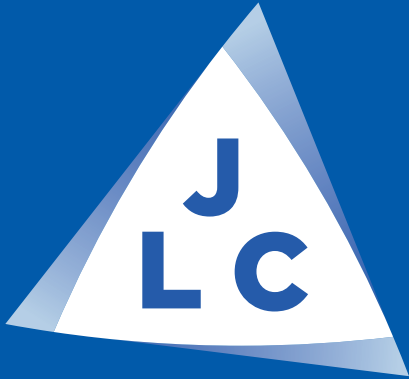
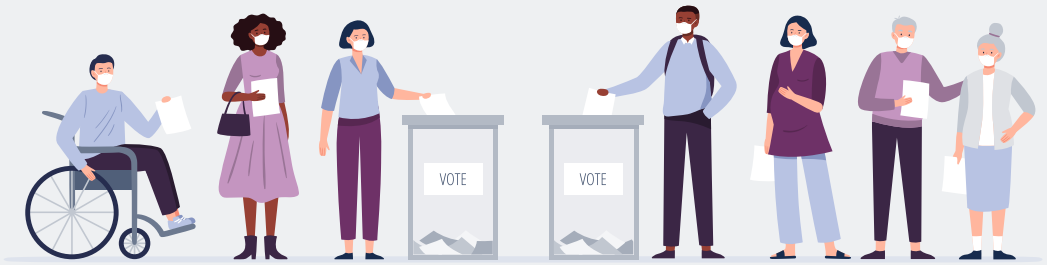


Jersey Liberal Conservatives



Mini-Manifesto
“Political accountability”

We're listening.



We pledge to:

- **Restore Confidence in Government**

restore political responsibility, good governance and the accountability of the civil service to Ministers, reinstate prudence with our finances, and make Jersey's government more effective, more open, and more responsive to the needs of Jersey people.

- **Reinvigorate the Economy**

make sure that all policy decisions allow for a thriving business community and sustainable economic growth. We will support innovation and encourage digital business startups.

- **Manage Population Growth**

develop policies to limit population growth, with the ultimate aim of population stability in a balanced economy.

- **Protect the Environment**

protect and enhance the stunning beauty of Jersey's natural assets, manage the challenges of climate change, and restore the Island's biodiversity.

- **Provide Housing Solutions**

provide creative solutions for well-designed and affordable housing.

Restoring good governance

Government should be connected to and responsible to the public so that the public do not feel that their needs are seen as irrelevant, or their wishes ignored. The so-called “One-Gov” scheme was intended to improve public services. It was claimed in 2018 that by late 2021 there would be a “step-change” in how the Government of Jersey was perceived, both within the Island and externally. There has been a change, and it has not been for the better. “One-Gov” placed huge executive and financial power in the hands of the Chief Executive and senior civil servants and removed the accountability of some civil servants to Ministers. Ministers are sometimes not in control of events.

The JLC is determined that this must change, that every civil servant should be accountable, through the hierarchy of senior officials, to a Minister. The Minister must be politically accountable for every action taken by an official in the Minister’s name. The Minister should be, and should be seen to be, accountable, through the States Assembly, to the public. There should be nowhere to hide from that responsibility. Accountability is the bedrock of democracy.

Jersey was once careful and conservative about its finances. No longer. The lack of accountability has led to commitments to huge expenditure, on the hospital, on new offices, on a new health service and even perhaps Fort Regent without any rigorous analysis of the implications for financial sustainability. Transparency in dealing with the public has diminished.

We commit to

- Restoring accountability, transparency and financial discipline.

The economy

There has been a decline in Jersey's productivity since 2000. GVA (Gross Value Added) per employee has shrunk from £90,000 to less than £50,000 in 2020. We need to encourage businesses which will re-generate the economy. Economic success is not achieved by government. The success of the economy is driven by the energy and enthusiasm of the private sector and the primary duty of government is to maintain stability and to create a fiscal and administrative environment in which business can innovate and prosper. The JLC is in favour of small government. It would seek to reduce the extent to which government gets in the way of private enterprise by cutting red tape and increasing the ease of doing business. Government should be more accessible to business and be prepared to listen. Support for innovation and enterprise should be given, acknowledging that not every new enterprise will succeed.

We commit to

- Improving the legal and regulatory infrastructure to enable the financial services industry to grow without increasing the number of people employed in Jersey and to maintain the current rate of income tax at 20%. Stability has been the key to Jersey's success during past decades.
- Encouraging a more entrepreneurial culture where technology, artificial intelligence and data are embraced to stimulate innovation and create economic growth and to help digital startups to get off the ground.
- Reducing the burden of debt upon future generations created by the current Government.
- Helping the hospitality sector to grow the off-season business.
- Raising the economic bar for the admission of wealthy immigrants under Article 2(1)(e) of the Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012.

Population

The Island has been concerned for decades with population growth and its unwelcome side effects - housing costs, traffic congestion, long hospital waiting lists, and the continued erosion of the Island's natural beauty. The political emphasis has been on economic growth, rather than on quality of life. Jersey has only 45 square miles, and little room to manoeuvre unless we are prepared to build on more green fields. On the current trajectory, as set out in the Government's Common Population Policy (P:116/2021), there will be at least 130,000 residents in 2045.

The JLC is committed to conserving what we love about the Island and believes that the current rate of growth of our population is unsustainable without serious damage to the environment. Clear policies on shaping the economy without causing such damage must be developed. The ultimate aim should be population stability.

However, we think it would be foolhardy to try to formulate such policies given the current lack of statistical information about our demographics. We need urgent updates on earnings and other performance data, so that appropriate policies can be formulated.

We commit to

- Keeping key public services such as health and education properly staffed, to providing our industries with the skilled staff they need, and to encouraging creativity and innovation in the management of population;
- Redefining the so-called "dependency ratio" so that it relates not to age but to actual physical or mental dependency;
- Achieving the early updating of demographic analyses to allow confidence in any population policy devised and to providing the public with regular updates of such information, so that collectively informed decisions can be made for the good of the island; and
- Formulating a sound population policy as soon as research data is available.

Housing

A safe and comfortable home is probably the most basic of human needs – ideally a home that you own. There are always peaks and troughs in demand but there is no doubt that the current affordability gap is a problem which the Government needs to tackle. Too many young people are deterred from living in the Island by the impossibility of finding a home that they can afford to buy or rent. It is not an easy problem to solve because it is interlinked with several other problems, in particular the growth of population and the need to protect the environment. The broad policy aim is to bring the dream of home ownership within the grasp of as many as possible, and to increase the ratio of home ownership, while maintaining the safety net of social housing.

We are committed to a long-term view on the sustainability of the market. In a situation where demand exceeds supply, fuelling the rapid increase in prices, it is sensible to address both ends of the problem. Steps must be taken to stem population growth and thus demand for housing, and more houses must be built to increase supply, as envisaged under the Bridging Island Plan.

We commit to

- Ensuring that more of the development land controlled by the Government and some redundant commercial land are released to the market. On appropriate sites, much or all the land released should be designated for “affordable” housing. New and less expensive building methods combined with a sympathetic architectural approach should be encouraged. Building houses which are too small for families to enjoy life should not be permitted.
- Increasing affordability by developing shared equity schemes for those who cannot pass through the Housing Gateway.
- Improving data on tenancies by completing a register of landlords. Accurate information about actual rents charged rather than using advertised private sector rents would be more helpful in developing policy for the protection of both landlords and tenants.

The environment

Jersey's natural environment is under pressure. Climate change is a major threat. Building development and some agricultural practices have severely diminished the Island's biodiversity in recent decades.

We think that the stunning beaches, headlands, and countryside which constitute our heritage should be conserved and protected against development as far as possible for future generations. We think that people should be given easier access to this heritage by the creation of more footpaths and cycle tracks. Agriculture is part of our heritage, and the industry should be supported and encouraged. A better administrative structure for protecting the environment and its biodiversity should be created.

We commit to

- Establishing a Minister for the Environment whose sole responsibility is to protect and enhance the environment. Of course, there will be conflicting pressures but there should be an individual in government whose job is to protect the environment. The portfolio of the Minister should not include responsibility for adjudicating on planning applications – that should be the job of the independent Planning Applications Panel. The Minister should be supported by an Environment Department with the necessary resources and expertise to carry out research and to enforce the law. It is no good creating carefully considered planning obligations if no one ensures that they are observed. It is no good creating elaborate housing standards if they are not enforced. A vibrant and pro-active environment department needs to be re-created; its remit would include addressing the problem of traffic.
- Drawing up a long-term plan (10-20 years), programmed and costed, for consideration by the States to address and repair the loss of biodiversity over past decades, and to restore the landscape (as has been done with Plémont). This would involve several interrelated issues – e.g., the way in which agriculture

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We commit to (cont.)

is practised (reducing further the quantity of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals placed on the land), protecting the water supply from contamination, planting trees, and devising other ways of helping wildlife to flourish.

- Encouraging and supporting the agricultural industry to embrace a greater concentration on growing for consumption by the local community. Farmers play a vital role in protecting the environment, but they need appropriate support.
- Taking urgent but economically sensible action to address climate change in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change and other international resolutions.
- Supporting the proposal that a Marine National Park be established in Jersey's territorial waters extending down to approximately 20 meters. This area of seabed plays a key role in Jersey's marine biodiversity. A Marine National Park would offer protection to valuable marine habitats and enable the sustainable exploitation of fish resources for the benefit of Jersey's fishermen. It would also help carbon sequestration.



Health

We want the best healthcare system that Jersey can afford to sustain, and we want to ensure that cost is not a barrier to access. The pandemic has illustrated very clearly the vital role played by clinical and ancillary staff in our community. When our citizens need support with their health, they should be able to access a healthcare system that is professional, caring, affordable, timely, seamless, honest and transparent.

The JLC believes in openness and in incremental change in practice which has been properly researched, costed, and trialled, and subject to professional and public scrutiny. We would ensure more balance in the system, and a fairer distribution of resources through structural change, making sure that money is used wisely. We would put more power and responsibility in the hands of medical and nursing professionals, working with patients, and reduce layers of management in Health and Community Services, slimming bureaucracy to the essentials. We would give patients a meaningful voice and more control over their treatment. We accept that Jersey needs a new hospital but believe that Overdale is the wrong site and that the cost is too high. This will affect what the Island can afford to invest in staff and equipment and burden future generations with unreasonable debt. It is difficult to

anticipate the factual position in June 2022 – the JLC will support whatever is in the best interests of Jersey at that time.

We commit to

- Streamlining bureaucracy and ensuring that all providers and users of healthcare have a voice in the development of the system and the apportionment of resources;
- Putting health professionals and patients at the heart of that system;
- Reducing waiting lists by being better informed on the cost of services and shifting funds to areas of greatest need;
- Ensuring that all citizens can afford essential healthcare by restoring the Health Insurance Scheme;
- Working with the Department of Education to achieve targeted financial support for local students to study, in Jersey if possible, for the clinical professions;
- Promoting the health and wellbeing of Islanders by supporting Jersey Sport initiatives and encouraging people to exercise more in schools, the workplace, and during leisure time.

Education

Every child has a fundamental right to achieve his or her full potential through education and training. It is the principal means by which children can advance socially and economically and enjoy fulfilling lives. Education must be a high priority. It must be broad enough to enable children to find their individual path, but it must also be shaped by the need to earn a living in a constantly changing workplace.

Children must be taught to think and reason, to recognise that learning is a lifelong process and that re-skilling for new technologies and ways of working is essential. Fundamental to strong achievements is the emotional and mental health of each child. Sadly, the Island's health services are not meeting current needs. Education is key to our future society, our social mobility, and our ability to supply a strong and motivated workforce to support our income earning industries.

Much has been done in recent years through the University College of Jersey to provide relevant degree courses and skills, and training to support some of our key industries. With changes in our economy and Island's finances and with the pressures on population, more such courses are now needed.

We commit to

- Developing a strong, quality controlled, education system so that both teachers and pupils embrace societal changes such as digital learning and environmental, economic, social and cultural issues, with emphasis on life skills, such as creativity, bilingualism, literacy, numeracy, responsibility, resilience, integrity and compassion;
- Facilitating access for all to pre schools and holiday clubs for 3-5 year olds, so that both parents can choose to be economically active;
- Encouraging substantially more collaboration between schools, and all learning establishments, centred around needs of each child;
- The speedy delivery of early help, whether physical or emotional, for children and families. The right help at the right time is key to keeping children safe and to improving their life chances;
- Continued recognition of and financial support for the not for profit schools, and other establishments, which contribute to the education of the Island's young people;
- To a review of further education financial support for families to ensure targeting towards professions within the island currently dependent on external recruitment.

Community matters

We all have responsibility for ourselves, our family, and the community in which we live. Government should support that personal responsibility and work should be sufficiently rewarded to lift people out of poverty. A living wage is important for self-respect and for incentivising people to seek to improve their lives.

In recent decades Jersey has become a place in which people of many different races and nationalities have made their home, enriching our society. Respect for the different traditions of the disparate parts of our broader society is part of the glue which binds all Jersey people together. The JLC believes that all those who have made their homes in Jersey have a stake in the Island's future and need to feel valued as individuals with such a stake.

Jersey is also a place where an unusually high proportion of the population is involved in voluntary work of one form or another for charities or other parts of the third sector. This is all part of what makes Jersey such a special place to live.

We commit to

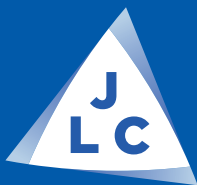
- Giving a Minister responsibility for social and community matters so as to create greater cohesion in our society, to remove the blight of poverty, and to support and nurture the third sector and minorities in Jersey;
- Raising the minimum wage to the level of the living wage.



Jersey Liberal Conservatives

Thank you for reading this Mini-Manifesto. We look forward to receiving any comments or feedback that you may have which will inform the drafting of the manifesto of the Jersey Liberal Conservatives to be put before voters for the elections in June 2022.

Please write to Info@jlc.je



www.jlc.je



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