Pirate Party Utrecht

Election Manifesto 2022

Living together and working together: for a just Utrecht

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Reading guide

Reading through an election program is not easy. Yet you get something important from an election program: the promise that the party makes to you when you vote for it.

To ensure that our program is clear to everyone, in addition to continuing reading, you can also choose the following options:

- Listen to our program as an audiobook (Dutch): https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTItLhiGwEhSl7JuHxe_Wig.
- Read our program in a font for people with dyslexia (Dutch): https://utrecht.piratenpartij.nl/gr-2022-downloads/

Our program consists of three parts:

- In *Part 1* we list our basic principles based on the Pirate Wheel, which underlies our choices.
- In *Part 2* we identify our local positions. These are overarching themes that apply to the entire city.
- In *Part 3* we explain our local positions in more detail. What exactly we want and how we are going to do it.

So read, watch or listen part 1 with our basic principles first. Do you feel at home with that? Then you're probably a pirate too! Time to go to part 2, to see how we look at the city through the lens of our basic principles.

In part 2, the real thinking begins. You felt at home with Part 1, so chances are you'll agree with most local viewpoints quite a bit. But as in any political party, we can disagree internally, and the nuances determine a lot.

Write down for yourself what local views you share, and what views you have comments on. To get clarification, you can always contact us. Our candidates do not only talk to the media or other politicians, they also like to talk to you.

Excited about part 2? Then read on in part 3 and think along, or send your contribution to bestuur@pputrecht.nl. Your vote, both during the elections and outside, makes the difference for us. And maybe you want to mean more. Contact us via vrijwilligers@pputrecht.nl to see what you can do.

Part 1: Basic Principles

It is difficult to place ourselves on the old-fashioned left-right spectrum. That's because our movement is not set up on the basis of contradictions, but on the basis of shared goals. The Pirate Wheel reflects well what our basic principles are.

Everything starts with empowerment: empowering people to achieve things themselves, and to help when necessary.

We are liberal because we stand for freedom for all, as long as it does not limit the freedom of others.

We are social because we believe that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities.

We can be called progressive because we dare to think outside the box, for example when it comes to direct democracy, freedom of information and the universal basic income.

We can be called conservative because we dare to speak out against 'developments' that harm our privacy, or that further reduce the transparency of the government.

At the Pirate Party Utrecht you come across people who call themselves socialists or anarchists. But also people who call themselves liberal or libertarian. Here people unite from all ideologies, and we certainly do not always agree with each other. Yet we continue to grow as a movement, because we have shared values and engage in conversation in a good way when we disagree with each other.

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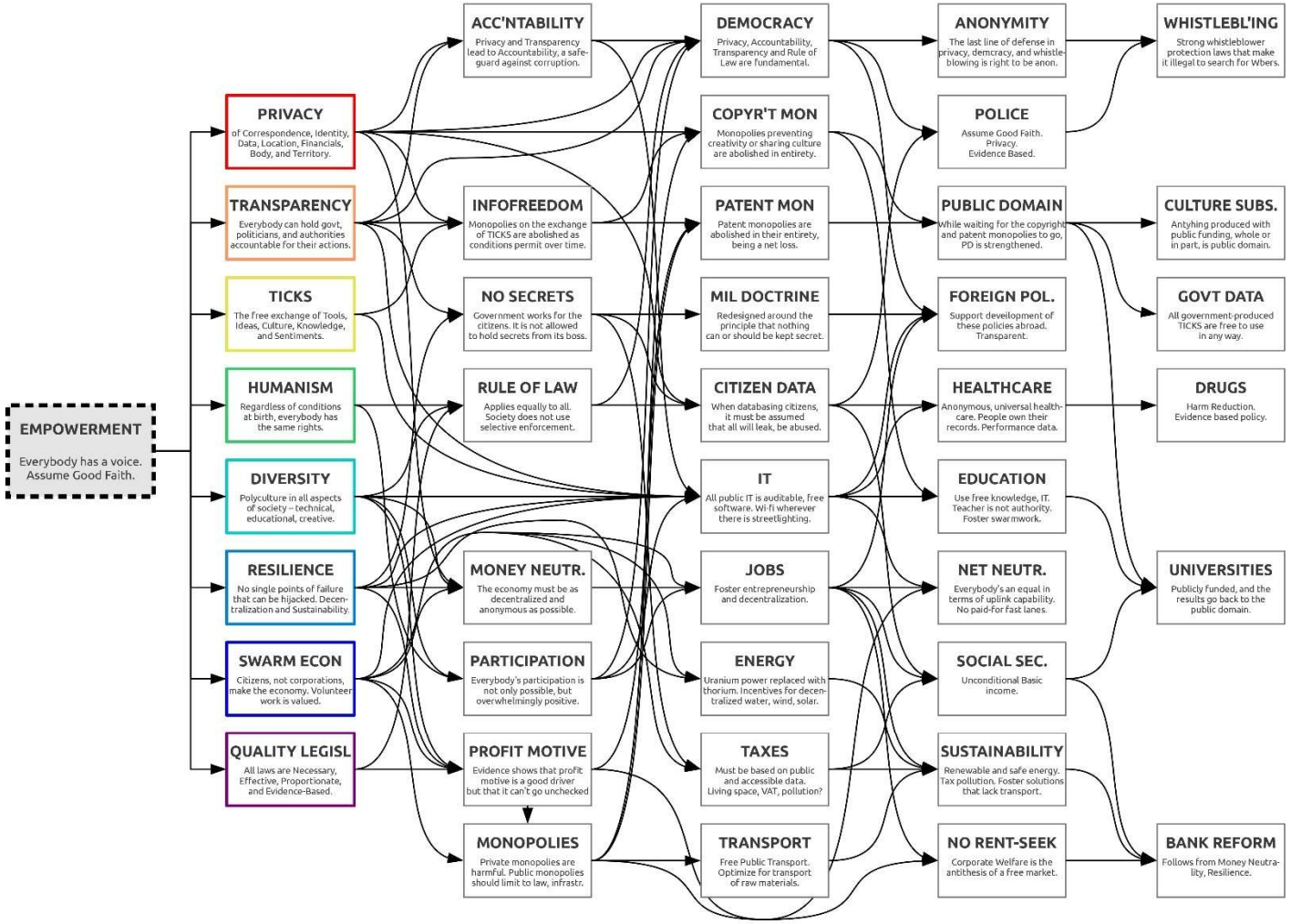
Philosophies and Policies of the Pirate Wheel



FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES CONCLUSIONS POLICIES

Part 2: Local standpoints

First you can read our local views here. For each point of view, you can see a number of our key points on the theme in question. Want to read more? Then scroll through to part 3.

The Pirate Party stands for an unconditional basic income

— A municipality where we base policy on science. Where we recognize that unconditional basic income is the future, and do everything we can to realize this at the local level. Until then, the municipality will deal humanely with the Participation Act, and the privacy of everyone who is dependent on the government will be guaranteed.

The Pirate Party stands for more input from residents

— A municipality where everyone who wants to has a voice, dares to express it and will be heard. Secure online platforms for local democracy and referendums. Empowerment of our residents should always be on the agenda, on every topic. A democracy is never finished. We must enable citizens to make a valuable contribution to local democracy.

The Pirate Party stands for a social city with diversity, culture and identity

— A municipality where similarities are more visible than differences. Our strength is shown by the extent to which we accept each other. We need to be careful with our working-class neighborhoods, our communities, the history and diversity of our city. A city where culture is no longer seen as a second-class subject, but gets the attention it deserves. Music, visual arts, theatre: that gives the city colour, and tells our story.

The Pirate Party stands for a free information society with more transparency

— A municipality where personal data is safe and government data is accessible to everyone. Where transparency of governance contributes to verifiable and reliable decision-making and where used algorithms are made public.

The Pirate Party stands for good and affordable housing for everyone

— A municipality where housing is affordable, social housing and student housing are sufficiently available, and in a healthy mix with owner-occupied homes ensure a varied population composition. Homes are there to live in, not to speculate with.

The Pirate Party stands for a safe municipality

— A municipality in which everyone feels safe. Not false security through surveillance cameras, but real security through social cohesion. A safe municipality is designed in such a way that people feel involved and have the privacy to be themselves. We're going to shift attention from the war on drugs to real safety. We don't waste police capacity on hemp plants in gardens and pay more attention to digital security.

The Pirate Party stands for a liveable and sustainable municipality

— A municipality where we can live safely, healthily and pleasantly together. Where residents can easily reach their homes and public facilities, with free public transport, on foot, by bike or by car. A municipality where green does belong in the daily street scene and litter does not. Our city as a home for us and for the generations after us: self-sufficient and independent. A liveable municipality with room for (volunteer) initiatives; artists' collectives, repair cafés and hackerspaces, that's what makes Utrecht liveable.

The Pirate Party stands for an enterprising municipality

— A municipality where local and innovative entrepreneurship are preferred, where stimulating is more important than regulating. Utrecht as a forerunner of the swarm economy, where volunteer work is just as important as paid work. A municipality where sex workers are no longer bullied away.

The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good education

— A municipality where quality education is accessible and affordable for everyone. Where education is the place where inequality is tackled and everyone gets a fair chance. Where there is sufficient supply of broad classes and the teacher shortage is actively addressed. Where we do not accept privacy violations and pay more attention to the development of digital literacy.

The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good health care

— A municipality where the inhabitants do not have to worry about whether they will receive good care. Where home cultivation of medicinal cannabis is always allowed. Where we tackle the waiting times in youth care and mental health care and where everyone gets appropriate help. A municipality where mental health is just as important as physical health.

The Pirate Party stands for people's resilience, both in times of crisis and beyond.

— A municipality where the inhabitants can rely on their elected representatives even in times of crisis. The economic crisis, the corona crisis, we too often experience that in difficult times people fall between the cracks. That has to change, that can be done differently, and we want to contribute to that.

Part 3: Local viewpoints – How?

Our goals do not fall out of thin air. However, concrete actions are needed to achieve them. Here's what we want to do, how we're going to do it, and why.

The Pirate Party stands for an unconditional basic income

A municipality where we base policy on science. Where we recognize that unconditional basic income is the future, and do everything we can to realize this at the local level. Until then, the municipality will deal humanely with the Participation Act, and the privacy of everyone who is dependent on the government will be guaranteed.

Nibud and many other organisations have already demonstrated that an unconditional basic income is not only feasible but also affordable. Not as a kind of fake welfare, but as a real basis for everyone – both employed and unemployed. To give people a realistic certainty, a net amount of 1,400 euros per month is our goal.

Do you now think 'but what does the municipality have to do with that?'. We are happy to tell you. There are numerous regulations at local level in the context of social support. Of course, in order to really get to the full amount for the unconditional basic income, the national government will also have to reform. But we say: let Utrecht be an example. The part that we can and must bear locally when we introduce an unconditional basic income can already be realized, with approval of the national government.

In Utrecht, we spend 230 million a year on social assistance, social work provision, reintegration and poverty reduction. These are the direct costs – in addition, we spend money on detection, 'fraud' combating, ICT, housing costs, and so on. That makes the real costs of the way we have organized our society very opaque.

We have about 360,000 inhabitants in Utrecht, who together make up approximately 177,000 households. Of these, 93,000 are single. Based on the direct costs alone, it is already possible to provide each household with approximately 110 euros per month as a basic income.

That is of course not nearly enough, but it does show how we can cover 8% of the unconditional basic income with those direct costs alone. If you make poverty disappear in Utrecht, then suddenly much more will become possible. We want to take a critical look at elements of the budget such as 'tailor-made support' (almost 300 million) and 'coexistence and sport' (almost 85 million). Not by simply cutting back on facilities, but by also looking at what the real costs are behind the scenes. Buildings, personnel, ICT, maintenance, control, and so on.

With an unconditional basic income, all the need for control, and therefore also the need for expensive systems, personnel, administration and management, disappears. A simple link to the Municipal Basic Administration is sufficient. Until the realization of a basic income, the municipality must deal humanely with the Participation Act and guarantee the privacy of everyone who is dependent on the government.

In short:

- poverty in Utrecht is out of date;
- the municipality as an activist for the introduction of the basic income;
- humanity as the most important criterion in the implementation of the Participation Act;
- ensuring the privacy of everyone who depends on the government;
- the time for experimentation is over: it’s time to get to work.

The Pirate Party stands for more input from residents

A municipality where everyone who wants to has a voice, dares to express it and will be heard. Secure online platforms for local democracy and referendums. Empowerment of our residents should always be on the agenda, on every topic. A democracy is never finished. We must enable citizens to make a valuable contribution to local democracy.

— Join the conversation

Although Utrecht's residents are regularly consulted and can give advice with regard to municipal policy, there is unfortunately much less co-production and co-decision-making, where the impact on policy is much greater. The participation of Utrecht's residents is often limited to the policy phase of opinion formation, agenda-setting and policy preparation. Research shows that there is broad support in the Netherlands for democratic additions. Nine out of ten voters are positive about forms of citizen participation in which citizens actively participate in problems and solutions within the municipality, and more than eight out of ten voters are positive about having citizens propose and develop solutions themselves. In addition, more than sixty percent of the voters are positive about the local referendum.

The Pirate Party strives for an optimal combination of different forms of deliberation (dialogue groups, citizen forums, participatory budgets and co-creation) and direct democracy (more local referendums, but also active use of liquid democracy), and wants the municipality of Utrecht to proactively look for new forms of citizen participation that can also be used for policy phases in which less citizen participation is currently taking place, such as policy-making, implementation, communication and evaluation.

— Right to bid, challenge and plan

The Right to bid, the Right to challenge and the Right to plan must be anchored in the policy of the municipality. The Right to bid means that if real estate from the municipality becomes available or remains unused, the neighborhood can make a bid on it or use it temporarily. Right to challenge means that if residents think they can do a public task better, they will be given the opportunity to do so. This is already part of the law (Social Support Act) but does not have hands and feet yet. Right to plan means that resident groups can draw up neighbourhood development plans, and the municipality will actively integrate these into the municipal plans for area development.

— Inclusiveness and participation

When assessing the quality of the different types of participation, not only the intensity of the participation is considered, but also the degree of inclusiveness and the level of information on which the participation is based. It is of great importance to achieve the best possible reflection of the inhabitants of the municipality of Utrecht so that the views of important groups in society are included in the decision-making process. Utrecht residents should also have free access to as complete information as possible in which advantages and disadvantages are presented in a balanced way, in order to be able to participate optimally.

— Liquid democracy

Liquid Democracy sounds like a complicated concept, but it's not. Every four years we get to vote for the city council. In the meantime, the residents have to wait and see what will or will not be done by the elected council members. In addition, we want residents of Utrecht to have the opportunity to actively vote.

In concrete terms, this means: you give your vote during the elections, for example, to Saskia Söller of the Pirate Party. During the council period you can leave it that way, because you believe in the work Saskia does. But what if you don’t agree? Then you can use the Liquid Democracy app, which you log in to with your DigiD. There you can vote differently for a specific subject, but you can also give your vote to another council member. With the introduction of Liquid Democracy, residents get a real voice in the municipality.

Of course, we are also aware that voting through liquid democracy has no legal value. But we want to commit ourselves to that, and challenge all other parties to do the same. Do you stand for your residents? Show it, then formalizing it is a small step.

Contact with citizens

The Pirate Party wants local politicians to have more (financial) opportunities and to be stimulated (and where necessary trained) to seek out voters more directly and to make their story more understandable. The argument 'most people don't get that anyway' is a dragon of an insult. If people don't get it, we as representatives of the people should do a better job of explaining it.

Research

Collaborating with Utrecht University and Hogeschool Utrecht is then the logical next step to constantly monitor and adjust. Where does participation work, where does it catch on, and where can and should it be improved? We want a city in which we can work together on the basis of trust. That is a challenge, but certainly feasible.

In short:

- introducing Liquid Democracy (voting rights for residents, also outside of elections);
- more types of giving input and participating;
- Right to bid, Right to challenge en Right to plan embedded in policy.

The Pirate Party stands for a social city with diversity, culture and identity

A municipality where similarities are more visible than differences. Our strength is shown by the extent to which we accept each other. We need to be careful with our working-class neighborhoods, our communities, the history and diversity of our city. A city where culture is no longer seen as a second-class subject, but gets the attention it deserves. Music, visual arts, theatre: that gives the city colour, that tells our story.

— Identity & diversity

Utrecht is a diverse municipality; this is something we can be proud of and should cherish. Every resident in our municipality has a different personal, genetic, social and cultural identity, and thus contributes to the diversity of the city. This part of the programme is about LGBTIQA+, about discrimination and racism and about radicalisation and polarisation. What is important in municipal policy is to take intersectionality into account in all topics. This is also called intersectional thinking and is about discrimination happening on the basis of a multitude of factors that intersect.

Everyone should feel safe in our city. Although Utrecht has already made great strides in the acceptance of LGBTIQA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual), there is still a long way to go. There is still a large degree of discrimination against this group, including in the labour market. Especially for transgender people it is still difficult to find a job, and this needs to be improved quickly. Utrecht is a city for everyone; let's make sure everyone feels welcome. To achieve this, it is important that children learn at an early age that everyone belongs, and that discrimination and bullying behavior do not belong in our city. The Utrecht Rainbow Agenda must be continued to remain a safe and inclusive city for everyone and to combat abuse. Sexual and gender diversity should become a portfolio for which an alderman takes responsibility. Policy must be regularly tested against this and the advice points of COC Midden-Nederland must be converted into active policy and improvement of policy.

Discrimination and racism are unfortunately still an everyday theme in the municipality of Utrecht. The municipality must ensure that this is a phenomenon that we no longer recognize in our city as soon as possible. Although the municipality can contribute to this through specific campaigns, this is above all a topic that must be included in all policy areas. Think mainly of education, internships, housing and various neighborhoods, but also a basic income and good health care. Steps must be taken in all these policy areas, while considering intersectionality as a serious factor.

Utrecht is an inclusive city, but a city with many opportunities to live in a bubble, a phenomenon that also has an increasing influence on us online. The basis for radicalization starts at a young age, because it has become normal that children with a Dutch background only encounter young people with the same background. The same applies to children with a bicultural background. The Pirate Party therefore wants more creative thought to be given to ways to combat this segregation. Consider, for example, setting a limit on the amount of the voluntary contribution for schools in order to be eligible for subsidies. This could counteract the phenomenon of 'white' and 'black' schools, which unfortunately is often synonymous of 'rich' and 'poor' schools. In addition, we must jointly encourage an end to the 'white flight'. Together, as parents of the Utrecht of the future, we can do something about this.

The corona crisis has visibly reinforced the polarization in society. The debate is getting sharper: supporters and opponents of corona measures, zwarte piet, climate legislation, LGBTIQ+ rights and so on are fighting each other online and offline. The municipality must actively work to counter this polarization. Differing opinions on specific points is important in a democracy, but beyond these disagreements we should still be able to live together. The municipality can do this by organizing meetings where, although differences are recognized, similarities are also sought.

The action plan 'Utrecht zijn we samen' (together we are Utrecht) has resulted in a beautiful collection of stories that gives an insight into what we can do against radicalisation and polarisation. It is now important that we turn these stories into policy, together with the people who have shared their story.

Sport and Culture

Sports and culture connects us all. The U-pass is a great way to make sports and culture accessible to people with a low income. The municipality of Utrecht must continue to actively strive for an affordable offer. Local art and culture are of great value. The Pirate Party is strongly in favour of attention being paid to this in lesson plans in schools and wants schools to pay more attention to Utrecht's monuments, museums and communities. More knowledge about local history and art creates a better connection with our city, broadens the worldview and ensures better mutual understanding.

It is important that children are encouraged to play sports. The Youth Sports Fund is a means that needs to be brought to wider attention. Sport is not only good for physical health, but also for mental and social development. Team sports teach children to work together at an early age. In view of the multicultural society, it is therefore also important that children come into contact with other cultures at their sports club. The Pirate Party sees it as the task of the municipality to stimulate 'mixed' sports clubs. Also when it comes to inclusivity of the LGBTIQA+ community in sports, the municipality can contribute.

Of course, sports are not only of great importance for children. The corona crisis has shown us that adults and the elderly should also exercise more. The municipality can stimulate cooperation between sports clubs and companies so that sports deals can be offered. After all, a fit employee is good for everyone.

The community centres are an important place where people can visit each other for a cup of coffee and a chat. This importance is often underestimated, but for a large group of people these are places where they feel at home. However, we could use the municipal community centres in Utrecht even better. For example, they could make spaces available as a place where people with neighborhood initiatives can develop their creativity and activities. The community centres that are maintained by residents without subsidy receive support to be able to do the same.

Other public spaces in the city must, with attention to safety and quality of life, be able to be used without bureaucratic hassle for the development of our Utrecht. Think of pop-up concerts and performances, discussion groups, creative makers and other locally socially supported non-

commercial initiatives. This does not require municipal interference – if something is not socially supported, initiatives automatically lose their right to exist.

Music and theatre are both important for children's development, as well as a good way of relaxation for adults. Due to the corona crisis, many theatres are having a very difficult time, the municipality of Utrecht must look at what they can do on an individual level to support cultural institutions.

The museums have been hit hard by the corona crisis. The municipality must understand the importance of museums and support them where necessary. Not only so that they can 'survive', but also so that new exhibitions can be held. Art makes society live.

As a municipality, we must invest in the preservation of our libraries. A library is not only a book house, but also a social place where people come to learn, study, and develop themselves. Libraries can move along with time by offering computer lessons. Questions that truly belong in a library are: how do I search online for reliable information? How do I know if a website is safe? And how do I break out of my own knowledge bubble?

Although street culture is often described in a negative way, it also has a lot of beauty in it. From the neighborhoods where people put their chairs on the street in good weather to make contact with the neighbors to the loitering youths who express themselves through rap; it has great value. We must not let this go to waste in our urge to regulate everything. The municipality must value and stimulate street culture so that it can develop for generations to come.

— Refugees and integration

From the first day on that refugees stay in Utrecht, we have to work on integration. The municipality is already doing well with projects in which refugees, students and the elderly live together. These projects should be expanded in the years to come. The focus should not be on the differences, but rather on the similarities of people. By talking to each other we can learn a lot from. Refugees should not be isolated from the city, but rather included in Utrecht's customs. Refugees and status holders must receive help with access to, for example, the Dutch healthcare system, especially if Rutte III continues the measures to limit the legal position of refugees and status holders. By enabling refugees to become members of sports clubs and to

supplement the 50% reimbursed by the COA, we make sport and therefore integration more accessible.

LGBTIQA+ refugees deserve specific attention. We are proud of our diversity and must contribute to making these refugees feel safe and recognized with us. To this end, it is necessary to actively communicate the possibilities for care and support for LGBTIQA+ refugees to refugees, whereby interpreters with an LGBTIQA+ background must be provided where necessary, so that the distance to this care and support remains minimal. Here, too, the concept of intersectionality returns. It is very important to realize that a coming out in Kabul is very different from a coming out in Utrecht.

It is the duty of the municipality to receive refugees. The housing of refugees in social housing is necessary, but also wrings with the shortage on the rental market of social-regular rental housing. That is why the Pirate Party wants the municipality to actively investigate the use of homes in the middle rent and use them where possible. This should not be accompanied by a cage obligation, because without privacy someone cannot be human. But for refugee families, for example, this is a real option. This point is closely related to the programme point that there should be more social regular rental housing. The lack of understanding for housing refugees partly stems from the municipal policy not to counteract the decrease in the supply of social housing.

Language is a central part of integration. Being able to understand each other is the first step in a social city. Language lessons should already be available to refugees and asylum seekers during the procedure. This should be facilitated by the municipality, where volunteers can be deployed.

Refugees are involved in volunteering as much as possible to make the transition to paid work easier. To this end, the municipality takes on a stimulating and organizing role, in which associations and local initiatives are involved as much as possible. This promotes integration and helps refugees to become self-reliant quicker. Local integration education plays an important role and it goes without saying that companies that benefit from this 'market' are held to strict quality requirements.

In short:

- intersectionality (intersectional thinking) as a fixed theme in all policy development;
- actively combat segregation in primary education;
- together against radicalisation and polarisation;
- more attention to local art and culture in primary school;
- encouraging mixed sports clubs (against segregation);
- Utrecht as a city of culture;
- do not isolate refugees but actively introduce them to local customs and customs;
- extra attention for vulnerable position LGBTIQA+ refugees;
- place refugees also in middle rent houses.

The Pirate Party stands for a free information society with more transparency

A municipality where personal data is safe and government data is accessible to everyone. Where transparency of governance contributes to verifiable and reliable decision-making and used algorithms are made public.

Big data

Thanks to digitization, local governments today have enormous opportunities to govern with the use of data. This offers opportunities, also for the municipality of Utrecht. The collection, analysis and application of data is of great importance for the realization of public goals and values. Think of improving water and air quality, combating crime, or limiting the number of virus infections. The use of data technologies can strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal policy and support the freedom of citizens, but the rise of the 'smart city' also entails enormous risks and ethical issues.

Big Data has proved to be a fertile breeding ground for the development of new psychological influencing techniques and the rise of powerful companies that keep a close eye on citizens in order to earn big money. The large-scale deployment of cameras with facial recognition, smart sensors, Wi-Fi tracking and social media monitoring involves many risks such as 'man in the middle attacks', privacy violations, data and identity theft, hacks, 'DDoS attacks' and technical malfunctions.

A smart city is not automatically a safe city, and unfortunately it is hardly possible for citizens in practice to prevent abuse of power and to democratically control parties that use their data. Who exactly will be the boss in this smart city of the future? Who will own the data we all produce? And who will own technology that is developed with public money?

The Pirate Party wants to prevent the municipality and companies from using the information revolution to acquire a position of power at the expense of residents. We need to move towards a smart city where people's well-being is central, and the municipality ensures positive safety

through inclusion; the humane smart city. Not only do the projects have to be adapted to this, the municipality must also communicate more clearly to the citizen which smart projects are running, and involve the citizen in the design of the smart city.

— Privacy

Privacy, one of the key points of the Pirate Party, but what does the municipality have to do with this? From data collection to cameras, from WiFi tracking to cash, the municipality is full of privacy issues. At the municipality, privacy is ever too often seen as an annoying obligation and policy is made without recognizing the great importance of privacy for citizens. Although it is therefore important that the municipality recognizes privacy as the important fundamental right that it is, the municipality can also take more concrete steps to protect the privacy of its citizens.

WiFi tracking without explicit permission is prohibited, and camera surveillance is only allowed after independent review by a judge, instead of by the mayor. The municipality becomes an ANPR-free zone: all cameras with recognition software are removed, so that citizens can move anonymously through their own city again. This also includes anonymous parking. Parking data is no longer shared with the tax authorities and cash payment must therefore also remain possible.

Statements such as 'we have to look behind the front door' should be history, because that is language that does not belong in a human society where we value privacy. Without privacy, you can't be human.

— Transparency of governance

Digitization offers opportunities for transparency of governance. The Pirate Party stands for a transparent municipality that enables its residents, local (investigative) journalists and scientists to control the ins and outs of the municipality during all phases of the policy cycle. Think about making data and information of public procurement processes, the municipal lobby, and subsidy expenditure publicly available. This makes a positive contribution to mutual trust and ensures better policy.

According to local folklore, somewhere hidden in the town hall of Utrecht, there is a transparency and lobby register. In our opinion, this register must be kept for all officials and representatives within the municipal organization with voting and / or decision-making rights. When we visit the Open Data Platform of the municipality, we want to see a reference to it. This way, the residents can see which lobby groups the council members, aldermen, mayor and municipal managers have talked to. This is an important step towards open and transparent governance.

Transparency also includes a good whistleblower scheme. Power corrupts, and we decide for ourselves how vulnerable we are to it as a society. The safer a whistleblower is, the safer we all are.

— Algorithms made public

Various authorities, including the police and tax authorities, use profiling techniques. This determines, for example, who is seen as a suspect, or who is labeled as a possible fraudster. This leads to undesirable effects. Profiling algorithms often copy the bias of their creators and the bias in their training data. It has been shown that as a result, algorithms punish people of color more severely, even if race wasn’t explicitly omitted as a variable. Recruitment algorithms have been shown to prefer men. When resulting decisions are used as new training input to "improve" algorithms, it will actually reinforce these biases.

People who use these algorithms to support decisions use them to justify their own biases, because they were taken by "impartial technology." To prevent these undesirable effects, we demand that algorithms become transparent and that training data can be monitored. Only then can we have a public debate about profiling. If people feel they are being treated unfairly by technology, they should always have the right to human intervention.

— Open Source

The municipality is switching completely to free open source software unless it can substantiate that there is no good alternative. As a result, the municipality becomes less dependent on software suppliers with proprietary solutions that you can hardly get rid of ('vendor lock-in'),

and municipal software can easily be improved. Software developed with public money enters the public domain, so that this software can benefit society as a whole.

— Knowledge of data technology

The municipality lacks technical knowledge. Although the number of councillors with technical knowledge will increase significantly with the appointment of the Pirate Party to the city council, measures are also needed in the field of policy. The municipality must proactively provide substantive expertise and strategy with regard to the use of data technology at the municipal level.

The municipality can work together with knowledge institutions such as Utrecht University and Hogeschool Utrecht on a common research agenda with regard to the use of data technology at the municipal level, in order to strengthen its knowledge position. The municipality can also bring in expertise from outside to compensate for its own knowledge gap compared to tech companies.

— Privacy by design en security by design

Privacy by design is applied to all municipal projects and tenders, and data minimization becomes the norm. Data is only collected with explicit permission and when this is strictly necessary for a service. When the information no longer serves its purpose, it is deleted. Data is never used without explicit permission for a purpose other than the original. Security by design should also become the standard in municipal projects. From the very first design, digital security must be looked at.

— Alderman for Digital Affairs

Although digital matters are reflected in all different parts of municipalities, it is important that there is an alderman who takes this up as an overarching theme. In addition to their own projects, this alderman will also provide all other aldermen with the necessary information and support. Digitization is continuing at a rapid pace, and the municipality is lagging far behind in its policy in this regard. The alderman for digital affairs must take back control in order to give the municipality more control in its digital affairs. For the residents, the alderman for digital affairs has an important goal: to eliminate digibetism and to promote digital literacy.

— Information as a civil right

We see free access to information such as knowledge, technology and culture as a fundamental civil right, and it must be enshrined in our rule of law. However, the current legislation on 'intellectual property' (such as copyright and patent law) is an obstacle to this access.

We therefore want to reform this legislation thoroughly, but we must also find our way in this at the local level. The economy is increasingly based on information. That's good news, because we can multiply and share information for free. The internet offers people great opportunities to have access to news, knowledge, technology, entertainment and culture anywhere in the world.

In order to ensure that people can make the most of these opportunities for self-development, it is important that the existing information monopolies are dismantled. This can be done, among other things, by severely restricting copyright and patents. The Pirate Party wants to abolish the patent system in the long term. Locally, these are things that we can't just change.

What we can say is that while these sites may operate in a grey area, we're glad there are initiatives like z-lib.org, 1lib.us, and libgen.li, where thousands of articles are made accessible for free to students and people who want to get in touch, or plugins like Bypass Paywalls, UnPaywall, and Hover that tear down paywalls. Yes, authors must be paid. But today's information pimps (distribution companies, publishers and other money creators who skim off the authors) may disappear.

In short:

- privacy for residents (without privacy you cannot be human);
- transparency of governance (including whistleblower regulation);
- improve digital literacy and combat digital illiteracy;
- privacy and security by design as the norm;
- sharing knowledge is conditional for the growth of our society;
- open source as the norm for the municipality;
- digital matters as a separate portfolio for the aldermen.

The Pirate Party stands for good and affordable housing for everyone

A municipality where housing is affordable, social housing and student housing are sufficiently available, and in a healthy mix with owner-occupied homes ensure a varied population composition. Homes are there to live in, not to speculate with.

There is a huge housing crisis in the Netherlands and Utrecht is at the forefront of this. There is a great need for affordable housing in Utrecht and with the growth of Utrecht, this need will continue to grow in the coming years. In concrete terms, the housing crisis means that there is almost no rental property in Utrecht for less than 1,000 euros per month. There is more demand than supply and that leads to higher prices. Many low- and middle-income people leave the city which has social consequences, among other things. The housing cooperatives are also ringing the alarm. Bo-Ex's advertisement for a two-room house in Leidsche Rijn received more than 2,500 responses, it is up to politicians to ensure that more social housing can be built and that renting remains affordable.

Tenants spend an average of 38% of their income on housing. Housing is too expensive for many tenants in both the social and private sector. The problems in the housing market do not come out of the blue but come from political policy. That is why this political policy must be improved.

Of course, we have to make up for the remove of social housing. The number of homes that have disappeared from our housing stock to make way for more expensive homes is shockingly high. But we also need to take a good look at the current policy regarding student housing. The municipality of Utrecht already encourages landlady rental, but if you rent social housing and you have a room left, you may not sublet it now. We also want tenants of social housing to be able to sublet a room. For a social prize, with registration. In order to make landlady rental attractive for single-person households, we as a municipality can offer a contribution to the rising costs.

What we plan now will be built in ten years. This problem therefore also requires faster solutions, in which we do not lose sight of the human dimension. There are better alternatives to the container parks as they are already being used. We advocate the construction of prefab energy-neutral homes, studios and apartments. Also in polder Rijnenburg, because it is never too late to turn around a bad decision. As a municipality, time and again we do not achieve the intended percentage of social rent for new construction, and expansion outside the outskirts of the city can make this financially feasible.

We need to be more critical of vacancy. Squatters are not a problem, squatters make a problem visible. That is why we want homes, office buildings and business premises in our municipality not to be empty for over six months. That is actually far too long, but there must be room for renovation and development. Is a building empty for longer? Then it is time to ensure that (temporary) habitation is made possible. Utrecht is for people, not for speculators.

In short:

- more social housing;
- more student housing;
- make landlady rental more attractive;
- make landlady rental possible in social housing;
- cheaper rent and owner-occupied homes for starters and young families;
- in the case of new construction, a good mix of different homes;
- for new construction at least 40% social rent;
- the municipality itself buys up land to build homes;
- control of new construction so that the rules are complied with (so that there are no increasingly expensive homes);
- use rijnenburg polder to build new environmentally friendly houses;
- stop selling land to foreign property developers;
- better rules and controls on slumlords;
- maximum of 6 months vacancy on all properties.

The Pirate Party stands for a safe municipality

A municipality in which everyone feels safe. Not false security through surveillance cameras, but real security through social cohesion. A safe municipality is designed in such a way that people feel involved and have the privacy to be themselves. We're going to shift attention from the war on drugs to real safety. We don't waste police capacity on hemp plants in gardens and pay more attention to digital security.

— Enforcement

- ### Rather ten neighborhood parents than 1 BOA

The BOA (Extraordinary Investigating Officer) has acquired an indispensable position. Not because the use of a BOA is better than alternatives, but mainly because it is cheaper. The current policy is rather ten BOAs than one good agent. We want to change that. Rather ten neighborhood parents than one BOA. Control and repression are severely overvalued, and current policies leave far too little room for community spirit and social cohesion.

All this, of course, not to the detriment of the persons who fill the position of BOA. But a good BOA wants a better world – let's make sure that the BOAs get the resources to do so. Stop focusing on parking tickets and sifting through dumped garbage bags, and focus on communication, community contact and approachability instead. Without a voucher book on the road, with a human approach.

- ### Weapons belong in the Middle Ages

Police weapons are a last resort when there are no other solutions. Heavier weapons such as electric shock weapons do not solve anything and are very undesirable. The monopoly on violence brings with it a great responsibility. Agents must have adequate knowledge of legislation and powers. Training for dealing with violence should focus on de-escalation, in order to prevent unlawful use of force by police. The Pirate Party wants to increase knowledge and skills through regular training courses in which de-escalation training, violence training, updating knowledge, psychological support and evaluations are central. The marksmanship skills also

need to be practiced more often. In addition, there must be good support and help for officers with psychological complaints.

- Cameras are a palliative for lack of social cohesion

Privacy is a fundamental right that the municipality is currently rolling over far too easily. Control must be demonstrably effective, and carried out with restraint. Supervision where there are problems, not supervision where problems might arise in the future. Research shows that the presence of cameras has little influence on the extent of crime and that crime at best moves to another place in the municipality. The Pirate Party is in favour of a task shift of police personnel from monitoring tasks, to good contact with the neighbourhood and professional detective work.

— Mental safety

As a diverse municipality, it is extra important to ensure that everyone feels safe on the street. Where one feels safer because of more police, this can have the opposite effect for the other. We create this mental safety mainly by ensuring that the neighborhoods are lively, the people meet each other, and we as a municipality radiate that everyone can be themselves.

— Cyber security (digital fire brigade and digital fire prevention)

Security is also an important issue in the digital world. In an overarching project, the municipality must address both its own safety and the safety of its residents. In particular, digitally vulnerable residents such as the elderly need extra protection against the dangers of the internet. Through workshops in libraries, an information campaign and extra attention in education, the municipality can take big steps.

Not only the cyber security of individuals is at stake, SMEs also suffer from an ever-growing cyber threat. Where the insurances regarding cyber security are not affordable for smaller companies, arranging digital security for themselves is often not possible. However, when a company does not have their digital safety in order, this is a danger to the rest of society. Other types of dangers that cannot be solved by one person or one company are, for example, fires. That is why we have a common fire brigade. If everyone had to have the means and knowledge to put out their own fires, society would be at a standstill. The same principle applies to cyber

attacks. That is why the Pirate Party wants a digital fire brigade, which offers help to Utrecht's companies to put their cyber security in order. In addition, they are available for acute emergencies such as cases of ransomware to support companies.

— Sexual harassment and domestic violence

Domestic violence is a security problem for which, unfortunately, there are still too few adequate approaches. The Pirate Party wants more attention and specialism from the police to deal with this. In addition, early detection must also improve, so that help can be provided earlier.

Sexual harassment on the street, in the workplace, in public spaces and in the home are a major attack on the autonomy of the victim. The police must focus much more on combating sexual harassment and violence. By stopping the war on drugs, many police agents are freed and can get started with this. Too often, victims are too afraid to report, or think that the police will not do anything with it. A campaign must ensure that victims know that they are taken seriously and that there is a safe place for them. The police should also pay extra attention to transphobia, because we see that this target group often has to deal with violence.

— Online monitoring

Disturbances of public order that start online or are reinforced online are at the order of the day. Think of unrest as a result of political decisions, nuisance by groups of young people, illegal events, polarization between residents or unrest around asylum seekers' centers. Almost all municipalities monitor online because this can contribute to the prevention of such disturbances.

However, municipal online monitoring using tools such as OBI4wan is extremely problematic. For example, there are often unclearly formulated objectives, a lack of capacity, a lack of knowledge and skills among employees, risks with regard to monitoring tools and storage, and a lack of transparency about the exact working method. There is usually no question of a defined protocol and the involvement of a Data Protection Officer, while online monitoring of specific persons almost always leads to a violation of privacy.

The Pirate Party wants transparency, privacy and ethics to be taken into account from the start in the setting of goals and the working method, and that residents and the city council can contribute to the development of the security policy and a protocol for online monitoring. If the use of monitoring tools is necessary, it is preferable to anonymize. Sufficient capacity and (legal) know-how must be invested, and a Data Protection Officer must be involved at all times. The municipality of Utrecht must also explicitly distance itself from the use of fake accounts.

In short:

- more neighbourhood parents;
- fewer cameras;
- weapons back to the Middle Ages;
- mental safety is also on the agenda;
- digital fire brigade and digital fire prevention for SMEs;
- shifting attention from war on drugs to war on aggression and intimidation;

The Pirate Party stands for a liveable and sustainable municipality

A municipality where we can live safely, healthily and pleasantly together. Where residents can easily reach their homes and public facilities, with free public transport, on foot, by bike or by car. A municipality where green belongs in the daily street scene and litter does not. Our city as a home for us and for the generations after us: self-sufficient and independent. A liveable municipality with room for (volunteer) initiatives; artists' collectives, repair cafés and hackerspaces, that's what makes Utrecht liveable.

— Accessibility by design

For a social and full life, mobility and accessibility are indispensable. The municipality has laid down a Spatial Strategy Utrecht 2040. We are committed to a complete revision of this document. Especially with something with such an impact, it is critical that we take all citizens into account.

As Pirate Party, we want the municipality to appoint social advisors. These social advisors come from groups where mobility and accessibility are severely limited by how we design our city. People who are blind, deaf, wheelchair-bound, neurodivers, or otherwise ‘limited’ are the only ones who experience what is going wrong now, and we need to do more with that. Do not talk and solve afterwards, but we need to ensure that we prevent problems in the policy phase. Accessibility by design as the new norm in urban development.

- The starting point of any design should be that everything is accessible.
- In advance, an inventory must be made of the wishes of the users.
- Conscious choices must be made.
- Choices should be motivated.
- The processes must become transparent.
- Interest groups such as Solgu must be involved in every design.

— Mobility

The current policy, whereby only people with a new (read: expensive) car can enter the environmental zone, is a serious restriction on the mobility of people. If we want real greening, we must also dare to be ambitious in this and not come up with half-measures that mainly affect everyone who has to live below the socio-economic average.

That is why we, as Pirate Party, are in favour of real reform. Start with free Public Transport for everyone. In this way we increase the liveliness of the city, and mobility becomes accessible again.

If we then look further into the 21st century, we see self-driving vehicles that take you from the transferia around Utrecht directly to your destination and then pick up someone nearby. The bus lanes can easily be transformed into small highways where these self-driving EVs can drive.

If we really want to put Utrecht on the map, we show that we believe in a sustainable future for all residents of Utrecht.

— Energy-independent city

Utrecht as an energy independent city. That is not a romantic vista, but something that we can realize together. Using every roof in Utrecht for solar panels, micro wind turbines throughout the city, and micro water turbines where the watercourses allow this.

Where solar panels are not an option, green always is. If we work together on a plan for greening Utrecht, we will choose green streets, green roofs and a green city together.

— Waste

Waste is an old-fashioned word with which we refer to everything that we throw away unnecessarily, while it can be reused. It is a good step that we in Utrecht are going from separate collection to final separation, so that separation can be done much more effectively. But reuse is not only in the waste streams. Repair cafés, thrift stores and sharing initiatives ensure that our ecological footprint can become many times smaller. There are already many good initiatives in this area, and as a municipality we can facilitate this much better.

— Environment, Climate and Climate Change.

The earth is a living organism. An organism that lives on a different time scale than we do. Over the centuries, it has extracted CO_2 from the air and put it in the ground. We humans have managed to burn a lot of that CO_2 back into the atmosphere in about 100 years. This has consequences, because the earth is not used to rapid changes. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, we have not taken into account the costs that we have passed on to the next generations. Now gas suddenly becomes expensive. Wood becomes more expensive. Everything is getting more expensive, because the real cost of our progress is now becoming visible. Big inflation is just around the corner.

It's five past twelve when it comes to preventing the worst effects of climate change on us and our world. That is why we must act now. We can still limit the damage and let our scientists and technicians build technology that can help the earth regain its balance.

— Energy

Too much coal, oil and wood is still being burned. Although the share of renewable energy sources is rising, it is still going too slow. The problem is that renewable resources are as changeable as the weather. Because the wind does not always blow and the sun does not shine all day.

In fact, plenty of energy is generated, but we don't save anything. The energy that is now coming out of your socket is also generated at this time. Everything we don't use is literally lost energy.

The solution is storage. As a city, we can do much more to store renewable energy. There are many developments in this; such as the basalt 'battery', heat and ground pumps, 'flow', gravity, or 'solid-state' batteries.

Utrecht must actively work to become an energy storage facility, first for itself and then for the whole of the Netherlands. There are already technologies that are particularly cheap and already applicable to, for example, the district heating system. This is now in the hands of a private institution. However, a heated house belongs to a warm city. No profit should be made on that.

Young entrepreneurs and inventors must also be encouraged to make use of all the energy of the city. Think of microturbines and solar collectors. There is a lot of innovation, but there is no room for people to come up with alternatives. The 'big boys' have the market firmly in their hands. We want the 'small' entrepreneurs to have the space and protection of the municipality to innovate. Utrecht is brimming with energy. We can use this energy to power our homes, offices and business premises.

The generation and storage of energy for and by the city offers space for many sustainable projects. We have a lot of surface area in Utrecht where energy can be collected. If we fill all the roofs with solar collectors, we will have enough energy to heat and cool the city. If we store all that energy, we will have enough supply for dark days and we will create a surplus of energy that we can share with the rest of the province and the country.

— Food

There is a lot of greenery in Utrecht, that all needs to be maintained and that costs us a lot of money. But there are also many people who would like a piece of greenery to use as a garden. For example, to grow food or just to make a beautiful garden. People should be able to take responsibility for pieces of greenery on which they are given the freedom to garden. This way we save costs on the municipal gardens and people have the freedom to garden.

The municipality must also support and subsidize residents to grow local vegetables and herbs on municipal land. It should be made easier for entrepreneurs to sell that cultivation to

restaurants or at a 'farmer's market'. It must also be possible to exchange food while sufficient attention is paid to hygiene and safety.

The kitchens in community centers must again be able to be used by residents to cook for the neighborhood. Food connects and is a basic necessity of life. A healthy city eats healthy and with each other.

— Biodiversity

Nature is a complex organic system that we must be careful of, for ourselves and our children. For the last century we have lived on the puff. The costs that our comfort entailed, we have passed on to the next generations. And the bill is coming now.

Biodiversity is extremely important for the municipality. A healthy ecological system promotes well-being and has important regulatory functions. Think of the role that varied greenery plays in purifying the air, capturing dust, improving water drainage, regulating temperature and dampening noise. Varied greenery improves the business climate for citizens and companies. The development of a fully-fledged biodiversity policy for our characteristic urban nature therefore offers opportunities. The inhabitants of the city play an important role in achieving the biodiversity goals. Of course, this starts in and around their own home and garden, but the inhabitants of the city can also contribute by sharing knowledge in policy development, and by participating in the inventory and monitoring of the existing urban nature.

The Pirate Party wants to realize an urban nature monitoring network with which citizens and local groups can pass on observations, so that there is a better view of our biodiversity. The data in this database should be available as open data to citizens, scientists and other municipalities. In addition to the development of biodiversity policy, more attention should also be paid to the management of the nature present. The Pirate Party stands for natural roadside management and a mowing policy with an eye for nature and biodiversity, so that insects that are having an increasingly difficult time, such as bumblebees and bees, get the support they so desperately need. With an online mowing map, residents can be informed about how, where and when exactly mowing takes place.

In short:

- accessibility by design;
- free Public Transport throughout Utrecht;
- Utrecht for energy storage;
- stimulating local innovation by small entrepreneurs;
- growing and gardening on municipal land;
- develop a fully-fledged biodiversity policy;
- introduce an urban nature monitoring network.

The Pirate Party stands for an enterprising municipality

A municipality where local and innovative entrepreneurship gets an advantage, where stimulating is more important than regulating. Utrecht as a forerunner of the swarm economy, where volunteer work is just as important as paid work. A municipality where sex workers are no longer bullied away.

— Swarm Economy

You can't live without money. But work is more than just a way to make money. Work is fulfilling and everyone should have the opportunity to develop themselves. The Pirate Party believes that stimulating volunteer networks can be of much greater value. Volunteers are a cornerstone of our society. The municipality must therefore also focus on recruiting more volunteers. For example, in healthcare and in the neighbourhood teams, volunteers are urgently needed. The municipality must give the inhabitants more tools to start their own initiatives.

Mandatory application does not work. When people no longer have the prospect of paid work, the obligation to apply for a job is an unnecessary burden that prevents people from working for society through volunteer work.

In an ever-changing society, lifelong learning is a necessity. For example, for the generation that didn't grow up with the internet, there should be plenty of opportunities to develop their

computer skills. But also language and numeracy skills, retraining and further development of skills can happen during evening classes, among other things. In collaboration with, among others, the Hogeschool Utrecht and Utrecht University, we can look at an offer of free further training / retraining.

— SMEs and freelancers from Utrecht take precedence (over large companies)

For some contracts, tendering is mandatory, but for many contracts it is not. In the latter case, we ensure that the Utrecht entrepreneur is the first to receive the question, in the first case we give a local entrepreneurship bonus in tenders: an advantage for the Utrecht entrepreneurs. And we can do more to support:

- making the cooperative common again – strong together;
- rather ten small entrepreneurs than one large company;
- give Utrecht SMEs and freelancers a preferential position in tenders;
- digital support for cyber security of freelancers and SMEs.

— Visibility of SMEs and freelancers

Our regulations are 'one size fits all'. While you cannot speak of a level playing field when the same rules apply to a multinational as to a small less wealthy entrepreneur. We want to make entrepreneurship in Utrecht visible. There is enough room for workspace, and we can easily ensure that 'our' entrepreneurs are more visible to everyone in Utrecht. Therefore:

- more workspace 'in the neighbourhood';
- abolition of precario rights;
- online digital shopping and service center.

— Sex workers

For centuries, our municipality has spent a lot of public money in a crusade against prostitution, in which the blocking of legal and regulated initiatives is not shunned and all counter-actions are dismissed as 'coincidence'. The result? At the moment there are no legal places in Utrecht for sex workers to do their job. Utrecht has a responsibility in this. Prostitution does not equal human trafficking. In fact, by actively discouraging sex work, the municipality actually encourages abuses. The Pirate Party wants sex work to be considered a fully-fledged industry in

Utrecht, where the necessary transparency will contribute to detecting and combating human trafficking and other abuses that do not belong in the sex industry. The municipality should manage the new sand path itself and leave the company to the sex workers. They know what it takes to make it a safe business. The tipple zone of Utrecht must return. It is time for the municipality to stop criminalizing sex work and start facilitating it.

— Drugs Policy

The Pirate Party wants the municipality to act as a progressive forerunner of drug policy in the Netherlands, and to work for the relaxation of Dutch law in this area. The points that the Pirate Party wants to take into account here:

- replace the current prohibition system with regulation;
- regulated cannabis cultivation, back door coffee shop closed;
- enable cannabis social clubs on a non-profit basis;
- allow safe home cultivation of cannabis;
- stop treating drug users as criminals; problematic users receive care, not punishment;
- facilitate training and information provision with regard to (soft) drugs.

In short:

- encouraging volunteering;
- exemption from the obligation to apply for a job in benefit situations;
- the new sandy path: the municipality manages, the sex worker undertakes;
- return of the tippelzone in Utrecht;
- regulated cannabis cultivation.

The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good education

A municipality where high-quality education is accessible and affordable for everyone. Where education is the place where inequality is tackled and everyone gets a fair chance. Where there

is sufficient supply of broad classes and the teacher shortage is actively addressed. Where we do not accept privacy violations and pay more attention to the development of digital literacy.

— Segregation in education

Education is the key to the development of a child and of a society. A child who receives a good education gets opportunities for the future. That is why every child has the right to a good education. Anywhere, anytime. Education helps people become more independent and resilient. School success should not depend on students' backgrounds, such as their parents' income or education level. But that is often the case and this problem does not get any smaller. At the moment, the background of pupils plays too big a role in school advice, in the expectations of teachers and in the educational offer that children and young people receive. The Pirate Party believes that we as a municipality have a major role to play in addressing these problems and finding structural solutions for them. Although many things are regulated nationally, we as a municipality have the task to tackle this at the municipal level.

In the current system, children in group 8 are divided at secondary education levels. This choice is based on the grades that the child achieves, the image that the teacher has and the empowerment of parents. When you stimulate a broad class, children get more time to develop their talents and form an opinion about their future.

The municipality must encourage schools with broad classes. This makes the school advice less decisive and the secondary school can make a substantiated advice based on real grades of the subjects they want to follow in the 2nd or 3rd year, so that all students can do the training they want and suits them.

More attention should be paid to the MBO students in Utrecht. A lot of attention is paid to hbo and university students. The same attention should be paid to the MBO students. There is an action plan of the municipality of Utrecht ' Sterk Utrechts MBO '. This action plan runs until 2022. We must ensure that this plan has been able to make a contribution and we must investigate whether more needs to be done to strengthen the position of MBO students.

— Teacher shortage

There is a great shortage of teachers, especially in primary education. The deficit will increase further in the coming years and will affect almost all education sectors. The teacher shortage is unevenly distributed across the country and among groups of students. Schools with more pupils with a non-western migration background have more difficulty filling their vacancies. The teacher shortage therefore poses a threat to equal opportunities in education.

- Utrecht teacher grant in addition to national grant.
- Nationally, there is already a teacher grant and the Pirate Party wants a municipal supplement to the teacher grant.
- Priority for teachers in housing.
- One of the problems we see when it comes to the shortage of teachers is the housing crisis in Utrecht. In the field of housing, we could also do more to make Utrecht more attractive for starting teachers or teachers who would like to come and live and teach in Utrecht.
- Parking permits for teachers.
- Also in Utrecht, more and more teachers are coming who cannot live in the city and are therefore dependent on their own transport. In an ideal world, all teachers would come to work on their bikes or public transport, but this is the reality and that is not always feasible. Parking in Utrecht is a problem and it also costs a lot of money. Schools do not get extra parking tickets for their teachers, so a day of work quickly runs into the papers. We would therefore like to see parking permits for teachers.

— Adult education (lifelong learning)

In an ever-changing society, lifelong learning is a necessity. For example, for the generation that didn't grew up with the internet, there should be plenty of opportunities to develop their computer skills. But also language and numeracy skills, retraining and further development of skills can be developed during evening classes, among other things.

— Digital literacy

In recent years, the lack of digital literacy in society has come to light. We get a lot of different information from the media and need to be able to look critically at these different sources

independently. This is difficult and that is why making children digitally literate deserves a permanent place in the education of the municipality of Utrecht. In addition, the youth of Utrecht had to follow home education several times. Here it soon became clear that not everyone has access to enough laptops or other devices to achieve this homeschooling. Schools can play a nice role in filling this poverty, provided they receive money from the municipality to purchase sufficient laptops and other devices.

— Privacy of students and pupils

Educational institutions are so busy preventing fraud that they lose sight of the quality of education and the well-being of students. In addition to the technical challenges of online surveillance during testing, proctoring creates major ethical issues when it comes to privacy and equality of opportunity. The Pirate Party is a party that works on the basis of trust. At the moment, students are receiving a massive signal that they cannot be trusted in such a way that everything must be done to ensure that they do not cheat. Trust is reciprocal. People who keep getting signals that they can't be trusted will never learn to trust. We are not naïve, we also know that some students will try to cheat. But we believe in solutions that do not violate privacy and strengthen equality of opportunity. Knowledge can be tested in alternative ways, including by means of open-book tests.
Together with corona, let's also show online surveillance at educational institutions the door in the coming year. Let's work towards a society based on trust.

— Appropriate education

Schools have a responsibility to provide all children with an appropriate place, including children who need extra support in learning. For this, we often work together with other institutions to support these children. Think of the partnerships: safe, veilig thuis, de tussenvoorziening, spoor030, and DOCK. This is just a small selection of the various help institutions out there. Despite all the good intentions, it is not always clear who does what and there are long waiting times. The Pirate Party has the opinion that waiting lists in diagnostics should not exist and that help should always be available. We need to examine whether the current system works and how we can improve it so that all children who need help also get it.

In short:

- practical solutions for reducing the teacher shortage;
- (Utrecht) teacher grant: Nationally this already exists but we are in favour of a municipal supplement for the teacher grant;
- more attention for pre-school care;
- more attention to adult education (lifelong learning);
- to promote digital literacy, it is a must that all schools have enough laptops or tablets for the students to work with;
- promoting broad bridge classes;
- we are working towards democratic and digital citizenship;
- strengthening the position of MBO students.

The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good health care

A municipality where the inhabitants do not have sleepless nights about whether they will receive good care. Where home cultivation of medicinal cannabis is always allowed. Where we tackle the waiting times in youth care and mental health care and where everyone gets appropriate help. A municipality where mental health is just as important as physical health.

Good and timely health care, both physical and mental, is a right. It starts with accessibility for everyone, regardless of origin, religion, status, income, gender or health insurance policy. The Pirate Party focuses on the well-being and self-determination of patients. When you talk about health care, you are also talking about prevention, a subject that is more topical than ever with the corona crisis.

The government is coming up with initiatives such as the corona app, with which you can demonstrate whether you have been vaccinated. While we certainly agree that preventing spread remains important, there is always such a thing as privacy. We believe that the entire corona pass system is harmful. No one should be forced to tell whether they want to vaccinate or not. What we see much more benefit in is making tests much more easily accessible, and

above all keeping them affordable. The government has not shown itself to be reliable in the field of ICT and still has a long way to go. What then? Testing, and especially avoiding the smartphone. A paper proof or booklet, which does not require any registration at the place of visit, are our preference.

— Good care starts with prevention

Prevention must be the basis of good care. The corona crisis has shown us how important everyone's health is for society as a whole. Not only physical health plays a role in this; the mental and physical is strongly related. For example, we see that money worries have a major impact on the health of everyone who suffers from this. A basic income is therefore a good first step to improve the health of Utrecht residents by reducing stress. This security of existence also gives people the space to make decisions that are good for their health.

In addition, care must become more accessible. Due to the long queues and large bureaucratic hassle, people often wait too long before they seek help. There must be an open walk-in of mental health specialists in community centers, where registration is not mandatory. From this place people can be helped easily. For people who are deep in the pit, picking up the phone to make an appointment with a psychologist or psychiatrist is already too big a step. The walk-in consultation hours can help with this, so that they do not have to go through the difficult bureaucratic processes themselves.

— Mental health care without waiting lists

A prosperous country like the Netherlands should be able to provide good mental health care (GGZ) to all its inhabitants. Due to bad policy and budget cuts, the opposite is true: mental health care is in crisis. The Pirate Party wants appropriate care for everyone. Waiting times must be reduced, for example by tackling the staff shortage. The municipality must involve experience experts in making its policy. Furthermore, the municipality must make a strong case in national politics for the elimination of market forces in mental health care.

— Youth care

The shifting of youth care to the municipalities in 2015, against the objections of the professional field, was accompanied by a reduction in budgets. The care is often not adequate,

especially in youth mental health care. Decentralization was a big mistake and the municipality must urge national politics to reverse this. Furthermore, the municipality must purchase sufficient youth care so that the waiting times decrease, and there must be better supervision of the quality of the care provided.

The many different parties involved in youth care must work better together in the interests of the child and their environment. It is of great importance that they sit down under the guidance of the municipality to come up with constructive solutions.

It is also important that the parties work on transparency with regard to the policy they pursue and the choices they make. Of course, without violating the privacy of those involved. WOB requests must be honored at all times and handled promptly.

— Risk Groups Policy GGD

Getting tested for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) is currently an expensive affair, unless you fall into a risk group according to the GGD. This risk group policy is outdated and needs to be overhauled. At the moment, getting tested through the gp is so expensive that many (especially young people) postpone this for a long time or do not do it at all. STDs that are fairly harmless when treated in the initial stages can cause serious health problems if discovered too late. In the context of more preventive care, STD tests should be accessible to everyone free of charge.

— Free parking for caregivers

Caregivers take care of family members, friends or acquaintances who need long-term care. The last thing they should worry about is parking costs. In Utrecht, informal carers can currently get a 75% discount on parking. The Pirate Party wants to go a step further in this and offer parking for free to the informal caregivers. They can then apply for a free parking pass via the municipality.

— Medicinal cannabis

Medicinal cannabis is cannabis obtained by a patient to use as a medication. The cannabis plant has been used in a medical context for thousands of years. The Pirate Party wants to make it

possible for the home cultivation of medicinal cannabis to be allowed. In Tilburg it is already possible to grow your own cannabis as a medicine. We can take the experiences of the municipality of Tilburg as a blueprint to get started with this in Utrecht.

— Drug and alcohol problems are not safety problems but health problems

The municipality should not see drug and alcohol problems as a safety problem, but should solve this health problem with a multidisciplinary approach. By enlisting the help of experts by experience, the municipality can make a big difference in the lives of the people who have to deal with this. This point is related to unemployment, housing, pollution, income and social environment, and therefore deserves a multidisciplinary approach.

— Sanitary products such as tampons and sanitary napkins at no cost for everyone

We speak of menstrual poverty when people do not have enough money to purchase products that are needed to collect the menstrual blood, such as tampons, sanitary towels or menstrual cups. In the Netherlands, one in ten people who get their period suffer from menstrual poverty. The Pirate Party wants to make sanitary products free for everyone who needs them. We want to start this by handing out free menstrual products in schools. We can then expand this by offering free menstrual products in public places such as libraries, town halls and pharmacies.

— Education on confused behavior

The Pirate Party wants the municipality to inform its residents about how they can recognize confused behavior and how they can help. This goes hand in hand with a destigmatization campaign about confused behavior. It is not enough to disseminate this information via billboards, it must be taken up more widely. Think, for example, of information evenings in community centers, lectures at secondary schools, MBO's, Colleges and Universities, courses to employees of the municipality, and a campaign on social media; this will give this subject the attention it deserves.

In short:

- mental health must be given the same value as physical health;
- the focus should be on prevention;
- the waiting lists for mental health care should be shorter;
- there must be transparency in youth care;
- STD tests should be offered free of charge;
- informal carers must be able to park for free;
- medicinal cannabis cultivation should be allowed;
- sanitary products such as sanitary napkins and tampons are now available free of charge in schools.

The Pirate Party stands for people's resilience, both in times of crisis and beyond

A municipality where the inhabitants can rely on their elected representatives even in times of crisis. The economic crisis, the corona crisis, we too often experience that in difficult times people fall between the cracks. That has to change, that can be done differently, and we want to contribute to that.

Our generations, from the Boomers to Generation Z, have experienced more crises than we usually want to acknowledge. The corona crisis lives with all of us, and we dive from the financial crisis into the housing crisis and into the next crisis, and every time groups of people fall between the cracks.

The core of our basic principles is empowerment: empowering people to be autonomous, supporting people where necessary to make their own decisions, to take responsibility themselves, to be independent and human.

Too often we talk about people and not with people. Too often we want to be the rescuers and keep the victims in a victim role. Too often we assume distrust and fear of abuse. Everyone is on the defensive, but we really have to do it all together.

In order to develop as a person, livelihood security, good education (a lifetime), social contacts and recognition are conditional. These are things we can take care of together, without forgetting the importance of empowerment.

The Pirate Party contributes to this. A basic income ensures security of existence, good education for development, and ICT must protect privacy and not harm it. Resilience is always central to us, and should be at the heart of all policy decisions.

A Utrecht where everyone is safe and healthy, a Utrecht where everyone can just be human. This is the city we want. The city for everyone, where no one falls between the cracks.

Why Pirate Party Utrecht?

- The Pirate Party stands for an unconditional basic income
- The Pirate Party stands for more input from residents
- The Pirate Party stands for a social city with diversity, culture and identity
- The Pirate Party stands for a free information society with more transparency
- The Pirate Party stands for good and affordable housing for everyone
- The Pirate Party stands for a safe municipality
- The Pirate Party stands for a liveable and sustainable municipality
- The Pirate Party stands for an enterprising municipality
- The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good education
- The Pirate Party stands for accessible, affordable and good health care
- The Pirate Party stands for people's resilience, both in times of crisis and beyond