

Manifesto D66 Utrecht 2022-2026

# The Ambitious City

Growth for all Utrechters



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utrecht

# Introduction

**On Monday 14, Tuesday 15 or Wednesday 16 March you can vote for the city council of Utrecht. You are allowed to do this if you are aged 18 years or older. With your vote, you participate in decisions about the future direction of Utrecht. This election program has been specially written for anyone who would like to read our program in simple English. In it, we provide information on the plans that D66 has for Utrecht.**

Utrecht is growing rapidly and more people are moving here. D66 Utrecht would like there to be enough room for everyone in Utrecht, regardless of whether you have lived here for a long time or are looking for your first home. So we have to build a lot of houses.

D66 wants Utrecht to remain a lively city with a lot to do. A city that has many trees and parks. We also want the city to become healthier to live in. D66 believes that everyone has the right to affordable housing. And that you should be able to get help in finding a good education and a job if you need it.

The people who want to become D66 city councilors in Utrecht come from very different backgrounds and age groups. They come from all parts of the city and know the city well. If you vote for D66, they will do their best to steer the growth of Utrecht in the right direction. And together with all Utrecht residents, they will work to create a greener, sustainable and lively city. A city in which everyone can be themselves and feel at home.

We will do our best to tackle the climate crisis, reduce the housing shortage and tackle inequality. Because we honor everyone's freedom and leave no one behind.

**Support us and vote D66 Utrecht on either 14, 15 or 16 March!**



Maarten Koning  
Party Leader D66 Utrecht

# The bustling city

D66 chooses for a lively city, with culture, events, dining and flexible workplaces in every neighborhood. All within a 10-minute walk or bike ride from your home, in every district.

Whether you like movies, hip-hop music, restaurants, theater or museums, they all provide energy, inspiration and the chance to meet new people. That is why D66 is investing in a city with various lively district centers, each with its own unique character and something to experience everywhere.

In a bustling, lively city, D66 creates opportunities for entrepreneurs and good careers for everyone; regardless of whether you are employed or self-employed.

## D66 wants

- Cultural and vibrant activities in all districts;
- An extra theater outside the city center;
- A permanent festival location on the Eneco site;
- Accessibility for everyone: in particular people on minimum wage, those receiving welfare and those in need of special aid;
- To help local entrepreneurs find good work locations;
- To create more employment opportunities;
- To invest in sustainable business parks and excellent digital opportunities.

# The promising city

D66 wants to enable all Utrecht residents to be the best version of themselves. To realize your talents, ambitions and dreams. D66 tackles inequality and has the courage to invest in equal opportunities for everyone.

As an education party, D66 has been fighting against the teacher shortage in Utrecht for years. In the coming years we will go even further. D66 provides extra support to beginner teachers. This is how we want to overcome the educational impact that corona has caused.

The work environment has also changed due to increasing digitisation, innovation and the switch to sustainable and green technologies. D66 therefore believes it is important that everyone can learn new skills or retrain to remain employable. Young or old, practical or theoretical, you can learn for a lifetime in the educational city of Utrecht.

## D66 wants

- Preference for teachers and other essential professions to find affordable housing;
- More action against (digital) illiteracy;
- A good breakfast and lunch for children at every school;
- Making pre-school, childcare, sports and culture possible at school;
- Creating more internships for people regardless of their level of education;
- Retraining and making higher education accessible to keep people of all ages employable;
- An appropriate integration plan, created with and for newcomers.

# The green city

D66 believes it is important that we do everything we can to tackle the climate crisis together. That is why we want to help everyone make their home and office more sustainable. Where necessary, the council should also contribute to this investment.

This will be more beneficial if Utrecht residents also participate in the discussion, decision-making and are able to take advantage of climate-improvement schemes in their neighborhood. For example, building heat networks which can then be owned by residents. In addition, we want high-quality green recreation areas to be available in all neighborhoods.

D66 wants everyone to breathe healthy air, so we aim to increase the sustainability of companies, encourage more investment in green energy and where possible transition away from fossil fuels.

## D66 wants

- To keep Amelisweerd;
- To add at least 250 hectares of green space;
- Source large-scale renewable energy plants in Rijnenburg and Reijerscop;
- Recreation facilities on green land within 300 meters from your own house;
- Mandatory installation of solar panels on new commercial building rooftops;
- To promote the use of electric vehicles for local transportation;
- More shared bicycles and cars.

# The growing city

DD66 wants everyone to be able to find affordable housing: housing is a fundamental right! A city in which health care workers or teachers cannot afford a house is unacceptable.

D66 is fully committed to new construction in which the reuse and recycling of materials is standard practice. New construction also results in more student housing becoming available and ensures that older generations are able to change homes in their own neighborhood. Of course we want to provide more greenery and better local public transport, so current residents also can benefit.

D66 is proud of the national regulation on free childcare. It offers opportunities for children, but also people for whom work is now more complicated or less achievable due to the care they have to provide for their children.

## D66 wants

- 2500 homes in Rijnenburg within 5 years: a green, well-connected, energy-positive urban district;
- Shorter waiting lists for social rental housing;
- To make it easier to share your home;
- To make the purchase of homes less attractive for investors;
- Support for parents who are able to work because of the free childcare provision.

# The healthy city

D66 believes that healthcare, just like education, is a fundamental basis for equal opportunity. D66 therefore wants good health promotion and disease prevention programs and accessible care to be available in all areas.

Due to corona, it is more important than ever to keep healthcare both accessible and affordable. We will give extra attention to mental health awareness and strengthen neighborhood healthcare teams.

Investing in a healthy life through sport is investing in disease prevention. D66 wants to increase sports participation among Utrecht residents, preferably among those who do not participate in sports at the moment. We are going to make a radical commitment to establish public sports facilities that encourage more people to exercise.

D66 wants to do even more in the fight against poverty and debt, in order to identify and help people with debt problems faster.

## D66 wants

- To help with daytime activities and social contact for people with psychological complaints;
- To establish a Heppie (t) House for small-scale youth help;
- To create a fifth public swimming pool as soon as possible;
- Nursing (home) care for older people to match the needs of older people in their neighborhoods;
- More affordable and healthy places for people to eat;
- To trial the offering of financial security to people in debt when they start working more;
- To improve drug policy by providing better advice about drugs for young people, but also through a more realistic and open drug policy.

# The safe city

Security is a precondition for freedom!

D66 wants to invest in vulnerable neighborhoods. Increasing opportunities for young people is a priority in this regard. Schools, community centers, role models and community police are important to provide advice and raise awareness of local problems.

But safety is about more than that. Some people do not feel safe in Utrecht due to racism and discrimination. We will not stop fighting against that!

Cases of cybercrime and digital fraud are rising: D66 is concerned about the digital safety and privacy of residents.

The growth of the city makes it even more important that we think carefully about road safety and traffic enforcement. For example designing streets differently, and doing this together with residents, can make an entire neighborhood safer and more attractive.

## D66 wants

- More community officers to discover problems such as radicalisation, domestic violence and other crime more quickly;
- No collaboration with companies proven guilty of discrimination or other forms of exclusion;
- As few security cameras on the street as possible. When these are necessary, then they should not include facial recognition technology;
- To prevent entrepreneurs from the temptation of accepting money from criminal sources;
- To reduce the maximum speed for built-up areas to 30 km/h;
- A safe environment so children from eight years old are able to walk or cycle to school independently.



# The democratic city

The increasing growth of the city, transition to more sustainable energy and equal opportunity are all major challenges for which important decisions need to be made. D66 wants these choices to be made, not only by politicians and civil servants, but together with the people of Utrecht.

A challenging opinion can be formed precisely because people have a heart for the city. D66 considers checks and balances on the exercise of power extremely important and therefore encourages good local journalism. That is why D66 wants a city council with an open attitude towards critical citizens and journalists.

## D66 wants

- Every neighborhood to have their own budget of 50,000 euros;
- Local housing and climate groups so Utrecht residents can participate in decision-making from an early age;
- The city council to answer questions from journalists quickly and substantively;
- A dedicated budget for Social Service projects;
- A Utrecht Declaration of Human Rights.

# The **investing** city

DD66 is proud that Utrecht is financially healthy, which is due to the responsible budget policies partly introduced by the D66 council members for Finance.

As the population grows, so does the income. And that money is needed in order to improve and expand city facilities to match the population growth. We also want to ensure that everyone benefits from the recovery after Corona.

D66 wants to organize municipal finances differently, in order to abolish inefficient taxes such as the dog tax. These changes should not increase taxes for residents.

## **D66 wants**

- A clear and public overview of how tax income is spent by the city council;
- Doesn't want to borrow more money than is received as income;
- To spend any surplus income from city growth on better facilities;
- A reform of council taxes, without leading to higher taxes for residents;
- The rule 'the polluter pays' to be standard practice when it comes to taxes.



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