

DemocracyManifest

A template of software, guidelines and structure of a direct democratic party in a representative democracy society

What is DemocracyManifest?

- x **DemocracyManifest** is a comprehensive template combining software, guidelines, and structure to establish a direct democratic party within a representative democracy.
- x Hosted on **GitHub** (github.com/kansaandre/DemocracyManifest), it is a transparent, open-source platform driven by the people.
- x It provides an out-of-the-box solution, including software, rules, and organizational frameworks, enabling anyone to create and run a direct democratic party where the party program is fully decided by the people. Direct democratic party can be implemented at all levels, governance—municipal, regional, national, and multilateral.
- x DemocracyManifest bridges the gap between representative systems and true public-driven governance.

Why? (1/2)

- x **Representative democracies are inherently vulnerable** because a huge amount of power is concentrated in the hands of a few—typically around 500 representatives. As humans, they are easily influenced by power, money, and career prospects.
- x **Influence from interest organizations** is not only common but deeply embedded in representative systems. Campaign contributions, lobbying, and behind-the-scenes deals shape regulations and laws, often prioritizing special interests over public welfare.
- x **Direct democracy transforms this dynamic** by spreading power from the few to the many, drastically reducing power density. With decisions made collectively, it becomes far harder for any single entity to exert undue influence, ensuring a fairer and more transparent system.

Why? (2/2)

Democratic politics have strayed from their purpose: empowering individuals to enact change directly. For a university student with a strong cause, the traditional paths are daunting:

1. **Influence a party:** Navigate complex hierarchies and see their ideas diluted by broader agendas.
2. **Join a party:** Promote their issue while representing views they may fundamentally oppose.

A **direct democratic party** changes this. It allows individuals to focus entirely on their cause—debating it online, on campus, or in their community—without the need for networking or navigating party politics. It simplifies democracy, making democracy and politics accessible, meaningful, and joyful again. Instead of bending to a system too complex to work with, people can actively participate and solve real issues directly.

Why now? (1/2)

x **The internet** - When representative democracy was established, physical, slow communication made it the only viable solution. Representatives could gather, discuss, and relay the people's views. Today, the internet allows instant, direct connection. We no longer need representatives vulnerable to bad influence—let's cut out the middleman and demand real, direct results.

x **Corruption** - In modern democracies, representatives are often openly supported by organizations and private individuals representing industries with specific agendas. These industries seek to influence policy changes in their favor. Once their political careers end, many representatives transition into roles within these organizations, creating a revolving door of influence. This is no longer the crude exchange of money in a briefcase but a sophisticated form of legal corruption that occurs daily, undermining the integrity of democratic systems.

Why now? (2/2)

x United States – Big Pharma (2005) - Billy Tauzin, a former congressman, became head of PhRMA shortly after passing legislation that benefited the pharmaceutical industry.

x European Union – Finance (2016) - José Manuel Barroso, former EU Commission President, joined Goldman Sachs as a senior advisor after regulating the financial sector.

x United Kingdom – Arms Industry (2011) - Geoff Hoon, former Defense Secretary, joined AgustaWestland after approving major arms deals involving the company.

x Australia – Mining and Energy (2016) - Andrew Robb, a former trade minister, took a consulting job with a Chinese firm shortly after leaving office, prompting scrutiny over his regulatory decisions.

x Germany – Energy (2022) - Gerhard Schröder, former chancellor, joined Gazprom after supporting policies favorable to Russian energy interests during his tenure and the formation of Nord Stream AG.

How would it work? (1/3) - surface-level

Roman not Greek: Dangers of direct democracies which was commonly used in some city states in Greek was the chaos and unpredictability that they caused, going from one extreme to another in a short time. To avoid this we follow a more Roman model where a decision is made from predetermined options ranging from two to five depending on the subject that cover the whole realistic spectrum.

Realistic Spectrum: A realistic spectrum ensures voters are presented with practical, balanced options that avoid extreme or destabilizing outcomes. For example, with income tax currently set at 30%, voters could choose between options A, B, C, D, or E. Each option reflects feasible changes: A might be 26% (moderate decrease), B 28% (slight decrease), C 30% (no change), D 32% (slight increase), and E 34% (moderate increase). The lowest option, A, is intentionally not extreme (e.g., 0%) to avoid impractical shifts in a single term. Each choice is accompanied by clear information on its likely effects, enabling informed, democratic decisions while maintaining stability.

How would it work? (2/3) - surface-level

x Party program - Most commonly elections are held every 4 years and for this interval party programs should be selected every 2nd year. It should be selected 1 year prior to election as well as 1 year after election.

x Who can decide the party program? - To be able to cast votes on topics one has to be a registered member of the party (a simple sign up online), access to the internet and a valid digital ID (e.g. bankID in Norway or MitID in Denmark).

x Who are to decide the options? - Initially, we will focus on current implementations, such as income tax, and present options that cover a realistic spectrum. These options will include some divergence from the current rate while also offering one option that maintains the status quo. In the future, with sufficient funding, a randomly selected group of individuals with expertise on the topic can be involved to determine how much divergence is appropriate and to define the range of options to be presented.

How would it work? (3/3) - surface-level

x Financing - Each party member must contribute €5 to 10 per month. The party is also allowed to accept donations as the party's rules are fixed under same rules as the country's constitution, meaning donations cannot directly influence or alter the party's structure or decisions. Donations must be transparent and easily visible in web platform.

x Immediate issues to address - From time to time there will come unpredictable issues that must be addressed on the fly, here members will receive notifications to go into platform and vote within a week. Only allowed to be enacted 4 times per election period (which are typically 4 years, if less decrease by 1 per year if longer increase by 1 per year).

x Who are the representers of the party? - The party operates within the structure of representative democracy, so we need to elect representatives to meet the minimum requirements for being eligible in elections and participating in government. These representatives do not hold any personal power – they simply relay the party's program as stated in their oath. If they violate this, they are replaced immediately. Representatives are selected through our platform, similar to how we choose party program. Candidates submit a one to three-minute video showing their public speaking skills, charisma, and knowledge, along with their CV, so members can evaluate their qualifications and choose accordingly.