



SHAPING A FAIR FUTURE.

MORE GREEN. MORE MARBURG!

Short version of the 2026 local election manifesto of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Marburg

The full election manifesto is available at: gruene-marburg.de/wahlprogramm-2026 (in German only)

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1. GREEN POLICY WORKS!

Significant progress and important decisions for the positive development of our city – our policies have achieved many successes in recent years. The number of new social housing units is finally rising significantly again after we increased the social housing quota to 30% for larger housing projects. Thanks to the “soziale Energiebonus” (social energy bonus) subsidy programme, many rental apartments owned by local housing associations have been renovated to improve their energy efficiency without increasing the rent including utilities. Bicycle streets have been created and new cycle lanes introduced on many roads. More and more electric buses on Marburg's bus routes are reducing traffic noise and exhaust emissions in the city. We have maintained the high standards of childcare in Marburg despite the need for savings. The use of solar energy has been expanded, and we have succeeded in ensuring that, in a few years' time, the municipal utilities will be able to cover most of Marburg's electricity needs permanently at favourable prices with new wind turbines.

These examples show that we GREENS have been able to provide significant impetus for the sustainable and social development of our city. With new goals, we want to continue to help shape Marburg's city policy in this spirit in the coming years. To do that, we kindly ask for your trust and your vote!

2. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND COEXISTENCE IN MARBURG

For us Greens in Marburg, one thing is clear: our society needs a vibrant and resilient democracy that thrives on participation, openness and constructive exchange between all citizens. At a time when anti-democratic thinking, misanthropy and hatred are on the rise, we consciously support democratic structures and want to expand them further. Diversity, an engaged civil society and a clear commitment to our democratic values are an essential part of Marburg's cityscape for us.

That is why we want to

- Strengthen neighbourhood initiatives, district work and community projects
- Provide better support for voluntary work and enable further training
- Expand the children's and youth parliament, the city school council and youth participation
- Continue to promote the volunteer agency as a contact point for committed individuals
- Strengthen the work of the Foreigners' Advisory Council and the local advisory councils
- Broadcast city council meetings live and make documents more easily accessible
- Explain municipal decisions in a comprehensible manner and actively clarify them
- Establish regular consultation hours with department heads and division managers of the municipality
- Design participation formats as genuine spaces for dialogue in which decisions can be changed
- Call on the federal and state governments to consider proceedings to ban the ultra-right-wing extremist AfD party



- Strengthen the network for democracy and against right-wing extremism

3. CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING – ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE

Our goal is a social and innovative housing policy that ensures affordable, needs-based and sustainable living in our city. Only through affordable rental housing can we guarantee a Marburg that everyone can afford.

We want to

- create more social housing and consistently implement the social housing quota
- secure and expand affordable housing for middle incomes
- create targeted affordable housing for families, single parents, students, older people and people with disabilities
- support municipal housing associations in creating affordable housing and make energy-efficient renovation socially equitable
- reduce vacancy rates and limit the misuse of housing, for example as holiday homes
- improve the provision of housing, accommodation and support for homeless people
- plan new housing with low land consumption and good greening
- slow down rent increases in the city centre and stabilise them in the districts

4. EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND DAYCARE – MODERN, FAIR AND FUTURE-PROOF

Our goal is to give all children and young people the best possible opportunities, regardless of their background, parental income or disabilities. Especially in times of tight budgets, it is necessary to invest in our future. For us, it is clear: we need to invest now in the places of the future – our nurseries and schools.

We want to

- rapidly expand high-quality all-day schooling and all-day childcare
- strengthen daycares, schools and all-day services in terms of funding and staffing
- intensify cooperation with independent providers, extracurricular learning centres and (sports) clubs
- provide targeted support for disadvantaged children and young people and improve their opportunities
- firmly anchor environmental, climate and democracy education in schools and daycares
- create inclusive, nature-oriented and healthy learning and play spaces
- improve digital infrastructure in schools and maintain it reliably
- establish closer links between the university and the city and secure good housing for students



5. DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

A future-proof city must make mobility comprehensive, safe and climate-friendly. In Marburg, the routes and mobility needs of all people should be taken into account – whether children, students, working people, people with disabilities or older people. The requirements of commerce, industry and other institutions must also be incorporated into the planning. At the same time, we want to minimise traffic accidents, improve air quality in the city centre and reduce traffic noise.

We want to

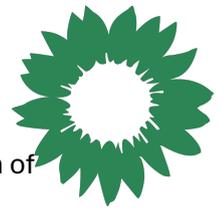
- Make mobility safe, climate-friendly and accessible to all people
- Better separate different modes of transport and significantly improve accessibility
- Improve connections to work locations such as Lahnberge and the pharmaceutical sites
- Relieve the city centre by reducing traffic noise, fewer exhaust fumes and safer routes
- Strengthen public transport: more frequent services, better bus routes, night buses, Park&Ride, greater accessibility, a trial of free public transport from the railway stations to the old town
- Make footpaths safer: wide pavements, better traffic lights, safe crossings
- Comprehensively promote cycling: continuous cycle paths, bicycle roads, new bridges, bicycle parking facilities
- Further expand electric mobility, car sharing and carpooling services
- Reduce traffic noise

6. SOCIAL POLICY FOR MARBURG

People whose difficult financial situation or other circumstances make it difficult for them to meet their basic needs deserve our solidarity and support from the city.

Important goals are

- Securing and expanding the MarburgPass so that people on low incomes can participate more fully
- Strengthening further education, internships and support for unemployed people and young people without qualifications
- Supporting the Marburger Tafel (Marburg food bank) – no one should go hungry
- Creating more affordable housing and consistently preventing homelessness
- Expanding accommodation, counselling services and cold weather protection for homeless people
- Involving and financially supporting civil society institutions
- Giving older people the opportunity to lead a self-determined and active life
- Introducing the combination of outpatient and inpatient care in a nursing home
- Support freelance midwives so that pregnant women can give birth at home or in birthing centres
- Create medical services for people without regular access to the health system
- Treat refugees with respect and revive a culture of welcome in the city



- Strengthen cooperation with initiatives and the university to improve the integration of refugees

7. CLIMATE PROTECTION AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR TOMORROW

We GREENS want the city of Marburg to remain committed to its goal of becoming climate neutral. At the same time, the city must become more resilient to the consequences of the climate crisis, such as prolonged heat waves, heavy rainfall and other extreme weather events. Our aim is to shape Marburg in such a way that everyone here can live in safety and that the city can contribute to global responsibility.

Important goals are

- Concrete, realistic ways to reduce emissions are being developed for all areas.
- Energy-efficient renovations should be socially equitable and supported by reliable heating planning.
- The expansion of renewable energies – especially wind power and solar energy – is being strongly promoted.
- Citizens should be able to participate in energy projects, and regional value creation should be strengthened.
- The city should become more resilient to heat, heavy rain and other extreme weather events.
- More green spaces, drinking fountains and cool places should improve the urban climate.
- The protection of particularly vulnerable people should be at the heart of climate change adaptation.

8. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

Sustainability is at the heart of GREEN policy. Our goal is to protect and preserve the natural foundations of life for ourselves and future generations. Water, soil, air and the diversity of animal and plant species are under threat in many ways today and need our determined commitment.

Important goals are

- Continuing renaturation along the River Lahn and designating new protected areas
- Protecting urban trees from damage caused by drought and strengthening gardens as habitats
- Promoting environmental education, organic farming and initiatives for the common good
- Significantly reducing pollution from nitrates, microplastics, PFAS and drug residues
- Securing drinking water in the long term and protecting catchment areas
- Expanding the Cappel sewage treatment plant to include a fourth treatment stage
- Reducing pollutants in the River Lahn through better wastewater management



9. BUDGET CONSOLIDATION WITH CLEAR PRIORITIES

Marburg is facing financially difficult years ahead. The city must reduce its annual budget deficit of around 55 million euros – more than ten per cent of current expenditure – quickly and permanently. Many things will no longer be able to continue as before. Unfortunately, these changes will also create impositions that will affect our entire urban society. Initial austerity measures and revenue increases have already been decided, but the mayor and treasurer have not yet presented a coherent overall concept for achieving a balanced budget. For us, it is clear that the city must first and foremost critically examine and modernise its own tasks and personnel structure in order to secure voluntary services in return.

For us, it is important

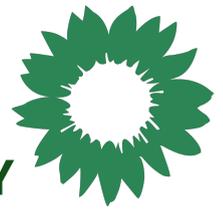
- Clear, transparent and honest financial policy instead of closed-door meetings
- Savings are unavoidable, but should be made in a socially just manner
- Voluntary social and cultural services should be protected from drastic cuts
- The budget must be made much more comprehensible
- An overall plan with clear timelines is urgently needed
- Priority for childcare, education, climate protection, social infrastructure and culture
- Citizens and stakeholders should be involved at an early stage

10. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL

Sustainable urban development is successful when living, working, shopping, leisure, recreation and transport are considered together – always with environmental and climate protection in mind. We continue to focus on using existing settlement areas first: through the renovation and conversion of vacant buildings, moderate extensions or additions, and the development of vacant lots and already sealed areas. Locals should be involved at an early stage – as should owners, potential investors and funding programmes.

Important goals are

- Further promoting land banking in order to be able to control our urban development socially and ecologically
- Priority for existing settlement areas
- Preserving historic buildings and building culture
- New areas only with good transport connections and ecological compatibility
- Expanding the heating network in the city centre, prioritising housing
- Strengthening the outer districts: local amenities, lively town centres
- Converting vacant properties into new, affordable housing
- Further promoting cooperation between the outer districts



11. A STRONG ECONOMY IN A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CITY

We want to offer companies based in the city good development opportunities, while at the same time attracting new companies and working with the business community to promote the sustainable development of Marburg.

Important goals are

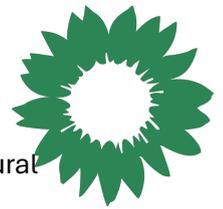
- The city and businesses need rapid, constructive dialogue – without compromising on environmental protection
- Further development of the Görzhausen and Marbach pharmaceutical sites – including through further steps towards sustainable mobility
- Making commercial areas climate-proof: economical use of space, good transport links, improving inter-municipal cooperation
- Ensuring good conditions for competition for skilled workers – such as childcare, housing and culture
- The university and the city must work closely together; good accessibility to the Lahnberge remains central
- Supporting the positive development of the university hospital, regardless of our criticism of privatisation
- Existing and new commercial spaces should be designed and developed in an environmentally friendly manner
- Strengthening trade and tourism through urban design, weekly markets and close coordination with the retail sector

12. CULTURE IN MARBURG: PRESERVING DIVERSITY

Art and culture are not luxuries, but fundamental components of a diverse and democratic society. The city must be a reliable partner for all cultural institutions and artists in Marburg. For us, culture is inextricably linked to the question of participation for all. We want to break down barriers and obstacles to cultural access. We want a cultural life in Marburg in which everyone can participate.

Key cultural policy objectives are

- Preserving and expanding cultural diversity in Marburg
- Making spaces available for young people
- Creating a long-term cultural plan for the city in collaboration with all cultural institutions
- Including a public transport ticket in the admission price for cultural events and adult education courses
- A library bus that regularly visits all outlying districts, thus ensuring library services throughout the city
- Promoting and expanding socio-cultural and intercultural projects in particular
- Openness to new art forms and innovative cultural trends, in particular through stronger intercultural dialogue



- Enabling better participation for people on low incomes, e.g. by strengthening cultural education and ensuring affordable offerings
- Expanding childcare at municipal cultural events
- Promoting the participation of schoolchildren in cultural education measures
- Striving for gender equality in the field of culture, with the aim of achieving 50% FLINTA* representation in management positions in cultural institutions, for example, in the medium term

13. EQUAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL PEOPLE

For us, equality means genuine equality for all genders and a clear stand against all forms of exclusion. Marburg should be a city where diversity is valued and where there is no room for racism, anti-semitism or discrimination based on age, gender or social status.

Key objectives are

- Strengthening family friendliness: flexible services, safe spaces, gender-sensitive planning
- Safety through prevention, social work and targeted technical measures
- Ensuring equality from childhood to old age, special support for women
- Consistently combating violence against women, securing facilities in the long term
- Barrier-free protection and counselling services for women and girls with disabilities
- Strong local anti-discrimination work and good counselling structures
- Protection and visibility for queer life; establishment of a queer centre
- Anchoring equality in administration and committees and specifically promoting women

14. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism has become economically important for both local accommodation providers and retailers in the upper town. Tourism thrives on new ideas and innovations. At the same time, it must be sustainable – socially just, culturally sensitive, ecologically viable and economically sound. We apply this standard to a modern tourism strategy for Marburg.

Important goals are

- a multilingual tourist visitor guidance system, digital and analogue
- the expansion of accessibility in museums
- better networking of Marburg's highlights and attractions with the Marburg Tourism Agency MSLT and the university
- improved connections to the castle
- the introduction of a visitor card with broad commercialisation.
- Presenting the castle appropriately, establishing it as an extracurricular learning location and upgrading the area surrounding it
- Expanding sustainable tourist offerings such as hiking and cycling tour suggestions
- Developing new offerings together with partners such as Deutsche Bahn/Ameropa that bring climate-friendly travellers to Marburg



- Improving bicycle rental options – including for e-bikes

15. SPORT AS THE BASIS FOR HEALTHY AND DIVERSE SOCIETY

Our goal is to further develop Marburg as a sustainable, inclusive and health-promoting sports city where everyone – regardless of age, income, origin or physical condition – has access to exercise and sport.

We want to

- maintain and expand public sports and exercise facilities
- energy-efficient, climate-friendly sports facilities and LED conversion
- strong support for clubs and volunteers, including rent-free use
- barrier-free and inclusive sports programmes for all age groups
- promote children's and youth sports in particular, create safe exercise areas
- combine health and prevention programmes with sport
- expand multilingual and low-threshold programmes
- expand the MarburgPass to include sports programmes

16. EUROPE IN AND FOR MARBURG

Marburg is a city where people from more than 150 nations live. This figure not only reflects the international orientation of the university, economy and research, but also the cosmopolitanism of the entire urban community. We want to preserve and further develop this European openness. It forms the basis for a Marburg that actively participates in and benefits from European exchange. That's one of the many reasons why we decided to translate our manifesto into many languages, so that more people can read it in their mother tongue.

Our goals are

- Schools should make greater use of exchange programmes
- The administration needs stronger advisory services on EU funding
- A central coordination office to support European projects
- Promotion of multilingualism in the administration
- Continuing exchanges with twin towns and using them for knowledge transfer and civil society cooperation
- Participating in 'Europe starts in the community' to strengthen the visibility of the EU at local level