

**ELECTION  
PROGRAMME  
MAASTRICHT  
2018-2022**



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1 Vrijthof

## PREFACE

Liberals recognise themselves in three fundamental ideas:

- Social liberalism: people should be free and able to make their own choices, yet they bear responsibility for this freedom and may be judged accordingly. Naturally, a basic level of living must be guaranteed for every person, even for those who cannot provide for it themselves. Respect for each individual and the inviolability of human rights are the liberal starting points.
- Political liberalism: the individual and their fundamental rights (such as the right to free expression) must be protected against the 'omnipotence of the state'. This is shaped through the constitution, human rights, and the separation of powers (the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government).
- Economic liberalism: this is based on market forces. By giving people the freedom to make their labour productive in their own way and to reap the benefits of it, their efforts are maximised and thus society benefits from this accumulated effort. The market mechanism is a means, not an end. The free market must be regulated, since monopolies and power concentrations may lead to the contrary.

Liberals believe in the good of mankind. Through diligent work, intellect and / or other abilities, someone should be able to shape his living environment, his life and the life of his fellow humans in a positive way. Therefore, the VVD is a party of optimists who believe that people can achieve great things and prosperity by taking their fate into their own hands. As a result, those who are less fortunate are also able to be helped out.

The VVD is very optimistic about the future of Maastricht. Employment is growing and the demand for labour is increasing. Our university not only enriches the city through employment and stimulates the knowledge economy, but it also brings many young people of all nationalities to the city. The traffic infrastructure is becoming increasingly sustainable.

The economy is running strong and many projects are being completed. Now is the time to continue working on the quality of life, accessibility and sustainability of the city. Working on healthcare, improving the maintenance of green areas and natural spaces, expanding bicycle facilities, preserving the environment, anchoring and sustaining economic progress, including innovation and fostering creative developments, are part of the responsibilities the next municipal administration will take on.

Within the financial possibilities, the municipality must continue to do everything to deliver required services at an adequate level to those who need help. Those who are self-reliant, should also make use of their independence. Sufficient attention must be paid to people's concerns, such as (alleged) student nuisance, traffic congestion, and participation in society and the labour market. In the coming years, the task will be to find a good balance between these apparent contradictory developments. All developments and projects must lead to a pleasant living, working and living environment for all!

In the coming term, the VVD would again like to take its administrative responsibility and be a partner in the municipal council. The VVD will not exclude any parties and is very satisfied with the policy pursued in recent years and the associated coalition partners. Primarily, the VVD strives for continuation of this coalition.



2 Town hall

## MOBILITY

The major infrastructural measures are reaching their completion, such as the tunnelling of the A2 and the relocation of the Noorderbrug. Now it needs to be considered how the benefits gained from this can be fully utilised for further improvement of accessibility, liveability and sustainability.

To this end:

- Bicycle facilities should be further developed, focusing on the creation of additional bicycle parking.
- The Maastricht Bereikbaar projects should be continued as much as possible with the implemented behavioural change measures, such as the employers' approach (how can 50,000 employees commute as sustainably as possible), creating Park & Ride facilities and maintaining a website.
- Close co-operation within the region should be maintained.

Safe traffic is of great importance, especially since the infrastructure in Maastricht has changed radically. The VVD thinks it is necessary to review the changes, take stock of unforeseen consequences and take measures if necessary, to ensure safety, reduce environmental nuisance and lead new permitted speed limits in the right direction.

## HOUSING

A home is more than simply a roof over your head. Having a home also has to do with the neighbourhood, safety, noise and environment, and a clean and beautiful environment and adequate facilities in your neighbourhood. Simply put: quality of life!

In recent years, the VVD has achieved some goals in these areas, but we are not there yet.

For the coming years, the VVD is committed to realise:

- Rental housing for the middle class: more rental properties for the middle class must be realised, considering that there is a large shortage in this sector and many people are not moving up the housing market.
- Social housing: new housing plans for social housing must be viewed critically, because - according to current expectations - sufficient social rental housing will be available around 2022.
- Care homes and suitable housing: people prefer to stay in their own home and living environment as long as possible, making suitable housing increasingly important. Due to the aging of the population it is necessary that more is invested in these segments, whereby initiatives in the private sector also deserve our (financial) attention.
- Own home ownership: the VVD is in favour of home ownership and therefore wants more starter homes in the property market and expansion of the number of free building plots.
- Student accommodation: see the Student and City programme component.

Collaboration between the municipality and companies has been intensified to support people finding housing and to ensure their safety. In the context of safety and environment, residents are more actively involved in this. This is in line with the municipal memorandum 'Reducing industrial noise'.



3 City park

## ECONOMY

To have a broad economic base, all sectors of the economy in Maastricht are important. The further development of the university, the Brightlands campuses and the regional co-operation in economic and other areas remain focal points. The industry on business parks (such as Steelport), the call centres at the office locations and certainly the creative industry (such as fashion and film) offer many opportunities.

We need to look for extra financial resources to encourage the promising creative industry. A permanent or temporary exhibition on 'Made in Maastricht' as structural information should be realised. It should also be considered how the large industrial cultural heritage of the city (collection Regout etc.) can be exhibited in a permanent and affordable manner.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a major driver of employment. Therefore, the business climate must be good for these entrepreneurs. The absence of unnecessary administrative rules, the presence of good facilities for starting entrepreneurs and fast services remain important issues.

We must ensure that Maastricht is an accessible and pleasant city where, every season, something for visitors and residents is to be experienced. As a result, the shops and catering businesses can continue to benefit optimally from the people who visit our city. The input from the VVV, city centre management, MECC and Maastricht Aachen Airport are crucial.

The further economic development of Wyck remains a point of attention, for example by examining whether the traffic in Stationsstraat can be reduced, which would, in turn, improve the living environment. The consequences for the rest of Wyck should not be neglected.

Now that the city's economy is picking up and there is a lot of new employment, more effort is needed to meet the increasing demand for labour. A final effort must be made (for example by Social Service and Social Affairs) to get people into a job and out of benefits. This is also a social necessity for future generations, for which the current economic situation offers a unique opportunity.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Paid work offers the best guarantee for a valuable existence, because it provides life security, structure and meaning to life, a source for social contacts and the satisfaction of a self-earned income. For people who can work social benefits must be temporary and form a bridge to a new job. For migrants and status holders, paid work is also the best way to learn the language and assimilate into our society. Therefore, the social security must be fully dedicated to guiding paid work.

Nobody must stand aside. Everyone must be able to participate in society and in the labour market. After all, many companies are looking thoroughly for suitable employees. Many people who are side-lined, however, lack the skills to fill these vacancies. The municipality must encourage these people to acquire the necessary skills.

Poor knowledge of the Dutch language sometimes is the reason that no paid work is found. Persons entitled to social assistance who have insufficient knowledge of the Dutch language are obliged to learn Dutch. If they refuse this or if they make insufficient progress in learning the language, sanctions will be imposed in the form of a reduction of the benefit.

For status holders, finding work is paramount. In addition, following an education or training alongside work is encouraged to improve the chances on the labour market in the longer term.



4 De Hoofdwacht

Compensation for receiving social benefits may be expected, through an unpaid socially useful activity, such as voluntary work. This compensation can also be used to support informal caregivers and to ease their task. The Municipality of Maastricht determines the content, scope and duration of this consideration into a municipal regulation. Those who do not provide consideration or do not comply with the obligation to submit a job will be cut off on the social benefits.

Welfare fraud strikes at the root of solidarity in social security. Therefore, welfare fraud must be actively tracked down and action must be taken. Unjustly received benefits must be fully reimbursed in addition to the prosecution and the imposed fine.

Physical and verbal violence of welfare claimants against employees of the municipality will not be tolerated. In the event of serious misconduct, fines and penalty discounts will apply to the benefit.

The VVD is against a (possible) basic income, because income from paid work is essential for independence and self-esteem. The City of Maastricht must therefore not cooperate in a (possible) experiment with a basic income.

In short:

- Finding paid work for welfare recipients and status holders is paramount.
- If a lack of language skills is an impediment to finding paid work, measures are taken to improve knowledge of the Dutch language.
- Compensation will be expected from recipients of social benefits in the form of unpaid socially useful activities.
- Benefit fraud and serious misconduct of benefit recipients are dealt with harshly.
- The Municipality of Maastricht is not cooperating in a (possible) experiment with a basic income.
- Social security schemes are financially sustainable: the expenditure on schemes is in accordance with the amounts received from the national government.

## FINANCE

The financial management of the Municipality of Maastricht is healthy and solid and must remain so. The VVD remains committed to not increasing the municipal costs for residents and businesses by more than the inflation rate.

Cost-effectiveness is the starting point when determining the amount of the municipal fees, because municipal fees are always paid as a counterparted service from the municipality. This can be deviated from if maintaining this principle leads to extreme cost increases (such as in the catering industry) or undesirable social effects (for example at events).

The rates for street parking have not increased in the past eight years, not even with the inflation rate. The VVD believes it is justified to increase the parking rates for street parking for the next four years on a one-off basis with the estimated inflation percentage over this period, so that the threatening shortages in the mobility fund can be supplemented and important traffic measures be paid.

The exceedances caused by decentralisations of care, work and youth care are cause of worry at the VVD, especially in the area of youth care. The growth of the inflow into youth care suggests that the behaviour of young people is hospitalised sooner than necessary. This should be investigated and, if necessary, addressed.

Financial sustainability is also paramount for social security. The expenses for benefits (such as social assistance benefits) and the Participation Act (Participatiewet) must be in accordance with the contributions received from the national government. Exploitation subsidies for social security schemes affect financial sustainability. If the budgets for benefits and the Participation Act change because of changes in the distribution system of the central government, then the expenses of the municipality must also be adjusted accordingly.

## EDUCATION

Talent must be given the opportunity to develop and education is the pre-eminent place where talent can flourish.

The development of talent starts at a very young age. Language and developmental delays in toddlers and infants can have life-long adverse effects. In order to increase the development opportunities of young children, the municipality encourages language and developmental delays in young children to be eliminated. The early and preschool education at playgroups and day nurseries plays an important role in this. The quality of the employees at nurseries and playgroups is of crucial importance for a successful approach to language and developmental delays. The VVD wants to contribute to improving the quality of early and pre-school education.



5 't Zaaite Herremenieke

Not every talent develops equally quickly; some students are late bloomers. To encourage talent development and to give every child equal opportunities, the possibility of influx and progress in education is very important. For example, a VMBO pupil must be able to transfer to HAVO and a HAVO pupil must be able to continue to pre-university education. All of this is encouraged if the different types of schools in secondary education are in one building. Therefore, the VVD also supports the initiative of LVO (Secondary Education Limburg Foundation) to build a new broad school community with VMBO, HAVO and VWO in the same building.

The freedom of education is a great thing. The freedom to start a new school creates competition that increases the quality of education. Parents and pupils should also be able to choose a school that suits them. The VVD notes that such choices in secondary education in Maastricht have become smaller. The VVD therefore encourages initiatives which establish new schools and thinks that the municipality should be supportive of this.



6 Wijck

Although a broad school community contributes to the chances of students to progress to a higher level, there are also parents and pupils who prefer a categorical school. Maastricht is one of the few large cities without a categorical gymnasium. For the increasing number of expats in Maastricht, good education is also important, for example in the form of international schools.

The role of the municipality in education is limited. Many residents look at the municipality when it comes to education, but it is the schools that have to do it. The municipality must ensure that pupils can follow education in good and modern buildings.

Reducing the dropout rates in schools is an important part of offering opportunities for developing talent. After all, the children with the least opportunities are the ones most at risk of dropping out of school. Reducing early school leaving is offering opportunities to young people. In recent years, the number of early school leavers has been successfully reduced. Schools and municipality work together on this. The 'Office for early school leaving' and the 'compulsory education' team of the municipality do a good job. Early school leaving not only offers young people fewer opportunities in life, it also leads to a greater use of social security. Early school leaving is also related to nuisance and criminal behaviour and to radicalisation. For these reasons, the activities to further reduce early school leaving among school-age students must be continued with force. Preventive intervention in risk behaviour, such as frequent school absenteeism, use of addictive substances or signs of radicalisation is part of this.

To be able to participate in society, reading and writing skills are of great importance. Maastricht still has too many low-literate people. In our society, digital skills are also becoming increasingly important. Adult education, literacy, 'Nederlands op Maat' and the learning of digital skills can therefore count on the support of the VVD.

In short, the VVD wants:

- To address language and developmental disadvantages of young children. The municipality encourages the quality of nurseries and playgroups to be improved.
- To offer opportunities to develop talent by promoting the influx and promotion of pupils in secondary education.
- To provide space for new initiatives by facilitating the founding of new schools.
- To ensure that students receive education in good and modern buildings.
- Active policy to further reduce early school leaving. Preventive intervention in frequent school absenteeism, use of addictive drugs and radicalisation among young people of compulsory school age is to be encouraged.
- Addressing low literacy and ensuring that residents of Maastricht have sufficient digital skills is important.

## **SPORT AND CULTURE**

### **SPORT**

Investing in sport is an investment in the future. The VVD emphasises the social significance of sport in terms of public health, individual development and as a social binder. Moreover, sports participation promotes social integration, it forms norms and values, activates people and prevents crime. Sport participation is one of the most important forms of recreation and especially for young people of great importance for good physical and mental development.

Projects for the benefit of sport for young people, the elderly, the disabled, students and pupils form the most important link in the general sports promotion. Sports associations play a crucial role in this, in which the best possible co-operation or combination of sports clubs is necessary. The VVD believes municipal responsibility is limited to recreational sport. The VVD encourages close co-operation between sports clubs, schools, out-of-school care and other relevant (sports) organisations in order to make school-age youth exercise as much as possible. The VVD supports sporting events in which as many people as possible get acquainted with sport, are inspired by professional athletes and sports events at the same time yields economic benefits. It goes without saying that sports and sporting events must also be accessible to people with disabilities.

### **CULTURE**

A broad and varied cultural offering is of great importance for an attractive business climate for residents, newcomers and entrepreneurs. In addition, the VVD thinks it is important for a broad public to become acquainted or engaged in culture. A substantial amount of the municipal budget goes to culture. Therefore, it is important to look critically at a good spending of this money and the social and economic return of the various institutions. Good performance agreements must be made with the different institutions.

The VVD thinks that the cultural sector should be more independent and less dependent on subsidies. Co-operation in the cultural sector and cultural entrepreneurship should be promoted. The deployment of, among other things, the 'Culture Innovation Agenda' should contribute to this. The VVD thinks it is important for the municipality to steer on safeguarding the innovation processes.

The national government's cultural policy is now too nationally oriented and focused on individual institutions. It must focus more on cities and regions. The VVD thinks it is important that the Municipality of Maastricht closely cooperates with the cultural institutions, the Province of Limburg and other municipalities in the region in order to respond well to the changes and thereby secure the government contribution. Art, heritage and culture are the cornerstones of the beautiful historic city of Maastricht. Culture creates solidarity between people. Certainly, in the current individualisation of society, this is an essential component that we must continue to support. Due to the diversity of people from all segments of society in associations and initiatives, this increases active involvement at local level. This solidarity of our inhabitants makes our municipality stronger in various areas. Maastricht has an impressive cultural historical value, we want to respect this by encouraging and supporting the current associations and initiatives. Therefore, we are very proud of the cultural richness of our city of Maastricht!



7 Mestreechter Geis

## STUDENT AND CITY

The VVD cherishes Maastricht as a student city. ROC Leeuwenborgh, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, Maastricht University and other educational institutions have become the lifeblood of Maastricht. The students at these institutions bring enormous economic benefits for our city. The VVD thinks it is important that students have a good living environment and can live, study, work and recreate in our city comfortably.

The VVD wants to realise the following points:

- The municipality offers more and more provisions and services in English, making it easy for international students and expats to arrange matters with the municipality. The municipality is on the right track, but this point can always be improved. All facilities and services offered by the municipality must also be offered in English.
- Landlords and tenants must each have the possibility for an own request for an assessment from the Tax Co-operation Municipalities and Water Boards (BsGW) so that tenants - mostly students - are no longer linked to the income and assets of the landlord when applying for waivers and other arrangements. This is already possible with the housing associations, but this must also be possible with private landlords. In addition, the VVD wants all services and information to be offered in English.
- Parking at municipal bicycle parking facilities in the city must remain free of charge. If there is more need for bicycle parking, the capacity is to be increased. Parking at the new parking at the station will remain free for the first 24 hours. During the weekend this can be extended to 48 or 72 hours. If this is realised students who go home during the weekend can park their bicycle in the new underground parking facility, which reduces the inconvenience of parked bicycles around the station for residents.
- The car parking facilities for students must be improved in collaboration with Maastricht University. Many international students park for long periods on free parking places in the suburbs while they do not live there. This leads to vexation among the residents of these districts. The current parking area in Randwyck is good. By making more parking areas available for students and encouraging them to park the car there, a solution is offered for both student and resident.
- The VVD does not see the solution to (possible) nuisance in standardising the number of student rooms per street. After all, existing buildings are not included in new regulations. Nuisance in whatever form and by whomever is tackled by 'Handhaving' (Team Enforcement). This must be accomplished by ensuring that 'Handhaving' is available 24/7.

## PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Maintaining public order and safety is one of the core tasks of the government. It is important that residents feel safe in their own city, neighbourhood and home. In addition to objective safety (measured in numbers of incidents), subjective safety is also important: residents must feel safe and be taken seriously. Incidentally, damage and costs of enforcement must be recovered as much as possible from the perpetrators. Therefore, the VVD considers public order and safety important and wants to invest in this.

Safety is a joint responsibility of citizens, companies and the municipality. Residents can count on an active government that acts in the security field itself and appeals to others on their responsibility. Anyone can help increase safety in his neighbourhood, for example reporting suspicious or unsafe situations. The municipality must be open to (citizen) initiatives such as neighbourhood prevention, social alarm, WhatsApp groups and the use of social media. That is why the VVD supports:

- Initiatives through quick statements about requested help and small permits.
- Facilitating neighbourhoods in maintaining a good living and living environment.
- Actively alerting citizens in neighbourhoods with many burglaries on the 'Keurmerk Veilig Wonen' (Safe Living Hallmark) and the street signs 'Wij waken in deze buurt' (We watch in this neighbourhood).
- Increasing the reputation and presence of the 'Wijkagent' (local neighbourhood specific police officer).
- The application of technology to increase security such as cameras, SMS and social media.

Police, fire brigade and ambulances are available 24 hours a day and must be on site quickly. First responders and others who are committed to the public cause must be able to do their work undisturbed. Together a lot is achievable but respectful behaviour is a responsibility of the citizen. Therefore, the municipality and police must act hard against people who insult, threaten or attack these care providers.

The municipality tackles crime hard and the mayor uses her powers to maintain public order and security. Thefts, burglaries and robberies are dealt with more expeditiously. The VVD wants more commitment from the police prevention team and the fight against petty crime is a point of continuous attention. Active action by the police and 'gebiedsontzeggingen' (the denial of a person to be present in a certain area) are instruments to prevent violence and nuisance.

The VVD is fully in favour of a strict and active approach to drug runners and enforcement of the 'ingezetencriterium' (resident criterion), because the latter has visibly led to a reduction of drug nuisance. Cannabis nurseries must be dismantled, and closure of drug shelters must be strictly continued.



8 Hoeg Brök

## HEALTHCARE

Every person is responsible for his or her own health. For the VVD the participation and self-reliance of residents of Maastricht are a central point. This also includes the concept of 'positive health' where the control over everyone's own life is paramount and not the illness or limitation. Prevention promotes self-reliance; prevention is better than cure.

However, residents of the city who really need care can count on the VVD. Consider, for example, a homeless person who is looking for a place to sleep for the night, elderly people who can no longer maintain their homes or a child who is unusually fearful. They can count on receiving the care that is needed. A personal approach is paramount. This is what the VVD stands for.

The municipality annually spends more than a quarter of its budget on healthcare. However, Maastricht receives insufficient funds from the government to meet the demand for care. The expenses of the municipality to 'Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning' (Social Support Act), youth care and the 'participatiewet' (participation law) in 2016 were about 8 million euros higher than the money that the Municipality of Maastricht received from the national government. This municipality must compensate for this shortage itself. The shortages are likely to pick up further in the coming years, because the municipality will receive less money for healthcare from the national government in the coming years. A permanent shortage of spending on the social domain is at the expense of services in other areas, which is why the city of Maastricht must continue to lobby for more funds in The Hague in the coming years. It seems unlikely, however, that the municipality will receive enough money for the social domain and it will have to do more to cut its coat according to its cloth. The VVD stands for solid municipal finances and does not want to burden the citizens with the increased expenses to cover the shortage on the social domain. However, balancing the expenditures on the social domain with the funds received from the national government must not be at the expense of caring for vulnerable and non-self-reliant residents of Maastricht. We do want healthcare institutions to spend their resources more efficiently.

Effective measures to curb spending on the social domain are necessary. Especially because the use of youth aid and to 'Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning' in Maastricht is higher than elsewhere in the country. For example, one in seven young people under 18 received youth assistance in 2015 compared to one in ten young people in other large municipalities. The use of to 'Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning' facilities is over 30% higher than in other comparable municipalities.

The municipality cannot reduce the use of healthcare by itself. This requires collaboration with GPs and other referrers, schools and healthcare institutions. The VVD wants the municipality together with these and other parties to make a plan of action to strengthen the participation and self-reliance of residents and to limit the use of care.

In addition, the VVD proposes several other concrete measures to reduce the deficit in the social domain.

Many young people end up at a youth care institution via the general practitioner or another channel. The municipality is not always informed of this in time. Sometimes the adolescent goes unnoticed by the municipality until the costs are declared by the institution the person is cared for. We find this undesirable, partly because it leads to discussions about the legality of the declaration. The VVD believes that in such cases the healthcare provider must always submit a request for allocation to the municipality. Without this request, the municipality cannot pay the healthcare provider's bill.

The current way of contracting between the municipalities and care institutions offers insufficient possibilities for tailor-made care for clients and control of the costs for the municipality. That is why care must be purchased in a different way. The VVD believes that care and support should no longer be purchased based on uniform rates but based on plots for a fixed amount. The VVD wants to prevent clients from being left out in the cold. Unacceptably long waiting times and waiting lists are not acceptable. That is why the VVD wants a duty of delivery to be included in contracts with healthcare institutions.

Residents who really need care do not have to wait endlessly for that. Care must be delivered quickly. We therefore ensure that binding agreements are made in contracts with healthcare providers about the maximum allowed waiting times for clients.

The VVD wants the money for healthcare to be well spent. This means that improper use and abuse of healthcare funds will be tackled hard. Unfortunately, fraud with healthcare funds also occurs in Maastricht. To this end, the municipality is setting up a special 'Handhavingsteam zorgfraude' (Health Fraud Prevention Team) to investigate signs of abuse of care in kind and personal budgets in the 'Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning' and the Youth Act. This taskforce also makes proposals to the municipality to take administrative or criminal action against alleged fraudsters.

Participation and self-reliance are sometimes hampered by rules. For example, the elderly sometimes run into the problem of moving from a single-family home to a smaller single-storey home. The lack of suitable rental housing or the failure to obtain bridging financing for an owner-occupied apartment makes this switch difficult. This is just one example of - mostly well-meant - rules that counteract self-reliance. The VVD wants the municipality to make an overview of rules that complicate participation and self-sufficiency and make a plan to abolish these restrictive rules.

VVD positions on Care:

- Financial deficits in the social domain must not lead to an increase in the tax burden on the citizen, but also must not result in residents of Maastricht not receiving the care they need.
- The municipality, in consultation with general practitioners, schools and care institutions, draws up an action plan to promote participation and self-reliance.
- When referring to a youth care institution by the general practitioner or another appropriate referrer, the institution must always submit a request for allocation to the municipality.
- In order to keep the costs of youth care and the 'Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning' under control and to enable more tailor-made care, health care purchasing is abandoned based on uniform tariffs. From now on care and support will be purchased based on parcels for a fixed amount.
- Long waiting times in healthcare are not acceptable. In order to prevent waiting lists, a duty of delivery must be included in contracts with care institutions. Binding agreements are also made about maximum allowed waiting times for clients.
- Healthcare fraud is being tackled hard. The municipality will set up a separate enforcement team for this purpose.
- The municipality makes an overview of rules that impede participation and self-sufficiency and a plan to abolish these restrictive rules.



9 Flags of Limburg, Maastricht and the Netherlands

## NATURE, ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

Quality of life is important for all residents of Maastricht. The environment plays an important role in keeping the city liveable. By keeping the living environment clean and representative, all residents and visitors can enjoy the beauty that our city has to offer. In recent years, many steps have been taken in the field of nature, the environment and waste. The VVD Maastricht wants to continue without having gesture politics.

The VVD wants to realise the following points:

- No introduction of an environmental zone: the air quality already meets the set standards at the moment and will improve further in the coming years. The introduction of an environmental zone hardly contributes to improving air quality because of the many influences on the air quality from outside the municipal boundaries. Environmental zones are only an expensive symbolic measure.
- Continue to draw up 'Maastrichtse Energieakkoorden' (Maastricht Energy Agreements): companies and institutions that sign these agreements are motivated by themselves to switch to sustainable energy and to accelerate the reduction of CO2 emissions.
- Get green maintenance in order: by maintaining green spaces in streets, squares and parks, we can present Maastricht in a representative way. The level of maintenance of green space in the city can vary if it is taken care of everywhere.
- No increase in the waste levy: the municipality's goal of being 'waste-free' in 2030 is supported by the VVD, but only if the costs for waste processing do not rise as a result.

## RETROSPECT ON 1998-2018

The VVD has taken its administrative responsibility by participating in the Municipal Council in four of the last five collegiate periods.

In 1998-2006 this led to (among other things):

- Mobility: start of the A2 tunnel, introduction of a mobility fund (fuelled by parking revenues) for financing mobility projects, construction of (underground) bicycle parking and infrastructure and the rebuilding of the parking garages Vrijthof and Onze-Lieve-Vrouweplein.
- Housing: reducing housing costs.
- Economy: more visitors to the city centre in the relatively quiet months by setting up events such as Magisch Maastricht.
- Finance: sale of the municipal utility and city bus transport, which strengthens the equity of the Municipality of Maastricht.
- Nature, environment and waste: introduction of the 'polluter pays principle' in the waste tax, the associated environmentally friendly waste separation and compliance with the legal requirements for air quality.

In 2010-2018 this led to (among other things):

- Mobility: completion of the A2 tunnelling, relocation of the Noorderbrug, construction of the bicycle parking at the station and the rescue of Maastricht Aachen Airport.
- Housing: not increasing the municipal costs for residents and businesses besides inflation and keeping the rates for street parking the same.
- Urban development: development of Belvédère (including a pop venue) and the development of Tapijn.
- Economy: purchase, operation and modernisation of the MECC, renewed attention for the (manufacturing) industry, encouragement of the creative industry, strengthening the inner city and (retail) tourism, revitalisation of the Beatrixhaven, increase in the number of hotels and hotel stays and reducing unemployment to a historically low level.
- Finances: cuts on the civil service, no cuts in security, poverty and economy, write-off of land losses due to the crisis.
- Social security / healthcare: keep the social services in order despite large financial cuts from the national government.

## ABOUT

The VVD Maastricht consists of people with experience and young talent.



alderman  
John Aarts



chairman / councillor  
Michel Severijns



councillor  
Bibi van de Wouw-Simons



councillor  
Paul Limpens



citizen councillor  
Nicky Beckers



citizen councillor  
Guiseppe Noteborn



citizen councillor  
Esmée Lensing

VVD Maastricht is part of the Maas & Geul Local Network; the administrative partnership of the local VVD in Eijsden-Margraten, Gulpen-Wittem, Maastricht, Meerssen and Valkenburg aan de Geul. Within this network, primary tasks such as the support of the council political groups and the planning and execution of the course and policy are carried out. The local groups of the participating municipalities are politically autonomous and have their own local identity.

## CANDIDATE LIST MUNICIPALITY ELECTIONS 2018

1. John Aarts
2. Michel Severijns
3. Bibi van de Wouw-Simons
4. Paul Limpens
5. Nicky Beckers
6. Guiseppe Noteborn
7. Esmée Lensing
8. Siem Verkoijen
9. Davy Pieters
10. Maarten Butink
11. Jurgen van Heertum
12. Richard Leenards
13. Wim Groot
14. Jo Devilee
15. Dick de Jong
16. Frans Holten
17. Jo Baltus
18. Henk Stollenwerck
19. Joost van den Akker
20. Joop Ceha-Konings
21. Benoit Wesly



10 Candidates municipality elections 2018

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Credits: M. Knols

## CONTACT

If you have any questions, would you like more information, or would you like to share something with us, please let us know and contact us via the following channels:

 [www.maastricht.vvd.nl/](http://www.maastricht.vvd.nl/)

 [www.facebook.com/VVDMaastricht/](https://www.facebook.com/VVDMaastricht/)

 [vdfractiemaastricht@gmail.com](mailto:vdfractiemaastricht@gmail.com)

**WOORDEN BOUWEN GEEN  
HUIZEN. PLANNEN REALISEREN  
ZICHZELF NIET. BANEN KOMEN  
NIET UIT DE LUCHT VALLEN.  
ECONOMIEËN TREKKEN NIET  
VANZELF AAN. WELVAART IS  
GEEN NATUURVERSCHIJNSEL.  
BUURTEN KNAPPEN ZICHZELF  
NIET OP. KRUISPUNTEN WORDEN  
NIET VANZELF VEILIGER. EN  
GEMEENTES WORDEN NIET  
ZOMAAR PRETTIGER OM IN TE  
WONEN. DAAR MOET JE WAT  
VOOR DOEN.**

**KIES VVD. KIES VOOR DOEN.**

