- **House of democracy:** A central place where residents, organisations and politicians can meet and discuss current issues and new ideas. In this way, the municipality shows that it is open to external initiatives. Volt wants Delft to have such a house of democracy.

With these initiatives, Volt wants to create a city where the knowledge of residents is taken seriously and where residents feel involved in the future of Delft.

### An inspiring example

In 2024, 's-Hertogenbosch held its first citizens' assembly. The theme was "ageing well". It resulted in 34 recommendations on 14 themes. The experience was positive, prompting the municipality to launch a new citizens' assembly this year. The aim this time is to work with residents to draw up a vision for participation: "building 's-Hertogenbosch together". Last March, 10,000 residents received an invitation and 120 people signed up to participate. Of these, 80 were selected.



## Accessible information

**In order for residents to be able to influence local policy, important municipal documents must be timely, easy to find and easy to understand – even for people who are less digitally literate. Independent local media also play an important role in democratic control, providing reliable information and involving Delft residents in what is happening in their city.**

### Openness builds trust

A municipality that offers openness and communicates clearly deserves the trust of its residents. Important documents – such as budgets, decisions and policy plans – must therefore be public and understandable. It must also be clear whether, how and to whom residents can respond to these documents. Volt wants Delft to make more effort to improve the findability and readability of policy documents and council information.

New technology, such as Artificial Intelligence, can help with this by making documents more accessible, providing automatic translations or answering questions. Emmen and Enschede, among others, are already demonstrating that this is possible. Residents should be able to see at a glance which topics have been discussed in the municipal council and how they have been voted on. According to Volt, this is a prerequisite for an open, transparent and accessible government.

### The importance of independent local media

In a connected city, strong and independent media is essential. Professional journalism provides checks and balances to our democracy, reliable information and increases citizen engagement.

Volt therefore advocates for structural funding of local independent media, such as public broadcasting and local newspapers, so that they can continue to fulfil their public role professionally.

Volt believes it is important that the local media fund for quality journalism continues to exist with support from the municipality.

## Digital and personal contact

**Personal contact is the basis of a connected city. Volt Delft wants there to be both digital and physical, easily accessible service desks where Delft residents can go for help and advice. It is important that residents are referred as little as possible and can quickly get in touch with the right expert. A conversation, whether online, by telephone or at the counter, gives the municipality a human face. It prevents mistakes and misunderstandings and ensures clear agreements. This allows for customised services where necessary – not only for residents, but also for entrepreneurs and healthcare professionals.**

## Make art and culture important

**Art and culture inspire, contribute to development and bring us together. Cultural facilities are therefore an essential part of a healthy, diverse and connected society. In recent years, there have been significant cutbacks, resulting in a reduction in what is on offer.**

**Volt wants to make structural funds available to preserve what is good and develop what is still needed. Budgets for cultural subsidies should be more structural in nature and indexed, so that there is continuity in what is on offer culturally. In this way, we can guarantee that new initiatives will be supported and encouraged in the coming years.**

### Culture down the street

The major cultural institutions (theatres, museums and OPEN) are located in the city centre. They attract visitors from both within and outside Delft. Volt wants to preserve this. For many residents of neighbourhoods and districts in Delft, the centre of Delft is literally or figuratively too far away. Nor is what it has to offer always appealing to them. Volt wants all Delft residents to be able to experience art and culture in an accessible and informal way. That is why we are creating places in the neighbourhood where residents can enjoy art and culture and also get involved themselves. We are using neighbourhood budgets for this purpose. The municipality is taking a facilitating role to help realise good initiatives, as it did with the realisation of DOK Tanthof. In this way, the neighbourhoods of Delft West and

the old neighbourhoods such as Wippolder also get the opportunities and attention they deserve. The municipality asks larger organisations to support these “small creators” and amateur groups by providing space for performances or exhibitions. In this way, we are further increasing the range of cultural activities on offer and the opportunities for people to participate in them.

### Prinsenhof

The renovation and refurbishment of the Prinsenhof Museum has now started. Volt Delft is positive about this project. We support the cultural importance of the museum for visitors from outside and within Delft.

### Theater de Veste and a musical stage for Delft

Volt wants Delft to continue investing in culture as the heart of our city. The connecting role of Theater de Veste is indispensable in this regard. We are opting for a future-proof, sustainable and multifunctional new theatre that offers space for all forms of performing arts and encounters. We are not just building a building, but a theatre of the future – accessible, financially responsible and ready for the next generation of Delft residents. This theatre of the future is not only for theatre makers and performing arts, but encompasses much more, such as catering, a library, a community centre and/or a music school. The organisation behind this theatre of the future actively contributes to the ecosystem of Delft's musicians, artists and performers, including through its close collaboration with amateur associations. A structural budget will have to be included in the municipal budget for its operation. Volt believes it is important that a careful process is followed before a decision is made.

### Active local clubs

Clubs and associations contribute to social contacts in the city and to the physical and mental health of Delft residents. They also enliven the city with events such as the Golden 10 run and “lichtjesavond”. Volt wants to make it easier for associations to organise sporting and cultural events. The municipality consciously encourages contact with these associations and helps them remove obstacles, such as specific requirements imposed on organisers of larger events. Specifically, Volt wants

associations to be more easily eligible for larger event subsidies by reserving part of the budget for this purpose.

### DOK contributes to literacy and connection

Money invested in a library is very effective. Dok already contributes to the Rijke Leerdag (Rich Learning Day) at many primary schools in Delft, thereby creating equal opportunities. Volt supports the activities organised by DOK to encourage people to read and bring them together. Approximately 25% of Dutch children under the age of fifteen are at risk of remaining functionally illiterate. Volt wants to restore the joy of reading and is willing to make additional funds available for this purpose. 'Wij West' offers opportunities to do so. For reading to be enjoyable, every child should have access to a public library. However, a library does more than just lend books. It is also a space where activities for young people are offered, where people can meet and where tutoring in computer skills, for example, is provided.

Research shows that libraries should be located in neighbourhoods. Volt therefore wants to open libraries in the parts of the city where low literacy is highest, as was recently done in Tanthof.

## 2 Delft, a sustainable city

In a livable, sustainable city, people and nature are in balance. This also applies to our city. Volt wants to pass on a healthy, pleasant world to future generations. This is a major challenge for local authorities, also in Delft. It is about balance in the housing market, opportunities for residents, nature and the climate, and our energy sources. This requires a transition to sustainable and circular processes. Volt wants to reward behavior that contributes to this transition.

When we work together and share knowledge and strength, the best opportunities arise. Together, we will take the necessary measures to restore the balance between people and nature, ensuring that Delft remains a livable green city:

- **Housing is a human right:** Volt wants everyone to be able to live in affordable, suitable, and sustainable housing, and for homelessness not to be punished.
  - **More greenery in the city:** Volt wants to invest in a green living environment to maintain the quality of life in Delft and improve biodiversity.
  - **Energy neutral by 2040:** Volt wants to focus on affordable green energy and more cooperation in the reuse of materials and raw materials so that the entire chain becomes circular.

In addition, Volt wants an independent audit by a Climate Audit Office to check whether measures are demonstrably achieving the intended results.



## Housing is a right for everyone

Everyone deserves good, affordable housing that suits their stage of life. There is also a shortage of housing in Delft. Therefore, the municipality wants to build at least 15,000 homes by 2040. Volt shares this ambition. Volt wants Delft to take an active role in accelerating housing construction by participating in public-private partnerships with housing associations, the national government, and other partners to develop new neighborhoods and areas.

Volt Delft believes that the municipality should do everything in its power to accelerate housing construction and make it affordable. This includes speeding up permit procedures, flexibility in zoning or environmental plans, and steering through land policy. Volt will ensure that construction does not involve unnecessary costs. In addition, Volt wants the percentage of social housing in Delft to be at least 35%. Under current policy, that percentage is 33% and is on a downward trend.

In recent years, Volt has advocated for two-thirds affordable housing in the Delft Campus station area development. Although this did not seem possible at first, it later proved to be feasible. Volt demonstrates that higher ambitions can pay off. The municipality must be prepared to contribute financially to affordable housing. We receive a sum from the national government for every newly built affordable home. Volt has recently ensured that this money is used directly to create even more affordable homes, starting a positive feedback loop to accelerate construction.

### Addressing acute problems with immediate action

The urgent need for housing requires immediate action. Volt is committed to quickly realizable housing solutions, especially for people who urgently need a home, such as students, recognized refugees, and migrant workers. A permanent solution is preferable, but sometimes temporary solutions are necessary to alleviate acute needs.

Volt wants to focus on placing temporary homes on unused land, as the municipality is already doing in various locations.



Volt wants more space for room rentals and home splitting, so that existing homes can be occupied by more people.

Volt therefore advocates a tailored approach for each neighborhood: in some neighborhoods, room rentals or home splitting can offer opportunities to create more affordable living space, while in other neighborhoods, quality of life must be protected because there are proportionally too many student homes. In this way, we want to work with neighbourhoods to ensure that there remains space for students as well as other residents of Delft.

### **Mixed housing in the neighborhood**

Volt wants a mix of affordable and luxury housing, as well as rental and owner-occupied homes, for young people, students, families, and seniors in all neighborhoods. This allows people to move within their own neighborhood and stay connected to the people and amenities in their area. We also reserve places for residents in vulnerable situations, such as homes for status holders and vulnerable elderly people.

### **Attention for the homeless**

Volt adheres to the European Lisbon Declaration to end homelessness by 2030. Volt Delft emphasizes the importance of the planned implementation of the ETHOS census in 2026, so that there is more local insight into the problem of homelessness. In addition, Volt Delft is committed to taking concrete steps to help homeless people find a home, because homelessness is a housing problem.

### **Room for experimenting with new forms of housing**

The way we live determines how we live together. Volt advocates for more variety. In Europe, the Netherlands, and also in Delft, we are seeing new sustainable forms of housing for people and neighborhoods. Volt is positive about forms of housing such as Abtswoude Bloeit, Livv in van Habion (formerly Vijverberg), and the concepts of Goed en Wel thuis, which have been realized in Delft. Volt sees it as an enrichment of the city when there are more forms of housing that support living together.

These forms of housing reduce loneliness and delay or even prevent the need for professional care. During the last council term, Delft already adjusted its housing

vision to draw more attention to cooperative forms of housing. We want to build on this so that the municipality can help even more people take the initiative to create cooperative forms of housing. In addition, Volt wants the municipality to encourage housing associations to experiment (even more) with shared living spaces and management cooperatives.

### **Collaborating with Delft**

TU Delft plays a major role in our city. The university attracts talent from all over the world, provides many jobs, and contributes innovative solutions to social challenges. TU Delft can also be an important partner, for example in developing sustainable solutions in the Delft Innovation District.

At the same time, the growth of TU Delft also brings problems, such as pressure on the housing market. In recent years, cooperation between the municipality and TU Delft in the area of housing has already improved significantly. TU Delft is making plans for student housing on campus. However, this does not mean that students can no longer live in other parts of Delft. Volt Delft wants to further strengthen its cooperation with TU Delft and work with the university to find solutions that benefit students, staff, and other residents of Delft.

### **Duurzaam bouwen en wonen**

Volt vindt het belangrijk dat er in Delft een goede combinatie is tussen wonen, werken en voorzieningen (inclusief groen). De gemeente moet meer regie nemen over de kwaliteit van nieuwbouwwoningen en de woonomgeving. Duurzaam bouwen en wonen is van belang om onze klimaatdoelen te halen. Nieuwe woningen bouwen we daarom klimaatneutraal. Ook bestaande woningen maken we duurzamer. Volt kiest voor een brede aanpak, zoals in de Multatulibuurt. We luisteren daarbij naar wensen uit de buurt. We gaan ook met die wensen aan de slag. In Delft West biedt de energietransitie kansen voor zo'n aanpak. We maken de wijk niet alleen duurzamer, maar ook socialer.

### An inspiring example

The Bo01 neighborhood in Malmö, also known as the “City of Tomorrow,” is an international example of sustainable and socially mixed area development. Bo01 was set up for the European Housing Exhibition in 2001. The developers had to adhere to sustainability requirements and social objectives laid down in a quality program. They had to create a broadly supported design by engaging in discussions with the government, designers, and residents. The neighborhood contains a mix of social housing, mid-range rental properties, and owner-occupied homes in various architectural styles. It also has a playful street pattern that encourages interaction, for example through numerous squares, narrow streets, and green areas. The neighborhood runs entirely on renewable energy.



## More greenery in the city

**We want more space for nature and greenery. Greater biodiversity and a greener city are good for the climate and people's well-being. Greenery encourages people to meet and exercise. It provides cooling, preventing heat stress and helps the soil absorb water, preventing flooding. Delft has a number of paved neighborhoods with little greenery. Work is already underway to improve this, but there is still room for improvement.**

**Volt wants to make Delft greener in various ways. We are planting trees in the market square, creating ‘tiny forests’ and greening roofs. We are creating façade gardens for social housing, planting fruit trees in neighborhoods and creating small vegetable gardens. Imagine, for example, vegetable gardens on the section of Beatrixlaan that is becoming available. We support initiatives for vertical growth. When designing streets, we create spaces for greenery. We strive for a diverse city garden, not a concrete jungle.**

### Connected greenery

Delft has several large green areas, parks, small parks, and separate green strips. We are making Delft greener, healthier, and more cohesive by connecting our parks and green spaces to form larger, coherent green walking and recreation areas—just like the Singelpark in Leiden. Connected, green areas of tranquility, exercise, and socializing, right through and around the city. Most of these green areas already exist. All we need is connection, vision, and imagination. This green ribbon:

- connects neighborhoods and districts;
- makes walking, cycling, and exercising more attractive and safer;
- stimulates biodiversity, which helps prevent heat stress and flooding;
- invites people to meet, relax, and exercise.

We agree with the established ‘Visie Groen & Biodiversiteit’ in principle, but strive to make it more ambitious.

### An independent urban ecologist

The municipality of Delft has appointed an urban ecologist. Volt wants this person to have an independent position in relation to the municipality, comparable in status to the social domain advisory council and the city architect. The urban ecologist will be given a greater mandate to actively contribute to the management of nature in the city. The urban ecologist will be responsible for greening the city: planting and maintaining trees and urban forests, integrating nature into existing buildings, and planting and maintaining ecosystems. Attention will be paid to biodiversity and future-proof plant species. Making the urban ecologist independent will strengthen the position of advice on greening and preserving biodiversity. “Werkze!” maintains almost all green spaces in Delft, and this should remain the case. We propose that employees be given training in gardening or other appropriate skills.

## More attention for biodiversity with a simple benchmark

Volt wants the city to be a safe environment for animals and plants. Together with the city ecologist, the municipality is drawing up a symbolic list of five plant and animal species. We use this list, in addition to the agreements in the "Green & Biodiversity Vision," as a benchmark for communicating about biodiversity in the city. We monitor how these five plant and animal species are doing. This symbolic list gives a general impression of the status of biodiversity. More important, however, is the attention it generates for biodiversity in the city. The list also makes the subject visible to the residents of Delft. We want to combine this with counts by citizens.

## Renewable and circular by 2040

**Volt wants Delft to be energy neutral by 2040, instead of the current ambition for 2050. The municipality must take responsibility for nature conservation and the careful use of raw materials. This requires more affordable, sustainable electricity within the municipal boundaries. Volt Delft strives for a circular economy, in which materials and raw materials are reused as much as possible and the entire chain is closed.**

**Nature-inclusive construction and entrepreneurship must become the norm—something that is not yet self-evident. We can only achieve a circular and energy-neutral Delft if everyone can participate, including people for whom sustainability is financially difficult. Volt Delft wants them to be supported in this. As a municipality, we depend on many organizations and stakeholders. That is why, in addition to our commitment to make Delft climate neutral by 2040, we are constantly looking for cooperation and new opportunities to accelerate sustainability. TU Delft is showing that this is possible by setting itself the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2030.**

## Our vision on heat networks

Our vision on heat networks

District heating networks are a key link in the transition to a green and sustainable energy system. A heat network can use various energy sources such as geothermal energy, industrial residual heat, heat from rivers, and other bodies of water. Volt Delft wants to work towards open heat networks, where multiple suppliers and customers are connected to a single heat network. This means that residents are never tied to a single supplier. In addition, Volt Delft wants a regional and provincial heat system, known as the "warmterotonde Zuid-Holland", to which industry, greenhouse horticulture, and residents are connected.

The construction of a heat network is a major process for a neighborhood. Everyone should have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and discuss the matter. Volt looks with great pride at the successful participation process in the Multatuli neighborhood in Delft. With this approach, the construction of a heat network also presents an opportunity for maintenance and renewal of the streetscape. In consultation with residents, there may be room for more greenery, car-free streets, or other neighborhood wishes. The affordability of heat from heat networks is a concern for many customers because rates can rise without the possibility of switching providers.

## An inspiring example

Denmark has been using this form of heating for years and has agreed on good rules for it. Volt wants to investigate with surrounding municipalities and the province of South Holland whether the Danish model can also be applied to our heating network. In Denmark, companies are not allowed to make a profit on heat supply. This is determined at the national level. Denmark also checks the costs of all heat networks annually to create an efficiency benchmark. In this way, the management of heating companies are accountable to their customers. Finally, consumers can lodge complaints with the Danish Energy Agency.

## Electricity and grid congestion

Our electricity grid is overloaded, which is slowing down the energy transition. Building new infrastructure takes a long time and is not the responsibility of the municipality. Nevertheless, the municipality can contribute to solutions within its capabilities. For example, the municipality can help facilitate "energy hubs" where energy suppliers (such as solar parks) are connected to energy consumers without the intervention of the grid. By deploying these energy hubs or "behind-the-meter"

solutions we can circumvent the grid and its congestion. Our entrepreneurs in Delft can benefit from this. With these types of energy hubs, we can create space on our energy grid. We encourage the installation of neighborhood batteries so that neighborhoods do not have to immediately feed back into the grid when solar panels generate too much power. We maintain attractive sustainability loans for solar energy. These measures ensure that investing in solar energy remains attractive.

Integrating this additional electrical infrastructure also requires spatial intervention, often in the form of additional electrical equipment. Volt remains committed to careful integration, with the municipality engaging in dialogue with residents to hear what they would like to see these cabinets integrated with: greenery, art, or something else

## A warm home for everyone

**Volt stands for a Delft where no one has to choose between a warm home or grocery money in the cold winter. Every resident of Delft should also be able to choose how they want to organize their energy supply. When heat networks are constructed, people are given the choice to connect to them. Where residents choose an individual path, for example by installing their own heat pump, Volt ensures that everyone can participate in sustainability.**

### Helping households and businesses

With the gradual phasing out of the net metering scheme and the emergence of "feed-in costs," the payback period for solar panels is getting longer. By facilitating people and businesses to use their own energy, we can reduce the adverse effects.

Volt proposes:

- encouraging energy-efficient or adjustable power consumers such as washing machines and dishwashers;
- providing interest-free loans to citizens for smarter energy use in the home;
- assistance with home insulation, both with money and know-how;
- helping to arrange neighborhood batteries within the existing regulations.

Volt wants to take many of these measures in consultation with housing associations and residents, so that everyone can participate at their own pace and within their own means.

### Combating energy poverty

Volt helps those on low incomes by combating energy poverty. An estimated 8,000 households in Delft are living in energy poverty. Energy poverty is a combination of low income and high energy needs, often due to poor insulation. More than half of these energy-poor households cannot change this themselves because they do not own the property.

That is why Volt Delft proposes that the municipality consult with housing associations and other landlords to improve the insulation of social housing. If necessary, coercive measures should be taken. Traditional insulation materials have a greater impact on the environment than other building materials. That is why Volt Delft is committed to investing in sustainable insulation materials, such as flax or hemp. Bio-based insulation is good for the environment but also better for the home, "breathing" in the summer while insulating in the winter. This way, homes are comfortable now and in 2050.

### Accessible support

Volt wants every resident and every entrepreneur to be able to easily find out whether they are eligible for subsidies or support options. The municipality already has an Energy Desk and energy coaches. Volt wants to expand this with a clear, sustainable, and accessible climate guide. This will make it easier for every Delft resident and entrepreneur to contribute to an energy-neutral Delft by 2040.



### 3 Delft, a prosperous city

Volt wants a fair and equitable economy that prioritizes well-being and ecological restoration. Happiness and the health of the planet must be the basis for financial profit that everyone can share in. As the world's largest trading bloc, the European Union plays an important role in bringing about this change. For Volt, economic growth is no longer the only standard for measuring prosperity. We also look at ecological restoration and well-being. The earning capacity of entrepreneurs and businesses is necessary to maintain our prosperity. That is why Volt wants to:

- **Invest in social entrepreneurship:** entrepreneurs make Delft stronger and more beautiful. Volt wants the municipality to better facilitate this type of entrepreneur.
- **Invest in social security:** Volt wants to invest in social security and guiding residents to work in order to achieve a vital and inclusive society.
- **Good accessibility:** Volt strives for good accessibility by limiting unnecessary car use and balancing shared transport (such as shared cars and scooters) with public transport, cycling, and walking.
- **Well-being as the basis for sustainable financial policy:** Volt wants the municipality to invest sustainably and solidly for now and the future, and to pursue a transparent financial policy.



### Investing in social entrepreneurship

**According to Volt, social entrepreneurs are natural partners for the municipality. With limited resources, they realize sustainable solutions to social issues. That is why Volt advocates for a social entrepreneur-friendly climate within the municipality. This could take the form of an improved service desk or point of contact where social entrepreneurs can obtain information and receive support. Volt also sees opportunities to involve social entrepreneurs more closely in the development of policies on labor participation, poverty reduction, climate transition, circular production, and inclusive neighborhoods.**

#### An inspiring example

Copenhagen has a program called the "Responsible Business Alliance" to promote socially responsible business practices. This program encourages companies to adopt sustainable practices, such as reducing their ecological footprint and promoting diversity and inclusivity. It supports local communities in doing business in a socially responsible manner. By promoting socially responsible business practices, Copenhagen has created a business climate that promotes economic growth while addressing social and environmental issues.

#### Promoting sustainable working practices

A sustainable economy requires circular and climate-neutral working practices, also by entrepreneurs. With well-considered production methods, we prevent damage to our environment and limit the use of unhealthy substances and the creation of harmful waste. Repair and reuse are also a necessary part of a circular economy and thus the preservation of a healthy living environment. That is why Volt wants local businesses and our Delft manufacturing industry to be encouraged in this regard, for example with a repair bonus.

Companies that operate sustainably must be able to compete fairly. That is why we must take action against polluting emissions from new products or production locations into the air, water, and soil. To protect the health of citizens, Volt wants companies to only be granted a license if they comply with the World Health Organization's recommended values.

## Migration as part of the solution

Volt Delft wants to strongly promote initiatives that help migrants, including expats, feel at home in Delft more quickly. In this way, we also help Delft entrepreneurs who are struggling with staff shortages to retain talent and train and attract personnel.

Over the past 25 years, the percentage of residents in Delft with a migration background has grown from 22% to 42%. They bring new knowledge, culture, and energy to Delft and have become an integral part of the city. Volt sees added value in diversity and wants everyone to feel at home in Delft.

## A quick start as a newcomer

Volt wants newcomers to Delft to participate in our society as quickly as possible. Delft is also experiencing a shortage in the labor market. At the same time, there is a group of motivated people who are eager to contribute: newcomers. Their labor potential often remains untapped because existing regulations sometimes prevent them from working. Volt wants to change this, as is already happening in Amsterdam. By supporting this group, we kill two birds with one stone: people's knowledge and skills are utilized for the local and regional economy, and the pressure on public resources is eased. Volt advocates collaboration with local partners and implementing organizations to realize projects such as "Statushouders voor klas" (for status holders with an educational background) and a Job Placement Desk for Newcomers.

### An inspiring example

Finland takes a "Work First" approach, viewing work as the key to integration. Status holders are matched with work or work-study programs as quickly as possible, often in combination with language lessons. Municipalities play a central role in this through local integration plans, which combine work, language, and social participation. There are sector-specific programs for healthcare, technology, and logistics.

## Tourism, culture, and recreation are good for Delft

Tourism and recreation are important factors that not only create jobs but also increase the income of local businesses. A lively residential area or a city center with a wide range of shops, restaurants, and cultural activities increases the quality of life and economic vitality of Delft. To stimulate this liveliness, for example in neighborhoods such as Tanthof and Wippolder, cooperation with local entrepreneurs, cultural organizations, and hospitality businesses is essential. Organizing events and festivals, such as the Jazz Festival, the OWEE, or the Delft Fringe Festival, brings liveliness to both residents and visitors. Volt Delft wants sufficient financial resources to remain available to support these activities.

## Investing in social security

**When we invest in social services, such as youth care and employment services, we invest in a vibrant and inclusive society. We will start to view the social domain as an investment rather than an expense. By investing more in social security, we can help people move out of 'survival mode' and improve their physical and mental well-being. This will also benefit areas outside the social domain. Think of less pressure on healthcare, a stronger labor market, more economic activity, and less crime. We will finance these important investments with the cost savings in the various domains.**

**Volt supports municipal experiments with living allowances, such as the pilot project by Het Bouwdepot, in which ten vulnerable young people from Delft-West receive a living allowance for a year, giving them the space to get their lives back on track. Volt advocates evaluating this pilot project and expanding it if the results are positive.**

## Reducing poverty

Volt wants policies that ensure that all residents of Delft can make ends meet, preferably by providing a basic income to residents with limited financial resources. At present, the municipality is not legally permitted to introduce a basic income. However, the municipality can take steps in that direction within the legal framework. For example, the municipality has supported ten young people for a year with the construction deposit, with positive results. As far as Volt is

concerned, we will expand these kinds of initiatives as soon as they have proven to be effective.

Volt Delft is positive about the various support schemes offered by the municipality, but wants residents to be able to apply for them easily and in one go. Currently, residents have to submit multiple applications and take into account all kinds of different conditions. This leads to (undesirable) non-use of social security resources. In addition, Volt Delft (in the long term) wants all residents of Delft to have an income that meets the standard of the 'not much, but sufficient budget'. This budget, set by the SCP and Nibud, is higher than the statutory social minimum and also allows for spending on leisure, social participation, and unforeseen costs. In this way, it supports the participation of Delft residents on low incomes. Volt Delft is following the 'social participation budget' approach of the municipality of Wageningen with interest, as well as Volt's 'money for you' proposal in the municipality of Utrecht. In this way, we are taking a first step towards a basic income. We are not taking a dogmatic approach, but are looking at what works in practice and continuing with that. We will stop anything that does not work in good time.

#### An inspiring example

Since early 2025, Wageningen has been working with the 'social participation budget'. This budget is Wageningen's interpretation of the 'not much, but enough' budget. Wageningen has added expenditure on care and participation to this. The expenditure is also based on the situation in Wageningen, such as rent and taxes. The amount is indexed each new year. Residents can request a consultation to assess their household income and expenditure. This provides insight into the benefits to which the household is entitled and the possibilities for savings. During the consultation, residents can be put in touch with organizations such as Humanitas or social services. The approach is still under development. Wageningen monitors and evaluates the approach and adjusts it where necessary.

#### Working of debts

The number of Delft residents with problematic debts is increasing. In 2023, this concerned more than 7 percent of households; in 2021, this was still 6.7%. Most people with debts live in Buitenhof. This is evident from the new Debt Assistance

Memorandum of December 2024. Volt Delft underlines the ambitions set out in the memorandum, which focus on information, early detection, appropriate guidance, and debt prevention. This should also include information about the risks of online gambling. Volt Delft finds it unacceptable that 15 percent of Delft residents on social assistance have 'social assistance debt' and wants the municipality to make progress in resolving and preventing these debts. Because of the shame that people with debts often experience, Volt Delft wants experts by experience to be deployed to reach people with debts and guide them to appropriate help.

#### Neighborhood budgets for improved quality of life

The quality of life in Delft is under pressure. The municipality is conducting "explorations" to identify problems. That is commendable, but Volt also wants to see real action. Volt wants to focus on neighborhood budgets for activities that improve quality of life and safety. An example of this is the motion "bekend maakt bemind" (familiarity breeds affection), which was introduced and adopted by Volt in Amsterdam. Investing in connections between people in neighborhoods and districts creates more understanding, which improves the sense of safety and quality of life. This helps us bring people out of social isolation, reducing vulnerability, for example, of people who succumb to the 'quick money' promised by criminal organizations.

### High quality mobility

**Good mobility options are essential for Delft's economy. Volt Delft considers the 2040 mobility plan to be an excellent basis for this. Volt wants walking and cycling to remain the norm for short distances and cars and shared transport to be used only as a supplement to public transport or for long-distance travel. This requires further elaboration of the mobility plan in municipal policy.**

## Parking

Parking on the outskirts of the city or downtown is already being encouraged. Volt wants to continue this, so sufficient capacity must be available and construction must start in good time. A park-and-ride facility in combination with high-frequency public transport (a “park-and-ride solution”) should certainly be considered.

## Facilitating a car-free inner city

If there are alternatives, such as parking on the outskirts of the city, measures to promote walking and cycling will be more effective. Volt Delft ensures that trips by shared car and shared scooter are only encouraged for distances above 7.5 km. This is done by introducing a surcharge on the kilometer rate for shorter trips with shared transport. Lower parking standards for new housing developments and business parks can encourage car sharing. In addition, Volt wants the municipality to consult with the province to create more public transport stops, especially in locations where many senior citizens live, so that they can travel more easily by public transport. To reduce freight traffic, we are committed to the planned logistics hub. Examples in Europe show that it is possible to reduce car traffic in city centers without limiting the turnover of businesses.

### An inspiring example

Since 1999, Pontevedra in Spain has given priority to pedestrians and cyclists. The city center underwent a complete redesign. The pedestrian zone was expanded, parking spaces were replaced by underground parking garages, and intersections with traffic lights were replaced by roundabouts. The municipality also implemented traffic-calming measures, reducing traffic speeds to 30 kilometers per hour. As a result, CO2 emissions have fallen by 67%, air quality has improved significantly, and the number of traffic fatalities has been reduced to zero. This has made the city center an attractive place to live and visit again. At the same time, we continue to listen to residents who have



objections: we think along with them and remain open to their views. What do residents need in order for as many people as possible to support this plan?

## More space for bicycles

Volt agrees with the current policy to encourage residents of Delft to use their cars less and walk and cycle more. That is why we want to further encourage the use of bicycles. Among other things, this means that more fast cycle routes between municipalities need to be constructed, such as to Ypenburg and Rotterdam Alexander (the Metropolitan Cycle Route). However, the current process surrounding the Metropolitan Cycle Route has been too careless. Volt is not against the route, but against the process and lack of transparency. Volt endorses the importance of a safe, sustainable bicycle connection between Delft and other cities. Volt also wants more bicycle streets, where cars are guests. We can learn from the car-free city centers in Utrecht and Groningen, but also from the wider bicycle paths in Copenhagen and Madrid. However, all this should never be at the expense of safety, transparency, and participation. Volt wants:

- Inner-city cycle routes: cyclists are guided through the city on routes where they have priority over cars (cycle streets) and have to stop as little as possible at traffic lights.
- Shared bicycles: we encourage people to park their cars outside the city and cycle into the city center on a shared bicycle.
- Ensuring that children in Delft have access to a bicycle: this reduces car traffic by parents and invests in future bicycle use.
- Sufficient space to park bicycles: where possible, we are looking into converting car parking spaces into bicycle parking spaces.
- On the webpage “lets melden bij de gemeente | Gemeente Delft” explicitly include a category for bicycles: here, Delft residents can indicate what they would like to see improved in terms of bicycle paths and roads.
- Ensure that cyclists do not have to cross busy roads: we will separate bicycle paths and car roads.



## Well-being as the basis for sustainable financial policy

**For a long time, prosperity has been determined on the basis of financial and economic growth. Volt wants to change that. We stand for a just and fair economy that focuses on well-being and ecological recovery. To this end, Volt applies the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. These are perfectly applicable at the municipal level.**

### A sustainable investment strategy

Volt Delft wants the municipality to adopt a sustainable investment strategy and for municipal spending to take greater account of the origin and production of the products purchased. This includes avoiding products that cause environmental damage (elsewhere) or are made in factories where workers are exploited. Volt wants Delft to follow the example of the municipalities of Arnhem and Nijmegen.

#### An inspiring example

Arnhem and Nijmegen are partners in DeCarb-Pro, a partnership that aims to reduce CO2 emissions through the purchasing practices of local governments in Northwest Europe. Public procurement has a significant impact on CO2 emissions. To this end, the consortium uses CO2 pricing in local government tenders

### Solid and transparent financial policy

In recent years, the municipality has pursued a solid financial policy. For example, our municipality is prepared for the planned reduction in central government contributions to municipalities in 2026. Volt believes that such a solid financial policy should be continued. The council has an important task in monitoring finances and checking whether money has been spent as agreed. Money that has been allocated to tackle specific problems (e.g. by the municipal council or the state) must also be demonstrably spent for that purpose. Volt wants to monitor this more strictly by demanding clear accountability, which will give the council and residents a better understanding of the link between income and expenditure.

## We do not take excessive financial risks

Volt believes that the municipality should invest, but only if it is clear that this will genuinely benefit the residents of Delft. Examples include investments to create more housing and jobs or to improve the well-being of residents. Investments always involve risks: projects may end up being more expensive than planned or yield less than expected. That is why the municipality assesses each project for financial risks.

A high-risk project is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as the expected return is also high. However, it is important that not too many such risky projects are running at the same time, so that the municipality remains financially healthy.

In Delft, there are currently two major projects with a high financial risk:

Prinsenhof and Schieoevers.

Volt wants the municipality to proceed with great care when deciding on new projects, such as the new construction of Theater de Veste, in order to continue to pursue a responsible financial policy.

## 4 Delft, a city of opportunity

People are different, but they are equal. That is why Volt believes it is fair that everyone should have equal opportunities to develop and participate in society. This means that we recognize that not everyone starts from the same position. In order to create equal opportunities, the government must therefore tailor provisions and support to each individual's situation. This means that some people will receive extra help, so that everyone ultimately has the same opportunities.

The municipality must pave the way for an inclusive society by providing appropriate facilities and actively compensating for inequalities.

- **Education is the basis of equal opportunities:** Volt is committed to inclusive education for everyone, regardless of background or limitations. Lifelong learning opportunities enable people to develop and continue to participate in society.
- **Health is a prerequisite for equal opportunities:** Volt is committed to a caring society in which people look out for each other and where care and support are organized in their vicinity.
- **Safety:** Volt focuses on a comprehensive approach with an emphasis on cooperation with residents and a commitment to prevention.



## Education is the basis of equal opportunities

Volt wants to secure the future of the next generation and give these people the opportunity to realize their dreams and ambitions. Volt Delft is very concerned about the government's planned cuts that will reduce equal opportunities and is asking the municipality of Delft to work hard within the G40 association to have these cuts scrapped. Volt also wants to discuss this with schools. The teacher shortage is a problem that we must solve together. Volt therefore supports measures to give teachers (and other professions such as healthcare workers) priority in obtaining housing.

### Inclusive education

Inclusive education forms the basis for a fair and resilient society and contributes to mutual understanding and social cohesion. Volt wants Delft to invest more in making education inclusive. This can be done, for example, by offering schools additional expertise in the areas of behavior, language development, diversity, and LGBTQIA+ support. Or by taking a diverse student population into account when designing school buildings. Think of creating low-stimulus spaces, wider corridors, gender-neutral toilets, and an accessible schoolyard. In addition, Volt wants support for mentor and buddy projects such as 'School's cool' to continue. Providing sufficient opportunities also helps to keep young people out of crime. Initiatives such as 'you choose' and 'dealbreakers', which provide information, have proven successful. We want the municipality to continue with this. Inspiring examples: There are some great examples in Europe, such as the Istituto Comprensivo di Pioltello school. This school is located near Milan in a region with a high migrant population. It offers tailor-made education with extra attention to language support and cultural diversity. The school works closely with parents and the local community. In Lisbon, there is the Scola Secundária de Camões secondary school. This school has an active LGBTQIA+ policy, with peer support groups, gender-neutral toilets, and lessons on diversity.

## Opportunity classes in Delft

Children can fall behind in their learning for many reasons. Such a disadvantage determines the school advice they receive. Volt wants pupils who have fallen behind in primary school to have more opportunities to catch up. We ask school boards to set up a transition year after primary school, in which pupils are given the opportunity to become proficient in order to facilitate a smoother transition to VMBO-BK (preparatory secondary vocational education). This is similar to the opportunity classes at Mundus College in Amsterdam, which have achieved good results.

### Outdoor play should always be possible

Volt believes it is important that children in Delft can play safely outside. That is why Volt wants school playgrounds to be accessible at weekends. Volt also wants the General Public Order Regulation (APV) to stipulate that the noise of children playing outside should not be a primary reason for preventing the construction of a playground or soccer cage.

### Lifelong learning

It is important that the residents of Delft continue to learn throughout their lives. This contributes to people's resilience and self-confidence and strengthens the connection between people. Volt strives for an integrated approach in which education, work, welfare, and culture go hand in hand. This approach not only includes eliminating educational disadvantages among children and young people, but also retraining, further training, and personal development for adults in all age groups. Specific attention is paid to low literacy, digital skills, multilingualism, and retraining for promising sectors such as healthcare and technology. We want more pilot projects in collaboration with educational institutions. We see opportunities for learning opportunities such as the use of elements of gamification to connect with residents.

1Gamification is the application of playful thinking and gaming techniques in a non-gaming environment.

## Health is a prerequisite for equal opportunities

**According to Omnibus 2023, three-quarters of Delft residents feel (very) good. At the same time, this means that a quarter are not doing so well. The municipality has an important role to play when it comes to the well-being, public health, and care of its residents. A stable living situation, a predictable (basic) income, and an engaging living environment that encourages exercise and social interaction contribute to the well-being and health of residents. Volt Delft wants to develop policies around active citizenship and strengthening and maintaining resident initiatives in the field of care and well-being. Volt Delft encourages citizen initiatives such as care cooperatives, residential communities, and care and neighborhood circles, and wants to make structural budget available for this.**

## Actively combating loneliness

**According to the 2023 Omnibus Survey conducted by the municipality of Delft, approximately two in five residents of Delft feel lonely, resulting in physical and psychological problems. Social cohesion in the neighborhood also increases equal opportunities. Volt Delft wants measures to identify, reduce, and, above all, prevent loneliness. That is why Volt supports buddy projects, housing association flat coaches, and the work of key figures in communities. Volt Delft wants a good distribution of meeting places across neighborhoods and districts. These include sports fields, community centers, libraries, and religious spaces, but also smaller facilities such as benches, outdoor chess sets, youth boules courts, e-sports arenas, or places for urban sports. In this way, we strengthen social cohesion and combat loneliness. Every neighborhood will have a place where people can meet, have fun together, and help each other when needed.**

### An inspiring example

"Verbonden Buurten" is a network and platform with the aim of building neighbourhoods that learn from and strengthen each other. Agnetapark in Delft is

one of the Connected Neighbourhoods. This neighbourhood was developed at the end of the nineteenth century by social entrepreneurs Jan and Agneta van Marken and was multifunctional from the outset: living, working, learning and leisure all came together here. Van Marken consciously invested in welfare, education and care – including for families and widows – through its own neighbourhood fund. The neighborhood offered everything that was needed: from a community center and pub to shops, associations, and its own printing press.



Inspired by this history, current active residents have set up a foundation, Verbonden Agnetapark, in which committees are active in greening, sustainability, and neighborhood parties. There are several central meeting places, sharing cabinets, and mini libraries. Local residents garden together every week and maintain the food forest in this way.

### Neighborhood- and community-oriented care

Health promotion activities must be accessible to all residents. These include activities focused on care, prevention, healthy nutrition, exercise, and physical and mental health. Volt is committed to effective cooperation between the municipality, housing associations, private landlords, care and welfare organizations, and local residents themselves. These organizations and residents work together at the neighborhood or district level to provide care and support. The provision of care and support in the neighborhood is important.

- General practitioner care is essential in times of an aging population. We want the municipality to focus on (affordable) health centers in neighborhoods and districts when developing construction plans.
- Family carers are playing an increasingly important role in people's daily lives. Volt wants family carers to receive attention and support, such as a listening ear, respite care and training to maintain their well-being.
- Experts by experience can play a valuable role in guiding and supporting people, such as those with mental health issues. Volt wants to make more use of this.

### An inspiring example

In Trieste, Italy, mental health care is organized on a small scale, is accessible, and is community-based. Care providers are available 24/7 and work closely with general practitioners, families, and the community. The focus is on recovery, autonomy, and social participation rather than (long-term) hospitalization.

### Organizing youth care within existing structures

Volt stands for equal opportunities in access to care, including psychiatric help and youth care. Three-quarters of mental disorders develop before the age of 25. With the relatively high number of young adults in Delft, this requires extra attention. Investing in youth care now is an investment in the future of Dutch society. We advocate for a focus on prevention in schools and associations.

Inspiring example: Following the good example of the municipality of Veendam, Volt Delft also wants to put a stop to market forces in youth care. There have been no waiting lists in Veendam for two years. In addition, school dropout rates are falling, there are fewer crisis situations, and costs are lower than in 2021. Because a specialized professional makes a clear distinction between minor and serious problems at the outset, assistance is targeted and does not merely treat the symptoms.

Volt wants to strengthen the networks around schools, associations, general practitioners, and youth care organizations. We also involve TU Delft and ROC Mondriaan in order to identify and treat student problems in a timely manner. We believe it is of great added value to involve young people in the policy-making and implementation of youth care, as is done in Finland.

## Safety is essential for equal opportunities

**Veiligheid is een basisbehoefte. Of je nu over straat loopt, aan het winkelen bent of een avondje uitgaat: je moet je altijd veilig kunnen voelen. Dit geldt ook als je op school, op het werk of bij een vereniging bent. Ook online moet je je veilig voelen. Dat geldt zowel voor jongeren als voor ouderen.**



**De gemeente speelt een sleutelrol in het waarborgen van al deze vormen van fysieke en sociale veiligheid. Helaas zien we nog steeds veel situaties waarin mensen zich onveilig voelen. Denk aan agressie tegen hulpverleners, straatintimidatie, discriminatie van groepen zoals de +lhbtqia+, femicide en criminaliteit in buurten. Voldoende veiligheid geeft betere kansen om je te ontplooien en te zijn wie je bent.**

**Volt strives for a comprehensive approach to safety based on five core principles.**

- **Prevention: we focus on prevention, which has been proven to be more effective than remedial measures.**
- **Transparency: we conduct all discussions about safety in the city openly and transparently, both about the measures and about the intended and achieved effects.**
- **Cooperation with residents: the input and participation of residents is crucial to the sense of safety. The involvement of (external) professionals is often necessary for guidance, but always in a supporting role.**
- **Proportional measures and privacy: we take measures that are proportionate to the problem and take into account the right to privacy.**
- **A learning approach: we take a pragmatic, learning approach and continuously monitor our progress. This approach is already being successfully implemented at 'Wij West' and we want to make the best possible use of the lessons learned there in the rest of the city.**

### **Understanding safety and improving where necessary**

Understanding is essential to improving safety. The way in which safety is monitored needs to be improved. Although the safety monitor shows a downward trend in crime, the sense of safety is not increasing. There are major differences between neighborhoods, with the Voorhof neighborhood having the greatest sense of insecurity. Volt wants the municipality to conduct qualitative research in addition to quantitative research. This will give us more insight into the sense of safety and its causes. We also want insight into how reducing poverty and

inequality of opportunity can lead to a reduction in crime. We submitted a motion in May 2024 and still want this additional research to be carried out.

Deployment of neighborhood parents

Volt supports initiatives by neighborhood parents. Volt sees initiatives by local residents as an effective way to improve social cohesion and thus also safety. We know each other, look out for each other, take better care of each other, and pay more attention to each other.

### **Leveraging neighborhood parents**

Volt supports initiatives by neighborhood parents. Volt sees initiatives by local residents as an effective way to improve social cohesion and thus also safety. We know each other, look out for each other, take better care of each other, and pay more attention to each other.

### **Addressing unsafe areas**

Some areas of the city are perceived as unsafe, especially at night. Volt wants to identify these areas and develop an effective approach to addressing them. This could include lighting in dark areas and redesigning the environment. In specific cases, camera surveillance is not ruled out. In dangerous situations, residents must be able to easily contact the police and the municipality. This also applies to questions about simple adjustments, such as extra lighting or the removal of obstacles on the street.

### **Deployment of officers with community ties**

The number of police officers in Delft is determined by the Safety Region of which Delft is a part. Delft is therefore partly dependent on other police forces for sufficient officers. However, the municipality is responsible for appointing more (youth) special investigating officers, general enforcement officers, and community liaison officers. Volt wants to see sufficient enforcement officers deployed with the right resources. We need to work with enforcement officers to determine what they need to do their job properly. Greater visibility on the streets increases the chance of apprehending offenders, especially if there is easy contact and mutual trust between residents and enforcement officers. Enforcement officers with community ties are better able to control situations and reduce

tensions. Volt will raise this issue when the 2027-2030 Safety Plan is discussed in the city council. At the same time, we realize that safety must also be addressed from the bottom up. That is why it is important to invest in communities, neighborhood connectors, and to allocate neighborhood budgets. Because a connected neighborhood is a safer neighborhood.

### Dealing with heat stress and flooding

Volt wants better municipal plans for heat stress and flooding. Clear information must also be provided on this subject. Emergency services must be well prepared for situations such as flooding, power outages, snow, storms, and heat waves. This requires clear agreements so that municipalities and emergency services can act quickly in the event of unexpected events. This cooperation must be practiced in order to optimize it for crisis situations.

## 5 Delft, a smart city

Our society has undergone rapid digitalization in recent decades. Digitization is a change that offers opportunities in areas such as health, sustainability, transportation, new jobs, and better municipal services. However, we also want to ensure that security and privacy remain guaranteed. To this end, we are looking at the recently adopted National Digitization Strategy and the Common Ground initiative of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities. For Volt, it is important that these developments benefit the quality of our entire society. These are our plans:

- **A councilor for digital affairs:** Volt wants the municipality to take control of digitization.
- **A digital city covenant:** Volt wants to make agreements with private parties about a responsible digital city.
- **Increasing the impact of knowledge and innovation:** Volt wants to strengthen cooperation between knowledge institutions, the business community, and residents.



## A councilor for digital affairs

The government must dare to take the lead in the major changes that digitization brings. A councilor for digital affairs is indispensable in this regard. After all, digitization plays a role in all kinds of social challenges. From the installation of cameras in public spaces to data collection in youth care, from digital bullying and social media addiction to applying for your driver's license online. Volt believes that the urgency and necessity of managing digitization at the municipal level is not yet sufficiently recognized. That is why Volt wants to appoint an alderman for digital affairs. This alderman will have final responsibility for the following objectives:

- Save costs on the purchase and use of digital resources (so that this money can be spent on citizens instead of American tech companies).
- Ensure that the municipality and all its implementing organizations comply with the requirements for digital access to information.
- Maintaining the digital literacy of our municipality's residents and ensuring that all residents can keep up digitally, or offering a non-digital alternative when this is not possible or feasible.
- Promoting innovation and the use of open and freely accessible software.
- Ensuring the active publication of municipal data (open data), in order to keep the costs of WOO (Open Government Act) requests low.
- Ensuring that digital resources used in the municipality comply with the ethical and democratic core values of the municipality, Dutch democracy, and European law (which means eventually replacing American systems with European alternatives).
- Ensuring that the municipality becomes and remains digitally independent and agile. (in jargon: preventing vendor lock-in and increasing interoperability)
- Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the social and environmental consequences of digital resources.

## Delft Digital City Covenant

The residents, institutions, and businesses of Delft are increasingly dependent on data sources and digitization for their daily functioning. Residents of Delft go to

the hospital, school, or university in Delft, work at a Delft company, visit Delft's restaurants and cafés, and participate in Delft associations. If one of these links is digitally disrupted, it affects the quality of life.

Volt wants the municipality of Delft to take control and make clear agreements with private parties in Delft for a responsible digital city, by and for everyone. We have set this out in the Digital City Covenant. This makes it clear to all participating parties what is expected of them and gives us more control over our digital city.

## Increasing the impact of knowledge & innovation

For many social challenges (such as climate change, sustainable transport, and an aging population), we seek answers in technical solutions. With "Delft Kennisstad" (which includes TU Delft, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Inholland, ROC Mondriaan, YES!Delft as an incubator, and many high-tech companies), we have everything we need to develop potential solutions. We want to nurture "Delft Kennisstad" and establish even better connections with entrepreneurs in Delft and the surrounding area. The municipality will have to actively seek regional cooperation and cooperation in Europe. The new Delft Innovation District has the potential to add a lot to both the city and the region, as well as far beyond. That is why we must continue to invest in the development of this area and, as a municipality, continue to place a strong emphasis on international cooperation.

### An inspiring example

In recent years, Berlin has developed into an important center for social innovation, partly thanks to the establishment and support of Impact Hub Berlin. This breeding ground for social and sustainable start-ups brings together entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations. The Hub focuses on themes such as the circular economy, inclusive technology, sustainable food, and diversity. The Hub is embedded in policy thanks to a joint innovation agenda with the municipalities of Berlin and Brandenburg.





## Step-by-step innovation through working with testing grounds

Technological developments and their consequences mean that changes are happening faster than ever. Volt wants everyone to be able to keep up and for society to remain engaged. This speed also means that ideas that are relevant today will be outdated by next year. That is why Volt has opted for testing grounds. Trying out small innovations. If it doesn't work, you stop. If it does work, you expand it further. This requires making use of the initiatives of Delft residents and entrepreneurs. After all, they can determine whether something really works and how it can be improved.

## Participating in the Artificial Intelligence testing ground

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can simplify work processes and increase job satisfaction, make the municipality more efficient, and improve the quality of services for citizens and businesses. The use of AI can therefore help to relieve pressure on the labor market. There are also concerns and risks that we need to address. A testing ground is therefore a good approach. As in Amsterdam, Volt wants to investigate whether Delft can participate in the national AI testing ground (in jargon: the regulatory sandbox under the AI regulation) that is currently being prepared by the national government.

## 6 Delft, an international city

In its report "Research into the Europeanization of Dutch municipalities and provinces," the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) states the following:

"Europe is important and interesting to local authorities for various reasons. For example, they benefit from Europe because the European Union (EU) is committed to economic development and innovation through European funds. Local authorities also use all kinds of European networks to help realize their own policy priorities, and Europe also offers a platform for cross-border cooperation. In addition to these advantages, municipalities and provinces are also largely responsible for the implementation of and compliance with EU policy."





# Welkom - Welcome - Willkommen - Benvenuti - Witamy - وسهلاً أهلاً - स्वागत है - 欢迎 in Delft

**Delft is a knowledge city with an international appeal. International students, expats, status holders, and migrant workers from all over the world enrich our economy and culture and give the city its flair. Currently, an estimated 15% of Delft's residents are non-Dutch nationals. These internationals face all kinds of challenges: high housing costs, language barriers, loneliness, discrimination, precarious employment and/or limited access to (mental) healthcare. Volt wants the municipality to do more for this group.**

**Delft currently does not have a single central point of contact that supports international newcomers in getting started with living and working in the city. Volt wants the municipality of Delft to give internationals a warm welcome with a point of contact that familiarizes international newcomers with the many facilities Delft has to offer. In addition, Volt wants to provide suitable (temporary) housing, places where people can meet, and opportunities for newcomers to actively contribute ideas about the development of the city. In this way, we are building a city where people from home and abroad feel at home and contribute to our shared future.**

## Accessible services and legal protection

Volt believes that the municipality should also be accessible to international residents. Forms, websites, and service desks should be available in multiple languages. In addition, Volt advocates for a physical and digital International Center (such as The Hague International Center) where questions about housing, work, healthcare, and participation can be answered. International newcomers will receive a welcome package with practical information about their rights and obligations in multiple languages.

This will make registration in the Personal Records Database (BRP) more accessible, so that they too have access to healthcare and social services. Volt wants to investigate whether these services can be made possible in part by European subsidy programs.

## Living and working

Volt wants to offer international students, expats, status holders, and migrant workers a home in Delft. To keep Delft attractive to international talent, we invest in sufficient rental properties for short stays. This makes internationals less dependent on expensive or poor-quality housing.

Work and housing must be separate: losing a job should not automatically lead to losing a home. In collaboration with inspection services, we take strict action against abuses such as overcrowding and fraudulent rental practices.

## Connecting with one another

Participation starts with language and meeting people, so we support an introductory program in multiple languages, Dutch language courses, cycling courses, and events that connect international residents with Delft neighborhoods, associations, and facilities. Partners of expats should receive help in finding work and having their diplomas recognized. Volt also strives for the municipality to invest in mental health, meeting places, and neighborhood organizations for internationals to combat stress and social isolation.

## Legislative participation for internationals

The knowledge and experience of internationals are very valuable to Delft, which is why Volt wants international students, migrant workers, expats, and status holders to also be involved in the development of Delft. To this end, Volt believes that existing and new forms of participation (see the chapter Delft: a connected city) should be set up in multiple languages. In addition, Volt wants a plan to be drawn up and implemented to encourage new residents of Delft to contribute ideas about the future of our city and to stimulate them to play an active role in the implementation of resident and neighborhood initiatives.

In the municipality of The Hague, information evenings are organized about local politics and citizenship for international residents. Now that Delft is becoming increasingly international, Volt also sees opportunities for this in Delft.

## Europe as a basis for security

**For 80 years we have lived in Delft without war, and Delft is a prosperous city. This is partly thanks to Europe. Volt Delft will continue to promote this European perspective. A strong and cooperative Europe is necessary to maintain this situation. However, Europe is falling further and further behind the US, and other economic blocs are rapidly catching up, particularly because the EU is lagging behind in emerging and high-tech sectors. Draghi's recently published report on the future of European competitiveness indicates what is needed to turn the tide. The motion "Delft Economy of the Future," as adopted almost unanimously by the Delft council in July 2025, is, in Volt's view, a step in the right direction. Volt wants to go "one step further" here as well. Volt wants Delft, together with the province of South Holland, to help our knowledge and manufacturing industries implement the recommendations of the Dragi report locally.**

### More space for scale-ups

Delft already offers plenty of opportunities for start-ups. New, innovative ideas are developed into usable products. This is the breeding ground for social and green innovations. The municipality already ensures a favorable business climate. Volt supports this. However, the opportunities for growth and for taking the step towards actual production in Delft are still limited. Volt wants to change this by also reserving space for these so-called scale-ups. This requires close cooperation with the province. After all, the province sets the zoning frameworks within which the municipality must operate. Attention must also be paid to the existing manufacturing industry and to facilitating companies whose business activities depend on transport by water.

### European strategy for Delft

Europe can mean a lot to a municipality, and vice versa. Although our municipality of Delft does have a European strategy, it is not yet being translated into concrete action to a sufficient extent. With TU Delft, the Netherlands Standardization Institute (NNI), and knowledge institutions such as Deltares, Delft is also in a position to benefit from Europe. This is already happening occasionally, and Volt would like to see it happen on a structural basis. In this regard, the municipality

must also make a conscious choice about which European knowledge networks of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) our knowledge city of Delft wants to join. In this way, Delft can benefit from Europe and Europe can benefit from Delft. Volt Delft remains committed to bringing successful ideas from European cities to Delft.

## Our candidates



**Co-lijsttrekker Dianne Elsinga**

48 jaar, Docent

The choices made by the municipality affect us all—whether it concerns housing, sustainability, or equal opportunities. That is why I want to represent Volt in the municipal council: working together with residents, organizations, and entrepreneurs to ensure that Delft is a pleasant, green city, with opportunities and housing for everyone.



**Co-lijsttrekker Bernhard Thieme**

59 jaar, Adviseur bij Rijkswaterstaat

With Volt, I want to work in Delft to create a solid foundation for everyone. With a solid foundation, you also have a bright future ahead of you. With the positive Volt story, I want to inspire Delft and make it even more beautiful. I believe it is important to have transparent and accessible politics in which residents are heard and involved.



**3. Floor Drissen**

36 jaar, Project manager

Over the past sixty years, I have been able to take advantage of the opportunities that the Netherlands and Delft have offered me. I was able to study engineering, buy a nice house, and live in prosperity. That no longer seems to be a given for future generations, but it should be, and I am committed to working toward that goal.



**4. Patrick Widdows**

27 jaar, Adviseur energietransitie

Being half English and half Dutch, I feel like a child of one continent. I have been happily living in Delft for seven years, where I came to study at Delft University of Technology and fell in love with the city. Now that I have graduated, I want to stay here and give something back. Driven by my passion for the energy transition and my administrative experience, I want to move from words to action.



**5. Maritta Scheele**  
Huisarts



**6. Erwin Blonk**  
37 jaar, IT Systeembeheerder



**7. Ellen de Vries**  
59 jaar, Programma manager



**8. Rick Sauer**  
33 jaar, Bankier



**9. Kyra Gremmen**  
33 jaar, Teamleider Informatiemanagement



**10. Jef Wintermans**  
65 jaar, Gepensioneerd



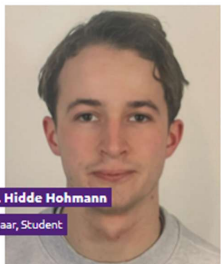
**11. Eva Brussaard**  
32 jaar, Beleidsadviseur



**12. Max Maton**  
Ondernemer



**13. Paola van Acken-Brai**  
50 jaar, Dichter



**14. Hidde Hohmann**  
22 jaar, Student

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