

Zeit zu handeln!

Für soziale Sicherheit, Frieden und Klimagerechtigkeit

Election programme – short version 2021

DIE LINKE.

For social security, peace and climate justice

The main question that will be answered at this federal election is: who will pay the bills of the Corona crisis? Whose life will become easier, who will have it harder? To save the climate, we have to restructure the economy and the society. DIE LINKE will ensure that no one has to choose between their job and the future of their children and grandchildren. It is possible to combine climate change mitigation with secure jobs and good wages. It is possible to have a crisis-proof healthcare system that provides equally good care for all. It is possible to provide wages sufficient for a good life and secure pensions. It is possible to have a welfare state that protects everyone from poverty and provides good education, affordable housing and free public transport. It is possible if everyone pays their fair share. The super-rich have become richer during the Corona crisis, while many employees placed on Kurzarbeit have barely made ends meet. There is enough money. It just has to be distributed fairly and used in a way that benefits everyone. This is possible with a strong left. That is why we are asking you to cast your vote for DIE LINKE in the Bundestag election on 26 September!

We will regulate work to fit around your life

Every fifth person in West Germany and every third person in East Germany is a low-wage worker. Just

one life event – Kurzarbeit, illness, relatives in need of care – separates them from existential angst. Corona has made this clear: wages must rise. We will set the minimum wage to 13€ – this amount is the minimum for securing a poverty-proof pension. Those who work on fixed-term contracts, in temporary work, or as subcontractors, in mini-jobs or without a Tarifvertrag, earn less and are not as protected legally. This has to end! Instead of insecure work and low wages, all work should again be covered under a Tarifvertrag. Together we are strong! Workers and their union should get more co-determination rights as well as the right to veto relocations and dismissals. We will create jobs with which we can plan for the future. We need time for family, friends, leisure: shorter working hours with full wage compensation.

We will distribute wealth so that it benefits everyone.

Never before have income and wealth been so unequally distributed in Germany. The 45 richest households alone own as much as the entire poorer half of the population. This is because taxes on wealth and high incomes have fallen. Since 1997, the wealth tax has not been raised. The results of this were cuts to or privatisation of public services. In many schools the toilets do not work, not to mention lacking equipment. Hospitals are being privatised or closed down. There is a shortage of

teachers and educators. Is there no money for that? Yes, there is, if we tax wealth and inheritance fairly. With this revenue we will modernise schools, hospitals and build affordable housing for public ownership. What is there for the public to use must belong to the public too.

Our tax promise: Whoever (as a single person, in tax class I) earns less than 6.500€ gross per month will pay less tax. Those who have more will pay more. That's not too much to ask.

We will create fair transitions to a climate-just future

Two-thirds of the entire world's CO₂ pollution is emitted by 100 large corporations. For consistent climate change mitigation, we will not ask ordinary people to pay through higher rents or rising electricity prices. On the contrary! We are taking on the corporations to ensure a fair transition to a climate-friendly future for all. We will create a rescue package for workers: with job and income guarantees. With a four-day week, wage compensation and a guarantee of further training.

We will expand bus and rail services and make public transport free of charge. Step one: free travel for children and senior citizens. Within five years, buses and trains will be free everywhere in Germany. To rural areas we make a guarantee of mobility: more buses that run more often. Those who have to commute should not be dependent on a car. We will halve rail fares and switch short flights to rail routes. More rail transport also means more production and more jobs. By 2035, we will make local authorities, the economy and the society climate-neutral.

We will organise care work and the healthcare system to ensure everyone is equally well-cared for

The coronavirus has shown that our healthcare system is not crisis-proof. There is a shortage of skilled workers in hospitals and nursing homes – at least 100,000 in both areas. Care workers everywhere are trying to fill in the gaps, often beyond their capacities. Many leave the profession exhausted. Let's combat the nursing crisis! We will propose legislation that guarantees good care with sufficient staff. Better working conditions and an additional 500€ per month. Those who care for other people cannot earn less than those who manage money or trade in shares! Hospitals and care providers should operate on a non-profit basis instead of being profit- and dividend-oriented! We will bring hospitals and care institutions into public and non-profit ownership. This will end second-class healthcare provision. Equally good care for all with a solidarity-based health insurance. Everyone, including the

top earners, will have to pay into a statutory health insurance fund. Contribution rates will fall for everyone. Those earning less than 6.300€ gross will pay less than they do now. DIE LINKE's comprehensive long-term care insurance covers all possible needs. The contributing payments for those receiving care will be abolished.

People before profits: we will make housing affordable

Rents are exploding, and not only in the big cities. An increasingly large percentage of income is being eaten up by rent. Many people are being forced to leave their neighbourhoods or are stuck in apartments that are too small, because real estate is being speculated with and tenants are paying for the profits of the shareholders. The government has not put the brakes on this. Now it's time to stop! We will stop the rent explosion and set fixed upper limits for rents with a rent cap (Mietendeckel) Modernisations should not be used to increase rents. We will abolish the rent increase following modernisation. Housing speculation on the stock market has to stop. Corporations, which do not renovate, which drive up rents or harass their tenants, must be expropriated. The market does not regulate housing: there are only half as many social housing units as there were 15 years ago. More than five million apartments are lacking for people on low incomes. We stand against this: every year we will build 250,000 additional social housing units. They will remain permanently in public ownership.

We will introduce pensions that enable a good life in old age

Many people are concerned about their pension: will it be enough to live on – and what kind of life will it be? Will I keep my job until I retire or will my pension be cut? The employers and the parties close to them want people to work longer: until they are 68 or even 70. For many people this would mean they would have to work themselves, literally, to death. DIE LINKE wants everyone to be able to retire by 65. Those who had paid pension contributions for 40 years will be able to do so earlier. We will raise the pension level back to 53% (from 48%). Those who today receive the average pension of just under 1.050€ would receive 100€ more. We want to restructure the pension system so that civil servants, politicians and the self-employed are insured and can also pay into the pension fund. Only then will there be enough for good pensions for all. Pensions in the East have to be immediately brought in line with those in the West. Instead of collecting bottles for Pfand, we will increase low pensions to 1.200 euros. This is only right.

No business with death: ban arms exports

Germany exports weapons and arms to places all around world – including to areas where they sustain human rights violations, wars, and civil wars. German weapons can be found in the wars in Syria and Yemen. With their help, people are injured, forced to flee and killed. The German government has not kept its promise to tighten controls: Germany is still the world's fourth largest arms exporter. And exports are increasing. The majority of the population is against this. The major churches and many citizens' initiatives in Germany are calling for the Federal Government to U-Turn. Overall spending on armaments has increased. This is the wrong direction! DIE LINKE stands up for peace. We will recall the Bundeswehr from missions abroad. We will ban arms and weapons exports.

We will make the welfare state secure

Germany is one of the richest countries in the world. No one should have to live in poverty here. No unemployed mother should be forced to save on food so that she can buy her child a new school bag. Those who become unemployed should not fall into poverty and be placed on Hartz IV. Arbeitslosengeld I should be paid over a longer period of time. The Hartz IV rates are under the legal poverty line and are not enough for adequate nutrition. This has been shown in a government report. We want to introduce a minimum income of 1.200€ that cannot be reduced ("sanction-free"). The welfare state is tasked with providing good social services that are accessible to everyone: free day-care centres, free school meals. We want to build public swimming pools – every child should be able to learn to swim. We want to ensure good care that does not make people poor. During the Corona crisis, a lot of aid money was paid out. The government is avoiding this topic for until after the election. After the election it will be decided whether the costs will be paid by cuts and privatisation in the social sector. We want to introduce a wealth tax on assets over 2 million Euros to finance the costs of the Corona crisis. With a strong left there will be no social cuts!

Solidarity is indivisible

We want a society that is free from exclusion and exploitation, a society that includes everyone. A society with equal rights for all who live here. A society with a functioning welfare state and good public services for all. We reject discrimination and racism. We reject unequal wages. Unequal opportunities between men and women*, between East Germans and West Germans, between Germans and non-Germans harm us all. Every life counts, we leave no one behind, not even (or in particular)

when they are fleeing. When the future of our children is obstructed because schools cannot compensate for unequal starting conditions at home, we say: we can do better! We want democracy to mean more than casting a vote every four years. Democracy should mean: this is our country, our city, our company, our society. This is my home, because together we determine our future.

We will set limits on the influence of the rich and corporations on politics

Those who have a lot of money have a lot of influence on politics. The big real estate companies have donated generously to the CDU and FDP and they are working diligently against the rent cap. DIE LINKE is independent. We cannot be bought. We don't take donations from corporations. To make democracy work, we will ban corporate donations and sponsorship to political parties. We will expose the influence of lobbyists. DIE LINKE's lobby group is the people who fight for social justice. Together we can change the country and the world. We fight for a different politics, for a change of government: together we can make the country just. Together with you.

That is why we are asking you to cast your vote for DIE LINKE in the federal election on 26 September 2021. Social justice, climate change mitigation and peace are only possible with a strong left. Now!

Kontakt:

DIE LINKE. Pateivorstand, Kleine Alexanderstraße 28, 10178 Berlin
Telefon: 030/24 00 99 99 · kontakt@die-linke.de · www.die-linke.de
V.i.S.d.P. Jörg Schindler