

## What matters now

The early federal election will take place on February 23, 2025. There is a lot at stake in this election. We live in difficult times: there is war in the middle of Europe, our companies are facing increased international competition, and the country's cohesion is being tested.

Germany is facing important decisions:

- Do we *now* continue to invest heavily in our country? Or do we let our railways, our roads and bridges fall into disrepair?
- Let us *now* ensure that everyone can get by well in everyday life – with decent wages, affordable food and affordable rents? Or do we accept it when purchasing power falls and housing becomes more and more expensive?
- Let us *now* ensure stable pensions, good health and care, intact schools and Daycare centers? Or is that exactly where we are going to cut costs?
- Are we securing *jobs* now? Are we investing *in* a modern economy and providing cheap electricity, which our companies urgently need? Or are we standing by and watching while the future is being created all around Germany with new technologies?
- Do we *now* continue the necessary modernization of our country? Or do we give up on climate protection and equality in reverse?
- Do we *now* continue to support Ukraine – steadfastly and prudently? Or do we embark on dangerous adventures in matters of war and peace?

Seldom in recent decades have clear attitudes, character and experience been so decisive.

Rarely has it been so important that respect prevails for everyone. Respect for each and every individual – no matter how much they earn, what they believe in or where they come from.

Investments in our prosperity and our jobs, in our cohesion and in our security – there can be no either-or now! All of this is urgently needed, it all belongs together!

That is what we stand for.

Today, the conservatives want to reverse the progress they have made and make savings where it affects many citizens personally. Others are committed to a policy that patronized. The populists on the right and left, on the other hand, give completely wrong answers. Their business model is to divide our society.

We say: All of this is damaging to Germany. This is not our way.

As difficult as the last few years may have been, Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the SPD could always be relied upon when it mattered.

We brought the exploding energy prices resulting from the war against Ukraine under control – and quickly made Germany independent of Russian gas. Pensions have risen sharply – and more than 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, they have finally been equalized in East and West.

We have increased the minimum wage to 12 euros – this means more income and more security for millions of people! Families benefit from more child benefit and our Investments in better education and care.

We have limited irregular migration – and at the same time welcome those who want to work here in Germany.

With our new citizenship law, we make it possible for fellow human beings to become fellow citizens with all rights.

We have equipped our armed forces with special funds so that we can defend our country against all external threats.

Germany stands firmly by the side of the invaded Ukraine – and at the same time, Chancellor Olaf Scholz is ensuring that the war does not escalate into a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia.

With a clear attitude, with clear values, sensibly and cautiously – this is the only way we will be able to overcome future challenges.

This is precisely why Germany needs a strong SPD in these difficult times:

- We ensure that life remains affordable – with a higher minimum wage, income tax relief for low and average earners, less VAT on food and effective rules for affordable housing.
- We continue to invest in railways, bridges and digital networks.
- We support our companies and their employees in global competition – with low energy prices and a “Made in Germany” investment bonus for future investments and secure jobs.
- We fight for good wages everywhere in Germany – in industry, in trade, in crafts and in all other sectors of the economy.
- We will stabilize pensions and ensure good health care and nursing care that all achieved and remains affordable for all.
- We fight for internal and external security and confront the enemies of open society consistently.
- We ensure that daycare centers and schools reliably support families.
- We are committed to social progress and equal rights and opportunities for women and men. For diversity and tolerance.
- We are cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, accelerating and digitalising administration – and we are also keeping up the pace when it comes to expanding renewable energies.

Hands-on politics for the broad majority of citizens who keep our country running and for those who are not on the sunny side of life.

Politics with measure and balance that unites and does not divide.

That's what matters now.

Voters will decide this in the federal election on February 23, 2025.

## A new upswing for Germany

Many people are currently worried about the economy in our country. Or even worse: they are worried about their own jobs. It is about questions of competitiveness in the global competition between modern industrial production sites. But it is also about the right strategies to secure the need for skilled workers in retail, catering and administration. And last but not least, it is about questions of education, training and further education, for example in the skilled trades.

**We stand for an economic policy that combines growth, social justice and sustainability. We are creating an economic recovery that benefits everyone. To achieve this, we are investing in the future - in education, innovation, digitalization and climate protection.** We are ensuring that our children will still be able to use roads, bridges and railways in 30 years' time, and we are modernizing our infrastructure. On the one hand, these investments are fair for all generations, and on the other hand, they are the basic condition for companies in Germany to remain competitive.

At the same time, we are committed to good work and secure jobs. With good wages, we secure purchasing power in our country and stimulate domestic demand. We are creating a new Upswing for Germany as a basis for more justice.

### 1. We fight for new growth and secure jobs.

This is the first, but certainly not the last, time that we use the words "We fight for". We could also write "We are committed to" or "We are committed to ensuring that". But we all feel the urgency with which we must tackle issues. So: let us fight together for what is important to us and what will lead our country in the future. For example: With clear framework conditions and a real **investment boost**, we will create a Growth environment for our companies. Germany needs a **decade of sustainable innovations and investments**. With our policy, we are getting both things started: clever inventions that make life better, secure jobs and prosperity. And in addition, public infrastructure that makes everyday life easier because it simply works. In a modern country with the right **framework conditions**, industry, SMEs, services, crafts, start-ups and agriculture can flourish. Employees can earn money through hard work and good ideas make their contribution and live a good life together with their families.

The German economy is in a challenging situation. Important future investments are currently not forthcoming. This is endangering jobs and prosperity. With targeted measures, we will ignite the turbo for future investments in our country.

### **We want to reduce energy prices and strategically promote key successful industries.**

We need affordable energy, otherwise our companies in Germany will run out of energy. We are investing in a secure and **affordable energy supply** through renewable energies. We want internationally competitive energy prices. We provide planning and investment security for energy costs through stable prices, from grid fees to electricity tax and CO2 prices. High grid fees are a pressing problem, particularly in the north and east, where a large proportion of Germany's wind energy is produced.

The switch to cheap renewable energies will involve a massive expansion of the electricity grids. This costs a lot of money, which is added to the price of electricity as grid fees. This is a challenge, particularly for the economy, which is facing international competition, and for consumers. We will first stabilize the fees for the transmission grid, which connects the regions in Germany and is being massively expanded, and then cap them at 3 cents per kilowatt hour as quickly as possible, thus supporting the expansion of the grid. This is necessary because of the billions of euros invested in this grid.

The aim is to halve the current burden on households and companies on average and create long-term planning security – for industrial investments, but also for the  
Switching to climate-friendly technologies such as electric cars or heat pumps.

In addition, we are committed to ensuring that a larger group of particularly energy-intensive companies can benefit from the existing rules **on reduced network charges**. This includes also to relieve the burden on energy-intensive large consumers without the potential for flexibility as before.

The Federal Government will also lobby the European Commission to ensure that more energy-intensive industries can benefit from the relief provided by the so-called electricity price compensation, for example glass processing, large parts of the  
Chemistry and battery cell production. This would significantly reduce the price of electricity in the energy-intensive industry in Germany. We will also make the reduction of the electricity tax to the European minimum permanent.

Germany is a car country. The **future of cars lies in electromobility**. Anyone who suggests that combustion engines with e-fuels are the solution is only making cars affordable for top earners. At the same time, the automotive industry, just like its suppliers, such as the steel industry and others, is facing significant upheaval, and many employees are very concerned about their jobs and their future.

We take these concerns seriously.

Germany should remain a leading country for vehicle manufacturing. We are committed to ensuring that German car manufacturers do not currently have to pay fines to Brussels in connection with the CO2 fleet limits. These funds are now needed for investments in climate-friendly vehicles and to safeguard jobs. We will enter into negotiations with the EU Commission to maintain the targets but to make the path to achieving them more pragmatic.

The framework conditions must be right for this to happen. The **measures we have proposed to reduce electricity prices** – in particular the capping of transmission network charges – will make electricity for the production of batteries and cars and for charging even cheaper.

In the future, charging at **public charging stations** must be as easy as and cheaper than refueling. We will continue to accelerate the expansion of charging stations and require petrol stations to  
To offer fast charging options. We are continuing to **accelerate the expansion of charging stations** - along the streets and motorways and in depots and depots. To ensure that holidays and business trips also become electric, we are calling for a European fast charging station offensive.

We will also **encourage the purchase of electric cars**.

We want to encourage private new car purchases with a temporary **tax deduction for the purchase** of an electric car produced in Germany. This is easy and straightforward to implement: buy it, declare it when you do your tax return, and the subsidy is paid directly into your account.

By including young used cars and **leasing models**, we also help people with lower incomes. With this package, we are primarily supporting households with low and normal incomes in switching to an electric car, even before the mobility costs of combustion engines increase significantly due to the increase in the CO2 price. We want to go down this path **together with our European neighbors** and expect the EU Commission to take a corresponding initiative for the entire Union in the short term or to approve such a German solution.

A large proportion of new cars are used **for commercial purposes**. We will further improve the attractiveness of e-mobility through **better depreciation conditions and changes to company car taxation**. We will extend the **vehicle tax exemption** for e-cars **until 2035**.

**We want companies to have the best conditions to invest in Germany.**

We can do something for our companies and for Germany as a business location.

We are creating a **Germany Fund** that will mobilize public and private capital to meet important investment needs – for example in electricity and heat networks, the hydrogen network, e-charging stations or housing construction. The Germany Fund is intended to The state and private investors can invest jointly in Germany's future with minimal bureaucracy. The Germany Fund will initially be endowed with **100 billion euros**. It will be designed in such a way that it also functions within the existing framework of the debt rule of our Basic Law - via so-called financial transactions. The funds provided by the federal government Start-up capital for the Germany Fund is created through the associated investments or Loans are assets for the federal government. The Germany Fund then uses this capital to provide companies and institutions with the necessary financial resources for important future investments - through loans or as an investment. State money is only one side of the coin. At the same time, private capital is to be mobilized. Large institutional investors such as insurance companies or pension funds can also invest in these companies and institutions. This puts future investments on broad shoulders and activates private capital. We ensure that there is no privatization of state tasks of public services.

In addition, we want to reduce the tax burden on companies, not through blanket tax cuts for everyone, but rather with targeted **incentives for investments in Germany**.

Investment bonus instead of bureaucratic funding programs (**"Made in Germany" bonus**): Up to now, corporate investments (for example in climate-friendly technologies) have been supported primarily through funding programs. This often takes too long and creates a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy. Instead of new funding programs, there will be a greater focus in the future on a straightforward tax premium to support future investments. The Growth Opportunities Act already included an investment premium for energy efficiency measures.

The new investment premium for existing companies and new establishments is intended to stimulate future investments in the technologies of tomorrow on a broad scale: every business or company investment in machinery and equipment (from the so-called equipment investments) is to be directly and easily funded with 10 percent of the purchase price via a tax refund. The successful funding programs such as GRW or GAK for the regional economy will be continued.

If private companies reinvest their profits, we want to reduce their tax burden. We want to create an independent company with the "company with tied assets".

Introduce a legal form that makes it easier for successors in medium-sized companies – for example from the workforce – to take over the company in a fiduciary capacity. This eliminates the possibility of tax evasion.

We will modernise European state aid law to support companies undergoing structural change.  
support.

### **We want to reduce bureaucracy and speed up procedures.**

In order for our economy to get back on track quickly, many other gears must also move faster. This is the only way the entire system can gain speed. Bringing more speed to various or all aspects creates real benefits.

In Germany, many planning and approval procedures take too long. Last year, the Federal Government and the states agreed on a German pact to speed up planning, approval and implementation: the aim is to achieve greater speed and less bureaucracy for more economic growth. We will continue consistently down this path. We will also drive forward the reduction of bureaucracy at national and EU level, for example by merging, simplifying and digitizing documentation and reporting requirements. New

Laws must be subjected to a **practical check**. We are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization to reduce bureaucracy. The basis for this is comprehensive care  
the entire country with fiber optic and mobile communications. When reducing bureaucracy, we ensure that workers' rights, consumer rights and the goals of ecological transition are not jeopardized.  
In order to identify further concrete possibilities for reducing bureaucracy, a Social Democratic Chancellor will hold a conference with representatives from business and administration.

The European internal market is of enormous importance for economic development in Germany and is also an engine for European prosperity.

We welcome the reports by Enrico Letta and Mario Draghi on strengthening European competitiveness and support the EU Commission in its implementation.

We want to further deepen the **European internal market**, because millions of jobs in Germany are closely linked to it. This includes a digital infrastructure for cross-border trade in services. And it also includes a functioning European capital market. We will drive forward the banking and capital markets union and permanently strengthen the environment for innovations and future technologies through private capital.

### **We want to enable innovations that move Germany forward.**

The much-vaunted spirit of invention in Germany must once again become a top priority.  
Inventiveness has always been central to economic success, social progress  
and thus also social prosperity. In recent years and decades, numerous technological and social innovations have been conceived, developed and implemented in Germany. With fundamentally new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) or quantum technology, the federal government's innovation policy must also change.  
For us, the **further development of the AI strategy** is therefore our top priority. The focus should be on the development of systemic innovations. This includes, among other things, the establishment of industry-specific AI ecosystems and the development of generative language models for

the areas of medicine, materials research and education. The aim is to build on the existing structures of the AI landscape in Germany and to invest broadly in the computing infrastructure and competencies at universities. We also want to give special consideration **to social innovations and projects and structures aimed at the common good** when promoting AI .

Other focal points will be quantum computing, robotics and next-generation network technologies.

We are committed to **strengthening research funding**, especially in basic research in key industries and green technology. Researchers should have easier access to funding and experience less unnecessary bureaucracy when applying for and implementing research programs. We also want to facilitate the transition from the research idea

to market maturity. Incubators, start-up centers and **regional innovation clusters** play an important role in this. At the European level, we will work for a strong research framework program (FP10). We will work for a regulation that complies with state aid regulations and will extend tax incentives for research to larger companies.

We will lead **science and innovation policy** into a new era by strengthening the contribution of science to transformation and the training of skilled workers. To this end, we will continue to provide universities with sufficient state support to improve the quality of study and teaching. We will improve working conditions in science by promoting plannable career paths, particularly to achieve equality. We will successfully **establish the German Agency for Transfer and Innovation** .

The shortage of skilled workers is currently becoming apparent in many areas of our economy. There are incorrect answers to this, such as "We have to work longer" or "Fewer protective rights for employees".

The CDU is taking this tone, but we are not. What is needed is really good training and more **investment in qualifications**. We must leverage the potential of the many people in our country who have been marginalized so far: especially young people without vocational qualifications and women in involuntary part-time and mini-jobs. In addition, we still need the immigration of skilled workers. Studies show that we will need several hundred thousand skilled workers per year for Germany.

## 2. We fight for Made in Germany 2.0.

Made in Germany – what a wonderful seal of quality it was and is! And it should stay that way for a long, long time. Germany has become a leader in global trade in 20th century engines and machines. We want *Made in Germany* to remain a world leader in 21st century technologies. In the tough competition of a changing global economy, our industrial and business location is under pressure. We are experiencing a global race for technologies, resources and standards. In concrete terms, the question is whether we can keep up with developments and manage to keep Germany as part of the European

To make the economic area strong for the future. To this end, we are pursuing a reliable, long-term and European-based industrial strategy that combines climate protection and competitiveness.

In our successful sectors of steel and automobiles, mechanical and plant engineering, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and battery production, Germany must remain a location for large corporations as well as for strong medium-sized companies.



## **We want a stable, broadly based and sustainable economy.**

Our companies must be sure that they can continue on their path to climate neutrality and that they know that we as politicians are firmly on their side. Especially when it comes to energy prices and regulation, they need a fair, clear environment in which to invest and to bring their new ideas to market. In recent years, various global crises have clearly shown that a broadly diversified economic structure is essential for economic stability.

is crucial. In these challenging times, the SPD is fighting for every industrial job as well as for the value creation of the future with its new, highly qualified jobs. Sometimes

We have temporarily invested in companies to secure jobs during a crisis.

We will continue to do so in the future if necessary.

When it comes to technologies, we say without a doubt where we are headed: the clear focus is on electrification, for example in cars. But **hydrogen** will also play a very important role for our industry, especially in energy-intensive industries. In order for hydrogen to really

To gain a foothold, we are creating **leading markets for green steel made in Germany** – that is, fixed shares of green steel, for example in the railways or in transformer platforms. We also need a cleverly designed hydrogen network. At the same time, sufficient storage capacities,

For example, within the framework of a national hydrogen reserve. With a pragmatic and courageous politics, we want to lay the foundation for this crucial building block for the new energy world.

In this context, we also support the European Clean Industrial Deal.

In order to supply our domestic industry with raw materials, we rely on the newly created Raw materials funds, will promote domestic raw materials extraction and work towards a **coordinated raw materials strategy for the EU**. We want to implement the **circular economy strategy** pragmatically, for example with sales markets for environmentally friendly recycled raw materials and more efficient use of materials.

## **We want our industry to continue to be at the forefront of future technologies.**

Producing or working in a climate-friendly way must not be a competitive disadvantage! We can only maintain our place at the top of the world with a targeted and European-coordinated strategy for Germany's most important key industries. We in Europe are rapidly converting our industrial production to climate-friendly processes. But it is of no use to the climate if production moves abroad and emits more greenhouse gases there.

We are reducing the bureaucracy of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and adding export support. We are also continuing our successful **climate club**, a growing circle of countries that set common standards so that there are no longer 28 different standards for green steel.

The EU must become more independent and shift strategic value creation back to Europe. This requires a **European resilience strategy** that reduces risks (de-risking), effectively protects critical infrastructures and restores strategically important key industries.

located in Europe. Together with our European partners, we will examine local content rules and localization obligations.



Social standards are a geopolitical advantage of our economic area. We support industry and business, but also hold them accountable. Economic strength and social security are two sides of the same coin. That is why we are determined to implement the **European Pillar of Social Rights** at both the national and European levels. We want a genuine **European Social Union**. We want an internal market that serves workers.

In order to ensure adequate social security and combat poverty, we are committed to European minimum standards for national basic social security systems.

### **3. We fight for a strong labour market and good working conditions**

We can promise one thing: We as the SPD **will fight for every job**. Because good work is the anchor for a life of dignity and prosperity. But when everything changes, worries grow. When everything changes, employees need security.

And this must be shaped. For the SPD, this can only be done together with the employees and the unions. The employees are responsible for the economic success of the companies.

They have a right to have a say in their working conditions and to participate democratically. Good working conditions are also an essential prerequisite for securing a good skilled workforce in our country.

#### **We want security in change for your work.**

We know that many employees are worried about their jobs because of the economic upheaval and the stagnation of the economy. We want to secure employment. We want to achieve future-proof prospects in the traditional company. Social democratic labor market policy focuses on **promoting qualifications** and, in difficult times, on maintaining jobs, for example through **good regulations for short-time work**.

We will continue and intensify the promotion of **regional associations, further training agencies and transformation clusters**. Low-threshold advisory services are needed to support companies and employees, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises, in structural change.

When an employment relationship ends, the transition from job to job should be as seamless as possible. We want to promote **labor market hubs and job-to-job placement** through regional associations of social partners and the Federal Employment Agency and prevent unemployment from the outset. Employees from companies that are reducing staff should be offered new prospects in companies that are looking for employees. The right timing and the close involvement of unions and works councils as well as collective bargaining agreements are particularly important. In addition, we will further develop the existing instrument of **transfer companies** so that smaller companies can also make better use of them.

The **insurance benefits of unemployment benefits** must be strengthened again. We want more security for the working middle class, who are particularly affected by the transformation cares about their future. Therefore, we will create periods of qualification during unemployment no longer count towards the duration of unemployment benefit entitlement, so that the entitlement to support from unemployment insurance is extended accordingly.

We will ensure that good working conditions prevail in a digital working world.

To this end, we will regulate fair and legally compliant handling of data in the company and support platform employees.

### **We want your voice to count more in the workplace.**

We are reforming the **Works Constitution Act** and will expand the **co-determination** of works councils in strategic personnel planning and assessment, in the introduction of artificial intelligence, and in health protection and further training in the company to genuine co-determination rights with the requirement of agreement. We will better protect those who initiate works council elections. In the future, we will classify the obstruction of democratic co-determination as an official offence.

Companies must have a **legally defined minimum catalogue of transactions that require the approval of the supervisory board**. We will close **loopholes** that allow people to circumvent codetermination on the supervisory board, such as the circumvention of codetermination through European company law.

### **We want work to not make people sick and to provide security.**

Work must not make you ill. That is why we will push for a significant increase in the number of holistic **risk assessments** carried out, strengthen and make company integration management (**BEM**) more binding, expand rehabilitation and prevention, and simplify and improve access. In particular, we will pay more attention to psychological stress at work, which has increased significantly, in terms of occupational safety. We also need a comprehensive range of information and advice. **Company health promotion** must be taken into account in all business decisions. We want to further expand the range of services offered by the coordination offices for company health promotion. We support continued payment of wages in the event of illness. The SPD will always defend this social achievement. If you are ill, you do not belong in the workplace.

We will **abolish fixed-term employment contracts without objective reasons** and critically examine the objective reasons for fixed-term contracts.

### **We want to sustainably strengthen the labor market with the right strategies.**

Good training and further education are the prerequisites for good jobs and securing skilled workers. We are continuing our path of **training guarantees**. Earlier career guidance in schools and in close coordination with the Federal Employment Agency is the right path. We will continue to strengthen the successful work of the youth employment agencies. Companies must take greater responsibility for training. We support the use of levies or funds, for example on an industry-specific basis, where training is below demand.

We will ensure that there is security in the change and guarantee support if professional training or reorientation is necessary or desired. So that employees

To ensure that today's workers can also acquire the knowledge and skills for tomorrow's work, we have, among other things, implemented the Transformation Grant and the Qualification Allowance.

The Federal Employment Agency **has renewed its continuing education funding**, reaching small craft businesses and service providers as well as DAX corporations.

Our goal is a **right to further training and a new professional start** in all phases of life. Job profiles should be further developed in such a way that employees can keep pace with new developments through further training throughout their entire careers.

**Equal pay for equal work of equal value** is our answer to the gender pay gap that still exists. More collective bargaining is also important in this respect, because with a collective agreement, classification and pay are often fairer. Mini-jobs are a clear path to poverty in old age. Our aim is to include all employment relationships in social security. We want to combat abuse and open up the path for employees from mini-jobs to socially well-protected work. There will be transitions for existing employment relationships and exceptions for certain groups such as pensioners.

Every citizen has the right to work. Therefore, every citizen's allowance recipient should receive a suitable offer. To achieve this, we are relying on **stronger financing of active labor market policy**. We want to finance work instead of unemployment and will therefore expand, simplify and enshrine **passive-active transfers** in law. We know that most people on the Citizens' Allowance who can work also want to work. The **Citizens' Allowance** is a tax-financed basic security and not an unconditional basic income. That is why Right to participation is demanded. We adhere to this principle of demand. The aim of the Citizen's Allowance is to support people with the help of qualification and further training to We want to equip the job centers with the personnel and financial resources to that they can ensure individual and close-knit advice. However, we must also recognise that a significant proportion of people receiving citizen's allowance have health problems. They must be better supported in the care and integration process. In addition to further training, the instrument of the social labour market, which opens up new opportunities, has also proven to be a valuable tool. to pursue a job with social insurance has proven to be a success. We have therefore made the regulations for the **social labor market** permanent. In this way, we want to enable job seekers to participate and get them out of long-term unemployment and citizen's allowance receipt and create prospects for taking up regular employment.

Germany has long benefited from being a country of immigration. We are stepping with respect, no matter where their roots are; with clear and understandable rules, less bureaucracy and a much more transparent and simplified **recognition of degrees and qualifications acquired abroad**. Immigration that is designed fairly must not contribute to exploitation, wage dumping, unfair competition or an erosion of the collective bargaining structure. We enable successful immigration by **expanding and permanently and adequately financing the structures necessary for successful integration**, such as part-time integration courses, widely available German language support and advice services.

We will **further develop the Skilled Immigration Act** and drive forward the digitalisation of administrative decisions. In addition, we will continue and expand the **Job Turbo** for the labour market integration of refugees in order to provide refugees with as much to enable people to start work as early as possible.

## 4. We fight to ensure that good education is reliably available to all.

Good education for all children and young people in Germany is the basis for a good future for our country. For the individual, it creates the conditions for a self-determined life, the basis for cohesion and democracy for society and the conditions for economic growth with well-trained specialists for our economy. At the same time, working parents as well as their employers rely on daycare centers and schools to guarantee reliable care and a successful education for all children. No matter what the conditions are, we want good education to be possible regardless of the life situation. Below we list how we want to put this into practice.

### We want education in daycare and school to be reliable and successful for all children.

The lack of skilled workers must not become the Achilles heel of our education system. A sufficient number of well-qualified skilled workers are the key prerequisite for more daycare places, all-day care for primary school children, better quality education, an extension of childcare hours and a reduction in closing times. We therefore want to **agree a skilled worker offensive for daycare centers and schools between all federal states**, which includes, among other things, the expansion of training capacities, paid training for educators, multi-professional teams, the increased appeal to people changing careers from other professions and the expansion of near-full-time work for the mostly female employees.

No child should start school without the necessary basic skills - and no child should leave primary school without being able to speak, listen, read, write and do arithmetic adequately. By the age of four at the latest and when they start school, the developmental level of all children must be determined and, if necessary, **mandatory support** must be offered.

We want to guarantee the best education and care for children, reliability for working parents and good work for employees in daycare centers. That is why we want the federal government, states and municipalities to continue to invest together in good daycare quality. In order to provide targeted support for **daycare centers in disadvantaged areas**, we also want to use federal funds to create a start-up opportunity program and gradually expand the **start-up opportunity program in schools**. The **Digital Pact for Schools** must also be continued and further developed in terms of content. The **legal right to all-day care for primary school children**, which will gradually apply from 2026, is just as important for more equal opportunities as it is for more reliability in education - and it is valid! Where we have political responsibility, we will reliably fulfill it and ensure that the offer is of good quality.

### We want all young people to be able to freely choose their training path.

In Germany, every young person should be able to make the best of themselves and their abilities. All training paths must be open to all young people. This is our promise from **Advancement through education**.

For young people at the beginning of training or university, the rising cost of living is currently the central problem – even more so than for the population as a whole.

We therefore want to **increase the minimum training allowance**. With a **reform of the BAföG**

We want to ensure that the level of training support is regularly adjusted to the increasing

living costs. Too few students currently benefit from BAföG.

We want more and more students to be entitled to BAföG. In the long term, we want to make BAföG less dependent on parents. We are aiming for a gradual return to full funding.

In addition, the processing times for BAföG applications must be shortened - through further digitalization and simplification.

**We want to continue and expand the successful federal Young Living program** in order to create affordable housing for trainees and students.

In addition, we will promote **dual study programs** more strongly and extend the protective rights of the Vocational Training Act to this training path as well.

### **We want good working conditions in schools and daycare centers.**

Daycare centers and schools must **be attractive places to learn and work with good working conditions.**

In order to meet the best possible standards for modern daycare and school buildings, even with the many upcoming new buildings and renovations, we want to create more incentives for providers.

### **We want to make the education system fit for the immigration society.**

Our immigration society needs an education system that **offers children of different backgrounds every opportunity to successfully attend daycare centers and schools. We also want diversity to be reflected in educational curricula, school books and in teaching professions .**

Students from different backgrounds should be able to identify with them.

The best education needs **strong and sustainable national funding.** We therefore want to reform inheritance and gift taxes in order to be able to invest **specifically in better education for all children and young people .** As with the Start Opportunities program, we want to use our funds specifically where disadvantages found in the educational backgrounds of parents or neighbors become disadvantages for children's educational opportunities.

## **5. We fight for a financial policy that serves the future of our country.**

Many people can talk about what is not good. We want to get to grips with it. For a good future for the country and our children, comprehensive modernization is necessary today. This applies to both the private sector and public services: from daycare centers, schools and

Universities, the health system and nursing care. Climate protection (renewable energies and networks), digitization and artificial intelligence, increased defense readiness and improved transport infrastructure require a major modernization effort. We therefore want to establish an era of investment in the future and at the same time ensure financial solidity.

This requires a joint effort by the federal government, states and municipalities.

### **We want everyone to work together to modernise our infrastructure.**

We must invest in tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and the day after that. The necessary public investments must be made quickly so that the existing

to resolve the investment backlog and create better conditions for private investment.

Privatization of infrastructure remains out of the question. We stand for a financial policy that is fair to all generations and no longer passes necessary investments on to future generations.

Our financial policy is strategic and ensures growth as well as change. The financing of change is guaranteed through stable public finances.

We want to ensure the financing of important future investments at all levels of government. We want to prevent future generations from being left with "investment debts", such as a railway network in need of renovation, outdated school buildings or jobs that have been lost. It makes sense to take out loans to finance long-term investments. In this way, the financing costs are spread fairly over many years. Future generations will also take on an appropriate share of the repayment, because these investments are intended to secure and increase both current and future prosperity.

The possibility of promoting public and private investments through **financial transactions** should be used more intensively, both by the federal government and the states. The Basic Law already allows this today. This type of financing creates long-term planning security and enables the expansion of necessary future investments, while at the same time distributing the financing burden to the benefiting generations. In this way, we can, among other things, strengthen the equity base of public companies and their public investments increase.

We also want to adapt the outdated criteria of the economic component of the debt rule to current economic realities so that our community can ensure a steady and high level of investment, especially in economically difficult times.

The current debt rule is not designed to meet the challenges of our time and the future. We therefore want to **reform the debt rule in the Basic Law** so that investments in the future viability of our country and in prosperity are not hindered. This is the only way to ensure a good life for future generations. This is the only way to reliably secure the necessary scope for the agreed expenditure on security and defense. In addition, the outdated credit limits must be reformed: In addition to introducing exceptions for important future investments, we are committed to a more flexible design of the deficit rule itself.

The countries should be given the opportunity to borrow money. This will be done in accordance with European fiscal rules.

In order to enable greater security and longer-term planning in crisis situations, we are striving to **reform the emergency regulations** so that our state can act at any time and across all years.

The **repayment obligations** will lead to savings in future state budgets. This will artificially prolong the financial crisis and burden the burden of a one-off emergency situation on future generations. We are therefore committed to changing this unfair mechanism.

For example, we must invest heavily in education, manage the socio-ecological and digital structural change and modernise the infrastructure across the country. Not only the federal government, but also the states and municipalities need the necessary financial leeway for this. We propose therefore proposes a **future pact between the federal government, the states and the municipalities**. This includes the reform of the debt rule described above in order to give the states more financial leeway. In addition, we want to make the wealthiest people in our country more responsible for financing the community. Inheritance and gift taxes as well as wealth taxes will then strengthen the revenue side of the states that are entitled to the revenue from these taxes.



Furthermore, the states are responsible for providing municipalities with adequate financial resources to carry out their tasks.

A large part of the investments required for structural change are made at the **municipal level**. At the same time, the financial situation of many municipalities is serious.

We want to change this. **The specific problem of municipal legacy debts** finally needs to be solved.

We want to ensure that the situation of East German municipalities is also taken into account, which are also challenged by legacy debts for which they are not responsible, for example the situation of the old municipal housing companies or the Entitlement and Entitlement Transfer Act (AAÜG). In addition, we are committed to long-term support and financing agreements between the government levels, especially in the areas of education, transport and supply infrastructure, urban development, heat planning and energy efficiency. In addition, **larger and more modern capacities for infrastructure planning in municipalities** are required, for example for cross-municipal investment planning or joint deployment of personnel. We want to simplify funding programs significantly and reduce bureaucracy as far as possible. We want to systematically improve municipal finances

Through the Germany Fund, we want to strengthen municipal housing associations, energy suppliers and transport companies through equity grants or long-term loans.

At the European level, Next Generation EU has provided a decisive impetus for sustainable investments in the future.

We want to support the European economy and its employees in the transformation. In order to protect the eurozone from economic shocks, we are advocating a European unemployment reinsurance scheme that takes effect in times

of serious economic crises. This should enable all member states to fulfil their important social security functions even in times of crisis.

We want to reform the **Multiannual Financial Framework** and focus it more on key EU policy areas that deliver a clear European added value, and invest more in them. The repayment of Next Generation EU must not come at the expense of already underfunded programs and strategically important investments. By using genuine EU own resources, we will make the EU more financially independent of national governments.

Since reunification, **EU regional funding** ( cohesion policy) has made a significant contribution to developing structurally weak regions in eastern Germany into competitive and livable regions. This must also be ensured in the future. We will not agree to a centralization of cohesion policy. We are committed to developing cohesion policy in line with needs so that ecological and digital structural change can be mastered. We will expand the Just Transition Fund to all industrial regions.

We also need to strengthen government revenues through a fair tax system.

This also includes continuing to combat tax evasion and financial crime. It is important to continue to reduce **VAT fraud**, especially in cash-intensive sectors, and to further develop and supplement the measures taken so far. We are committed to the development and

Strengthening an authority in the fight against financial crime, tax evasion and money laundering. We will also continue to take decisive action against money laundering, close the gaps in the **transparency register**, make it accessible to civil society again and work to effectively combat asset concealment. We want to continue to work on tax avoidance

and counteract harmful tax competition. This includes a **reporting obligation on domestic tax arrangements**. We are also committed to a **uniform basic**

## **Corporate tax of 15 percent on a uniform basis** in Europe.

In dealing with the generational task of reunification, the **solidarity surcharge**

We will continue to use this instrument; it serves to finance the transformation of our country. In income tax, we have already covered 90 percent of taxpayers have been exempted from paying the solidarity surcharge for some time. Only taxpayers with Those with the highest income (10 percent) are among those who pay the solidarity tax. This also includes corporations and recipients of capital gains. We will ensure that the group of taxpayers affected does not grow and that no more citizens than today are subject to the pay solidarity tax.

**We want (high-)wealth people to also make a fair contribution to financing investments in our future.**

In Germany, income from work is taxed more heavily than assets. We want to change this and create more tax justice. Property provides security, but property

We therefore want to strengthen wealth-related taxation and

The top wealthy should be more involved in financing the modernization of our country and our community. The **inheritance and gift tax** in its current form is not fair, because the excessive privileging of large corporate assets means that very little or no tax is often paid when such multi-million or billion-dollar assets are transferred. We want to abolish this injustice. Within the existing

progressive tax rate, we introduce an effective minimum tax for large business assets which also applies to family foundations holding assets. We want to increase the personal allowances to take account of the increases in asset prices since the last adjustment. The family home used by the owner will remain untouched in the future. We want to revitalize the suspended **wealth tax** for very high assets. In addition, we also support the plans initiated by Brazil within the framework of the G20 for an **internationally coordinated minimum tax for the super-rich**. An internationally coordinated approach creates the necessary transparency about accumulation of wealth and makes tax avoidance unattractive. Tax revenues from inheritance and gift tax as well as wealth tax go to the states, which are responsible for education policy. It is therefore our aim for the states to use the additional revenue generated by our reforms to urgently strengthen and modernize the education system.

We also want to tax **income from capital** via the income tax rate. Unlike in the financial centers of Paris or Milan, financial transactions are not currently taxed in Germany. We therefore want to introduce a **financial transaction tax**. This should be done as closely as possible to our European partners.

If a **property** that is not used by the owner is sold privately, the profit is currently tax-free after a **speculation period** of ten years. We want to change that and thereby ensure greater tax fairness. This will also reduce incentives for purely speculative property purchases and at the same time increase incentives for long-term investments in property. This can also have a positive effect on supply on the housing market.

## Relieve employees and their families

There is a lot of talk about high achievers in politics, business and the media these days. **For us, these are those who achieve a lot – and not just those who can afford a lot.** With their work – whether paid or unpaid – they ensure cohesion and prosperity in our society. These are the many employees in industry, the nursing staff,

Firefighters, teachers, craftsmen and women, but also people who care for other family members, for example children or those in need of care older people. Our respect is not measured by their salary. Our respect is measured by their performance, which they all too often perform under enormous pressure and without the recognition they deserve. **We show our respect and recognition by ensuring better wages, fair taxes and levies, secure jobs and a stable pension.**

But it is also part of our respect to cushion the effects of inflation and to ensure affordable Housing and a reliable system of education, care and nursing. The Employees and their families need reliability in their everyday lives, conveniences such as guaranteed appointments with doctors and a government that simply works.

### 6. We fight for affordable housing.

Housing is a human right! Anyone who lives has a small home for themselves and their family. Housing defines the quality of life of each of us. And we stand up for it! Every person has a The right to not only have a roof over one's head, but also to find security and safety in an affordable home. That is why we see housing as a public good that is not only for the should be left to the private market. **This is a public matter.** We want to overcome the acute housing shortage with an investment, tax and debureaucratization offensive and accelerate planning and approval procedures. We want to have overcome homelessness by 2030. The creation and maintenance of affordable housing is a state An ongoing task. At the same time, we are strengthening private housing construction by creating good conditions for private investment, including through further reductions in bureaucracy. We want to protect tenants from excessive rents and excessive demands.

#### **We want to slow down the development of rental prices.**

The rent caps will expire at the end of 2025. The rent cap is a very good instrument for curbing rising rents. And we want to ensure stable and affordable rents in tight housing markets in the long term. In metropolitan areas, short-term rentals should be reduced to a minimum. The **rent cap** should apply indefinitely and also to properties that were occupied up until 2019 in order to ensure stable and affordable rents in tight housing markets in the long term. We will ensure that the rent cap cannot be circumvented by, for example, (partially) furnished and temporary housing offers.

In the future, **index-linked rental contracts** will be capped by the limits of normal rental contracts, such as the local comparative rent. **Misuse** and vacancy of living space through short-term rentals must be prevented. There should be more **transparency about existing rents and new rentals**. **Rent gouging** must be effectively prevented, including by tightening up commercial criminal law. We want to extend the option of banning the conversion of rental apartments into owner-occupied apartments in the Federal Building Code beyond 2025. At the same time, we want to reform the right to terminate a tenancy for personal use and limit it to residential use by the nuclear family.

We want to stop the dramatic increase in rents in urban areas. That is why we want to ensure that in areas with a tight housing market, rent increases of only six percent in three years up to the local comparative rent are permitted. We want to give federal states the opportunity to make independent regulations that go beyond this in order to

to limit rent increases more strongly in extremely tight housing markets. We want to extend the rental index observation period to ten years and include rent-controlled housing in the analysis. The additional costs for tenants should be more transparent and easier to understand.

The property tax is a tax on the ownership of land. We want to relieve tenants of the burden of the property tax. The **apportionment of the property tax** must therefore not go so far that the owner can pass on all the burdens to the tenants.

With housing benefit, we specifically support employed people and pensioners. We have expanded housing benefit to housing benefit plus, which means that significantly more people benefit from support. In the housing benefit law, we have also included the Regular, automatic increases in housing benefit are based on real price and rent price developments. Similarly, we want to establish a regular and **automatic increase in the BAföG housing allowance** for people in training . The support must continuously follow real rent price developments.

We want to ensure that students and trainees pay no more than 400 euros for a **room in a shared flat** . To achieve this, we want to stabilize and increase the funds for the expansion of student and trainee dormitories and ensure that these funds are actually used by the states for the construction of new dormitories. By expanding the scope of the rent cap, significantly more trainees and students will be included. By creating an online platform in cooperation with student and trainee organizations that serves as a

By asserting the claims of trainees and students from the rent cap free of charge and without complications, we ensure that the rent cap is also enforced. Via the same platform, we will reimburse students and trainees whose rental contracts fall within the scope of the rent cap and have been checked by the platform and, if necessary, compliance with the rent cap has been enforced, the difference if the rent for their Room is above 400 euros.

### **We want more affordable housing to be built.**

In order to stabilize the supply of affordable housing in the medium and long term, joint efforts are needed to speed up construction and implement a social land policy. We want to create the right framework and incentives for this.

We want to strengthen and consolidate **investments in social housing** at a high level. In future, we will differentiate state demand forecasts by region. This is the basis for the federal government's new construction goals and for the necessary funding to achieve them. Through the Germany Fund, we will provide housing companies and cooperatives with the necessary equity and thus stimulate housing construction. With the new non-profit housing system, the SPD laid an important foundation stone for another pillar for permanently affordable housing alongside social housing in the last legislative period. We aim to improve financial incentives for the construction of new housing under the conditions to further develop the non-profit housing sector with an investment cost subsidy.

The federal government is moving forward with a new **federal housing company** in order to relieve the pressure on the market through its own housing subsidies and to create housing for federal employees and civil servants. The **cooperative program** is to be made permanent and expanded.

We want to stop the rapid price increases in land and property in many regions. We need a **turnaround towards a social land policy**, because land is a non-renewable good. Its use should also serve the common good. In order to enable long-term and sustainable urban development, municipalities must be supported in setting up **land funds**. Models should be supported that allow municipalities to benefit from **increases in land value**.

benefit from planning. The **right of first refusal for municipalities** must be strengthened.

Construction costs must be reduced and procedures accelerated. Our goal: reducing **bureaucracy** must be continued and the construction administration must be given a digitalisation boost. Too much bureaucracy and a lack of digitalisation lengthen processes and decision-making paths. The **alliance for affordable housing** should be consolidated and expanded. Simplified construction standards such as building type E must be further developed. There is great potential in **serial and modular construction**, which we want to exploit. In the future, funding programmes in the construction sector should be offered reliably at fixed funding conditions for the duration of the legislative period.

**Accessibility and life-phase-appropriate living** are our goals. We want to promote the removal of barriers to intergenerational community living. Accessibility should be more firmly anchored as a standard in the funding system.

### **We want to support the dream of home ownership.**

Many people dream of owning their own four walls. But these dreams are becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. We are also taking action here. We want dreams of owning a home to become reality. Home ownership provides housing and is also part of wealth creation and retirement provision. We want to consolidate and expand the **"Young Buys Old"** program. It is particularly helpful in promoting home ownership among young families who are looking for their own home, especially in small towns and communities. Low-interest loans and grants for energy-efficient renovations give them the chance to make their dream come true. At the same time, the program makes an important contribution to making inner cities and villages more livable, especially in rural areas.

In order to ensure social and demographic stability in the communities,

**Local models** and **concept awards** should be strengthened when allocating building land.

Local models enable municipalities to offer subsidized building land to local families and individuals. This in turn gives young families in particular the chance to buy property in their home community and helps to strengthen local social cohesion. At the same time, these models counteract speculative price increases.

Concept awarding ensures that the allocation of plots of land does not have to be based solely on the highest bid. Social diversity, sustainable construction and innovative forms of housing are to be given special consideration. This enables municipalities to specifically promote projects that create long-term added value for the community, for example housing for

Single parents, cooperative housing projects or intergenerational housing.

## 7. We fight for work that enables a good life.

Those who work every day must be able to lead a self-determined life with a good income. We want to ensure a fairer distribution of the wealth that has been created. We stand for both fair pay and fair taxation.

### We want good wages for everyone.

The level of the **statutory minimum wage** must be based on the recommendations of the European directive, i.e. at least 60 percent of the average income in Germany. We will ensure that this European law is taken into account by the Minimum Wage Commission in the future. Accordingly, the minimum wage must be 15 euros by 2026 at the latest.

Especially in eastern Germany, where many regions still struggle with lower average wages and low levels of collective bargaining coverage, and in professions in which many women work, the statutory minimum wage is of enormous importance because of the often poor pay.

However, it remains crucial to strengthen collective bargaining in order to increase wages in eastern Germany and to secure wages above the minimum wage in the long term.

We will **significantly increase collective bargaining coverage**. Those who work under a collective agreement will receive higher pay and better working conditions. We will use a **federal collective bargaining compliance law** to ensure that federal public contracts are only awarded to companies that pay according to the tariff. This principle must also apply to European public contracts.

That is why we are also committed to a **European collective bargaining law**. If public money and If funding is used to manage the transformation of companies, it should be consistently tied to the criteria of collective bargaining, location development, job security and qualification strategies. We will make it easier to declare **collective agreements generally binding** and introduce a **right of collective action for unions**.

The right to strike guarantees collective bargaining on an equal footing. Social democracy clearly rejects all attempts to restrict the **right to strike**.

We want to end the injustice that women still earn less than men and therefore implement the EU Pay Transparency Directive into national law by 2026. We will further develop the German Pay Transparency Act into an **effective wage equity law**.

We also continue to work towards improving the status of social service professions.

### We want 95 percent of taxpayers to have more net income from their gross income.

We are the party of the centre. And as such, we are committed to ensuring that the working middle of society receives more net income from gross income. The current tax system places a relatively high burden on working income, while assets are relatively low. This is not fair and that is why we want to change it. The **income tax rate** currently places a relatively high burden on middle incomes. We want **to relieve the burden on the vast majority of income taxpayers (around 95 percent)** and, among other things, ensure that **top incomes and assets** contribute more to financing the common good and the modernisation of our country. Due to **tax bureaucracy**

Many income taxpayers are currently not filing a tax return and are therefore foregoing also on possible refunds. We want to reduce tax bureaucracy: the **pre-filled income tax return** should become the standard.



As soon as this is available, the tax authorities will actively inform taxpayers about Any **reimbursements** will be made **automatically** . To ensure that overtime pays off, bonuses will be paid for overtime that exceeds the full-time hours agreed in the collective agreement. We will create a new tax incentive for extending the working hours of part-time workers: if employers pay a bonus for extending working hours pay, we will give tax benefits to this premium. We will rule out any abuse.

### **We want affordable food prices.**

Food prices have risen sharply since the Corona pandemic. but not the producers, but a few large food companies. And it particularly affects families, single parents and people affected by poverty.

Higher wages, pensions and social benefits, consistently geared to the development of the cost of living, are an important but not the only answer.

In times of rising prices, especially for everyday foodstuffs, we want to **reduce the reduced VAT rate for food from seven percent to five percent.**

In this way, we are supporting citizens after years of massive price increases. Experience shows that when VAT is reduced, retailers pass on the overwhelming majority of the tax cut to consumers. The reduction in VAT is felt by all consumers when they shop, because no one can do without buying basic foodstuffs. The reduction in VAT is particularly helpful for households with lower incomes, since spending on food accounts for a particularly high proportion of income.

We must also keep a close eye on the market power of the few large food retailers, which can lead to excessive price increases in order to expand profit margins. To this end, we want to **strengthen the relevant authorities**, which make the development and composition of selected food prices transparent and public, from production to sale.

competent authorities should examine whether there are violations of competition law.

## **8. We fight for stable pensions.**

Good security in old age is a core promise of our welfare state. Those who have paid contributions for decades must be able to trust this promise. The value of work is also reflected in good pensions in old age. This also applies to young people today who are now entering the workforce and will be paying contributions for many years. We reject the pension cut plans of the CDU/CSU and FDP.

### **We want your work to retain its value even in retirement.**

The statutory pension insurance is the first strong pillar of old-age security and must remain so. We are concerned with a good standard of living in old age. The level of security provided by the statutory pension must therefore be stabilized. In order to secure living standards, however, the second, company pillar and the third, private pillar must also be promoted more strongly so that low-income earners in particular have the chance to make provision.

We are ensuring that the level of **statutory pension insurance** is permanently secured at at least 48 percent. This is also in the interests of those who will retire in the future. Under current law, this stabilization of the pension level will expire on July 1, 2025. This would mean that it would fall in the future or become more decoupled from general wage developments. Even if pensions do not fall in absolute terms, this would in fact be a pension cut in the future.

The SPD will continue to allow people to retire two years earlier without any deductions after 45 years of contributions. This is something that people who started working early deserve. **We reject an increase in the standard retirement age.**

We have introduced the basic pension and improved benefits for those with reduced earning capacity. We will build on this.

We want to better support all those who want to continue working after reaching retirement age. That is why we are abolishing the ban on prior employment, so there can be a

A new fixed-term employment contract can be concluded with the same employer. For all those who have reached retirement age, the employer's contribution to unemployment insurance and pension insurance should be paid directly to the employees. In addition, they should be able to claim a one-off payment instead of monthly pension supplements.

We want to include all working people in the solidarity of statutory pension insurance more and in the long term. We want to first of all protect all self-employed people, who often have a high need for protection. Good solutions are important here, which offer basic old-age security and insurance against the risk of incapacity for work, even with increasing changes in the form of employment.

We want to improve survivors' pensions by adjusting the way income is taken into account.

We want to promote attractive **company pension schemes** that can be designed within the framework of collective agreements. We want to broaden the range of offers without a contribution guarantee but with higher expected returns. To this end, we will in particular expand the tax incentives for company pensions for low earners.

Supplementary **private pension provision** can help to maintain the standard of living in old age. We only want to allow state support for private pension provision for new pension products whose costs are transparent and capped. State support should be structured in a differentiated manner and targeted at low and medium income earners.

who would otherwise be unable to afford any or only a limited amount of private pension provision.

## **9. We fight for a reliable everyday life for families.**

Family – that is where people look after each other and want to stand up for each other.

Family means being connected and secure. Family - behind it lies a system of values based on responsibility, care, love and respect. Family catches us, gives us protection, strength and courage for the sometimes harsh outside world. Our democracy is also rooted in the family, because in the family council everyone is heard, everyone has a voice. A society is shaped by how well families are doing.

We cannot take for granted what families do for our society. But warm words alone do not make life easier for families. We are making families strong. We are relying on a package of measures to continue to combat child poverty: by supporting earned income through housing benefit, child benefit and child supplement, with childcare, education and care services that you can rely on. Because families' everyday lives are not easy even without

Cancelled classes and unexpected closing times are stressful enough.

### **We want to give parents more time for their families and promote partnership.**

For a successful family life, working parents need time and the freedom they need to organize their everyday life in partnership. We therefore want to **introduce a family start time**: fathers or partners should be able to take time off for the first two weeks after the birth of a child with full, contribution-financed salary continued. We want a

introduce **staggered maternity protection** in the event of miscarriages. We also believe it is right that the next federal government develops a concept for **maternity protection for the self-employed** .

Parental **allowance and parental leave** remain a success story. While others want to make cuts here, we are committed to further development in order to provide even stronger incentives for fathers, strengthen their negotiating position in the workplace and better support families in the early phase. Every parent should be entitled to six non-transferable months of parental allowance.

In addition, there are a further six months that can be freely distributed between both parents. **This increases the total number of parental allowance months from 14 to 18 months.**

The specific design of working hours is a core component of collective bargaining autonomy. The collective bargaining parties can better assess the respective needs and circumstances in the sectors and find tailor-made solutions. We support the unions in this common goal, the increased need of employees for more flexible working hours, To take into account reductions in working hours or more options and the associated better balance between work and leisure time.

### **We want to relieve the burden on parents and families.**

In order to effectively relieve parents in their everyday lives, a **good and reliable infrastructure for education, care and everyday assistance is also needed**. Families must be able to rely on the education and care in daycare centers and schools - in terms of time and quality.

We are also committed to free education from kindergarten onwards. All children should have the best possible opportunities to grow up well from the very beginning. They should receive the support they need.

We want to help families to better manage the daily balancing act between raising children, work, household, care and also relaxation. With an annual family budget for

Everyday Helpers, we want to directly promote household-related services subject to social insurance contributions and make it easily accessible digitally. This also helps in the fight against illegal work.

We want to gradually expand **early help** for families in difficult life situations until the end of primary school. We want to overcome the current separation of youth welfare, school and health services and bring the services together, especially in **family centers at daycare centers and schools that reach all families**.

We are committed to **providing good, free meals** in all educational institutions .

In doing so, we will take into account the recommendations of the Citizens' Council on the topic of "Diet in Transition". Together with the states, we want to ensure that all daycare children and all pupils in the facilities receive a healthy and free lunch.

We want to reform the **taxation of families, taking into account life decisions that have already been made**, achieve a fairer distribution of the tax burden for couples, and promote partnerships. We therefore want to implement the already initiated transfer of the tax class combination III/V to the factor method of tax class IV as quickly as possible. We will examine the effects of this new regulation and further reform steps in due course. For single parents, we want to convert the relief amount into a deduction from the tax liability.

### **We want to ensure social participation for children and families.**

We want to ensure that all children have the best possible opportunities to grow up well from the very beginning - with an infrastructure for social participation and poverty-proof, unbureaucratic financial benefits. By increasing child benefit and child supplement, we have already achieved better support for families and with the Start Opportunities program in schools we have achieved an educational milestone to compensate for disadvantages.

In the next step, we want to ensure that families - especially single parents - with their own low wage income with a combination of child benefit, child supplement and housing benefit are not dependent on supplementary citizen's allowance. A central contact point will also further improve the accessibility of these benefits and make the (digital) application process easier. Where possible, benefits should be applied for and paid out automatically.

At the same time, we are consistently and purposefully expanding the infrastructure for education and participation. This includes, among other things, the expansion of early interventions as well as the nationwide provision of good daycare centers and a start-up opportunity program for daycare centers in disadvantaged areas, the expansion of family centers, the gradual expansion of the start-up opportunity program in schools, good all-day programs for school children, a healthy and free lunch in all daycare centers and schools, and mobility for children and young people. For us, these are further important steps in the spirit of our basic child benefit.

Loneliness can affect anyone. It is a complex social challenge with numerous possible negative effects on health and social interaction. We are committed to fundamental research into and combating loneliness.

### **We want all children and young people to grow up strong and safe.**

Children and young people have a right to real participation! We will ensure **strong children's rights** also anchored in the Basic Law to ensure protection, participation and support. From the age of 16, young people should be able to participate in decision-making, which is why **we are lowering the voting age**. Young people should be actively involved in political processes at all levels, and their participation in youth welfare committees should be anchored in law. Youth associations, youth parliaments and similar structures do important work. We want to continue to support them.

It is about making young people **self-determined and self-confident citizens**. Especially in schools, **democratic education must be practiced** in all areas – by having children and young people learn everything that concerns the **school community, their learning processes and learning content**, can actively participate in shaping.

**Involvement in civil society** is also a valuable experience for children and young people and must be seen as part of their education. **Voluntary service** offers young people the opportunity to get involved in their community and develop valuable social skills in the process. Currently, in many places there are more interested people than places. We therefore want to further develop the financing of **voluntary services** on the basis of a federal-state agreement.

We want to structure the “pocket money” in such a way that young people from lower-income households can also opt for voluntary service.

Children and young people have a **right to grow up without violence**. We want to align family law more closely with children's rights and create incentives for protection concepts in all institutions where children and young people regularly spend time.

We want **stricter regulations, advertising restrictions and age limits** for energy drinks, alcohol, disposable cigarettes and new nicotine products. In addition, we are raising awareness of the dangers through educational campaigns and preventive measures in schools. In order to reduce the sugar, salt and fat content in our food, we set binding targets and create economic incentives for less harmful products – through a manufacturer levy on sugary drinks.

## **10. We fight for good health care in cities and rural areas.**

Good and safe healthcare must not depend on the patient's wallet, and it must not overburden people financially. We are fighting for a

A health system that is fair - for everyone, everywhere in the country. At the same time, statutory health insurance is facing considerable challenges.

Regardless of income and place of residence, everyone should have quick access to high-quality care. With measures such as an appointment guarantee, limiting financial burdens and solidarity-based financing models, we ensure greater security and Reliability in the healthcare system. Together with our partners in self-government, we focus on prevention, regional care networks, digitalization and more common good instead of profit. Patients are at the heart of our healthcare policy.

**We want a healthcare system in our country in which everyone has equal access to the same quality and which does not overburden anyone financially.**

Everyone's health is an indicator of how a country conducts politics. Our goal is a **fair health system** that ensures fast, high-quality care regardless of crises without overburdening people financially. The **differences in waiting times and treatment options** between those with private and statutory insurance must be **urgently eliminated**. become.

Our structural reforms improve efficiency and quality, strengthen prevention and provide The focus is on the needs of the patients: reliable and safe care whenever it is needed. We reject any deterioration in patient services. We rely on a **solidarity-based system of citizen insurance** that gives everyone equal access to health services of the same quality. For federal civil servants, we create a real right to vote on

statutory health insurance through a lump sum subsidy.

The financial equalization between health insurance companies should be made fairer, and private insurance companies should also contribute to risk structure equalization. A solidarity-based financing system creates trust and relieves citizens of worries about financial burdens. That is why we are strengthening the contribution-financed pay-as-you-go system. Health insurance companies and private health insurance companies thus form a system of **solidarity-based citizen insurance** in which everyone participates and with which medical and nursing care as well as access to this care is equally guaranteed.

The contributions of the insured should be based even more on their economic performance than now. Our aim is also to have a **uniform and simple remuneration system** that also covers the maintenance costs of the service providers.

In the future, we want to finance **non-insurance-related tasks** in the health care system sufficiently **from tax revenues**. This means that contributions for insured persons and employers will remain stable and the inequalities between different groups of insured persons will be ended. We want everyone to get help and appointments and to be cared for quickly and well in every situation.

In the health care system, people are the focus: as people seeking advice, those in need of treatment and care or relatives, but also as employees in medical, therapeutic and nursing professions. They are what we are concerned about when we guide the system through the challenges of demographic change and want to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization.

Because everyone in Germany should be able to rely on **accessible, high-quality healthcare**. To achieve this, we are continuing on the path we have taken to strengthen the security of care. We have implemented a long overdue reform to improve the quality of care in our hospitals and have prepared measures for **better outpatient care** - such as de-budgeting general practitioners, making it easier to set up municipal medical care centers and introducing advanced practice nurses and community nurses, and improving the provision of medical aids, particularly for people with disabilities. We would also like to implement these in the future.

We will continue this successful course and improve the security of care through further structural reforms, in particular to **ensure** medical care in structurally weak regions. Our goal is to ensure **tailor-made cooperation from emergency situations to planned operations and aftercare**. We want to **strengthen emergency care and rescue services, remove barriers** between practices, hospitals and other care facilities

and improve cooperation in the healthcare sector through the **use of telemedicine** and telepharmacy. We are in favour of more regionalisation, needs-based management and a healthcare system that is not based on profit-orientation, but on **the common good and sustainability**

**Fast help in an emergency** and reliable access **to the necessary treatment**

must be guaranteed for everyone. In order to reduce **waiting times**, we will introduce an **appointment guarantee** from the health insurance companies and associations of statutory health insurance physicians. Those with statutory insurance should be able to get an appointment just as quickly as those with private insurance. If the appointment guarantee is not met, they should be **entitled to a reduction in their premiums**.



In addition to structural reforms, we are also focusing on **digitization and prevention**. We have massively pushed forward digitization in the healthcare system in order to improve diagnostics and treatment and to ensure rapid data availability. The **electronic patient record** is now coming after 20 years of standstill, and AI medicine will revolutionize treatment. In the future, doctors and nurses will have more time for

the patients – by facilitating documentation and diagnostics through AI. **Digitalized data exchange** will soon provide long-term support for research into new therapies. AI will enable cures for cancer treatment and dementia.

We want to use the opportunities offered by digitalization in the area of prevention and **develop the electronic patient file into a personal health advisor** for the insured. This should record the best ways to promote individual health. **Prevention and early detection are our focus**. We want to reduce individual suffering by avoiding non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks or strokes.

We also want to strengthen addiction prevention and the **prevention of mental illness**. We are striving to provide low-threshold, digital counseling services nationwide for young people in **psychologically** difficult situations. **We are continuing to work consistently to ensure that all people who need psychotherapy are given a therapy place quickly**. The courageous step of undergoing psychotherapy must not become a disadvantage in professional life. We also want to anchor the issue of loneliness in the context of health prevention. This is a cross-cutting issue, but one that poses major challenges for the health system in particular. We will therefore specifically address these aspects in a prevention strategy.

In addition, we want to further expand access to care services for vulnerable groups, for example through **health kiosks**, and take greater account of the different **health needs of women and men**, and specifically promote gender- and diversity-sensitive research in order to overcome ignorance in diagnostics, therapy, prevention and rehabilitation. Health professionals should be trained in gender- and diversity-sensitive care and communication. For diseases such as endometriosis and issues related to birth and menopause, we will develop effective solutions for

develop better care. We will also **continue to strengthen care for children and young people**.

We also want to ensure that the improvements in the **supply security of medicines** in recent years quickly take effect for all medicines. Because where the new rules are applied, there are already hardly any shortages. We also want to ensure that there is **more production of medicines in Germany and Europe**: health insurance companies, together with other national and European players, should be able to purchase larger quantities of therapies over longer periods of time if they are manufactured here. We are strengthening local pharmacies as important contact points for prevention, therapy support and a secure supply of medicines. We also rely on a **strong healthcare industry** and research and want to jointly promote personalized therapy options for prevention and treatment at affordable prices.

In addition, we also want to better **prepare ourselves for future events, such as another pandemic**, and comprehensively review the state's **crisis management during the corona pandemic**, including with a citizens' council, **in order to be able to learn from it**.

## 11. We fight for humane care and cap the costs of care.

We are committed to improving our care system. We ensure the well-being of the people. We are creating a solidarity-based care system that leaves no one behind, does not overwhelm anyone and offers a good environment for everyone involved: those in need of care, relatives and the nursing professions. We prevent financial overburdening, limit high personal contributions, ensure comprehensive, high-quality care – at home and in a nursing home – and improve working conditions through innovative solutions and more time off. In order to ensure the sustainability of the solidarity-financed care system, we will also use tax revenue wisely.

### **We want to secure care services, cap care costs and provide more time for caring for relatives.**

The need for care must not be a risk of poverty. That is why we want to end the current coexistence of statutory and private nursing care insurance. Instead, we are creating a **common, solidarity-financed nursing care system** that offers everyone secure care, guarantees stable contributions and protects against financial overburdening in the event of needing care.

In the first step, we want to include **private nursing care insurances in the risk structure compensation between all nursing care funds** as quickly as possible and thus in fair and performance-based financing. We want to significantly reduce the high **personal contributions to nursing care costs** in long-term inpatient care by **limiting them to 1,000 euros per month** (so-called **nursing care cost cap**). For people who already need long-term inpatient care, we guarantee **protection of vested rights**. They should not be treated worse. We will also support **home care** and introduce **appropriate restrictions**.

In addition, **the investment costs of the homes** will no longer be able to be **passed on entirely to the residents**. In this way, we will be able to provide all those in need of care and their relatives. We want to finance the necessary resources more fairly. Especially in East Germany, where the disposable income of many people is often lower than in West Germany, the high personal contribution for those in need of care and their families represents an immense burden. By limiting these costs, we want to ensure that **no one has to fear the costs of adequate care because of their financial background**. At the same time, we are strengthening solidarity in the welfare state and sending a clear signal: Care

must not be a luxury, but must remain affordable for everyone - regardless of regional and economic differences. We also want to **reduce the bureaucratic burden** and further relieve the burden on those in need of care, their relatives and the care facilities, e.g. through a **simplified application process for care assistance**.

Outpatient care is and remains the most important anchor for reliable financing of social care insurance. Anyone who is dependent on care and support wants to can remain in their familiar surroundings for a long time. That is why strengthening **home care** and relieving the burden on caring relatives is particularly important to us. We will work to ensure more **time sovereignty for all caring relatives** and close people through family care leave and family care allowance – analogous to parental allowance. This strengthens the self-determination of those in need of care and their families. At the same time, we will provide advice, expand networking and contact points for those in need of care and their relatives and establish new forms of housing and expand day and night care facilities in order to to strengthen **needs-based care infrastructure**.

It is important to us that the municipalities are given more opportunities to decide where and under which management the facilities and care services are located.

must be tailored to the **nursing and household needs** of the person in need of care and be organized accordingly. People in need of care and their caring relatives should also be given priority when **allocating social housing** due to the special space requirements for care. In addition, we want to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization, to support care even better through **digital products and advisory services**. Digitalisation in care can promote prevention, prevent the need for care, provide reliable Enable monitoring and better network existing care services.

### **We want to improve working conditions in healthcare professions.**

It is unthinkable what will happen if the shortage of skilled workers in the health professions continues to grow. That is why it is absolutely essential for us to implement positive changes here. Wages, working hours, authority - we must now seize the opportunity to improve the future viability of our healthcare system. And that can be achieved through the professions within the system.

A high quality of care in the health care system begins with good working conditions and adequate staffing in all areas and all employee groups.

That is why we continue to campaign for proper collective agreements in health and care. We We also want to ensure that needs-based staffing is introduced **nationwide for all groups of employees in the healthcare sector**. In this way, we will significantly improve the **compatibility of family and work**.

We also continue to campaign for **good wages**: stabilizing health and nursing care insurance will create financial leeway to refinance **wages based on collective agreements**. In addition, we want to strengthen **cooperation between all health professions**, create **more permeability** and **expand the powers of nursing professionals**. At the same time, we will facilitate access to further training and health-promoting measures.

In the medical professions, we want to focus on **general practitioners and pediatricians** and promote the expansion of training and continuing education capacities and abolish the budgets for general practitioners. Because we not only need more nursing staff, but also more general practitioners and pediatricians.

The often high documentation effort puts a strain on many employees in the healthcare sector. To reduce this, we are focusing on **expanding AI-supported documentation**. We are also advocating for **more time off in lieu** - for example, by reducing weekly working hours.

In order to counteract the shortage of personnel caused by demographic change, we are expanding the **global recruitment and integration of skilled workers**. At the same time, we want to make **training more attractive**, because today's trainees are tomorrow's skilled workers. That is why we are committed to practical and **free training in the health professions**. **Uniform standards** should ensure that all professions in this area benefit from high quality training - especially the therapeutic professions, which are heavily dependent on work in an interdisciplinary manner. Our aim is for all trainees to receive **fair remuneration** and have **the opportunity to have a say** in the company. At the same time, the quality of training as a whole must be improved: in the nursing professions, we are particularly committed to **improving practical training** and, for doctors, to reliable rules on **remuneration and working hours during the practical year**.

## 12. We fight for climate protection that everyone can afford.

By now, everyone knows: sustainability and climate protection cost money. Leaving everything as it is costs more. A large majority wants to do something for our climate. We are convinced that climate protection must be affordable. Everyone must be able to live and participate in a climate-neutral way, regardless of income, wealth or place of residence. No one can build a heating network, lay new railway lines or set up an electric charging station on their own. We are convinced that it is the state's job to create the conditions for everyone to switch to climate-friendly technologies.

In concrete terms, this means for us that the climate-friendly alternative must be better, more convenient and, above all, cheaper for citizens.

### **We want everyone to be able to become climate neutral.**

We want a **paradigm shift in climate policy** that relies more often on community solutions. Building climate-neutral heating networks that heat an entire district is not only more solidarity-based, but also more efficient and cost-effective than individual heat pumps in each

A house.

Social democratic climate policy means that everyone has a realistic chance of switching to climate-neutral solutions. The following applies: money from the state is primarily given to those who would otherwise not be able to afford to switch to climate-friendly technologies such as a heat pump or an electric car. But then only as much as is needed. Because our paradigm shift means that **climate neutrality is also a task for public services**. To achieve this, municipalities, states and the federal government must take on new tasks and some responsibilities must be restructured. Above all, municipalities need more financial leeway to implement their

to deal with numerous and growing tasks. Both the Germany Fund and the reform of the debt brake for the states offer opportunities for this. We are convinced that this is the only way we can achieve our climate goals in a socially just, effective and cost-efficient manner. Where shared infrastructures such as heating networks or good public transport cannot solve the problem, We focus on targeted support so that everyone can afford the switch.

The **municipal heat planning** we have introduced is a milestone on the way to a climate-neutral building stock. We want to promote local heat plans that ensure a climate-friendly and intelligently planned energy supply at the municipal level. Municipalities should be given the opportunity to make their heat supply climate-neutral through funding and technical support, which will significantly advance the energy transition locally.

We are clearly committed to the **climate goals for Germany and the EU**. We must limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below two degrees Celsius and, if possible, lead to a 1.5 degree path. We support the **European Green Deal** so that Europe becomes the first climate-neutral continent. We will not allow the achievements we have made to be weakened. Our economy needs planning security. We will implement the laws that have been passed. We are aware of our pioneering role and will use this to benefit our country, our people and Germany as a business location.

There will be households that are particularly burdened by the rising prices for CO<sub>2</sub> and cannot switch on their own because they have no choice. We think that is unfair.

For us, a price on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for private households and small businesses can only ever be a supplementary instrument. The CO<sub>2</sub> price per tonne of

55 euros in 2025 and a maximum of 65 euros in 2026. When the European regulation comes into force in 2027, we will ensure that no one is overburdened through appropriate measures at European and national level (for example climate money).

Wind power and photovoltaics are already the cheapest form of electricity production. Their consistent expansion and the integration of storage systems will make our energy supply secure and permanently affordable. To ensure that these low costs are passed on to consumers, we will ensure that network charges do not rise any further. Until then, we want to expand and consolidate the on-site advice of the **electricity savings check** for the poorest households across Germany. We want to offer poorer households heating rental models (social heat pump leasing). District heating will become very important, especially in urban areas, and will heat millions of people's homes. To ensure that it remains affordable, we want to set up a nationwide **price control for district heating**.

Many people can participate in solar panels or wind turbines, not just homeowners, but also entire village communities. This promotes acceptance. We therefore want to further simplify the **decentralized supply of energy**, from balcony power plants to community wind farms (energy sharing). Because if the new wind turbine finances the daycare center or the swimming pool, it helps the community place and the energy transition throughout the country.

### **We want to make our communities climate-fit.**

We want to promote **urban development to adapt to climate change**, to enable cities to create green infrastructure and implement heat-resilient urban planning. should enable them to implement important measures such as greening and desealing urban areas (sponge city), the creation of cooling public spaces and the development of water areas to ensure the quality of life and to make urban space sustainable.

## **13. We fight for punctual railways and good mobility for all.**

In Switzerland, many ICE trains from Germany are no longer allowed to enter because they endanger the punctuality of the Swiss network. You may smile about it, but that is not a good thing. The railway is more than just the railway. It is a reputation factor for our country. It determines our everyday lives and sometimes even our emotions. The railway stands for values that we as a society in Germany have and want to maintain: accuracy, punctuality, functionality. Something has been lost. We

We need a well-functioning railway for a well-functioning everyday life. We want to be proud of our railway again.

Our aim is and will remain that everyone in the country and in the city can travel quickly, reliably and comfortably. The transport of goods and commodities must also function smoothly for logistics. We all feel that this is no longer the case in many places. The trains are often late, the rail network is overloaded, bridges and roads are dilapidated. When the infrastructure crumbles, traffic comes to a standstill.

We have reacted decisively and initiated billions of investments in our infrastructure. We are continuing consistently down this path: We are making our railways, roads and waterways fit again and ensuring that they once again become a locational advantage for Germany.

We will shift traffic from the road to rail and also to waterways. Our goal is user-oriented and climate-neutral mobility. Shaping the path to this

We are socially just: Mobility must be accessible and affordable for everyone. A mobility revolution that includes everyone creates and secures jobs and expands people's freedom to be as mobile as possible.  
to be the way they want to be.

### **We want the trains to run on time again.**

The basic requirement for a punctual train is a **functioning rail network**. We have implemented record investments in rail and will continue to do so. This is a priority for us. Together we are enabling Deutsche Bahn to carry out a general renovation of the most important railway lines. We are making our rail network more efficient through digitalization, electrification and  
and noise protection are once again efficient and future-proof. With targeted expansion and new construction, we are expanding it in the spirit of a German and European rhythm. Our transport infrastructure must remain efficient in the long term.

The privatization of public services remains out of the question. We will keep Deutsche Bahn as an integrated corporation in public ownership. The new public welfare-oriented infrastructure division  
We are continuing to develop DB InfraGO and the entire group with more control and management from the federal government. In particular, we are reforming the track pricing system to transport more goods by rail and promoting the implementation of digital automatic coupling.

We want to connect **all major cities to the long-distance network** and introduce more ICE Sprinters, night trains and Europe-wide express train connections. Short train journey times are the first alternative to short-haul flights. Together with Deutsche Bahn, we want to **make train travel really easy**: refunds should be paid out automatically if possible, and the Deutschlandticket should be better integrated into train bookings. We want efficient and attractive train stations where people like to take a break.

The Deutschlandticket is a great success that we want to maintain. Reliability is our priority: we want to offer the Deutschlandticket permanently. The low price and ease of use are the ticket's recipe for success - we want the price to remain at its current level permanently. To this end, we will finance the ticket adequately together with the states. We are also committed to a nationwide, discounted Deutschlandticket.

a reduced price for certain social groups such as senior citizens, families with children, trainees, students, schoolchildren or people with disabilities.  
This will make local public transport affordable for the wider society.

We will strengthen the **financing of local public transport** in the long term together with the states and municipalities. The federal government's regionalisation funds are important for this. We will introduce the mandatory transfer of personnel for all employees when changing operators in local and regional transport.  
Regional transport should be enshrined in law. The obligation to comply with tariffs in tendering procedures  
We will enforce this. In urban areas, public transport should be given priority wherever possible  
Even those who cannot or do not want to drive a car must be able to be mobile. This requires good accessibility and good bus and train schedules, both in the country and in the city.



## **We want good mobility for everyone.**

More and more people are switching to buses, trains or bicycles. In terms of a sustainable future, this is a great development. But for many people, the car is an indispensable companion. For those who drive a combustion engine today, we want to make it **attractive to switch to an electric car** the next time they buy or lease a car. The nationwide expansion of the charging infrastructure for cars

We are continuing to make targeted progress with the development of electric vehicles and trucks. In addition to the new funding for electric cars, we want to improve the driving experience with electric vehicles in all respects: Our goal is to have fast charging stations in every supermarket car park and at every petrol station. We want to enable a contactless and uniform payment system at all charging stations and to enable people to use their own cars as electricity storage devices at home. Refueling at public charging stations must not be penalized with high price surcharges.

Driving licenses have simply become too expensive for many young people. This is causing problems, particularly in rural areas. In light of the increased rate of test failures and rising prices, we will **reform driver training, including theory lessons, in the interests of road safety and efficiency**, with the aim of significantly reducing the costs of driving training. All young people aged 17 should therefore receive a **mobility pass with a credit of 500 euros**, for example for driving license costs, train tickets or bicycles. We also want to enable employers to pay a driving license subsidy of up to 2,000 euros to trainees and young employees, tax-free and free of charges.

To ensure genuine equality for road users, we will **continue to reform road traffic law** and firmly enshrine Vision Zero. In the spirit of intermodality, we are promoting bicycle infrastructure with nationwide networked cycle superhighways and bicycle parking garages and are further developing the federal government's pedestrian traffic strategy. We want a fair provision of data in order to strengthen mobility offers in rural areas, standardize tickets and better network mobility services. We are strengthening an innovative taxi industry as part of the public service and ensuring compliance with social standards through

driving service providers.

However, the German motorway network urgently needs to be renovated, especially the bridges. We are launching a **new federal mobility plan**. Bottlenecks on the roads are to be eliminated in the future too. We are thinking about infrastructure in an integrated way: Where possible, the burden should be relieved by rail or waterways.

We want to introduce a **speed limit of 130 km/h on federal motorways**. A speed limit has so many advantages that it is almost impossible to justify not introducing it. We are lagging far behind in this respect compared to Europe and the rest of the world. If a speed limit saves human lives, why don't we do it? If a speed limit massively reduces stress, traffic jams and accidents, why don't we do it? If a speed limit is good for nature, the climate and the surrounding residential area, why don't we introduce it? It's time.

We will promote the procurement of **climate-friendly trucks** and local buses: CO2 emissions can be reduced particularly quickly here. We are actively counteracting the shortage of drivers in road freight transport and are implementing humane, fair and attractive working conditions for professional drivers inside and outside their vehicles, for example by including the truck driver's cab in the protection of the Workplace Ordinance.

We want to shape the path to **climate-neutral air traffic** in the sense of fair competition (level playing field) for our airports and airlines. We strive for uniform EU-wide

We are introducing regulations that prevent the shifting of CO2 emissions (carbon leakage). We want to convert the **air transport tax into an EU climate levy** that is paid by all airlines, including those outside Europe. We will upgrade the **waterway infrastructure**, implement the **National Port Strategy** quickly and support the **modernization of shipping fleets**. Research and market ramp-up for sustainable fuels such as e-fuels are particularly important for air transport and Shipping centrally.

## 14. We fight for a state that functions better.

The SPD is committed to a welfare state that offers people reliable security in important life situations. We want a more citizen-friendly state that supports and helps – quickly, unbureaucratically and fairly. With a strong public service, modern and digital, which is seen as a good employer sets an example.

### We want a state that is close to its citizens and avoids unnecessary journeys.

Our welfare state should be geared to people's living situations and needs, not to responsibilities. By **simplifying application procedures, consolidating and coordinating benefits**, we want to prevent people from being referred from one place to the next. We are working towards central contact points that are close to where everyone lives, socially accessible, have low thresholds, are multilingual, barrier-free and can also be reached digitally. This is not about an additional point of contact, but rather a comprehensive contact point for the welfare state that integrates all actors. Benefits such as child benefit should be granted automatically. The administration independently checks which entitlements exist and initiates these without additional applications.

Self-administration is a proven basic principle of social insurance, which is based on the commitment of volunteers. We will strengthen self-administration in social insurance and enable social elections to be held online. We see the welfare associations with their numerous social services as an important partner in promoting social commitment and cohesion.

The federal government's departmental principle has constitutional status. At the same time, however, thinking in terms of these departmental pillars and the coexistence of many "strategies" and programs make it difficult to overcome complex challenges - even in times of scarce resources. We need a few, **central, cross-departmental strategies** (mission orientation) for the major issues.

At the same time, we will examine which tasks, services and responsibilities of the ministries can be bundled in order to increase the efficiency and controllability of the federal administration. increase.

We will test all new laws and major amendments for effectiveness, citizen proximity, practicality and digital suitability before they are adopted and will gradually review existing laws accordingly. To do this, we will interlink the instruments of the **citizen check**, the **practical check** and the **digital check** and anchor them in a binding manner in legislative work.

**Effective bureaucracy reduction** can only be achieved by involving those who experience it and are responsible for the bureaucracy. That is why, once a government has been formed, we will invite business, states and municipalities to a practical summit to identify and agree on further concrete necessary measures.

We are introducing a **fiction of approval, whereby applications are automatically approved** if the authorities do not respond within a set deadline. This gives construction and investment projects more planning security.

### **We want to accelerate the digitization of public administration.**

The digitalization of German public administration is a high priority. Since 2023, there has been  
It is actually a legal right of citizens to be able to order any administrative service digitally. We need more speed and consistency in the realization of this right. We will **bundle all responsibilities for administrative digitization in one ministry** and equip it with the necessary financial means and powers.

The subordinate bodies and service providers (including ITZBund, Bundesdruckerei, Bundesverwaltungsamt, BSI, Digitalservice, FITKO) must be set up and work together in such a way that the central projects in the area of administrative digitization can finally be implemented quickly and in a user-friendly manner.

The state should act in a citizen-friendly and forward-looking manner. Instead of burdening people with tedious application processes, they should receive services simply and without red tape. Our goal is an **administration that meets the needs of citizens**, acts proactively and reduces bureaucracy to the level that is really necessary.

A key to this is the **digital exchange of data between all authorities**. It must work smoothly. To achieve this, we want to set up a system for the one-time transmission of data and quickly conclude the necessary treaty between the federal government and the states.

We are implementing the register modernization and building platform-based solutions for processing applications. This includes **modernizing the Central Register of Foreigners (AZR)** and make it the central information platform in immigration and asylum law. Data is only recorded once and made available digitally to all relevant authorities.

We are committed to the widespread use of eID, the electronic identity, which  
Citizens can **securely identify themselves digitally and sign digitally**.

In this way, we create a basis for modern administrative services and ensure EU-wide compatibility so that the digital identity can also be used across borders. In order to make administrative services available centrally and easily, we are introducing the **DeutschlandID**.

This creates modern access to government services. We use **automation and artificial intelligence** to speed up administrative processes and make them more efficient.

We relieve the burden on employees and improve service for citizens.

### **We want an attractive public service.**

We want to make the **state more attractive as an employer** – with widespread home office, job sharing and part-time models in the public sector. We want a state that, as an employer, offers

An attractive employer who trains, finds and retains skilled workers, which improves the compatibility of work and private life. Lifelong learning should become the basis for an efficient public service. We focus on targeted further training

and qualification so that skilled workers can expand their skills. Fixed-term employment contracts

We want to significantly reduce the number of jobs in the public sector. Permanent positions should be the rule in order to  
To create security and prospects for employees.

### **We want real participation in an inclusive society.**

We are committed to an inclusive society in which people with disabilities can exercise their right to full, effective and equal participation. To this end, we will **improve accessibility in the private and public sectors**. We will require private providers of goods and services to remove barriers or – where this is not possible – to

is – to take appropriate measures. In addition, we will make accessibility a priority in housing, mobility, digital and health.

We ensure the **realization of the equal right to work for people with disabilities**.

To this end, we will increasingly encourage people to take up work in the general labor market and implement the further development of workshops for people with disabilities quickly. In doing so, we will also improve the income situation of workshop employees. In addition to better opportunities for people with disabilities on the labor market, we also want to strengthen representatives of severely disabled people in companies and political self-representation.

We want to promote German Sign Language nationwide and help as many people as possible to learn this language - whether they need it or not. At the federal level, we will set up a Federal Competence Center for Easy Language and Sign Language.

We stand for **effective protection against violence** and are tightening the legal regulations for violence protection concepts in facilities and services for people with disabilities.

We improve rehabilitation and participation for people with mental disabilities.

Their number has risen steadily in recent years – also as a result of the Covid-19

Pandemic. We are ensuring that the needs of people with mental disabilities are better recognized than before in the structured system of rehabilitation and participation and are addressed in a needs-oriented manner. We will quickly implement the action plan for a diverse, inclusive and barrier-free health care system. In addition to medical rehabilitation, social rehabilitation is very important to us.

### **We want to strengthen consumer protection.**

Thanks to our strong consumer protection, the products and services that can be bought in Germany are safe and harmless. This is an achievement that we will defend. But more is needed: consumers need effective market supervisory authorities and a competition regulator at their side that put consumer protection first. With this in mind, we want to strengthen consumer protection at national and European level.

This is especially true in the digital space. This requires special protection against rip-offs and manipulation, especially for children and young people. We also advocate for the preservation of net neutrality.

## Feeling safe and at home in Germany

Germany is a strong democracy and one of the safest countries in the world. We work with heart and soul to ensure that both remain so. We know from our own history: Democracy is the basis of everything. It guarantees freedom, justice and solidarity. Democracy creates a strong, innovative economy, secure jobs and social cohesion. It is the key to stability, especially in uncertain times. That is why we defend and strengthen it - as the core of our society and the basis for a good future.

A strong democracy ensures security. It means freedom from fear. With our internal security policy, we protect all citizens from crime, violence and incitement. We ensure modern civil protection that responds to the consequences of climate change and takes new geopolitical tensions into account. We protect our critical infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity and defend our country from hybrid warfare and sabotage by hostile actors. Our goal is for people to feel safe and to be sure that they belong.

To this end, we are strengthening cohesion in our country. It grows where respect, solidarity and belief in a shared future are alive. That is why we ensure equal opportunities and non-discriminatory participation for all citizens. We fight discrimination, racism, right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, Islamism and all other forms of group-related misanthropy. In doing so, we seek to join forces with all democrats and organizations for a strong civil society.

## 15. We fight for unity and against the enemies of democracy.

Democracy is a great achievement of civilization. It must be learned, lived and defended. It is civil society that is crucial here. We fight fake news, hate and incitement and are determined to stand up against all forms of extremism. Across the country and especially in East Germany, numerous committed associations and local civil society actors are doing valuable and courageous work. Together with a strong community of democrats, we want to defend freedom, justice and solidarity against old and new enemies of democracy.

### We want to make democracy tangible and support civil society in its engagement.

We promote educational opportunities that convey democratic values and enable people to participate actively in democracy. For this reason, a tangible democracy must begin at a young age and continue in schools and companies in order to strengthen participation and responsibility from the very beginning. We will support schools, extracurricular educational institutions and political education initiatives.

Historical falsifications and disinformation endanger democracy at its core. That is why we need **better historical education to strengthen critical historical awareness**. We want to strengthen cooperation between educational and memorial sites. We promote the structures of historical education and research, be it in universities or schools, museums or memorial sites, as well as voluntary initiatives.

We want to **establish citizens' councils as an integral part of our democracy**. Randomly selected citizens' councils advise on difficult issues and strengthen trust in democracy. They make democracy tangible by inviting people with different positions to exchange ideas, encouraging compromise and ensuring that the balance of interests is seen as the core of democracy. Their recommendations are incorporated into parliamentary deliberations, while the Decisions remain with the elected institutions.

A vibrant civil society is the backbone of our democracy. With the **Democracy Promotion Act**, we are creating the basis for civil society initiatives that are To provide long-term support for programs such as the federal program "Live Democracy!" We want to modernize non-profit law.

**Independent research at universities and the work of memorial sites and museums are indispensable**. We ensure that these institutions are adequately funded. At the same time we protect their supervisory bodies from right-wing extremist influences.

State institutions should reflect the diversity of our society. With targeted measures, we create **a culture of openness and integration in the public service**.

Churches and religious communities make a valuable contribution to our coexistence. **We promote interreligious dialogue and protect freedom of religion and belief**.

### **We want to resolutely combat discrimination.**

Discrimination violates the dignity of those affected, endangers social cohesion and undermines trust in a just society. We fight for **all people in Germany to be able to live freely and with equal dignity and rights**.

A National Anti-Discrimination Action Plan can help combat discrimination in all areas of life.

We want to further strengthen the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency and expand civil society advisory services so that those affected receive targeted support.

We want to modernize the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) to provide more effective protection against discrimination.

### **We want to prevent and combat extremism.**

For once, we are not fighting for something, but actually against something, namely extremism. Because we know how dangerous it can be for a society. **We make an offer to people who doubt democracy and turn away from it out of uncertainty or frustration**: We want to improve the democratic participation of our country through better citizen participation and understandable decisions and regain lost trust.

In the fight against extremism, we focus primarily on **prevention in order to combat extremist tendencies and hostility to democracy at an early stage**. Preventive measures are specifically developed and implemented in order to nip such developments in the bud. The work of the Task Force on Islamism Prevention will give us important pointers here.



We ensure that the **financial sources of right-wing extremist networks** are disclosed and dried up. We want the structures of right-wing extremist groups to be consistently uncovered and stopped. To this end, we are examining whether the current powers of the security authorities are sufficient.

**Extremist activities will continue to be monitored intensively, and** our security authorities must be able to intervene earlier in anti-constitutional activities. Protecting our democracy is our top priority.

To this end, we will continue to examine how we can **better control access to weapons** and disarm extremists even faster. People with mental health problems must not have access to weapons.

We are **fighting Islamism with all our strength** and rigor and are continuing to strengthen the prevention of Islamism. We are depriving Islamists of space and finances and are thereby clearly showing that Islamism and anti-Semitism have no place in Germany. We want to strengthen civil society initiatives, prevent radicalization and at the same time equip the security authorities with the necessary resources to consistently dismantle Islamist networks.

**Enemies of the constitution have no place in the public service.** With the already reformed federal disciplinary law, we are ensuring that enemies of the constitution no longer remain in public service and destroy trust in state institutions.

We are further strengthening the **fight against foreign disinformation campaigns** and exposing attempts by state actors to influence democratic opinion-forming in Germany.

## **16. We fight for more respect, security and protection from violence.**

Thanks to the professional work of our security authorities, Germany remains one of the safest countries in the world. We want people to feel safe too. The security authorities must be enabled to ward off dangers and threats at an early stage. That is why we react consistently and noticeably to threats. This is particularly true with regard to violence against women and children and politically motivated crime. This also applies to the threats posed by organized crime, financial crime and crimes on and from the Internet (cybercrime). We are focused and consistent in tackling the breeding ground for terror, fear and hatred. To this end, we continue to rely on strong security authorities and modern instruments. We ensure solid civil protection and protect our critical infrastructure. We ensure security that protects and creates trust.

### **We want to strengthen security authorities and the judiciary.**

The visibility of the police is particularly important in challenging times. For this reason, too, we want to **continue to consistently increase the number of staff in the security authorities** and thus ensure their strength when more and more colleagues retire in the coming years. It is clear to us that we will keep the **retirement age in the federal police service** stable at 62 years.

We ensure good working conditions at the Federal Police and support the police officers in their work to ensure our safety. We also ensure that police and security authorities **have modern equipment and contemporary powers**.

We are creating a **modern Federal Police Act** that gives the Federal Police clear powers to effectively address today's security policy challenges.

We want police officers to be respected and recognized for their indispensable service to our society. **Attacks on them, as well as on rescue workers and helpers, must be consistently prosecuted and punished more severely.** In addition, we want to quickly increase the protection of emergency personnel through improved technical equipment, training and a superior force approach in threatening situations. We must stand firmly by the people who risk their lives every day for our safety.

In order to better ensure that no one is harmed when fireworks are set off, we are examining the possibility of expanding the legal options available to local authorities to enable them to take more targeted action locally.

In addition, we will launch an initiative with the states to **harmonize** federal differences in the area of police and assembly law. At the same time, the riot police forces of the states and the federal government will be strengthened so that the fundamental right to assembly can be protected everywhere.

We fight organised crime effectively and sustainably. To do this, we modernise the definition of organised crime and strengthen our security authorities. We

We also want to focus on organised economic crime and take network-like structures into greater consideration.

We also want to further intensify the fight against environmental crime by ensuring that the European Public Prosecutor's Office also becomes responsible for this and that Europol expands its resources in this area.

Our police should be able to carry out **automated (AI-based) data analyses**. This will enable crime to be fought much more quickly, which is why we are creating constitutional Instruments for the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police. Especially in the important fight against organized crime, we must give them greater ability to efficiently process huge amounts of data. evaluate and combat crime in a targeted manner.

We want to promote the establishment of an interdisciplinary, independent Federal Academy for Prevention and Criminal Sciences. It should provide an overview of effective crime prevention concepts, create standards and assist in the implementation new prevention projects. It should also form a hub for criminology projects and enable knowledge transfer into practice.

**We are strengthening the entire rule of law chain:** In addition to the security authorities, we want to strengthen the public prosecutors' offices and (criminal) courts. The judiciary must not become a bottleneck. With a new **pact for the rule of law**, we will work with the states to better equip the judiciary with personnel and material. We also want to **reform the Code of Criminal Procedure to make it more effective** and continue the **digitization of the judiciary** with nationwide compatible systems.

**We want to protect women from violence.**

**Femicides are extreme forms of violence against women.** Women are killed simply because they are women. It is the underlying social and patriarchal structures that make these acts possible. They are an expression of deep misanthropy. We are taking preventive and repressive action against this using all available means. We want to further strengthen the criminal legal position of victims of sexual violence. Any sexual act carried out without clear consent must be punishable. We are improving criminal prosecution and supporting the establishment of specialist public prosecutors' offices by the states. We are committed to the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Domestic violence and partner violence must also be taken into account in custody and access proceedings.

We are making serious **sexual harassment a criminal offence**: unwanted, degrading acts such as catcalling should be prosecuted in the future. We want to protect those affected better protect and clearly define social boundaries.

By tightening the Violence Protection Act, we want to help victims of domestic violence and Better protection against other stalking: measures such as electronic ankle bracelets, mandatory Anti-violence training for offenders and residence bans as well as house arrests offer better protection against offenders and enable closer monitoring in dangerous situations. We are adapting the relevant legal bases for this purpose.

We want gender-based violence to be made **a criminal offence across the EU** .  
Our goal is uniform standards of protection and law enforcement in all Member States.

We want a **right to protection and advice**: With a nationwide legal right, we ensure that those affected have access to shelters such as women's shelters and

We want more prevention of gender-specific and domestic

Violence. With the **Violence Assistance Act**, we want to further expand these structures and secure them in the long term.

We consistently combat human trafficking and all forms of sexual exploitation. Those affected must get protection and help quickly.

We also want to better protect **refugee women** from violence. For victims of domestic violence, we want to ease the residency requirement and residency requirement, and we also want to make the independent right of residence – independent of the spouse – more practical.

**We want to prevent violence and crime on the Internet.**

Unfortunately, violence is also spreading in the digital world. Rapidly and on an unprecedented scale. We want to take consistent action against digital violence. To this end, we are creating a **digital violence protection law**. To do this, we are closing loopholes in criminal liability for image-based violence and restricting the use of so-called spy apps. In addition, the perpetrators' accounts should be blocked more easily. Equipped with a right to bring class action lawsuits, the rights of those affected should be effectively can be enforced.

We are making the Federal Office for Information Security (**BSI**) a **central office for cyber and information security**. We are also strengthening the security authorities' skills against cybercrime. In doing so, we are improving cooperation between the federal and state governments and strengthening defense against cyberattacks on people and businesses - especially IP addresses and port numbers. In doing so, we are ensuring the protection of users' data, strengthening companies' IT security measures and their responsibility in the fight against hate and incitement on the Internet. At the same time, we are creating a better basis for the effective criminal prosecution in cases of specific suspicion of crime. In addition, we rely on the **log-in trap**, which records the IP address when logging into a suspicious user account, allowing master data to be determined via judicial interfaces - of course in strict compliance with fundamental rights and data protection.

We consistently enforce regulations against hate crimes and other crimes on the Internet, as well as on the protection of minors. We implement clear rules to **combat hate crimes and online crimes**. Platform operators are obliged to remove illegal content, while we at the same time strengthen the protection of minors, for example through effective age verification options.

### **We fight against misanthropy in all its forms.**

Discrimination in public and digital spaces by right-wing populists, right-wing extremists and other forces have increased to an alarming extent.

We continue to stand firmly **against any form of group-related misanthropy**. It is a core element of right-wing extremist attitudes and is expressed in racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, but also in sexism, anti-feminism and queer-hostility. We will not tolerate this exclusion of people from the middle of our society.

### **We fight against anti-Semitism and for Jewish life in Germany.**

Germany has a special responsibility in the fight against anti-Semitism. We must warn against it and speak out against it loudly and visibly, regardless of whether it comes from right-wing extremists, Islamists or other misanthropic efforts. This is **an obligation for society as a whole**. All parties and civil society organizations must make it clear that there is no place for anti-Semitic views in their ranks.

We are grateful for **Jewish life and Jewish culture in Germany**. It enriches our society and, given our history, is a special declaration of trust in our democracy and our constitutional state.

That is why we continue to work to promote and protect Jewish life in Germany and actively support the Jewish community in our country. This includes increasing the visibility of Jewish life, keeping the memory of the Shoah alive and promoting memorial sites and educational work.

The **security of Jewish life** must be ensured both in public and in digital space. We are also committed to ensuring that universities are safe places for Jewish students and teachers and that anti-Semitic behavior is consistently punished.

### **We fight for a fair and protective drug policy.**

In the case of cannabis, in order to improve health protection, the protection of minors and the fight against organised crime, we want to take the necessary steps to enable legalisation in accordance with European law.

### **We are improving civil protection and disaster relief.**

We are strengthening **preparedness against climate impacts** such as extreme rainfall, heat waves and drought. We are also strengthening **civil defence** to respond to geopolitical threats such as hybrid attacks or to be better prepared for military conflicts.

We want to better arm our country against (hybrid) attacks on our **critical Infrastructure** and against **disinformation campaigns**. To achieve this, we will better integrate municipalities, states, the federal government, municipal utilities and operators of critical infrastructure and update and adapt the precautionary and security laws. We also want to strengthen the powers of the security authorities to deal with cyber defence.

A key step here is the KRITIS umbrella law, which introduces nationwide and cross-sectoral requirements for the physical protection of critical infrastructures (KRITIS). This law primarily aims at the resilience of companies in order to ensure the security of supply of vital services to our society.

Increasing economic and social resilience is a central component of security and overall defense. This also includes the architecture of climate-neutral energy systems.

We want them to make an important contribution to a sustainable and resilient supply structure.

The **Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)** is essential for protection and assistance in emergencies. We want to continue to equip it with the necessary human and material resources.

As *the* volunteer party, we want to continue to support those involved in the volunteer fire departments, the THW, the German Life-Saving Association (DLRG) and in the rescue and medical services. We will continue our **“help for helpers”**.

We will continue to provide **the fire services with solid additional equipment**. We want the federal government to help them be prepared for complex hazard situations, such as flood protection and CBRN operations.

We want people to be warned of dangers better and more quickly. To achieve this, we will continue to promote the **nationwide expansion of sirens** and improve the existing warning apps.

We want to see more **disaster drills** being carried out.

To ensure cooperation and operational capability, all levels should be involved, using modern technologies such as virtual reality.

## **17. We fight for equality, for a society free of racism and discrimination.**

Our goal is a society in which all people have equal dignity, equal opportunities and can live safely and realize their dreams, free from discrimination or even fear of threats and violence.

Our feminism fights against structural disadvantages of any kind, which unfortunately continue to be the order of the day against women, people of color and queer people.

Discrimination in public and digital spaces by right-wing populists, right-wing extremists and other forces have increased to an alarming extent. We clearly oppose every form of misanthropy.

### **We want to achieve women's rights and equality by 2030.**

We combat structural disadvantages so that women and men can participate equally in working life, care work and leadership positions. In this way, we contribute to a sustainable, fair and economically successful future.

In the future, we will continue to make equality a guiding principle for all government departments in the spirit of **gender mainstreaming**. In doing so, we will be guided by the "three Rs" of feminist foreign and development policy: rights, resources, representation. We will achieve greater equality by assessing the impact of all measures, laws, and the federal budget. The **federal government's cross-departmental equality strategy** is to be further developed and placed on a legal basis.

### **Antifeminism and anti-gender movements threaten our free coexistence.**

We will counteract this by fighting anti-feminism, sexism and all forms of discrimination and by taking action against denigration and hate speech.

We want the **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency to also** focus on anti-feminism in order to specifically prevent misogynistic discrimination.

The **modernization of working time models** enables a better balance between work and private life. At the same time, we ensure the quality and reliability of our employees through a skilled worker offensive of daycare centers and schools and significantly reduce closing times.

The **fair distribution of care work** must become a matter of course. Additional days of leave for parents who work as carers encourage a cooperative organisation of family life and relieve the burden on those who have to combine care and work. We want parents and, above all, **make everyday life easier for working mothers**. Flexible working hours and a reliable care infrastructure in daycare centers and schools create more time for the family. Our improved Parental allowance model, according to which each parent is entitled to 6 months of parental allowance and a further 6 months can be distributed freely, increases the total number of parental allowance months from 14 to 18 months, supports genuine partnership and gives parents equal opportunities for family time.



**Women should be better protected against poverty in old age.** We are strengthening the recognition of periods spent raising children and caring for others in pensions and creating fair protection for all phases of life. Cost-effective and transparent pension models ensure that women are well provided for in old age.

We want to ensure that **family carers** receive even better support. It is a fact that it is mainly women who provide this great service. With family care leave and family care allowance, Similar to parental allowance, we enable the reconciliation of care and work without financial losses.

We want to focus **even more attention on women's health** . We are closing data gaps and improving care for endometriosis, childbirth, contraceptives and menopause, for example, so that health care meets the specific needs of women.

becomes.

We will **decriminalize abortion** and regulate it outside of criminal law - except when it is carried out against or without the will of the pregnant woman. We want to make abortion a part of basic medical care.

The **time for parity** is now - more women must be represented in parliament. To achieve this, we will introduce a parity law that will ensure equal representation of women and men in the German Bundestag for list and direct mandates. 50/50 is our standard in all parliaments and at all cabinet tables.

Our goal remains the equal participation of women in management positions. To this end, we will **continue to develop the Management Positions Act** with the aim of achieving parity on supervisory boards and executive boards by 2030. As a next step, we are striving for an **equal opportunities law for the private sector** .

We will work to ensure the adoption of an **EU Charter of Women's Rights** , thus ensuring effective protection of women's rights throughout the EU.

**We want to take action against lies, hatred and incitement.**

We **are closing the gaps in protection for inhumane hate speech**. We will pay particular attention to right-wing extremist statements by public officials and in schools and revise the incitement paragraph accordingly.

We are improving **data protection in hate crimes**. In criminal proceedings, the residential or temporary address will no longer have to be disclosed through inspection of the files in order to To better protect those affected.

Hate crimes on the Internet and targeted disinformation campaigns endanger our democracy.

We will take consistent action against this and **further expand the Central Office for Criminal Content on the Internet at the Federal Criminal Police Office** in order to prosecute online hate crimes more effectively.

We are strengthening the new contact point for local politics in the German Forum for Crime Prevention.

## **We want to better protect queer lifestyles from discrimination.**

We want to **explicitly extend the protection against discrimination in the Basic Law (GG) to sexual orientation and gender identity**. We will therefore expand Article 3 Paragraph 3 of the Basic Law accordingly.

We want to ensure that all **discrimination against queer families ("rainbow families") in family and descent law** is abolished: Queer families should be given complete equality in family and descent law.

We will continue to develop the Federal Government's **"queer life" action plan** with the participation of civil society: The action plan will be updated in cooperation with civil society in order to better take into account the reality of queer people's lives. The SPD stands behind the Self-Determination Act and the queer political achievements to date. There will be no turning back with us.

## **18. We fight for media diversity, for diversity in art and culture and for a strong sport.**

In an age of constant change, creativity is considered the most important skill. In addition, even in the era of artificial intelligence, we still want to remain the land of poets and thinkers. Art inspires, irritates and opens up new

Perspectives. Without free and powerful art, what underlies all progress will atrophy: the ability to reflect on our present life and imagine a better one. For us, the Unrestricted freedom of the arts is therefore not only a cultural value but also a political mandate.

Sport inspires millions, whether as volunteers, amateurs or professionals. It promotes integration and an important contribution to health - from childhood to old age. That is why we support sport extensively. Also because we know that nowhere else can values such as respect, diversity, inclusion and solidarity be better told and demonstrated than through sport.

Free and independent media are essential for public discourse. We want you can rely on facts in the news. That is why we are strengthening media diversity as the foundation of democracy.

## **We want to promote media diversity as an important foundation of democracy.**

Public **broadcasting** remains a central pillar of the dual media system and must be strengthened through funding that is in line with its mandate and legally secure. It should reach all generations with high-quality, independent offerings. **Private media companies** are an important second pillar and should be supported by good regulatory and policy frameworks in order to ensure their economic stability and social relevance in the digital age. We want to **promote local and regional media** and support innovative media formats in order to ensure participation and diversity in the media system.

Given the already immense scale of disinformation, the **fight against disinformation** is an outstanding social task. **Media literacy** is a basic skill in the digital age. We are committed to expanding programs to promote media and news literacy for all age groups in order to counteract manipulation and disinformation.

Platforms should be required **to disclose their algorithms and decision-making processes for content presentation** and to check for discriminatory or manipulative practices.

Transparency and accountability of platform providers are key to protecting democratic opinion-forming. In the fight against disinformation, state supervision must be restrained in order to avoid creating a feeling of state censorship. But the state can demand effective moderation of platforms, promote independent media that also carry out fact-checks, and strengthen cooperation and expansion with professional associations and self-regulatory bodies, such as the Press Council.

We also want **strict enforcement of the bot labelling requirement** under the AI Regulation, as well as mandatory fact-checking tools on major platforms.

European regulations (DMA, DSA, AI Regulation) and force platforms to take action against illegal content and take effective precautions against systemic risks such as disinformation and fake news.

**We promote cultural participation, provide social security to artists and strengthen the creative industries.**

**“Culture for all” is our core promise**, for which we will continue to work tirelessly. We want the providers of cultural infrastructure to be financially and organizationally stronger

Support should be given to making affordable cultural offerings accessible to all citizens and to promoting cultural education and inclusive strategies. **Culture should be enshrined in the constitution as a national goal**. In this way, we will give the importance of art and culture a permanent place in our society.

We acknowledge that the state at all levels has the responsibility to promote culture and to ensure freedom for artistic creation. We guarantee the

**future-oriented organization and financing of culture**. This applies in particular to the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, the Federal Cultural Foundation, the funding funds and cultural offerings with a national reach. We will strengthen the protection of monuments, preserve the cultural and architectural heritage and promote the sustainable transformation of culture.

In order to protect our free and democratic basic order, the federal government's cultural policy must be more than just a supplement to the many tasks that are carried out within the cultural sovereignty of the states. We understand it as **social policy** and as work on the cultural and discursive formations of the Federal Republic.

We learn from history for the present. That is why work on the culture of remembrance is essential in a democracy. We will keep the memory of the Nazi crimes and the Shoah alive and pass it on to future generations. We want to promote and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the displaced persons, (late) resettlers and the German minorities in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS states, as well as the culture of remembrance of the history of flight, expulsion and deportation, and understand it as part of the history of Germany as a whole.

We want to promote the cultural and historical heritage of national minorities.

The further investigation into the crimes of the SED era and colonialism must also continue.

We will not forget the victims of the dictatorships in Germany.

In order to appeal to everyone and not just a small target group, we want to promote cultural and memorial sites with a regional focus. To this end, we are developing the Federal Industrial Culture Initiative, which makes local history and art accessible and sustainable. The legacy and achievements of the working class must also be passed on to future generations.

In 2025 we will celebrate 35 years of German unity. We want to bring positive events in German democratic history even more into the public eye and thus make a contribution to strengthening democracy.

We stand for a broad understanding of culture that equally recognizes **high, pop, socio and subculture**. We will take care of cultural and creative activities in all their diversity.

We ensure that **artists are protected and fairly paid**. We will expand the artists' social insurance fund and fundamentally better align social security with the special working and living conditions in the arts industry.

We will continue to guarantee **copyright and related rights**. To do this, we protect creative products and ensure appropriate remuneration. We will help to develop fair and transparent remuneration models, particularly in the digital music market. We will also ensure that AI-generated content is clearly identifiable.

When **regulating digital platforms and artificial intelligence**, we ensure that creation and technology are on an equal footing and that remuneration rules are fair. To ensure greater independence from Chinese and American platforms, we are examining the extent to which alternatives for European cultural producers can be created and promoted.

**We are strengthening the cultural and creative industries.** The cultural and creative industries are an important factor for innovation and employment. We want to strengthen their support through clear framework conditions and tax incentives. A central coordinator in the federal government should make better use of their potential and provide targeted support for technological developments such as artificial intelligence.

**We want to strengthen German film.** The SPD stands for jobs and the domestic film industry. We are therefore committed to a comprehensive reform of film funding, consisting of a tax incentive system and an investment obligation for international streaming platforms. This is how we ensure the competitiveness of the film industry. **Cinemas in rural areas** are important cultural meeting places. We want to support them through long-term funding programs preserve and strengthen.

We want to expand the **promotion of pop culture** in order to create a wide range of cultural offerings, especially for younger target groups. By creating "**cultural conservation areas**" in building law, we protect cultural institutions such as clubs from displacement and ensure that they have a long-term perspective.

**We want to promote games as a non-profit cultural asset and driver of innovation.** They combine culture, technology and business and contribute to creative diversity.

**We want to promote sport in all its diversity.**

We want to advance Germany in both elite and grassroots sport. To do this, we will specifically strengthen the professional environment for coaches and athletes by **consistently continuing the reform of elite sport and further developing the Sports Promotion Act accordingly**. In this way, we will create the basis for long-term success, promote talents and support sporting diversity in Germany.

We want to enshrine **sport as a national goal in the constitution** in order to use the power of sport to strengthen health, social participation, inclusion and integration. We help states, municipalities and clubs to renovate sports facilities and increase the attractiveness and accessibility of volunteer work in popular sport.

We place great importance on **protection from violence in sport** : That is why we continue to support the Center for Safe Sport in the fight against physical, psychological and sexual violence.

We say **yes to major sporting events** in Germany and support the German Olympic Sports Confederation in its bid for **the Olympic Games and Paralympics in Germany**.

## **19. We fight for strong communities, equal opportunities in rural and urban areas and sustainable agriculture.**

We want people to be able to choose freely whether they want to live in the city or in the country - with equal opportunities everywhere. We strengthen rural areas and ensure local public services. Climate-friendly cities, lively villages and modern infrastructure are the key to a good life everywhere in Germany.

### **We want to strengthen equal living conditions and rural areas.**

We want to create equal living conditions throughout Germany by creating regions with particular challenges. By investing in infrastructure and strengthening local strengths, we promote economic dynamism and social stability. Rural areas in Germany vary in their dynamic, wealthy and future-proof nature.

These structural challenges must be overcome. Rural areas are facing challenges, particularly in the areas of modernisation, coexistence, agriculture, mobility and healthcare. Differentiated political answers must be found here.

We will strengthen rural areas by **expanding broadband internet** and creating and promoting sustainable mobility solutions. We will develop small towns as anchor points for economic, cultural and social networks to promote regional development.

We ensure **access to high-quality services** regardless of where you live. We strengthen healthcare with telemedicine and medical care centers and invest in education and care offerings for equal opportunities. We expand urban development funding and strengthen stationary retail.

We promote **regional economic structures**, strengthen value chains and create fair working conditions. In this way we secure jobs and strengthen the stability of rural regions.

We promote the participation of local people through citizen forums, digital platforms and participation projects, for example by **enabling municipal development advisory councils** in which representatives from politics, business and civil society work together to develop recommendations for long-term decisions.

Mobility is an important prerequisite for ensuring equal living conditions. To this end, we are strengthening (on-demand) buses and trains in rural areas and in the city. We know that cars are indispensable for many people, especially in rural areas.

In order to make vacant buildings in rural areas usable again and thus strengthen the attractiveness and economic strength of these regions, we need a comprehensive **vacancy strategy for rural areas**. Targeted funding programs and incentives should motivate municipalities and private owners to convert vacant properties into residential or commercial space.

Today, more than ever, allotment gardens fulfil an important ecological balancing function in cities and communities, support biodiversity and are also places of social integration, which we will continue to support.

### **We want to protect nature and ecosystems.**

In order to protect nature and ecosystems in line with European and international obligations, To protect them, effective measures are needed in existing protected areas and the networking ecologically valuable areas. We want land use planning that protects wilderness and cultural landscapes and native species and allows for conflict-free coexistence between agriculture and the energy industry, Tourism, industry, housing and nature conservation. Funds from the Natural Climate Protection Action Programme and the Nature Conservation Fund are to be used across the board to To protect **forests, moors, river floodplains or urban greenery** . We want **marine protected areas** that are real refuges and recreation areas for species.

The objectives of our climate protection policy are to avoid greenhouse gas emissions through the accelerated expansion of renewable energies, efficient energy management, decarbonisation industry and a more comprehensive circular economy. We therefore follow the principle of “**CO2 - prevention before CO2 capture**”.

Nuclear **power** in Germany has been shut down and that is a good thing. Now the radioactive substances need to be safely disposed of. We will constructively support the search for a repository and accelerate without compromising safety.

### **We want to strengthen modern agriculture and forestry as well as ecological diversity.**

Agricultural businesses are a core part of the German economy, which is dominated by small and medium-sized businesses. Around one in ten jobs depends directly or indirectly on agriculture. But food production is more than just an economic sector. Agriculture has shaped the identity of rural areas for centuries and the work of farmers deserves our respect.

For us, the future of **agriculture is digital and low-bureaucracy**. This is another reason why we want to empower farmers to master the challenges of the future. Agricultural activities need regional and sustainable perspectives in order to have a long-term and responsible impact.

We want to support farmers through the **reform of agricultural subsidies** , because they are at the beginning of the agricultural value chain. The aim is to provide greater remuneration and compensation for services that benefit agricultural workers, rural regions and animal welfare. Our measures to stabilize competitive energy prices will also ease the burden on agriculture.



With the new **CAP funding period starting in 2028, we want to provide greater support to all those who conserve water, soil and air resources**, contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and implement climate protection and climate adaptation measures. We want to make the transition gradual. The CAP regulations need to be fundamentally simplified.

We are certain that even in the conventional sector, smart agriculture can be used to work well and sustainably: protecting the soil, respecting animal welfare and adapting to the climate. We want to make it easier to do this and create planning security.

In view of the climate and biodiversity crisis, it is essential to adapt the legal framework in order to safeguard the diverse **ecosystem services of our forests** for future generations.

We want to support **fishermen** in becoming more sustainable through a stronger combination of their income.

## **20. We fight for a modern immigration society.**

The SPD ensures that Germany can fully exploit its strengths as a country of immigration. As an ageing society, we are dependent on immigration. Diversity is an enrichment, and we are committed to ensuring that integration succeeds better and faster. That is why it was so important that we finally modernised citizenship law. By making it easier to acquire German citizenship, we have helped many people to identify with Germany.

Germany and sent a strong signal for participation and belonging. In this way, we strengthen social cohesion and create the basis for a modern, cosmopolitan Germany.

The CDU/CSU, on the other hand, has blocked this central project out of an ideologically motivated defensive attitude. It makes it clear that it stands for a policy of exclusion. By clinging to outdated ideas, the Union is endangering social peace and opposing a modern society based on cohesion, diversity and equal opportunities. In contrast, we are continuously reviewing existing structures in order to continue to make the history of integration a success story.

Immigration to Germany for asylum and refugee reasons continues to pose major challenges for us. We are tackling it responsibly at all levels with humanity and order. One thing is clear: anyone who does not follow the rules must leave. But we provide protection to those who need protection. Anyone who has not received protection status as a refugee and yet integration into the labour market and society is managed and is not punished, the change of lane into skilled immigration should be made possible.

### **We want to improve integration and simplify skilled immigration.**

We will **expand integration courses** and ensure that they are funded with adequate budgetary resources so that they can continue to play their central role in initial integration. can fulfill.

We want **to introduce** a participation law: binding regulations should ensure equal participation in all relevant areas - from education and work to political participation. The aim is to reduce barriers to participation, create equal opportunities and thus strengthen integration and social cohesion.

We want to **implement the Skilled Immigration Act in an unbureaucratic manner and continuously develop it further** so that qualified workers can come to Germany more easily and quickly. With clear rules, simplified and faster recognition of qualifications and degrees and fair recruitment agreements, we are creating the basis for to promote integration and participation at the same time.

We want to **further strengthen protection against discrimination, racism and exclusion.** To do this, we will expand the General Equal Treatment Act and permanently establish the position of Anti-Racism Commissioner. We will not accept that millions of people in Germany who belong to us and who contribute to our country's success every day with their work are treated with hostility and excluded. It pains us that many of them are wondering whether it is still safe for them in Germany and whether there is a good future for them and their children.

That is why we need an expansion of anti-discrimination counselling and a new edition of the National Action Plan against Racism. We want to build this on a contemporary definition of racism. We welcome the fact that the UN Decade for People of African Descent will continue and ensure that it is implemented in Germany.

We will **optimise** the arrival structures through more centralisation, digitalisation and debureaucratisation in order to speed up procedures and create clear perspectives. To this end, we will strengthen the immigration authorities, improve data exchange and establish One-stop government procedure. We will ensure clear regulations when verifying identity, taking into account the state's security interests.

### **We want to manage migration with humanitarian responsibility.**

We have brought new clarity to migration policy – a paradigm shift towards orderly migration to the labour market and better control of refugee migration. At the European level, the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) will apply from 2026. We want humanitarian standards for refugees to exist throughout Europe and migration to be managed in solidarity.

The individual human right to asylum and international refugee law are the basis for the Common European Asylum System. Border procedures must guarantee high legal standards. Our goal is a truly solidarity-based distribution in which all Member States participate. This requires more than a loosely agreed solidarity mechanism in the European Union.

Border closures and blanket rejections at internal borders contradict the spirit of a common area of freedom, security and justice. The temporary reintroduction of internal border controls must therefore remain the absolute exception.

We are committed to significantly **speeding up asylum procedures – both at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and in administrative court proceedings.** With comprehensive digitization and administrative modernization, we want to ensure that asylum decisions can be made within six months.

We will **continue to facilitate family reunification for those in need of subsidiary protection**, as it is a crucial prerequisite for successful integration.

We want the **EU's external borders to be better protected and controlled**. All constitutional and humane conditions must be guaranteed at all times. Through independent monitoring and strengthening the European Parliament's control rights, we want to monitor the work of the EU border protection agency Frontex and strengthen the rule of law. There must be no pushbacks.

**Returns should be carried out humanely and consistently.** We prefer voluntary departures because they are more humane. If this is refused, we rely on rapid and consistent deportations, especially in the case of criminals. **We reject the externalization of asylum procedures.** Those seeking protection must have access to fair and constitutional procedures in the EU.

**We want to combat the causes of flight and human trafficking.**

We make it clear: **Sea rescue is an obligation under international maritime law and must not be criminalized.** In addition, sea rescue must also be guaranteed by the EU. At the same time, we are committed to safe and legal escape routes, as well as resettlement and humanitarian admission programs to avoid dangerous crossings.

We are committed to **comprehensive migration agreements** that open up immigration pathways for training and employment and support the reception of refugees locally. These agreements

should create clear and fair rules for entry into Germany and Europe and

At the same time, we must take into account the interests of the countries of origin and the host countries. We also want to ensure that firm agreements are made on how enforceable German nationals who are required to leave the country are to be returned to their countries of origin can.

We are working closely with our neighbors to combat human trafficking. We want to ensure that people smugglers are severely punished and consistently deported.

We want to effectively combat the causes of flight through increased development cooperation . We want Germany to help promote political and economic stability in crisis regions, rebuild destroyed structures after conflicts and improve  
To create local educational and employment opportunities.

After the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, we want to continue to assume responsibility for particularly vulnerable groups of people from Afghanistan. To this end, we will continue the Federal Reception Program Afghanistan.

## Our International Responsibility at the Turning Point

The SPD stands for a responsible and clear course in challenging times.

Simple answers such as a return to nationalism or the ruthless pursuit of our own short-term interests will not protect our security and prosperity.

Our aim is to ensure a reliable, stable and secure international environment in a strong Europe and to protect, reform and thus strengthen the international rule-based order with its multilateral institutions. We are relying on a triad of foreign, development and defence policy. International solidarity and the universal validity of human rights are among the cornerstones of social democracy. We will defend peace and freedom. Diplomacy, the search for common interests and cooperation based on this remain central to us in resolving international conflicts and crises.

to ensure long-term peace and freedom and to ensure greater justice.

### 21. We fight for freedom and security.

Peace and freedom cannot be taken for granted. They must be worked for, secured and defended.

The war against Ukraine showed us this in a terrible way. Even under Willy Brandt as Chancellor, it was true that peace can only be maintained from a position of strength. That is why, for us, military strength and diplomacy are two sides of the same coin.

Our response to a world in transition is a defence and security policy that assumes more responsibility for protecting Europe. We must organise security on our continent from Russia.

#### We want more investment in security.

We will spend more money on our security. The special fund for the Bundeswehr was a first important step. After years of cuts, we have increased our **defense spending** to more than two percent of gross domestic product (GDP). We will therefore continue to advocate for sustainable defense funding of at least two percent of GDP in the future.

We will use the funds for the **sustainable modernization of the Bundeswehr** so that soldiers can permanently and fully fulfill their duties on foreign missions and in alliance and national defense. This is a matter of respect for the soldiers. It is our goal to make the Bundeswehr an attractive employer.

This includes the compatibility of family and work as well as future career prospects in public service. We have established National Veterans Day on June 15th and are continuing. We are committed to empathetic treatment and improvement of the care of soldiers injured in action and their families. As the SPD, we stand for the concept of the "citizen in uniform".

NATO is a pillar of the transatlantic partnership and indispensable for European security. At the same time, we must expect that Washington will no longer bear the main burden of protecting Europe. The decisions to set up the new Baltic Sea Command in Rostock by the German Navy, to develop new European stand-off weapons (European Long-Range Strike Approach, ELSA) together with our European allies and

launching the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) demonstrates that we are ready to assume **more responsibility for Alliance defence**.

The stationing of US medium-range weapons in western Germany is a reaction to the current security situation. At the same time, we remain committed to arms control and will continue to discuss constructive approaches to this within the NATO framework. Due to its geographical location in Europe, **Germany** is to be further developed as a central hub for logistics in order to enable NATO to react quickly and coordinately to security challenges in Europe. With the **Lithuania Brigade**, we will be stationing German troops abroad for the first time on a permanent basis. In this way, we will show our allies on NATO's eastern flank that they can rely on us. We will give priority to supporting your development and setup in terms of equipment, financing and personnel requirements.

In view of the changed security situation, the SPD is planning to introduce a new, **flexible military service**. The new military service should be voluntary and geared to the needs of the Bundeswehr. The basis for a military registration system must be created quickly.

The new military service serves primarily to build up a sustainable reserve.

### **We support Ukraine.**

The SPD is clearly committed to diplomatic, military, financial and humanitarian

**Support the Ukrainians** in their fight against Russian aggression, which is contrary to international law – for as long as necessary. We expressly support Germany's bilateral security agreement with Ukraine. Ukraine must be able to conduct any negotiations with Russia on an equal footing. We will not accept a Russian dictated peace at the expense of Ukraine. Negotiations over the heads of the Ukrainians must not take place. Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be preserved. To defend Ukraine and to ensure peace in Europe, the SPD supports the training of the Ukrainian armed forces and the supply of weapons and equipment with prudence and

A sense of proportion. For us, Germany and NATO do not become parties to the war themselves.

That is why we support the decision of Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz to deploy the Taurus cruise missile not to deliver to the Bundeswehr's stocks.

Civilian **support** for Ukraine is indispensable. The question of whether Ukraine can hold its own in the Russian war of aggression also depends on how resilient its civilian population. A strong society needs a functioning electricity supply and functioning hospitals. Putin knows this too, when he deliberately allows the civilian infrastructure to be shelled. We want to continue to provide support here and help the people of Ukraine to get through this difficult time.

We expressly welcome **peace initiatives** such as those initiated by Ukrainian President Zelenskyj. We also see the efforts of the countries of the Global South to end the war as essentially positive. Diplomacy and dialogue remain key instruments for us to resolve international conflicts. These initiatives increase the pressure on Putin and keep

international law. All options for a just and lasting peace must be explored. Ukraine's sovereignty and its legitimate security interests must be permanently guaranteed in negotiations. Germany must be prepared to play a constructive role in mediation and implementation. Our long-term goal is a functioning **security and peace order for Europe**. For us, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) offers an important platform for further developing integrated security in Europe.

An imperial war in Europe by the nuclear power Russia makes it clear how important it is that we continue to work intensively for new approaches to credible **arms control and disarmament initiatives**. A world without nuclear weapons remains our goal. That is why we support We support initiatives to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons worldwide ("No first use"). That is why we are committed to maintaining, fulfilling and extending the New START treaty to limit strategic nuclear weapons.

## **22. We are fighting for a strong and effective Europe.**

A strong Europe in the world is our answer to the global challenges, the security and economic policy changes, and the pressure that the world's democracies are facing from populists and autocrats. If we speak with one voice, we are strong enough to make our values and interests heard in the world. But the EU and their fundamental values are threatened from outside and inside. The Russian attack on Ukraine has War has been brought back to the European continent. At the same time, right-wing populism in the EU is limiting its ability to act and calling into question the values of the European peace project. We must therefore ensure that these shared values are also lived internally, in all member states of the Union. We must also enable Europe to take more responsibility for its own security.

### **We want a European defense union.**

We will strengthen the European pillar in NATO by making coordinated investments and organising our armed forces in partnership. In doing so, we will create important Synergy effects by promoting the long-term integration of European armed forces. We call for increased cooperation between EU Member States, for example in joint procurement of Equipment and devices, joint maneuvers, standardized training concepts and the gradual integration of national units into multinational structures.

A secure Europe needs a well-positioned **European defence industry**, with competitive European companies, so that we can significantly reduce procurement in the future. We want to be able to cover the European market more effectively. Building on the Franco-German cooperation for tanks and combat aircraft of the future, we want to promote European innovations in the defence industry. To this end, we are relying even more strongly than before on European instruments such as the European Defence Agency and joint armaments projects within the framework of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

We are committed to a common and coordinated **European arms export policy**. It is important to us that such a policy is based on common values and strategic priorities. European arms must not fall into the wrong hands.

### **We are living up to our responsibility for Europe.**

As the largest and economically strongest member state within the EU, Germany has a special responsibility. It is therefore important that the partners in the federal government speak with one voice at EU level. We expect all democratic parties to maintain the firewall against right-wing populism and extremism, including in the European Parliament.



Together with France and Poland, we have revitalized the **Weimar Triangle**. In the coming years, we will use this important engine to break new ground in the EU more quickly and in a more united manner and to develop the EU into a strong and solidarity-based community.

The EU's **enlargement policy** is an instrument with great transformative power and a geopolitical necessity. We have revitalized it. It was and is a motor for peace, democracy, the rule of law and prosperity in Europe. We want to continue this success story and seize the opportunity to accompany our European neighbors in a lasting democratic transformation. Also to ensure that other actors do not take the place of the EU. We are committed to the rapid admission of the **Western Balkan states**.

Through tangible progress in the enlargement process, such as access to the common internal market, people should feel that the path to the EU is worthwhile.

**Ukraine and Moldova** are also to become part of the EU. Both countries leave no doubt that they are already guided by the common values of the EU and long for the community's protection so that they can live in peace and freedom. By expanding to Eastern Europe, we are sending a clear signal against Russia's attempt to unilaterally shift its borders, are committed to the joint reconstruction of Ukraine and are giving people access to our community of values. We also support the forces in Georgia that stand up for freedom, democracy and prosperity and demand a future in Europe. It is clear that democracy, human rights and the rule of law are non-negotiable for us. The **Copenhagen criteria** must always be met.

We are also in favour of the EU joining the European Convention on Human Rights.

We will strengthen the European Court of Human Rights and demand the consistent implementation of its rulings.

Together with the **Council of Europe** and its Parliamentary Assembly, we will protect the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law on our continent.

### **We stand for an effective and values-based EU.**

If fundamental EU principles are disregarded, the EU must also vigorously protect its canon of values vis-à-vis member states. In future, we want to take even more consistent action against all those who violate our common values within the EU. To this end, existing protective instruments for **violations of the rule of law**, from infringement proceedings to the withdrawal of voting rights, must be used and further developed much more consistently than before. In addition, we are committed to stricter financial sanctions and

an independent control body to monitor the consistent use of existing instruments.

A growing Europe must also be a better Europe. The EU is already reaching the limits of its ability to act. **European treaty reforms** must be implemented with the EU enlargement at the latest. To this end, we are committed to the results-oriented establishment of a European Convention. For us, an essential component of institutional reforms is to replace the principle of unanimity in the European Council and the Council of Ministers with the introduction of majority decisions. Veto rights of individual member states are no longer appropriate, as they are already being used as a means of pressure for irrelevant reasons. That is why we want to exploit all possibilities to make the decision-making processes as efficient as possible in the short term.

This also includes completing the co-decision rights of the

European Parliament, including a real right of initiative. This makes the EU more responsive, more responsive and more democratic. If we aim for a sovereign Europe, then majority decisions are a gain and not a loss of sovereignty.

## 23. We strengthen European interests in the world.

A European Union that speaks with one voice can better assert its influence in the world. The European partners must not allow themselves to be divided. We must formulate common positions and interests and advocate for them together.

### We want to strengthen our alliances.

We will deepen our traditional alliances and cooperation. Relations with France remain central to us. They form the core of the European unification process. The **Franco-German partnership** has played a central role in the development of a strong Europe. We are also paying particular attention to **German-Polish relations** and the **democratic Baltic Sea region** with its diverse traditional partners of Germany. It is in Europe's interest to improve cooperation with the **United Kingdom**.

Based on the German-British agreement on defence policy (Trinity House Agreement), we will support negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral agreement with the British government that will broaden and intensify our relations with London – from education to business to security issues.

The **USA** is our closest non-European partner. The transatlantic relationship is central to European and German foreign relations. We are ready to continue this close transatlantic cooperation. The turning point brought about by the Russian war of aggression has recently once again highlighted the value of the transatlantic alliance, but at the same time it shows the need to make Europe more independent in terms of security policy. The risk of protectionist measures by the USA has increased further. We are doing everything we can to reduce trade barriers and avoid a subsidy race with the USA. To this end, it is important that Europe uses an investment and innovation offensive in future technologies gains economic strength.

### We rely on dialogue and cooperation.

Beijing is not an easy partner. The SPD supports the implementation of the first German China strategy and is committed to a European-coordinated China policy. In the EU, We see **China** as a partner, competitor and system rival. The People's Republic has become a leading global power, without whose involvement global challenges such as climate change, issues of arms control and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as the debt crisis in countries of the Global South cannot be resolved. China is becoming more self-confident and aggressive in its external appearance. For example, by repeatedly making its claims to power in its neighborhood clear. China is also not distancing itself sufficiently from Russia's war against Ukraine, which is in violation of international law. Rather, China has increased its support for Russia. This affects European security. We view this critically. The rise of

China needs a prudent and common European China policy. Europe must use its geopolitical power and speak with a European voice for its interests and values. At the same time, we must become more economically independent in critical areas

(De-risking). We remain committed to the one-China policy and are convinced that the Taiwan question can only be resolved amicably in a peaceful process. Whether human rights, anti-competitive industrial policy or Russia policy: we remain in a robust dialogue with Beijing in which we also openly discuss controversial issues.

Together with countries such as **India, Indonesia, South Africa and Brazil**, we are committed to multilateralism, to a rules-based international order and to the defence of democracy - even though they, along with Russia, are members of the BRICS group of states. The dialogue with these countries must be deepened with the aim of a new North-South policy. We will expand strategic partnerships with countries in the Global South. We want to overcome colonial continuities and meet in partnership on equal terms. Reconciliation with Namibia remains an indispensable task for us, which arises from our historical and moral responsibility.

We rely on **foreign cultural and educational policy** as an important pillar of our foreign policy. Through links in culture and science, we deepen the relationships between civil societies in the world.

### **We want peace in the Middle East.**

We strongly condemn the brutal terrorist attack by Hamas on **Israel** on October 7, 2023. It was the largest massacre of Jews since the Shoah. Israel's right to exist and security are non-negotiable and German state policy. We demand the immediate release of all hostages still being held. Israel has the right to self-defense. At the same time, it is obliged by international humanitarian law to ensure that its response is proportionate. and to protect civilians. In view of the high number of civilian casualties in Gaza, most of them women and children, and the extent of the destruction of civilian infrastructure, we call for an immediate ceasefire. We call on all states involved to do this and welcome international efforts to work towards this. The catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is unacceptable and must be ended immediately. Aid convoys must have unrestricted access to the people in Gaza. The population must be supplied with medicine and food. The escalations in the region show that a new attempt to make progress in the two-state solution is urgently needed. This includes a reformed Palestinian Authority, which also takes over the civil administration in Gaza. Gaza must no longer pose a threat to Israel.

There must be a halt to Israel's illegal settlement construction in the Palestinian territories. We reject plans to annex areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Our goal remains the peaceful coexistence of two sovereign and viable states within the framework of a negotiated solution. Only a political perspective can ensure Israel's security in the long term. Our solidarity with Israel and compliance with international law are a historic obligation for us. The SPD is committed to this. Likewise, weapons in the Lebanon remains silent. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 from 2006 must be followed by all parties to the conflict.

The regime in **Iran** is contributing to a further escalation of the security situation in the Middle East. With its rejection of the international rule-based order, Iran bears responsibility for many current conflicts and crises in the world. The regime supports the Russian attack on Ukraine with missiles and drones. It has directly attacked Israel and

is trying to destabilize the Middle East through the so-called Axis of Resistance. It is refusing to give control of its nuclear facilities. At the same time, repression against dissidents and especially against women who are fighting for their rights and freedom is increasing in the country. They are being persecuted mercilessly. We therefore support the international sanctions against the regime and demand that the Revolutionary Guards be placed on the EU terror list.

After overcoming the long-standing Assad dictatorship, the Syrians have hope for a peaceful new beginning. We will support the political transition and support the prospects for rebuilding the country under Syrian leadership and responsibility. Of central importance to us are the protection and participation of the numerous religious, ethnic and sectarian groups, the protection of human rights, especially women's rights, unhindered access for humanitarian aid and measures to prevent **Syria** from being used as a base for terrorism or posing a threat to its neighbours.

## 24. We fight for a just world.

An attractive and strong Europe can make a decisive contribution to providing global answers to global challenges. A rules-based international order is the best basis for this.

Social democratic international politics aims at a peaceful, just and sustainable world. Authoritarian regimes, however, are pushing to shift the rules-based order to their own advantage, while many states in the Global South are turning away from liberal democracies. They see their expectations of growth and prosperity not being fulfilled.

We have the power to change that by investing strategically in partnerships with countries in the Global South. This is ultimately about our own future, about security in Europe, about preserving jobs in Germany, about the prosperity of our society.

A trusting cooperation, as a win-win model for all parties involved, is in the European Interest.

### We want partnerships for development.

Our development policy makes an important contribution to creating economic, social and societal prospects for people in countries of the Global South. In addition to cooperation with governments, we focus in particular on strengthening civil society and improving private sector activity. We will pursue a **feminist foreign and development policy** which follows the belief that all people have equal rights, freedoms and opportunities regardless of gender and sexual orientation.

We need dialogue and cooperation in the United Nations and in multilateral forums such as the G20. The goal is to **overcome poverty, hunger and inequality**. We must be able to respond to acute hunger crises and support a long-term transition of agricultural systems to sustainability and resilience. We see social security systems as a necessary investment in the future. Societies can only get through crises better where there is a social safety net. As part of a **global health policy**, it is important to enable faster, cross-border aid and unbureaucratic international cooperation in the future. The control center should be a widely supported World Health Organization.

The guidelines for cooperation with global partners are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) **of the United Nations Agenda 2030** and their further development, which we are actively involved in shaping. We are convinced that multilateralism is a cornerstone of peace and prosperity. In order to maintain the path to success, **reforms of the multilateral organizations** are needed - including the UN Security Council and its blocking veto rule. Countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia must be better represented at all levels.

Together with Brazil, India and Japan, we are pushing forward our joint G4 initiative in our efforts to obtain a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Through humanitarian aid and crisis prevention, Germany is helping to alleviate human suffering and contain crises, but also to strengthen its diplomatic influence. We need a strong and **independent development ministry** that, together with political foundations, NGOs and church and civil society partners, does important work in tackling global crises and preventing conflicts. We want at least **0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) to be made available for official development assistance** (ODA quota). We not only expect this from ourselves, but also from our partners, particularly in the G7 group.

The gap between rich and poor is widening worldwide. This downward spiral must be broken: in a Global Alliance for Tax Justice, we will work with other countries to push for the **introduction of a billionaire tax**. The super-rich should be more involved in financing the common good, especially in achieving the UN sustainability goals and in climate financing.

Together with key players such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, we can make the **international financial architecture** fairer. Investments in public Goods such as education, health and climate protection must become the focus of the international financial architecture and of key players such as the IMF, the World Bank and the regional development banks. For **highly indebted countries**, we are also placing greater emphasis on debt conversion: exchanging their obligations for investments in social and ecological transformation.

### **We want strategic partnerships.**

Many areas of our everyday life and our economy depend directly on **robust supply chains** and access to particularly valuable raw materials. As an innovative industrial location, we want Form alliances and build bridges with strategic partnerships – for example in the expansion of green hydrogen. Sustainable and responsible value chains are important with To create local production facilities and thus secure jobs – including at home.

We want concrete agreements on international standards that ensure **good work** with living wages. With the EU Supply Chain Directive, we have created clear regulations and equal conditions for all companies in Europe.

Clear regulations and equal conditions for all in Europe will particularly benefit German companies that already rely on strong standards. We are also insisting on globally binding rules in the negotiations on the UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights. We stand for international solidarity and the universal validity of **human rights**. This requires strong institutions such as the European Court of Human Rights and the International Criminal Court.

Europe's prosperity and the development prospects of many countries in the Global South depend heavily on a rule-based, non-discriminatory global trade regime. The conclusion of far-reaching **trade and investment agreements** (for example the EU-Mercosur agreement or the EU's free trade agreements with India and Australia) are important milestones in establishing robust alliances and partnerships. Such agreements must be consistent with our security policy goals, strengthen social and human rights, protect the environment and climate, and create long-term prospects for growth and prosperity for all contracting parties. We want such agreements to be made simpler in the future.

and can be concluded more quickly. Negotiations are often stalled by individual EU member states. Trade agreements should therefore be approved by a qualified majority in the EU Council of Ministers. In this way, we are contributing to the successful and timely conclusion of fair free trade agreements on an equal footing at European level.

Climate change does not stop at national borders. We need solidarity initiatives for climate adaptation worldwide, because it is the poorest countries that are often hit hardest. affected and least prepared. Social democratic politics creates a sustainable Development perspective that combines prosperity and protection.

We want to implement the Paris Climate Agreement and provide our fair share of **international climate financing**. We are also increasingly relying on the mobilization of private funds to meet the financial challenges of the global climate transformation. It is important to implement the socio-ecological transformation and to take into account the needs of our partners for reliable cooperation for their economic development.

The Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and the climate and development partnerships with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are examples of this. They are about holistic approaches that focus on the people and regions affected.

we will involve trade unions and civil society even more. However, in order to make progress with the transformation tasks, we are dependent on **international trust networks** such as the International Climate Club, which has already provided important impetus for cooperation. We want to initiate and support further formats.



## Our promise

### 25. For us, politics means: We fight for you.

Almost 26,000 words. 4 large chapters. 24 election topics. Thanks for taking the time to read.

It is a comprehensive program. But for us it is much more. It is a promise to all citizens. A promise to you. A promise to our future. A promise to Germany.

Keep pensions stable for all generations and noticeably ease the burden on families. Drive growth and strengthen the economy. Secure and protect jobs. Work for fair wages and strengthen people's purchasing power.

What makes our program strong and where we now differ in the sea of election campaign platitudes: For the SPD, behind every single program point there is a concrete proposal for implementation.

15 euro minimum wage. Reduction of VAT on food to five percent. 95 percent of taxpayers should have more net income from gross income. A stable pension for all generations.

"Made in Germany" bonus, establishment of a Germany fund to strengthen the economy – to name just a few important ones.

As the SPD, we are firmly convinced that if Germany is to improve, then every individual in the country must be better off. That is the goal of our policy. That is what drives us every day. And that is exactly what this program does.

With this in mind, we are looking forward to an exciting election campaign and to exchanges throughout Germany.

**Your SPD**