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THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members of the House of Representatives work in the House of Representatives. Members of the House of Representatives are elected politicians. They make decisions on important matters for Berlin.

BERLIN CAN DO BETTER

This means:

Many things in the city of Berlin are set to improve.

Businesses should be able to operate effectively.

People should be able to own property. Examples of property include:

- a flat,
- a house
- or a plot of land.

Children should have good opportunities.

That is why there must be more good schools in Berlin. So that all children can learn well.

Everyday life in Berlin should run smoothly.

This means, for example:

- Government departments work efficiently.
- Buses and trains always run on time.
- Streets and public spaces are clean.
- People feel safe in Berlin.
- Schools and nurseries are good.
  'Kita' is short for: 'Kinder-Tagesstätte' (day-care centre).

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All these things are made possible by:

- freedom,
- **responsibility**,
- and achievement.

Responsibility means, for example:

A person takes care of their tasks. And they take great care to ensure that everything is done correctly.

Performance means:

A person carries out their task well.

The state must carry out its most important duties well.

The **state** comprises:

- all people
- all politicians
- and all public authorities in a country.

The government bodies and politicians make the rules for a country.

BERLIN SHOULD BE CLEAN AND SAFE

- Parks,
- squares
- and railway

stations are public places.

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This means:

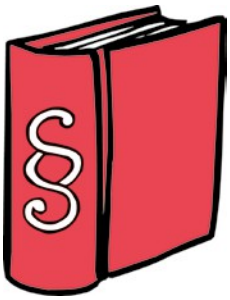
They are there for everyone.

People should always be able to use these places.

But some places are:

- dirty,
- broken
- or unsafe.

For example, there is a lot of rubbish there. Or **crimes** take place there.



A crime means:

A person does **not** obey the law.

This makes everyday life difficult for many people. That is why public places should be:

- clean
- and safe.

- Government offices
- and other **public buildings**

should be well-kept.

Examples of **public buildings** include:

- libraries,
- **universities**
- or town halls

Universities are places of learning for young adults.

There, they can study a wide range of subjects.

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THESE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO US:

1.

- The police
- and staff from the public order departments

need to be out and about more in Berlin.

This is particularly important in places:

- where crimes frequently occur
- or where rubbish is frequently dumped.

The **Public Order Office** is a city department.

Its staff ensure that many rules are followed. For example:

- Streets and squares should be kept clean.
- Paths should remain clear.
- People should not disturb others.

2.

If someone **deliberately** throws rubbish onto the street, they must clear it up again.
And if someone deliberately breaks something: then they must repair the damage.

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‘**Deliberately**’ means:

A person wants to do something. It doesn’t just happen by itself.

For example:

Someone deliberately breaks something. They want to break it.

3.

Some people don’t have a home. The technical term for this is: homeless.

If these people used to live outside Berlin, we help them with their journey back.

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PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN BERLIN

Many people come to Berlin from other countries. They want to:

- live
- and work.

Because Berlin needs well-educated people. These people can:

- work in companies
- and businesses.

In this way, they help the city of Berlin.

People from other countries are welcome: provided they follow the rules.

And if they:

- work
- and want to contribute.

Because there are clear rules for living together. For example:

- People learn German.
- People work.
- They take care of their responsibilities.
- They abide by the law.
- And people respect other people’s freedom.
- That way, everyone can live together harmoniously

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THESE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO US:

1.

We support people from other countries:

- If they want to work in Berlin.
- Or if they want to set up a business. We also

welcome people who:

who want to do an apprenticeship in Berlin.

2.

Fewer people from other countries should come to Germany:

If they do not have permission.

If people do not have **the right to stay**:

Then they must leave Germany quickly.

The right to stay means:

A person has permission to stay in a country.

People must learn the German language if they want to stay in Germany.

And they must work:

if they are allowed to stay in Germany. Work helps to ensure:

enable them to live well in Germany.

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3.

There are important rules in Germany. For example:

- Everyone is of equal value.
- Everyone has the right to express their opinion.
- Everyone has the right to live freely.
- People can have a say in politics.

If people do not follow these rules:

Then they cannot be part of our **community**.

Community means:

- People belong together.
- They live together.
  For example, in one country.
- And they help one another.

HAVING YOUR OWN FLAT GIVES YOU FREEDOM

Many people live in rented accommodation. This means:

The flat belongs to someone else. We want:

More people to be able to buy their own flat. So that the flat belongs to them.

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There are too few flats in Berlin. That's why many flats are very expensive. We want to build more flats.
To do this, we want to make use of every opportunity.

More new flats should be built.
And there should be flats with a range of rents. This means:
Rents will vary in price.

The flats are to be built by:

- private companies,
- **housing co-operatives**
- and the City of Berlin.

A **housing co-operative** is a group of people. It builds and lets flats.

The government should impose fewer rules on housing.
Because we believe:
Too many government regulations make it difficult to build flats. That is why there are too few flats.
And rents are getting more and more expensive. We want:

More people to be able to buy their own flat. Because owning your own flat can provide security.
And people should be able to decide for themselves how they want to live.

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THESE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO US:

1.

We want to help people buy a flat. To this end, there should be a rent-to-buy scheme.
This means:
People pay rent for the flat at first. After a while, they can buy the flat.
Part of the rent goes towards the purchase price. This means:
People have to pay less money for the flat.

In addition, people should pay less money to the state when buying a flat:
if they live in the flat themselves. This tax is called the land and buildings transfer tax.

This way, more people can buy their own flat. For example, people who do not earn as much money.

2.

We want to build new flats more quickly.
To this end, the City of Berlin should make more building plots available.

And there must also be fewer building regulations. Furthermore, the authorities should make decisions more quickly.

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For example:

Whether building is permitted.

and what sort of buildings may be built.

This is intended to apply in particular to **Tempelhofer Feld**

Tempelhofer Feld is a large site in Berlin. It used to be an airport many years ago.

Since 2010, everyone has been able to use the **site**.

An **area** is a large piece of land.

3.

The government makes some things very expensive for rented flats. In technical terms, this means:

The costs are getting higher and higher.

These costs are to be brought down again.

Furthermore, flats should not be taken away from their owners against their will.

The flats should continue to belong to their owners.

The flats must continue to belong to the flat owners. The government must not take the flats away from them.

We will **prevent** that from happening.

To prevent means:

people make sure

that certain things do not happen.

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A STRONG ECONOMY IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

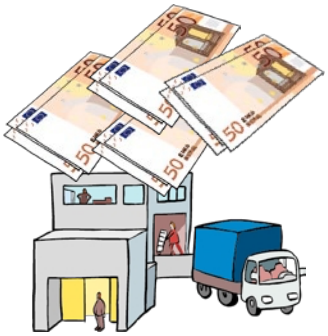
The **economy** includes, for example:

- businesses,
- companies, large and small,
- the businesses

in a country.

The economy in the city of Berlin is set to grow. This means:

- companies should be able to operate effectively.
- And there should be more good jobs. That way, people can earn more money.



To achieve this, the following things are important to us:

- People should be free to work.
- Property should be protected.
- Good work should be rewarded.
- Companies should be able to **compete with one another**.
- The state should impose fewer rules. That way, the city of Berlin can become wealthier. And more people can enjoy a good standard of living.

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Competing with one another means:

Several companies sell the same products. Every company wants:

People to buy their products. Or for other businesses to buy their products.

That is why every company tries to:

- make good offers,
- to do a good job
- and set good prices.

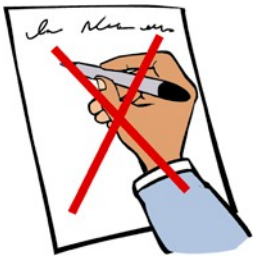
THESE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO US:

1.

There **shouldn't** be so much red tape for businesses. There are lots of rules in Berlin.

Some rules aren't important. We want to get rid of these rules. That means:

The rules should be scrapped.



The work of the authorities should also become easier. For example:

- People
- and businesses

provide a lot of information to the authorities.

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But it's often the case that
the authorities already have this information.
In that case, people and businesses
should not have to provide this information to the authorities again.

2.

Companies have to pay a special **tax** in Berlin. This tax is called business tax.
We want to reduce this tax. This means:
The tax should be reduced.

Nor should businesses have to pay extra money if they offer too few **apprenticeship places**. We want to abolish this rule again.

Taxes are money
that people and businesses pay to the state.

Apprenticeships mean:
young people learn a trade within a company. In return,
they work for the company.
And they attend vocational school.
This means:
the young people are undergoing vocational training at the company.
In return, the company provides apprenticeship places

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3.

The city of Berlin receives a lot of money every year.

For example:

- People pay taxes.
- Companies pay taxes.
- The federal government gives Berlin money.
- And other federal states also give Berlin money.

But Berlin also spends money on many things. For example:

- on schools,
- on new roads
- or on leisure activities. To put

it in more formal terms:

Berlin has a state budget.

We want to take a close look at:

what Berlin spends its

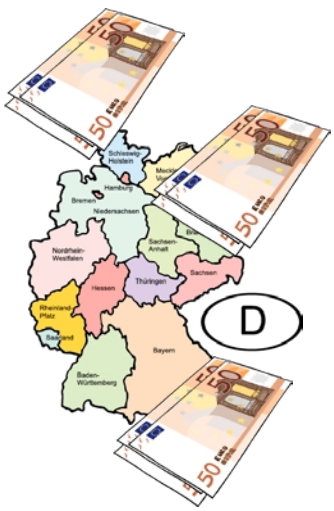
money on. Because we

believe:

Berlin should make good use of the

money. The economy should grow.

Then people and businesses will pay more tax.



We want:

Berlin to give more money to other federal states.

And the city should spend less money

from other federal states.

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GOOD GERMAN LANGUAGE SKILLS MEAN GOOD OPPORTUNITIES

Knowledge of German means:

A person can speak German.

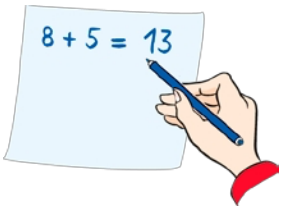
Education is important.

Education means: people learn new things.

That is why it is important:

that children learn lots of different things at school. For example:

- the German language,
- reading,
- writing
- and arithmetic.



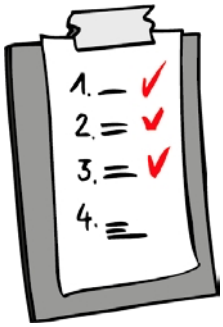
Every child should be able to do all these things be able to do well by the end of their school years. After all, education also means: young people can learn a good trade.

To achieve this, certain steps need to be taken.

Children should receive help with their learning from an early age – if they need it.

At school, it should be clear:

these are the things the children should learn.



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Schools need to improve.

And schools should be allowed to make more decisions for themselves.

All children start out with the same opportunities. But every child is different.

For example:

Some children are particularly good at certain things.

These children should receive special support so that they can improve even further.

THESE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO US:

1.

All children attend nursery for one year before starting school. There, they learn important things.

For example:

- speaking German well,
- move around safely
- and getting on well with other children. This ensures that all children have the same opportunities at the start of their school years.

2.

Children should learn German well right from the start.

That is why all children take a language test. The language test is for children:

aged 3 or 4.

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The language test checks:

- Can the child already speak German well?
- And does the child need help with learning German? If a

child needs help:

Then they are given language lessons.

3.

Schools should be allowed to make more decisions for themselves. For example:

- Who works at the school.
- What the school spends its money on.
- How teaching can be improved.

Every school has **clear responsibilities**.

For example:

Children should be able to learn to read better.

Clear responsibilities mean:

Everyone knows exactly what they are supposed to do.

After a while, a review is carried out:

Has the school carried out these tasks well?

Everyone can then see:

just how well the school is

doing. For example:

- the parents,
- the teachers
- and the politicians

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THESE ARE OUR GOALS FOR THE CITY OF BERLIN

Berlin will once again be a city offering good opportunities. The economy is strong.

More people will be able to buy their own home. Children are doing well at school.

And all children are given the same opportunities.

Berlin is safe and clean.

Good work pays off.

The government is doing a good job of fulfilling its key responsibilities.

YOU CAN FIND EVEN MORE INFORMATION HERE

However, the information **isn't** in easy-to-read language! On **social media**:

instagram.com/fdp_berlin

tiktok.com/@fdp_berlin

facebook.com/fdpberlin x.com/fdp_berlin

And on the FDP party's website.

fdp-berlin.de

Social media are special websites. Lots of people can share things there.

For example:

- texts,
- photos
- and videos.

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