

DEAR RESIDENTS OF OSNABRÜCK,

Osnabrück is a vibrant and highly livable city with short distances, lively neighbourhoods and plenty of green spaces. People from more than 140 countries live, work and study together here. Solidarity, tolerance and diversity are core values of our city – and we are proud of that. We have a strong economy, innovative universities, a vibrant cultural scene and a strong sense of community built on people working together.

OSNABRÜCK CAN DO MORE

Over the past years, we Greens have achieved a great deal to help Osnabrück realise its potential: safer cycling routes, free childcare centres, subsidised housing and clear climate action. Yet major challenges still lie ahead. We must prepare Osnabrück for the consequences of the climate crisis, boldly advance sustainable mobility, strengthen our economy and universities, and continue developing the city centre for the future.

With clear priorities, we will turn good ideas into an even better city.

OSNABRÜCK IS TEAMWORK

Even under difficult financial conditions, one principle remains clear: budget cuts must not burden the future or hurt the most vulnerable.

A city reveals its values through what it invests in. As Mayor, I will not allow our city to be saved into decline. I will set clear priorities for childcare centres and schools, social services and culture, climate protection and a modern administration – in other words, the things that strengthen community and create opportunities for the future.

My goal is a politics that brings people together rather than merely administering problems.

TOGETHER, IT IS OSNABRÜCK

Osnabrück does not succeed through top-down decisions, but through cooperation. That is why my candidacy is an invitation to tackle the challenges ahead together and to see change as an opportunity.

On the following pages, you can learn more about my priorities and about me. I ask for your vote for a modern, socially just and climate-friendly Osnabrück.

Yours sincerely,

Volker Bajus

OSNABRÜCK TOGETHER.

My name is Volker Bajus, and I am 62 years old. More than forty years ago, I came to Osnabrück as a student. It quickly became my home – the city where I met my wife and where our children grew up.

Since 1996, I have helped shape the city as a member of the City Council. For the past eleven years, I have also served as a member of the Lower Saxony State Parliament and Parliamentary Managing Director, bringing leadership experience and a strong network from Hanover.

As a graduate social scientist, I worked for many years for the children's rights organisation terre des hommes.

With a global perspective and strong local commitment, I am convinced that our city will remain livable only if we take responsibility together and act in solidarity.

Vote GREEN on 13 September.

TOGETHER WE MAKE HOUSING AFFORDABLE

Home is more than a roof over your head. It is the place where families, apprentices and students begin building their future, and where older people can live safely and securely.

Yet rising rents are putting many people under pressure. Housing must not become a luxury. That is why we advocate housing policies that are affordable, sustainable and fair. This includes vibrant neighbourhoods where everyone can find their place. Only then can Osnabrück remain strong.

By 2035, we will create at least 3,000 new affordable homes. To achieve this, we will strengthen the municipal housing company WiO, ensure an adequate supply of social housing and prioritise leasehold arrangements when allocating city-owned land.

We will make smart use of existing land, quickly convert vacant properties – such as the former Paracelsus Clinic – into housing and take decisive action against speculation. We favour building within existing urban areas rather than unnecessary land consumption.

TOGETHER WE STRENGTHEN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Vibrant neighbourhoods need reliable local services, good care facilities and places where people of all ages can meet – such as a large multi-generational community centre.

We support housing moves within neighbourhoods so that people who require less space can remain in familiar surroundings.

In densely populated districts, we will create car-free green public spaces through modern neighbourhood parking facilities. A city is strongest when everyone can find their place.

Together, it is Osnabrück.

TOGETHER AGAINST CHILD POVERTY

No child chooses the neighbourhood in which they grow up. Background and income must not determine future opportunities.

The fact that one in five children in Osnabrück is affected by poverty is unacceptable to us. A city that invests in children invests in its own future. That is why we are committed to ensuring that every child has the same opportunities, regardless of their postcode. Strong schools and childcare centres close to home are the key.

Through our Children's Opportunities Pact, we bring together childcare centres, schools, clubs and public administration.

We will expand childcare centres into family centres, guarantee reliable childcare places and ensure that every child receives a healthy hot meal.

We will simplify access to the Osnabrück Pass, ensure local medical care and strengthen successful mentoring programmes such as "MitmachKinder" and "Balu und du".

At the same time, we will invest heavily in modern schools and renovated childcare facilities.

TOGETHER WE LET CHILDREN SHAPE OUR CITY

We will make all-day primary education a success and expand support services directly on site.

We want Osnabrück to become a certified Child-Friendly Municipality, strengthen the Advisory Council for Children's Interests and establish a new Children's Future Council so that young people are genuinely heard at City Hall.

We encourage children to participate and actively shape their surroundings. Together, we can implement the ideas that matter most to children – "from children for children".

TOGETHER WE LIVE DIVERSITY AND SUPPORT CULTURE

We guarantee reliable cultural funding, defend artistic freedom and strengthen art in public spaces.

Osnabrück is as colourful and diverse as its people. Art and culture bring us together. Through a varied cultural programme, we bring this spirit into the city – accessible to everyone and as diverse as we are ourselves.

TOGETHER WE MAKE THE CITY CENTRE A FAVOURITE PLACE

We are creating a city centre with fewer cars, high-quality public spaces along the River Hase, more greenery and inviting places to spend time.

Through active vacancy management, we will bring new housing, start-ups and cultural activities into unused spaces.

TOGETHER WE LAUNCH THE GREENING OFFENSIVE

Climate change has already become part of everyday life. Hot summers and heavy rainfall are creating new challenges.

The good news is that we can actively address them. We have a clear roadmap to achieve climate neutrality by 2040 and will implement the necessary measures quickly, fairly and economically.

We will plant hundreds of new trees, create mobile green oases in hot areas such as Johannisstraße and Ledenhof, and promote green roofs and façades.

We will consistently protect and further develop our valuable “Green Fingers”.

More greenery means better protection against heavy rainfall, cleaner air and a higher quality of life for all generations.

We will support the removal of unnecessary paved surfaces and expand the “Green Instead of Grey” funding programme to include private individuals and businesses.

TOGETHER WE DRIVE THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Through a major solar initiative, we will bring photovoltaic systems to commercial and industrial rooftops throughout the city.

We will accelerate the expansion of wind energy and support residents through the “Osnabrück Renovates” funding programme for climate-friendly building upgrades.

We will make urban logistics smarter and cleaner, reducing congestion and emissions in the city centre.

In addition, we will establish a new “House of the Future” as a central place for sustainable shopping, sharing, exchanging and repairing.

TOGETHER WE MAKE WALKING AND CYCLING SAFER

We will significantly strengthen cycling in Osnabrück so that bicycles become the first choice for everyday travel for an increasing number of people.

To achieve this, we will build protected cycle lanes, new bicycle streets and fast cycling connections between all districts.

TOGETHER WE STRENGTHEN BUSES AND TRAINS

We will make the future public transport network a success and maintain the renovated Neumarkt as a reliable and strong central transport hub.

GET INVOLVED!

Will you be away from Osnabrück on election day, 13 September?

Then you can apply online for postal voting documents from 3 August onwards or vote in person at the election office on Sedanstraße 109.

Every vote counts. Use your right to vote and strengthen democracy in your local community.

We Greens are committed to a livable, socially just and climate-friendly Osnabrück. Together with you, we want to shape our city and make it even better.

Become a member and get involved. We also welcome your support for our work and our candidates through a donation.