

THE

'NEW DEAL'

FOR JERSEY



Reform Jersey
2022 MANIFESTO

About Reform Jersey

Reform Jersey is a social democratic political party, registered in the Royal Court under the Political Parties (Registration) (Jersey) Law 2008. We are also registered with the Information Commission and the Jersey Financial Services Commission.

Office holders:

Leader – Sam Mézec
Chairperson – Lyndsay Feltham
Secretary – Anne Southern
Treasurer – Mericia Andrade
Equalities Officer – James Videgrain

Manifesto

This document constitutes the Reform Jersey 2022 general election manifesto. If enough Reform Jersey candidates are elected to lead the next Government of Jersey, the Common Strategic Policy proposed in the States Assembly later this year will be based on the contents of this document.

We have produced supplementary documents to provide greater detail on our plan for government. These can be found on our website. This includes:

- Housing Crisis Action Plan
- Funding Our Priorities

Further election commitments may be found in the responses we will endeavour to provide to interest groups upon request. We will provide these responses on our website.

The contents of this manifesto have been developed by Reform Jersey's members in consultation with wider society and approved by Reform Jersey's election candidates.

Suite 14, Bourne House
Francis Street
St Helier
JE2 4QA

For more information, visit - www.reformjersey.je

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Foreword

After facing our greatest public health crisis in a century and our second major economic crisis in just over a decade, this election now presents the people of Jersey with an opportunity to determine how we can build a better future together for our Island.

Reform Jersey's manifesto proposes that we do not simply return to 'business as usual', but instead we advocate a **'New Deal'** for Jersey.

A 'New Deal' means using the same mobilisation of efforts we used to get through the pandemic to ensure our recovery is built on fairness and justice, whilst we resolve the other crises that threaten our future prosperity as a community.

Following the previous economic crisis of 2008, Jersey's government attempted to build a road to recovery based on austerity policies, which meant large scale cuts in spending on essential public services. This approach failed then and must not be repeated now.

Despite committing to "*reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living*", the current government has failed to take meaningful action to achieve this and, in some cases, has actively made things worse. They leave office having delivered a more unequal society than they began with.

The next government will have many challenges to overcome. The gap between the rich and poor has grown whilst poverty continues to rise, and wages have stagnated for a decade. Jersey faces a crippling housing crisis which is depriving many of hope of a decent life here. There is also so much more which needs to be done to truly 'Put Children First', respond to the climate crisis and fix our healthcare system.

Unlike other candidates and parties, Reform Jersey recognises that we will not resolve these issues with platitudes. We need a clear programme for change.

If Reform Jersey leads the next government, we will propose a Common Strategic Policy based on these three priorities:

- **Create a More Equal Society**
- **Prepare Jersey for the Challenges of the Future**, and
- **Restore Government Accountability and Democracy.**

With this manifesto, we are being clear with the public of Jersey on where we stand and what our members will seek to do if elected. **This is our contract with the public.**

A better Jersey is possible. We must not squander this opportunity to bring about a future for our Island which we can have confidence will deliver us all better lives. We need a 'New Deal' for Jersey. Together we can achieve this.

Our Values

Reform Jersey is a social democratic party which stands for social and economic justice.

We believe that it is through our shared endeavour that we can create an environment in which everyone can achieve their potential, irrespective of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or social background.

We believe in speaking up for the vulnerable and encouraging those with aspiration. We wish to see Jersey prosper in a manner that will improve the wellbeing of all current and future citizens.

We believe that Jersey's strengths can be harnessed by a progressive government to deliver a society where we can all thrive.

Our Record

Over the last four years, Reform Jersey's five elected States Members have worked hard to deliver on the pledges made in our previous manifesto. We have served in Government and Scrutiny, and have been responsible for bringing key propositions to the Assembly aimed at improving life for Islanders.

Our successes in this term of office have included:

- Reducing the cost of seeing a GP for low-income Islanders, including pensioners and children
- Freezing social housing rents and lowering the rent caps to a more affordable level
- Introducing a low-cost student bus pass and 'through fares'
- Reforming our voting system to make it more equitable
- Securing funding for a new youth and community centre in town
- Introducing a compensation scheme for people suffering from Mesothelioma as a result of contact with asbestos
- Increasing funding to protect our culture and heritage

We have attempted to achieve more of our election commitments but have often been opposed by a majority of States Members. With more Reform Jersey members in the Assembly, we could achieve so much more.

Key Pledges

On top of the broader policies contained within this manifesto, we are committing to nine specific pledges which Reform Jersey members will propose during this term of office. Each pledge is **tangible, deliverable** and **affordable**. Each will correspond with a States proposition or Ministerial Order if our members are elected to government.

Living Wage	We will raise the Minimum Wage to the 'Living Wage', starting by raising it to £10 per hour from 1 st October 2022.
Housing Crisis	We will declare a housing crisis in the first week of office and require officers to implement our 'Housing Crisis Action Plan' as a matter of urgency.
Affordable Healthcare	We will expand the 'Health Access Scheme' so Islanders with long-term illnesses can access cheaper GP appointments. We will work towards abolishing the fee entirely for all Islanders.
GST on food and essential items	We will remove GST from food and essential items by 2023. This will be done on the same basis as the VAT exemptions in the UK.
School meals	We will ensure that all States primary schools provide a hot and nutritious meal daily for all their students by September 2023.
Fair taxes	We will reform our tax system to ensure taxes are progressive and fair. This will include raising the top rate for the highest earners, reducing it for middle earners, and protecting the lowest earners.
Improved public transport	We will renegotiate the contract for Jersey's bus service to provide more accessible, affordable and environmentally friendly public transport, alongside active travel options.
Energy efficient homes	We will establish a programme to support households to transition to low-carbon heating systems.
Government accountability	We will establish a Public Services Ombudsman to enable Islanders to seek real redress when failed by a government service.



Create a More Equal Society

Equality is the core principle which inspires Reform Jersey's politics. If Reform Jersey is elected to the next government, we will ensure that it is at the top of the policy agenda for the next four years.

Under successive governments, Jersey has become a more unequal society. Whilst the number of millionaires has multiplied, the number of Islanders living in relative poverty has increased. Foodbank usage has gone up. Real terms earnings have been frozen for a decade. Many Islanders are considering leaving Jersey because the cost of living has left them without hope that they will ever see their standard of living improve.

If no meaningful action is taken to reverse these trends, Jersey risks facing terminal decline.

The current States Assembly has rejected multiple propositions brought by Reform Jersey during the last term of office to reduce income inequality. The data provided in the Income Distribution Analysis objectively demonstrates that Jersey has gone backwards under the current government leadership.

The next government must commit to delivering a more equal society and be prepared to implement policies which will achieve this. These policies must see those on the lowest incomes brought out of relative poverty so they may enjoy the dignity of a decent standard of living and increase their participation in our economy. These must support those middle earners who have felt squeezed over this last decade. These policies can be balanced by asking those with very high incomes to contribute their fair share.

As well as reducing income inequality, the government must also tackle social inequality. Irrespective of their background, everyone in Jersey should have the ability to reach their potential and thrive. The government must lead the way in creating an environment where that is possible. We will work to ensure that all Islanders have access to adequate housing, food, education, healthcare and transport as a right.

Low Pay and Insecure Work

Jersey's Minimum Wage is a poverty wage. A full-time worker on the Minimum Wage is not able to afford the essentials without having to claim benefits to make ends meet. Our lowest paid workers are worse off than their UK counterparts, due to our Minimum Wage having fallen behind theirs, and to make matters worse, our cost of living remains higher too.

Reform Jersey will end poverty pay by bringing the Minimum Wage up to the 'Living Wage'. We will start by increasing the Minimum Wage to £10 an hour on 1st October and commit to matching it to the Living Wage soon after. We **pledge** to lodge the proposition to achieve this on the day that our successful candidates are sworn into office after the election. This will therefore be the first proposition that the new States Assembly will debate.

Whilst Reform Jersey States Members have secured some progress in the limitation of exploitative zero-hours contracts (such as the outlawing of 'exclusivity clauses') more must be done to prevent workers who face insecurity in work. We will introduce further restrictions on the exploitative use of zero-hours contracts and curb 'gig economy' practices to reduce insecurity at work.

Addressing the Housing Crisis

Reform Jersey will provide better protection and support for renters and aspiring homeowners alike and seek to end the growing issue of homelessness in our society.

Jersey faces a serious housing crisis which threatens our future prosperity. The cost of housing is the biggest contributing factor for pushing people into relative poverty. Many business leaders have provided testimonies on the effect the crisis is having on their ability to recruit and retain talented staff. Many young Jersey people have bravely spoken out about their intentions to leave because they have lost hope of ever being able to own their home. Jersey's homelessness charities have revealed that an increasing number of their clients are in full-time work but cannot afford a home. This cannot go on and must be resolved as a matter of urgency.

Other political parties have stated their intention to solve the crisis by merely building more homes. But the cause of the crisis is more complex than simply the number of homes in Jersey. The government must adopt a much bolder approach and be prepared to challenge vested interests.

We have published a comprehensive '[Housing Crisis Action Plan](#)' which will be presented to senior civil servants immediately after the new government is appointed. We **pledge** that we will officially declare a housing crisis in the first week of office and begin implementing our action plan.

Our plan will see European-style regulations brought in to provide greater control on the affordability of rental homes in the private sector. We will introduce a Rent Tribunal and

legislate to provide for open-ended tenancies, so tenants can have long-term security in their homes, knowing they cannot be forced out without good reason. We will also introduce a social housing rents system based on affordability, rather than a percentage of the market value. We will establish a landlord licensing scheme (covering all sectors) to ensure that homes must meet minimum standards on health and safety before being rented out.

We will assist Islanders in achieving their aspirations to own their homes by increasing the supply of affordable homes exclusively for first time buyers. We will do this by increasing the proportion of homes which are reserved for first time buyers on private developments and by ensuring that all the homes built on publicly owned land must be for affordable or sheltered housing instead of buy-to-let. This will include reviewing the current proposals for South Hill and the Waterfront. We will also investigate measures to reduce foreign ownership of residential properties in Jersey.

We will legislate to require landlords who choose to sell their properties to offer them to the sitting tenant in the first instance. For those tenants who wish to buy their home but cannot secure a mortgage for the full value of the property, we will set up a fund to allow them to secure it through shared equity with Andium Homes. This fund can be topped up through the proceeds of an Empty Homes Tax and higher rates of Stamp Duty for investment properties.

We will implement the recommendations of the Homelessness Strategy and provide support to those who face a crisis which leads them to losing their home.

Healthcare and Wellbeing

Reform Jersey is committed to the principle of a health service which provides timely and high-quality care, and is free at the point of need for all.

Sadly, parts of the health service are currently failing to meet the standards we expect in a wealthy society. Many of the facilities are dated and costing millions to maintain. Staff morale is low, and the service is struggling with retention of healthcare professionals. Waiting lists are too long, leading to many people feeling that paying for private healthcare is their only option, whilst those who cannot afford to do so have to suffer for months or years.

The 'Jersey Care Model' rightly focuses on providing care at home where people feel most comfortable and reducing dependence on the hospital services when a hospital stay could be avoided. However, there are great concerns on how this will be delivered. We are already seeing worrying signs that user-pays fees for certain services may increase, and that greater pressure will be put on charities without adequate support provided to them. Reform Jersey will staunchly oppose any attempt to increase user-pays fees. Where services are provided by charities or third parties on behalf of the government, we will work closely with them to ensure they are well co-ordinated and properly funded. We will ensure that hospital services are available to those who need

them, including in-patient care where clinically appropriate and that services are adequately funded and resourced to avoid pressure on clinicians to discharge patients prematurely because of capacity constraints.

Reform Jersey believes that access to primary healthcare must be made cheaper for the patient, to proactively support the health needs and wellbeing of Islanders. When people seek health advice or treatment in the earlier stages of an illness, it improves their chances of recovery and ultimately costs the service less. We **pledge** to expand the 'Health Access Scheme' to deliver cheaper access to GP appointments for those with long-term health conditions. We will also bring forward plans to abolish the fee entirely for all Islanders in this term of office.

We must make our health service an attractive workplace for dedicated and qualified staff. This must include being more realistic about the pay and conditions of healthcare staff if we want to retain them and improve morale. We will seek the implementation of an 'Ethical Care Charter' to ensure care workers have appropriate working conditions which enable them to carry out their roles safely, without the unacceptable levels of pressure that some face because of their workload.

Jersey cannot afford to waste more time and money on the new hospital project. Reform Jersey has consistently argued for a town site for the hospital and had advocated using the Waterfront and Esplanade areas, before they were earmarked for offices instead. We do not regard the Overdale site as being ideal. But rather than committing to spend tens of millions of pounds on consultants to restart the new hospital project for the third time (as some are proposing), we will instead focus on delivering healthcare services, getting waiting lists down and supporting our healthcare professionals. We believe that with restraint and proper political oversight, the capital expenditure for the new hospital can be managed more efficiently.

Our mental health services are also under severe pressure and waiting lists for mental health support services such as Jersey Talking Therapies must be reduced. In-patient and outpatient adult mental health facilities are outdated and not fit for purpose. The Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel recently produced a report on Jersey's mental health services which provides an excellent set of recommendations to deliver some of the changes which are desperately needed. We will take those recommendations forward and ensure that they are included in the next Government Plan as an urgent priority.

Lastly, we will seek to establish a progressive 'Substance Use Strategy' focused on the principle of harm reduction and ensuring the provision of information and education on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and appropriate health care for those with substance use problems. We will support the decriminalisation of cannabis as part of a wider harm reduction strategy, as there is a growing body of evidence that criminalisation is counterproductive and more costly in the long run.

Tax and Social Security

Reform Jersey is committed to progressive taxation to fund our public services and create a fairer society.

Nowhere in Jersey are the structures which enshrine inequality clearer than in our tax system. For many of Jersey's taxes, the wealthier people pay a lower rate on their income than middle and low income earners. This is unfair and restricts our ability to invest in the services which we all rely on, whether we are rich or poor.

We **pledge** to reform our Income Tax system by removing the '20 means 20' calculation and allowing all taxpayers to claim tax allowances. This will enable us to reduce the marginal rate from 26% to 25%, providing a tax cut for middle earners, whilst asking the highest earners to contribute more. The majority of taxpayers will be better off under these proposals. We will also abolish the caps on Social Security Contributions and the Long Term Care Tax which currently allow those earning above £250,000 a year to pay a lower effective rate than everyone else. This will provide extra revenue which we will direct into our health service.

Companies incorporated in Jersey should also pay their fair share. The international moves to apply a minimum Corporation Tax rate of 15% provide an excellent opportunity for Jersey to seek a greater contribution from companies based here, without the risk that they will relocate to other low-tax jurisdictions. This will enable us to further invest in public services and reduce our reliance on debt. We understand the importance of the finance industry to our local economy and will not seek to make the Island uncompetitive.

The idea that attracting wealthy people to the Island will encourage a valuable revenue stream is outdated and contributes to other issues such as housing and population. There has been no evidence supplied by government to suggest that the ongoing continuation of this scheme benefits our community. We will suspend the High Value Resident scheme, until a full and comprehensive cost/ benefit review has been undertaken. At the very least, their minimum tax contribution should be raised significantly.

We **pledge** to remove GST from food and essential items. Reform Jersey has always held the view that GST is a regressive tax which hurts those on the lowest incomes the most. Whilst the cost of living has been rising and the use of foodbanks has increased, there can be no moral case for retaining this tax on food.

Lastly, we will instigate a full review of the Income Support system. We have grave concerns about the way support is provided to those on the lowest incomes, including how frequent bureaucratic mistakes are leading to people being pushed into poverty. We will also reintroduce in-person appointments at the Customer and Local Services Department and introduce a 'crisis desk' where Islanders can turn for help and advice.

Putting Children First

Jersey still has much to do to fulfil its commitments following the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry. Progress appears to have stalled and shocking stories are frequently being told in the media about cases where children are not having their rights upheld by the government.

Residential care for young offenders is inadequate, and in government we will put a replacement facility as an urgent priority within our first Government Plan. The current Greenfields site should be established as a centre for children and families, providing specialist therapeutic support, short break services and emergency beds. We will seek to work with the States of Jersey Police, Children's Services, the Youth Service and the Children's Commissioner to prevent young people encountering law enforcement, when other services would be much more appropriate.

We will seek to directly incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Jersey law, so that every government department or public institution is obliged to uphold children's rights at all times.

The recent extension of free nursery hours for 3- to 4-year-olds from 20 to 30 per week has been a success. The Early Years Policy Development Board recommended that the government establish a long-term plan to move to a universal education offer for 2- to 3-year-olds as well. Reform Jersey accepts this recommendation and will work with nursery care providers and charities to develop this plan.

Jersey's Youth Service provides an amazing provision for children and young people across the Island. However, the service is not enshrined in law. Previous reviews have recommended making the Youth Service a statutory provision, which would include protecting its funding. Reform Jersey supports this.

Lastly, in order to address the worrying levels of food poverty among children, we **pledge** to expand the school meals programme into every States primary school by September 2023.

Supporting Jersey's Pensioners

Statistics recently published demonstrated that over a third of Jersey's pensioners are living in relative poverty. This is double the rate in the UK. Reform Jersey believes this is unacceptable and must be addressed. The rising cost of living will only exacerbate this for many households which are reliant on the States pension as their only source of income.

Previous governments have rolled back support for pensioners by abolishing the pensioners' enhanced tax allowance and scaling back the pensioners' Christmas Bonus. Reform Jersey strongly opposed these changes at the time.

Our policies on rent regulation and GST on food will alleviate some of these cost measures for pensioners on the lowest incomes. An actuarial review on the Social

Security Fund is due to be published next year. We will oppose any attempt to undermine the value of the States pension arising from this.

Diversity and Inclusion

The public discourse on issues of equality, diversity and anti-discrimination has improved significantly in recent years, but our politics has not caught up with it. Many of our laws remain out of date and the government is not as sensitive as it should be on issues which disproportionately affect minority groups.

Reform Jersey will always stand with Islanders from minority groups against any form of discrimination and prejudice they may face. We will never stand silent on these issues out of political convenience, and in government we will seek to put our principles of solidarity into practice. An "Equalities" portfolio should be clearly allocated to a Minister to lead on this.

The next government must iron out the remaining clauses in our legislation which discriminate against LGBTQ+ people.

Reform Jersey will investigate establishing an Equality and Human Rights Commission. This body will be empowered to challenge discriminatory laws and practices, to ensure that we are fulfilling our human rights obligations.

Workers' Rights

Anyone who goes to work must be treated with dignity and respect by their employers. This must include good terms and conditions at work, as well as the right to access representation from a trade union. Many of Jersey's employment law provisions provide a lower standard of protection than workers receive in other jurisdictions.

We will extend the limitation times and maximum payment thresholds for claims at the Employment Tribunal. We will reduce the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims so workers gain these rights earlier. We will legislate to introduce an equivalent of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations, which protect the terms and conditions of workers when their employer is taken over by another business.

Trade unions provide representation for their members in negotiations on pay and conditions, as well as support during collective and individual disputes. There should be protections in law to enable trade unions to operate and organise in any workplace, to advance the interests of the workers.

Reform Jersey Ministers will regularly meet face-to-face with the union representatives of the workers in their departments to better understand the challenges staff face and to work collaboratively to improve services.

Celebrating Arts, Culture and Heritage

Jersey has always had a unique and strong sense of its own cultural identity, shaped over centuries by its geography, people and traditions. We are a multicultural community and

our cultural identity is influenced by the many cultures who have made Jersey their home.

Reform Jersey places high value on the arts, culture and heritage, in all their forms. In 2019, we succeeded in putting an end to a decade of funding cuts to this sector by securing permanent and sustainable funding of the arts and culture sector, fixing spending at a guaranteed 1% of overall government revenue expenditure. We are already starting to see the fruits of this investment with a reinvigorated cultural and creative sector. We will ensure that there is a suitable negotiation process in place so that organisations in receipt of regular funding from government are able to present their funding requirements, and that good governance is in place around any government funding. We will also include all arts and cultural organisations, as well as practitioners, in the development of the cultural strategy.

Sadly, during the pandemic, many of our arts and cultural events could not take place and facilities were closed. The Jersey Opera House still remains closed and not enough is being done by the government to enable the doors to open. The government has not put adequate plans in place for the ongoing maintenance of arts and cultural facilities. Reform Jersey will work with the arts and cultural organisations to ensure that there is a suitable maintenance plan in place for these important community facilities so that we do not see a repeat of the current issue. We will investigate the feasibility of establishing an arts and culture hub in Gloucester Street when plans are developed for the current hospital site.

Events are a great way to bring our Island's culture and heritage to life. The Corn Riots Festival, a special bank holiday celebration of music, culture and the community is an example of how the celebration of our heritage can bring people together.

One of the things that makes Jersey unique is that we have our own native language. We should all be proud of this. In the past term of office, we secured additional resources for Jèrriais and the new team of teachers not only keep the language alive in schools, but they have done so much in terms of community outreach, to promote Jèrriais culture in all its forms.

We also recognise the contribution that other minority communities have made and continue to make to island life. As a party, we work closely with many groups to make sure that all cultures are represented, and we celebrate the vibrancy and diversity they also bring to the Island's identity.

Sports and Fitness

Ensuring that access to sports facilities is fully inclusive and accessible to all is paramount in order to support the population in leading longer and healthier lives and increasing representation of all parts of the community in Island sports.

Islanders are proud of our sporting achievements, and we recognise that sporting clubs and associations play a vital role in developing our sportspeople, and keeping Islanders fit and well. We will work with all clubs and associations to ensure that the Island has a sports strategy that supports both with the provision of facilities and funding to provide accessible community programmes.



Prepare Jersey for the Challenges of the Future

Jersey is facing many challenges which threaten our future prosperity and wellbeing as a community. How we respond to technological advances, climate change and international politics will determine what kind of Island society future generations will be able to enjoy.

Our future prosperity is not inevitable. It can only be secured by governments taking the necessary decisions to secure it.

Reform Jersey wants to ensure that the next government takes the necessary action to get Jersey prepared to meet these future challenges. The response to the pandemic has shown what is possible. Jersey can be nimble and react quickly when it is essential. We should use this same mobilisation of efforts to resolve the other challenges we are facing.

Whilst these challenges may seem daunting, they also present huge opportunities to strengthen our economy and improve our quality of life. With greater training and educational opportunities for Islanders, we will improve productivity in our economy and reduce the need for inward migration. By embracing technological advances, we can streamline many services and deliver greater accessibility and value for money. By achieving our commitments on reaching net-zero carbon emissions, we will reduce pollution, enhance our environment and reduce energy and transport bills.

But none of these things will be achieved by accident. The next government must not be complacent about these challenges. It must be determined to deliver on this vision and make the most of the talent and expertise we have in Jersey.

We owe it to Jersey's young people especially, that we act today to ensure they can look forward to a future in a prosperous and sustainable Island, where they have all the opportunities they need to thrive and live happy lives.

A New Deal for Education in Jersey

Education is the greatest investment a government can make in its people. Reform Jersey wishes to see an education system which enables every Islander to reach their full potential and provides opportunities for everyone to gain the skills they need to thrive in the modern economy.

Any investment, if effectively directed, will pay dividends in the long-term development of a highly skilled community. Only then do we have the chance to stabilise the population and provide for the long term needs of Jersey.

In preceding years there has been review after review into the way forward for our education system. It is time to stop reviewing and start acting to build the best lifelong education system possible for Jersey. The School Funding Review has identified ways to provide schools with greater resourcing and to address the inequalities there are in pupil funding, including access to mental health and wellbeing support. There is also an ongoing school sites review, which aims to identify the best way to provide better school facilities for children in town. Reform Jersey has secured a commitment to reserve the end of the gas works site for a new school, with the rest of the site used to extend the Millennium Park. This would also enable the current Springfield School site to be turned into a small park.

Reform Jersey remains committed to ensuring that a young person's background does not affect their ability to go to university on the grounds of cost. We will ensure that access to Student Finance is protected and enhanced. We must also develop a Further Education campus to provide modern facilities for post-16 students that has clear links with our local economy.

Education systems exist beyond the UK. We must take the best practice from around the world and what is best in Jersey now to build a model that best suits Jersey and its needs. We must address the false separation between academic and vocational education that does not fit modern economies. We will seek to widen the scope of qualifications offered to embrace the need for vocational training for the Island's needs and the changing needs of a digital world.

As more people wish to retrain as they get older so can they advance their career, we must ensure that appropriate life-long learning opportunities are available. We must consult with businesses to identify the areas where skills shortages are developing, which we can then target with training.

We will increase collaboration across schools and sectors to use the skilled resources of the teaching profession we have on Island and act to train, retain and attract the best teachers for our children. We must focus staff training directly into classrooms rather than into the layers of management.

The Green New Deal

Climate change represents an existential crisis which will have a huge effect on small Island societies like ours. Whilst Jersey may have only a small impact on global carbon emissions, the measures we can take locally to play our part could have a big impact in improving our quality of life by enhancing our environment, reducing bills and creating new jobs.

Since the States of Jersey declared a climate emergency in May 2019, there have been successive delays, long-awaited reports and dilutions of the proposed response. Meanwhile the combined crises due to climate change and loss of biodiversity have been getting worse, both worldwide and locally. If elected to government, Reform Jersey will end the delays and put into action a coherent response.

Reform Jersey is committed to the principle of a '*just transition*', where we do not fund the net-zero carbon agenda through measures which will cause economic hardship for those who already struggle with the cost of living.

A major source of Jersey's carbon emissions and pollution comes from motor traffic powered by fossil fuels. We will provide positive incentives for Islanders to use alternative methods of traveling which are convenient and affordable. This will include improving our cycling infrastructure, safer walking pathways and an improved bus service. The contract with Liberty Bus will be up for renewal in this term of office. We **pledge** to renegotiate this contract to build on the work we have done to reduce bus fares across the board and introduce electric buses to the network.

The next biggest contributor to our carbon emissions is the heating of buildings which are inadequately insulated. We will work closely with Jersey Electricity to speed up the transition towards electric heating of homes (including using renewable systems) and the phasing out of gas. The government will need to work closely with Jersey Gas to plan carefully for the withdrawal of gas for use in domestic heating. Building standards must include the requirement for new buildings to be adequately insulated in order to reduce energy use. We **pledge** to introduce a subsidy to support households transitioning to low carbon heating systems. This will be funded through the Climate Emergency Fund and will provide for a more generous subsidy to low-income households.

The government should lead the way and insist that the developments built by the companies we own meet the highest standards on insulation and thermal efficiency. Ensuring that all new-builds and conversions meet the highest standards of energy efficiency via Building Regulations future proofs our housing stock.

We must enable local farming to move to ecologically regenerative practices, including composting, reduced waste and improving soil life, structure and composition. We will support ending the use of harmful, polluting chemicals in the countryside. We will increase the amount of land for native species to flourish and for people to form a better

personal relationship with our wild native fauna and flora which is vital for Jersey's biodiversity.

On top of this, Jersey is able to make a very significant difference due to our finance industry. Hundreds of billions of pounds worth of investment flow through Jersey into global markets. None of this should still be funding fossil fuels and environmental degradation. In government we will set the example by putting plans in place to divest from such investments as soon as possible.

As the economic environment changes to a more environmentally aware one, some businesses will need to change the way they operate. We will do all that we can to help existing businesses reassess their methods and priorities, and to encourage and help start-ups that have promise. Reform Jersey will support the move to a more environmentally sustainable economy. We will do all that we can to make sure that the necessary training is available and to help individuals develop their skills to support more environmentally aware practices in their workplaces, or even transition from one career to a new one.

Reform Jersey will offer an affordable, just, and manageable transition to an economy that works for all in the long term. The creation of a cleaner, greener and less expensive environment for Jersey residents is the key to this just transition.

An Economy That Works For All

Jersey's economy is the source of our financial prosperity and should serve to make life better for all Islanders. Yet over the last decade we have become a more unequal Island with growing poverty. Productivity has fallen and much of the economic growth we have had has been driven by unsustainable population growth.

Reform Jersey believes that the next government must shape our economy to be ready to take advantage of the changes which are on the horizon and ensure that the benefit of it is felt by everyone. With technological advances and a growing international desire to combat climate change, Jersey could find itself well placed to position itself as a world leader in digital services and 'green finance'.

To stay at the forefront of the development of the digital economy, we must constantly keep our local legislation under review and be ready to update our regulatory frameworks to accommodate new technology.

The States recently agreed to set up a Technology Innovation Fund to support new businesses in this area. We must not waste this opportunity or enable the money to be used as a slush fund for vanity projects. We will ensure that governance arrangements are put in place to ensure that this funding goes towards initiatives which will support other areas of our economy (such as agriculture and hospitality) and our overarching priority of sustainable economic growth. We will also ensure that there is a transparent application process for entities receiving funds, and that any funding allocation is done

on the basis that there is a clear business case which outlines what the return on our investment will be.

We can further support the digital economy by committing to more local procurement for digital services and resolving our long running digital government programme, which has seen its budget grow but provided very little tangible progress.

As countries around the world are waking up to the threat of climate change and more governments are requiring tougher action on this, there is now an exciting opportunity to direct our finance industry towards 'Green Finance'.

Jersey Finance produced an excellent report "*Jersey for Good – a Sustainable Future*" which proposes rewiring the industry towards more sustainable goals, including reducing inequality and combating climate change. Reform Jersey commits to working with Jersey Finance and other industry bodies to ensure government support and the provision of appropriate legal frameworks to support this agenda.

We can start by applying much of this to our government, by increasing the requirements for environmental and sustainability assessments on our own investments, including the Strategic Reserve.

Where the government provides direct support to businesses, it should align with our commitments to support our aims on sustainability, training and pay and conditions.

Population Policy

Reform Jersey believes that Jersey needs a population policy based on **sustainability**, **opportunity** and **inclusivity**, which enables us to protect our environment, economy and quality of life.

Successive governments have implemented a growth policy which has seen our population increase at unsustainable levels, without providing the investment in infrastructure to mitigate the effect this policy has on our environment and quality of life.

The current government has provided no solutions for an alternative policy but has instead suggested we may need to consider raising the pension age and increasing Social Security Contributions on working people. Neither of these proposals are acceptable to Reform Jersey.

Reform Jersey commits to abandoning the 'growth' policy and instead establishing a 'stable' population policy through the adoption of a work permit system. This permit will be attached to the worker, rather than the employer. This will ensure the worker is protected from exploitation whilst here and allows them to be flexible in finding the most appropriate place in our economy. This will also enable us to end the two-tier rental market, which currently restricts part of our population to a limited supply of homes which are often expensive and unsuitable.

Our ability to deliver on this policy without harming our economy or access to the skills we need for our public services will be tied into our policies to address the cost of living and invest in education and training.

Jersey's Place in the World

Even though we are a small Island, Reform Jersey believes that we have a positive role to play in the world. Our financial services industry can facilitate initiatives designed to combat climate change and eliminate poverty. Our sanctions regime has led to the immediate freezing of Russian assets in response to the war in Ukraine. Our Overseas Aid Commission is changing lives in many places affected by natural disasters and war. All of these are things which we should be proud of.

Jersey's close constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom has been fundamental to our prosperity, as well as our security. We will not support any moves towards independence from the United Kingdom. But we will defend Jersey's interests at all levels, including where our interests may not align with the United Kingdom.

We will seek to develop stronger relationships with our neighbours, both in the Channel Islands and France, where there are opportunities for mutual benefit. In particular, by working more closely with Guernsey, we could have a louder voice in negotiations on matters which affect us both (such as the continued fallout of Brexit) and potentially achieve better value for money for some services by delivering economies of scale. We will also seek to work with the regional governments in Brittany and Normandy to promote greater economic and cultural engagement.

Lastly, although Jersey's foreign policy is aligned with the UK, we will not take part in any positive publicity for representatives of regimes with unacceptable human rights records.



Restore Government Accountability and Democracy

A fundamental part of the 'New Deal' approach which Reform Jersey advocates is to put more power in the hands of ordinary citizens to determine how their community is run. We believe that a more democratic and accountable government system is more likely to lead to improved standards and better-quality decisions being made.

Those who take power in government should use it to empower the communities they represent.

Jersey's democratic system is broken. Voter engagement rates are among the lowest in the OECD. Our election turnouts are very low and opinion polling regularly shows that the public hold their politicians in low regard. This is unsurprising when Islanders routinely witness their government involved in embarrassing scandals and wasting large amounts of public money.

But without public participation, governments are likely to become more out of touch and unresponsive to what people want. The disengagement and lack of trust in our democratic institutions is ultimately what leads to bad governments.

Reform Jersey was formed to change the way government works. We believe that a more equitable voting system and party politics will bring transparency and accountability to the ballot box and empower voters to be able to choose what kind of government they want. The establishment of other political parties in advance of this election is a vindication of our long-held position.

There are many improvements which still need to be made to our electoral system and government structure, to ensure that the people of Jersey can have faith that their government is working effectively and efficiently towards a vision they have confidence in.

Reform of the Structure of Government

The reforms which were made as part of the 'One Gov' agenda of the previous government CEO were meant to deliver more efficiencies, get departments working more collaboratively and improve accountability. But they appear to have achieved the opposite. The next government will sadly have to reverse much of this damage.

Ministerial portfolios should be aligned to government departments and there should be a line of accountability leading from each civil servant to a Minister. Reform Jersey Ministers will agree performance targets for each Director General, and these targets will be published and performance reviewed quarterly. Our Ministers will also speak for themselves and not rely on spokespeople to provide public comment.

To improve effective collaboration between ministerial portfolios, we will establish a Cabinet Office, which will bring together the Ministerial Support Unit with the Strategic Policy and Planning Unit, so the entire Council of Ministers can work more effectively together to deliver on their policies in the most efficient way. The creation of the Cabinet Office will not require any additional civil service posts.

To improve accountability in government, we **pledge** to support the establishment of a Public Services Ombudsman. The current government had committed to setting one up in the previous term of office but has failed to do so. We will ensure that adequate funding is provided in the Government Plan to ensure that this body can be up and running as soon as practical.

Government Spending and Procurement

Governments should spend within their means and ensure good value for money. Yet many Islanders feel that the government wastes large amounts of public money on consultants and projects which never seem to reach their conclusion. Much of this arises from Ministers being reluctant to take decisions and stand by them.

We want to see improvements to the government's procurement policies to ensure greater transparency and value for money. This will include publishing the intention to engage consultants. Where there is a need for recurring advisory services, these may be better provided in-house. In government, we will undertake a full review of all current contracts with external consultants and determine if the consultancy is essential and providing good value for money. Where required, we will instruct People and Corporate Services to train existing staff so that reliance on external consultants is further reduced.

We want to ensure that government financial planning and reporting is more transparent. Future Government Plans should not be based on broad Heads of Expenditure, which can be used to cover up wasteful expenditure and poor financial management within departments. To prevent this, we will instruct Directors General to provide a full breakdown of all departmental expenditure.

An Efficient and Effective Public Sector

The States of Jersey is the Island's biggest employer. It is essential that the public have trust in the people that provide government services, and that government services are provided efficiently. Staff morale within the public sector is low in a large number of areas, and this has a negative effect on service delivery in addition to costing the taxpayer more if trained and experience staff are not retained.

The Target Operating Model put in place by the former CEO has put a lot of strain on key areas within the public sector, and has not proved to deliver the outcomes that we were promised. If elected to government, Reform Jersey will require each Director General to demonstrate that their departmental structure is the most appropriate, and that essential and frontline services are the top priority when it comes to staffing levels.

We will also review the current role and function of the States Employment Board and related administration, with a view to establishing an independent Public Sector Commission to issue expected public sector standards and related policies, and to be the first referral point for breaches. Establishing an independent entity will address any conflicts of interest that appear to exist within the current structure. No increase of staffing will be required as posts will be moved within the current People and Corporate Services Department.

Electoral Reform

Reform Jersey believes that every voter should have an equal vote no matter what part of the Island they live in, and that our system should be simple and user-friendly.

We will make our voting system simpler and fairer by establishing a States Assembly made up of one category of elected member, elected in equal-sized constituencies. We will work across the Assembly to bring forward a proposition to achieve this, whilst addressing the concerns that some may have with the Constables no longer automatically being States Members. An independent Boundaries Commission will ensure that the distribution of members is equitable.

We will improve access to voting by expanding access to polling stations across the Island, making voter registration automatic and introducing the ability to vote online. We will pick up the work which began during this term of office to introduce political education in schools, but which was disrupted due to the pandemic.

Elected members should always make themselves accessible to their constituents. We will support provisions being put in place to enable Deputies to set up constituency offices to support casework and engagement in the communities they represent.

Separation of Powers

It is essential in a healthy democracy that the different branches of government have a degree of separation between them, so they can hold each other to account and ensure no branch exceeds its powers. The dual roles of the Bailiff (as head of the Royal Court

and States Assembly) and the Attorney General (as chief prosecutor and the government's legal advisor) are incompatible with this principle and must be changed.

Reform Jersey will establish an elected Speaker to preside over the States Assembly, leaving the Bailiff to focus on their duties as head of the court and Jersey's civic head. We will also establish an independent prosecutor, not connected to a political role in government.

The Parishes

Jersey's Parish system is an important part of our culture and heritage. We believe that the Constables should no longer automatically serve in the States Assembly. This will provide an opportunity to enhance the role the Parishes play in providing local services and support in their communities.

We will enhance democracy in the Parishes by introducing the ability for Parishes to hold mini-referendums on important business which is not appropriate to be dealt with purely at a meeting on one evening when many residents are not able to attend. We will also align the elections of Parish roles across the Island, to promote greater participation and awareness of Parish affairs.

Lastly, we will establish an elected Municipal Council in St Helier with bye-law making powers. This body will replace the 200-year-old structure currently operating in the Town Hall which is no longer fit for purpose. An elected council will be better placed to lead on the provision of local services to town residents and businesses, promote economic activity and host cultural events. The role of Councillors will be unpaid and directly elected by Parishioners.



Our Candidates

Every Reform Jersey candidate is committed to delivering on our election manifesto and playing a full role in the States Assembly. Our party went through a robust process to select our candidates to ensure that each of them has the skills necessary to become effective States Members.

This is the most diverse slate of candidates that we have ever had. We have a broad range of ages represented. Some of our candidates have had successful careers in the public service, whilst others have run private businesses. Two of our candidates have served in the Armed Forces. Several are part of Jersey's minority communities. All of them share a passion for social and economic justice.

We are proud to endorse this team.

St Clement

Ken Addison

St Saviour

Raluca Kovacs

St Mary, St Ouen and St Peter

Helen Evans

St Brelade

Nigel Jones
Monty Tadier

St Helier North

Trevor Pointon

St Helier South

Tom Coles
Sam Mézec
Beatriz Porée

St Helier Central

Carina Alves
Catherine Curtis
Lyndsay Feltham
Geoff Southern
Rob Ward