

Summary (English)

Maastricht and her people are doing well, yet our wellbeing is not shared by everyone. D66 Maastricht pleads for a different approach. An approach grounded in more inclusion, participation and deliberation. Politics that activate our inhabitants to have a stronger say in important developments of our city. For example through a civic budget. This currently denotes €300.000,- which seems a lot, yet relative to the total budget of €534 million is merely a speck. D66 believes that this budget should be gradually increased to €5 million per year.

D66 believes we should be able to realize our plans based on current budget, so no increase in local taxation, aside from annual indexation. That often means we need to make difficult choices. Investing into something new means cutting into something old. All the while by still maintaining and increasing our lobby for national and European funding. D66 stands for a hospitable and livable city, including more room for terraces. We have successfully pitched the idea of the Maastricht 'Ramblas', the starting point of the Stationsstraat, and look forward to its realization. Moreover, by making Wyck gradually less car friendly, we believe the hospitality of the city can only further increase. It also positively impacts entrepreneurship. Walking, cycling and public transport should be prioritized over driving. However, if someone does wish to visit by car, we need sufficient park & ride facilities that orderly connect through public transport to the inner city.

The future belongs to our youth. They deserve good quality education. The past years D66 has realized more cooperation between childcare and elementary schools in Maastricht. But we should be improving on this even more. By realizing 'children centers' where we do not only house childcare and elementary schools in the same place, but also work together with child protection and child care services, we are able to tackle problems more effectively. In Maastricht, one in seven children is making use of child care services. This is a worrying development. We must not only act retroactively. Prevention of problems should be the focus of policy. Accessible education and sport facilities in neighborhoods are great ways through which we can facilitate more interaction.

We need to build more. For students, for starters, but also for seniors. The municipality cannot do this alone. We must work together with the university, with the applied sciences schools, housing corporations and developers to develop an appropriate housing mix. Students are important for the continued growth of our city. The addition of the university has brought this city livability, dynamic development, diversity and local economic growth. Students should not be inhibited by artificial rules by the municipality on their right to a home. We believe students and neighbors can perfectly work together. If this does not happen, there is always dialogue. In the worst case, the municipality will step in.

D66 believes we should invest more into our cultural sector. We were one of the initiators of the Muziekgieterij. Their start, like many others, has been compromised by COVID-19. Yet they deserve the opportunity to fully develop themselves. The Theatre at the Vrijthof deserves this opportunity as well and should slowly work to becoming independent. The new theatre hall should help in this regard. Maastricht is a city with international, European appeal. Cooperation with our neighbors should be strongly intensified, specifically when it comes to job opportunities, education and culture. Poverty and increasing loneliness amongst elderly also deserve our attention. We believe that everyone should equally be able to call Maastricht their home. It explains our slogan for this election: Opportunities for everyone. We believe in the individual opportunities, strengths and possibilities of people, yet where they require assistance, we should be able to provide them with it.

There is much work still ahead of us. We believe in the progress of this city and strive to work in favor of it. Yet we cannot do this alone. The municipality needs its partners. We need your support, your trust and your vote. Not only on the 14th, 15th and 16th of march. Throughout the upcoming period. Think, act progressively. A vote for D66 is a good start!

The logo for the Dutch political party D66, consisting of the letters 'D66' in a bold, white, sans-serif font centered on a solid green square background.