

Equal opportunities,  
green growth  
and a healthy housing market.

## **D66 Amsterdam - Manifesto**

### **Municipal council elections 21 March 2018**

For local elections you don't need the Dutch nationality. All EU-citizens over 18 living in the Netherlands are eligible to vote. Non-EU citizens who have legally resided in the Netherlands for at least five years are also eligible to vote.

Dear residents of Amsterdam,

Our city is doing well, but our work is not yet finished. Over the past four years, we have built a record number of houses. We have ensured that there is more middle-rent housing, more employment, more greenery and we have tripled the number of solar panels on the roofs of Amsterdam. Investment in education in the city has never been higher, investments that are also going towards the heroes of the classroom: our teachers. We have also invested in good childcare, to ensure all Amsterdam toddlers have an equal start and play with each other. Our city is doing well, but our work is not yet finished. We see a huge challenge ahead: the middle class is under pressure. Amsterdam runs the risk of becoming a city for the rich or for the poor, with nothing else in between.

*"A city for poor and rich, with nothing in between? That's not what I want."*

Our teachers, nurses, freelancers and policemen – your average citizen with a middle income - are almost being forced to leave the city, or don't even have a chance to move here to begin with because of the shortage of affordable housing. Families in particular are stuck. The happy news that you are expecting for many people also means they will have to search for a house outside of Amsterdam. We must substantially increase the supply of affordable housing for the middle-income segment because without families, the quality of life in our city will diminish. The middle class is the backbone of the city and without it we cannot bridge the gap between the rich and poor.

*'Good education remains our highest priority'*

The place where the gap between rich and poor is most visible, is also the most poignant: at school. Some children are practicing for the CITO tests with the help of expensive homework classes and are taken to museums on Sundays. Others are faced with a double language deficit, both in Dutch and in the language of their parents.

Our investments in good education, the engine that drives equal opportunity, are needed more than ever in our growing city. Equal opportunities and good education cost a lot of money, but they also deliver strong returns. They give us a city where you can grow up to be who you want to be, regardless of the income of your parents. High quality education remains our highest priority. We want an Amsterdam where we have the best teachers in the most difficult schools. Where young people don't miss out on an internship simply because they never learnt that they should take their hat off when applying.

*'Lifelong learning, means a life of opportunities in Amsterdam.'*

D66 wants an Amsterdam where lifelong learning means life-long opportunities. We don't give up on people over 50 who aren't working. Instead we do everything we can to help them with extra schooling and by matching them with employers who are searching for new employees. D66 believes in equal opportunities through good education. Look at the Calvin College in New West and you will see what this means. There you will meet Amsterdammers, young and old, who are proud of their neighbourhood and school.

Amsterdammers from all backgrounds who learn and work together in a beautiful place. An example of what Amsterdam can be.

*'Turning the popularity of the city into opportunities for everyone.'*

Our city is more popular than ever before and that's something to be proud of. The number of inhabitants is growing and companies, from start-ups and SMEs to large internationals, are all settling in Amsterdam. After years of vacancies, offices are being occupied again, and where other cities struggle, we are increasingly successful in finding jobs for our younger and older unemployed citizens. The attraction of Amsterdam, the Mokum Magnet, creates opportunities and it is up to us all, and certainly the city's administrators, to ensure that everyone can seize them. We continue to invite companies to Amsterdam, but always ask the crucial question 'How many jobs will you bring with you?' Amsterdam has nothing to gain from letterbox companies. In our city you are welcomed with open arms, but only if you provide opportunities for its citizens and help them make a living.

*'Prevent disturbance and spare busy places'*

Amsterdam's popularity also causes problems, especially in the city centre. With more and more inhabitants and seventeen million visitors a year, we have to manage its crowds. The city also attracts the wrong kind of business in some places and we have to solve this. But at the same time, its popularity creates jobs, lends a dynamism to the city and provides growth. Our city is developing, and that's a good thing as it brings new opportunities.

I have been fortunate enough to always see the city in constant development and since I was born here 31 years ago, Amsterdam has grown. It has become bigger and it has changed. In the past, Amsterdam North was often mockingly referred to as 'the other side' by the residents of the city centre. But growth has led to the bridge over the IJ and this beautiful part of Amsterdam is now physically connected to the rest of the city.

It is of great importance that we develop a healthy housing market. I see a future in which all residents of Amsterdam have a fair chance of getting a home in any neighbourhood, regardless of their income. By making Amsterdam a true city for all, neighbourhoods will continue to improve as people from diverse backgrounds and income brackets live together as a community. They don't improve because the mixing of neighbourhoods ensures that the people with a lower income automatically become richer, but rather because citizens with differing incomes and backgrounds will meet each other time and again at school, at the bakery or on the playground. That fits with the Amsterdam character in which everybody is equal.

To really change Amsterdam into a metropolis, we need to invest in good and fast public transport to connect its different neighbourhoods to the city centre and to connect the homes of its citizens to where they work. This will not only unburden the crowded streets, but also ensure that it no longer matters where in the city you live. After all, it will be easy to get to the other side of town whenever you want to work, play, work out or go out and enjoy the city. It will enhance the opportunity to discover more areas of the city and allow its undiscovered pearls to grow and flourish.

*'Experimental freedom is still anchored in the DNA of our city'*

I believe that fast public transport can help to 'expand' the city and will include Amsterdam's beloved ruffled edges that are currently under pressure. A free zone, or a 24-hour area, in

the centre of Amsterdam is no longer viable because of the increased crowds. There are too many people living in the city centre to make this work. However, this kind of experimental freedom is still anchored in the DNA of our city; we have to make sure that we make room for it outside of the centre. Imagine what possibilities there are for artists in the business and office districts of Amsterdam Southeast. I envision an area where the night culture, with all its creativity, can exist without causing any inconvenience. And I can picture us always reserving spaces for creativity and studios for artists in new neighbourhoods too. And not just temporarily, until the neighbourhood is popular enough, but as permanent additions to the locale.

*'Our children deserve a green, healthy, liveable city'*

We can become a metropolis on our own, Amsterdam, terms. One aspect of this development is clear: whatever we do, it must be done sustainably. The earth has been telling us for years to stop exhausting it. Our children deserve a green, healthy and liveable city, which can function in a sustainable way. We want a city where you don't have to worry about your children biking behind a dirty moped. Where you don't have to fear breathing in the toxins from a soot-spewing van whilst walking with your buggy. We want a city where the houses are so well insulated that you don't have to turn on the heating just to chase the mould out of the children's bedroom. We want a city that can handle a downpour because we have kept enough parks and greenery. Our children are entitled to a city where the air is clean, the parks green, and the play areas smoke-free and safe.

This is what the Amsterdam citizens of the future deserve. We can no longer settle for the vague promises coming from The Hague. Measures need to be implemented as climate change doesn't wait for anybody.

*"A city where it doesn't matter who you are in love with or which country your grandfather was from."*

The people of Amsterdam are what makes our city beautiful. A free city where everyone - regardless of their pay check - lives alongside one another. A city where it doesn't matter who you are in love with or from which country your grandfather came. A city where we are all citizens of Amsterdam first and foremost and where we all live in harmony with each other. A melting pot of 180 nationalities that all live together. A city where every Amsterdam citizen is free to be themselves.

Unfortunately, tensions are mounting worldwide. But as the space for tolerance is restricted throughout the world, Amsterdam is and will remain a tolerant city. That requires work, so we must dare to stand firm against the current stream of polarisation and let Amsterdam be a place where you can be who you are, even more so than it already is today. Sometimes we can enforce tolerance and the freedom to be oneself with rules and laws, but it is important for us to set a good example with our actions too. D66 stands for an Amsterdam where Ajax participates in the Gay Pride, people from the LGBTQ community can walk safely hand in hand and where we always fight discrimination, hard and consistently. Discrimination, whether on the street or on the labour market, is unacceptable. Equal opportunities and freedom for every Amsterdam citizen: that's what D66 Amsterdam stands for.

*'A kiss while walking the streets, walking hand in hand, or remaining single. Everyone in Amsterdam has the freedom to be themselves.'*

To achieve this requires well-functioning police officers and municipal enforcers, who know how to distinguish a bullying adolescent from a violent vandal. A police force that reflects the neighbourhood in all parts of the city, and has good relationships and contacts within those communities. When this is functioning well, proper actions can be taken if citizens are threatened in their freedom to be who they are.

Everyone should feel safe and protected. Whether it is two men walking hand in hand on the street, someone skating along the canals in a thong, a girl wearing a skirt that is slightly shorter than the one her mother is wearing, a woman with a headscarf or men with a kippah.

But at the same time there are some limitations, and the freedom of one person can end where that of another begins. You can believe whatever and love whomever you want. Believe what you want and in who you want, but don't impose your ideas upon others. Dress however you want, but don't force others to do the same. Say what you think, but don't discriminate. Kiss on the street, walk hand in hand, or stay single. In Amsterdam everyone has the freedom to be themselves.

*'Equal opportunities and freedom for every citizen: that is what D66 Amsterdam stands for'*

The municipal elections of 2018 are important. I am proud of what D66 has achieved: We have worked hard to create an Amsterdam where everyone can feel at home. But our work is not yet finished. In this English summary of our manifesto, we explain how we want to make sure that our beautiful city remains a place where all residents of Amsterdam feel at home. A city where there is room for the poor, the rich and everyone in between. A city where we fight the disturbances that come with growth and turn the popularity of the city into new opportunities for every citizen. A city where you can achieve anything regardless of who you love or where your grandfather and grandmother were born. Let's show the rest of the world that it is possible.

Equal opportunities for all residents of Amsterdam. That is what D66 Amsterdam stands for. On 21 March, the choice is yours.

Reinier van Dantzig

Party leader D66 Amsterdam

## Good education for everyone

Every child in Amsterdam deserves a good education for a promising future. The opportunities a child gets in life are still determined by factors such as the skin colour, gender, religion, income or education of their parents. This leads to inequality. D66 is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for everyone by investing more in the quality of education.

- ✔ Give all toddlers from the age of 2.5 access to pre-school. Improve the financial accessibility, enhance the quality of teaching and prevent developmental delays.
- ✔ Invest in teachers to help them become top class. Continue existing special teacher scholarships to develop new skills and knowledge.
- ✔ Expand the capacity for international education and education in English.
- ✔ Encourage schools to offer the opportunity to learn a foreign language such as Turkish, German, Arabic, Chinese or Spanish at a high level, so that children can use their multilingual skills in a great way.
- ✔ Remain an attractive student city with accessible student accommodation and high-level education.
- ✔ Prevent a shortage of teachers in Amsterdam. Make sure all relevant preconditions are met, like housing availability.
- ✔ Enable teachers to talk about freedom of speech in the classroom, or topics like international conflicts, gender and religious diversity in the city.
- ✔ Strive for the best vocational education and training (MBO).
- ✔ Tackle low literacy. A better command of Dutch will improve an individual's position on the labour market and give them the possibility to help their own children with their homework too.
- ✔ Stimulate lifelong learning. Offer interest-free educational loans to those who need a career switch in this rapidly changing labour market.



## Green growth

Cities play a key role in the battle against global warming. Municipalities are responsible for the local and small-scale generation of energy, the insulation of houses and the installation of energy networks. D66 wants a city where the air you breathe is healthy and it is nice to be outside. Amsterdam, as a responsible capital city, should take the lead:

- ✔ Generate energy locally wherever possible. Place windmills in industrial areas and aim for a million solar panels.
- ✔ Make sure the city no longer depends on natural gas. Replace gas heating with sustainable local alternatives, with a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood approach.
- ✔ Reduce harmful emissions and air pollution. In 2025, vehicles with harmful emissions will no longer be allowed to enter the city and public transport should be fully electric.
- ✔ Extend the electric charging network with more fast charging stations in the city.
- ✔ Make Amsterdam rainproof. It rains more and more often, which leads to flooding. D66 wants more 'green roofs'. Let's go from 150,000 m<sup>2</sup> as of today, to 250,000 m<sup>2</sup> in 2022.
- ✔ Move towards circular construction. Reuse building materials, such as concrete and window frames. Make the storing of materials from demolition work easier and register them in a public database, using a commodity passport.
- ✔ Place more waste containers and make arrangements with fast food chains about packaging. This prevents litter and garbage bags cluttering up the street.
- ✔ Coordinate the collection of waste from businesses. In the case of household garbage collection, the city districts have already started sharing trucks and routes. This has saved almost 9000 driving hours, 75,000 kilometres and 112,000 litres of diesel.
- ✔ Work together with educational institutions to make sure young people profit optimally from this new economy. The transition to a sustainable society will create many new jobs, jobs for which currently no educational programmes exist.



## Increase housing availability and accessibility

The Amsterdam housing market is stuck. Amsterdam is in danger of becoming a city which is only for the rich or for the poor, due to the shortage of housing for middle income households. About 57.3% of the total supply of houses are for social rent and only 5.6% are middle rent. Many families, starters, teachers and freelancers are almost being forced to leave the city. If they have an annual income of 36,000 euros or more they are earning too much to be eligible for social housing, but it is often not enough to rent or buy in the private housing market. D66 wants the housing market in Amsterdam to be accessible to everybody. This is why we choose to support the middle income households. Our target is for 20% of the housing supply to be middle income rental housing within 10 years.

- ✔ 50,000 houses to be built in the next four years: 40% for middle incomes, 30% for social rent and 30% private sector.
- ✔ Make sure that middle income rental housing really remains accessible to middle income rental families. We will seek agreements with pension funds and insurers that invest in middle rental housing in Amsterdam.
- ✔ Social housing to become available to citizens with a middle income in areas with a lot of social rental housing. These houses won't be sold, but remain in the possession of the housing corporations.
- ✔ Sale of homes from corporations to middle incomes when they become available in areas outside the ring. This will ease the pressure on the real estate market and will give middle incomes a chance to buy an affordable home.
- ✔ Construction of at least 8,000 student homes in the next four years. We will also aim to build shared student accommodation in order to enhance affordability.
- ✔ Social tenants with a middle income will get priority treatment when middle income rental homes become available to improve the flow through social rental homes.
- ✔ We would rather build higher buildings instead of constructing homes in green areas, and we will make accessibility a key criterion when assigning new locations for housing projects.
- ✔ Construction must be 'life-cycle proof' for the elderly.
- ✔ More homes to be allotted via a lottery system which will improve opportunities for younger buyers.
- ✔ Give priority to those people with much needed professions, such as teachers.



## Arts and Culture

The cultural offering in Amsterdam is extraordinary and has international allure. The city has beautiful museums, a huge diversity of festivals, innovative music halls and a world-famous heritage. The city also plays a leading role in the field of dance. In other, more experimental areas, the city is losing ground, such as the development of contemporary art and visual art. Also, the number of affordable workplaces is declining.

- ✓ Make room for creative breeding grounds in the city.
- ✓ Strive for a minimum of 1200 affordable residential/workplaces. In new construction projects we reserve space for workspaces for artists and professionals from the cultural sector.
- ✓ Introduce children to many different art disciplines at school.
- ✓ Allow experimental art festivals for talent development and introduce a festival coordinator.
- ✓ Expand art in the public space.



## Keep Amsterdam accessible

- ✓ More room for bicycles and pedestrians. Improve the infrastructure and create more parking spots for bicycles and create fast-track roads.
- ✓ Move the parking by visitors to the city as much as possible to designated parking lots outside the city center and to the Park+Ride (P+R) spots, which we will expand. The rate for parking on the streets in the center will be increased to 7.50 euros per hour.
- ✓ The Amsterdam public transport company will be allowed to expand as the city is growing. The metro network will be expanded with Sixhaven station in Noord and the Noord/Zuidlijn metro must be expanded to run to Schiphol Airport.
- ✓ Take control of the shift towards 'Mobility as a Service'. Help to bring parties together and make clear agreements with services such as Uber, Abel and SnappCar.
- ✓ Tackle harassment in the taxi sector through strict supervision and the use of mystery guests.

## Healthcare

- ✓ Increase the prevention efforts. Make support low-threshold, provide nutrition guidelines at school to promote healthy eating and reduce loneliness.
- ✓ Ensure there is good sexual health care, protect the anonymity of patients if necessary.
- ✓ Increase the physical accessibility of public spaces and buildings.
- ✓ Increase the number of smoke-free areas in Amsterdam, especially in places where there are many children.
- ✓ Improve debt assistance and prevent house evictions. The starting point is 'no child on the streets'.



## Sports

- ✓ Stimulate sports among young people.
- ✓ Reduce waiting lists for sports clubs by creating additional sports fields.
- ✓ Create more public natural swimming areas, such as the Sloterpas and Blijburg.
- ✓ Ensure sufficient supply of disabled sports and the necessary preconditions.
- ✓ Try and get one or two top sport events to Amsterdam every year. These should be popular events and with a size that fits the city such as the European Championship athletics, European Championship hockey and World Rowing Championships.

## Working and participating

- ✓ Simplify the social benefits rules. Experiment with giving people the opportunity to take on a job, without immediately losing the right to benefits.
- ✓ A zero tolerance policy on discrimination in the workplace. Use mystery guests, as is already done in the hospitality industry.
- ✓ Help people with a mental, psychiatric or physical disability to participate in society as much as possible. Use social firms wherever possible.
- ✓ Let asylum seekers and other newcomers start their integration program from day one.
- ✓ Support Amsterdam status holders, so they can find their place in society as quickly as possible and find work.

## Economy

- ✓ Make legislation suitable for the platform economy, in cooperation with the national government.
- ✓ Maintain a good business climate for international companies and startups.
- ✓ Investigate barriers for the growth of scale-ups and make procurement criteria more favorable for local scale-ups.
- ✓ Reduce the mismatch on the labor market. Invest in a 'House of Skills' where employees can increase their schooling and help employees to increase digital skills.
- ✓ Cherish our liberal and creative identity, it attracts entrepreneurs to the city.
- ✓ Pay close attention to Schiphol and the port. Both are of great economic importance. Corporate social responsibility must be the guiding principle.



## Keep Amsterdam attractive

- ✓ Maintain the hotel stop.
- ✓ Re-introduce the advertising tax for visible advertising in public areas.
- ✓ Introduce a permit requirement for certain activities in the public space, such as tours with guides and rental bike companies.
- ✓ Increase the tourist tax. A fixed fee of 5 euros per person per night will be added to the existing rate of six percent of a room rate. For private rental structures, such as via Airbnb, the variable part will rise to ten percent.
- ✓ Touringcar busses will be banned from the city center.
- ✓ Work to maintain or get a more diverse range of shops. In some streets in the center, shops with tourist functions are too dominant and small businesses are being pushed out.

## Government, organization and municipal finances

- ✓ Experiment with interactive governance, for instance with digital polling and assessments of opinions and ideas.
- ✓ Increase the focus on technology and data management and investigate if the municipality can develop its own open source data platform.
- ✓ Make the municipality more transparent and verifiable. Power needs a counterforce and checks.
- ✓ Increase the service orientation of the municipality. Communicate in understandable language and ensure people can organise their business with the city online as much as possible.
- ✓ Make sure the financial situation of the city is in order in a sustainable manner. Good financial policy is important to manage Amsterdam well.



## A safe city

- ✓ Increase the number of municipal enforcers as the city grows.
- ✓ Keep trying to make the police force more diverse, so our police force reflects the diversity of the population.
- ✓ Actively combat homophobia, anti-Semitism, Muslim hatred, crimes of honor, genital mutilation, child marriages, forced marriages, hatred and violence against minorities.
- ✓ Take the lead in international knowledge sharing on the prevention and tackling of radicalization.
- ✓ Keep battling against human trafficking and forced prostitution, especially when it comes to so called loverboy practices. Involve sex workers in developing policy.
- ✓ Protect privacy and digital security. Far-reaching measures must be tested via a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).
- ✓ Only use camera surveillance in a targeted manner and only after the need is substantiated.

## A free city

- ✓ There will be no concessions to the freedom of expression and freedom to demonstrate.
- ✓ Implement a realistic policy on drug use. D66 doesn't believe in policies that focus on repression. Create policies which focus on prevention and information and make sure users can test the composition and quality of their drugs.
- ✓ Experiment with regulated cannabis cultivation. Illegal cannabis cultivation causes residential fires, it takes up police capacity and the weed is of lesser quality because there's no supervision of the production.
- ✓ Increase awareness for sexual harassment. Request the police to pay extra attention to sexual harassment and intimidation in places where it often occurs, such as Central Station.
- ✓ Fight against discrimination of the LGBTI community and focus on emancipation.
- ✓ Be a gender-inclusive city with proper treatment at the city counters. Also involve partners of the municipality in the quest to enhance gender-inclusive communication.
- ✓ Cherish Amsterdam Pride and ensure the visibility of the Pride in the future.



### **Disclaimer**

This is an extract from the official D66 manifesto. The full program is available in Dutch. Please contact us if you would like further information on any of the topics.