

# Election Manifesto

## For the Left-Greens in Akureyri

The future is bright for the residents of Akureyri. The Left-Green is a movement of left-wing environmentalists who want to ensure equality and equity and the protection of nature.

All decisions we make will be grounded on:

- Good governance
- Public health
- Environmental and climate impact
- Equality
- Social equity

### **The environment and climate issues**

Akureyri has all the prerequisites to be at the forefront and to be a role model regarding environmental and climate issues

- Let's increase the importance of environmental and climate issues within the division and council of environment and infrastructure
- Let's provide funding to complete and implement a policy of environment and climate
- Let's achieve carbon neutrality by 2040
- Particulate matter should not exceed health protection limits. Let's reduce particulate matter and pollution by supporting active transportation, with cleaner streets, better anti-slip measures and less use of studded tires
- Let's improve accessibility and facilities in green areas and hiking trails
- Let's increase the number of vegetable gardens available to

residents, increase gardening education and encourage home cultivation

- The municipality needs a land use policy that aims to prevent pollution, minimize effects on nature and living organisms and reuse of soil. Also, for the protection and restoration of wetlands, forests and other ecosystems. Forestry and land reclamation will be organized around biodiversity and carbon capture
- Let's reduce food waste at the local level

### **Families with children**

No child should grow up in poverty. Every community that takes good care of children and their families is a good community. All children shall be guaranteed the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. All children have the same rights regardless of origin or background

- Akureyri is a child-friendly community and that must guide every aspect
- Let's increase the quality of life for young families with children and support gender equality by eliminating the gap between maternity leave and kindergarten
- Let's increase subsidies for children's sport and leisure activities. We especially support homes with many children, with a gradual increase according to the number of children
- Let's promote a better variety of leisure activities in schools (fristund), that way we can decrease drop-out of children after the age of eight years
- Let's develop a leisure bus and make it accessible to all children in a variety of leisure activities

### **Equality issues**

Local governments have a duty to ensure gender equality and the equality of all residents. Municipalities must combat gender-based violence, pornography, human trafficking and prostitution, and work against the harmful effects of stereotyping

- Let's eliminate intersectional inequality and the gender pay gap

- Let's contribute to better gender equality regarding study and career choices
- Let's have equal access to resources and decision-making, e.g., with gender budgeting and participatory democracy
- Let's ensure better education on equality and queer issues, education about the digital world as well as preventive education about gender-based violence in all schools, as well as providing such education to staff and residents of the municipality
- Let's have a project manager of gender equality at the municipality
- Let's ensure the introduction of equal pay certification and follow-up on the municipality's equality plan

## Education

Schools are the cornerstones of culture and equality in each community. We want to collaborate and have a discussion with the people that work in our preschools and primary schools about the ways to make our good schools even better

- Let's take big steps to make pre-school and primary school education, leisure activities and school meals free of charge
- Let's increase support for children in pre-school and primary school, especially for bilingual children and children with special needs
- Let's evaluate the implementation of the ideology of inclusive education.
- Let's strengthen preventions through increased education on equality and gender issues and education about the digital society
- Let's improve the working environment for teachers, strengthen cooperation between local and state government on how to increase the number of educated teachers, and thus promote a higher proportion of professional teachers at all school levels
- Let's increase educator's leeway for developing teaching methods

## Public health and prevention

Good health is the most valuable thing that a person can have and municipalities gain both social and financial benefits from supporting

and encouraging residents to lead healthy lifestyles. Education and good role models are the most powerful preventive measures

- Mental health is a public health issue, let's focus on mental health
- Let's complete a new public health policy for Akureyri
- Let's stand with NGOs that provide quality services. Let's support their activities in various ways and show gratitude to people doing priceless idealistic volunteer work
- Let's increase the number of part-time jobs to meet the needs of people with disabilities and facilitate their access to the labor market
- Let's make green transport agreements with the municipality's staff
- Let's secure funding to realize the action plan for senior citizens
- Let's explore the possibility of a leisure bus for senior citizens
- Increase opportunities for sports and outdoor activities without a focus on competitive sports

## **Welfare**

A just society demands a welfare system that respects human rights and meets people on their own terms with empowerment and respect as a guiding principle. Everyone's access to society must be ensured

- Let's empower people and support self-care and take special care of marginalized individuals
- Let's take a holistic approach to all social and welfare services and ensure the integration of different systems
- Let's strengthen the co-operation between the state and local government on home nursing and home services and make the service user-driven and flexible
- Let's increase the number of social housing options and make a long-term plan that is reviewed regularly in line with the development of rental prices in the general market.
- Let's establish a shelter for the homeless, preferably in collaboration with NGOs

- Let's provide people with disabilities with appropriate services, incl. residential resources, employment opportunities, learning opportunities and personalized assistance such as independent living services (NPA)
- Let's welcome asylum seekers and ensure good service to them
- Let's implement the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and respect the motto of the convention "Nothing about us, without us"

### **Culture and arts**

A vibrant artistic and cultural life is a key factor and attractive feature of a thriving society that we should nurture well. We focus on museums, artistic creativity and the preservation of cultural heritage. Creativity is a good way to build relationships and promote mental health

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in cultural activities, regardless of class or status. Let's ensure everyone's access to cultural events and reach those who rarely take part, e.g., due to origin, residence, disability, financial status or other reasons
- Let's increase the teaching of arts and crafts and emphasize creativity in schoolwork
- Let's promote a variety of arts and culture activities for all ages
- Let's focus on creative jobs in the municipality's summer jobs
- Let's support the development of art studies at the university level
- Let's renew Akureyri's cultural policy and find a place for the field within the system
- Let's increase support to grassroot projects

### **Government and democracy**

Transparency, equality and consultation with citizens are key elements in professional administration. Administration should first and foremost serve the public. We need to constantly think about how we can make improvements

- Let's identify the interests of different groups of citizens early in the decision-making process and give people a variety of ways to express their views and needs
- Let's strengthen the service portal so that citizens can watch the process of inquiries and errands within the administrative system
- Let's make all the data available as well as information on which decisions are based, unless the law requires secrecy
- Let's complete the implementation of e-governance
- Let's establish a resident's advocate
- Let's continue to develop participatory democracy
- Let's listen to the human resources of Akureyri and harness the experience of staff, volunteers and others

### **Organization and transport**

Planning must be based on the principles of comprehensive health promotion, both physical and mental, in addition to maximizing air quality. The town's transportation system should be developed and serviced to support a car-free lifestyle and encourage exercise

- Let's build a safe and healthy environment with a minimum of travel lengths and emphasize a variety of transport means and public transport
- When making a new plan and making changes to an old plan, the historical context of the environment and the uniqueness of the districts must be taken into account
- Planning should take into account the needs of the residents and social diversity
- Let's improve public transport within and to Akureyri
- Let's invest in the implementation of a new bus route
- Let's encourage children to use the busses through the Bus School
- Let's establish public transport to the islands of Akureyri (Hrísey and Grímsey)
- Let's follow the planning policy for urban density

- Let the sharing economy serve people, not capital
- Let's take up the planning of paths in Akureyri, based on the independent design of each mode of transport

### **Employment**

Akureyri is one of the largest workplaces in the municipality. As such, it should be at the forefront when it comes to the well-being of employees. In addition to running its own services, the town should promote entrepreneurial, diverse, sustainable and environmentally friendly business activities with social responsibility as a guiding principle. A diverse economy makes Akureyri an interesting place to live

- Let's create positive incentives for innovation and be alert to untapped opportunities and synergies with existing institutions and companies
- Let's explore diverse and environmentally friendly energy sources in the area to propel the town's economy to the future.
- Let's ensure a sufficient supply of plots for building commercial activities
- Akureyri should advertise all jobs possible regardless of location within the municipality (Akureyri, Grímsey, Hrísey)

### **Investment and development**

It is important to set a ceiling on the municipality's investments and phased projects if necessary. All development and investment must be managed with forethought and careful planning. We should emphasize detailed cost analysis before construction starts and a final evaluation of the project shall be made public

- Let's focus on good maintenance of the buildings owned by the municipality and repaying loans rather than increasing debt
- Let's build parking garages in the city center
- Let's implement the current city center plans
- Let's develop properties in line with agreed prioritization of sports facilities