

**ELECTION MANIFESTO**

**THERE'S NEVER  
BEEN MORE TO DO.**

The Corona crisis has revealed that things can't simply stay the way they used to be. You can't fight a pandemic with fax machines and pencils. A Germany that's fit for the future requires a modern state, so we have to rethink our approach to education and vocational training. While national economies are rebounding in other regions of the world, Germany's economic recovery is being hampered by high taxes and bureaucracy.

Germany must be completely and comprehensively modernised. That's where we Free Democrats come in. We want to help shape Germany's future as part of the federal government coalition. While our competitors stand for "more of the same" or a swing to the left, we stand for freedom, modernisation and sustainability through innovation. Let's get to work.



Christian  
Lindner



EDUCATION

## EDUCATION MUST LEAD INTO THE FUTURE AGAIN.

If we change our children's education, they will change the world. How does upward social mobility succeed? With education. How does a self-determined life become possible? With education. This should not be determined by parents or local municipalities; we want the best opportunities for everyone. And we want schools to finally arrive in the 21st century. Let's digitalise them, now. Throughout the pandemic the interests of children and young people have all too often been ignored. Our vision: the same high educational standards everywhere, centralised final exams and modern, digitalised schools. To achieve this, the schools need more money, and teachers need the full scope of necessary training to get equipped for digital teaching. Our educational system has long surpassed its half-life. Now is the time to lead it into the future.

A MODERN STATE

## IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

What is it that we can't get enough of? Digitalisation. Our country needs it urgently. Only a modern state is able to guarantee protection of health, security, civil rights and liberty in equal measure. What we have instead is unnecessary bureaucracy, a murky division of responsibilities, a lack of digital technology and outdated processes. "But we've always done it this way" doesn't work anymore. The FDP stands for a comprehensive modernisation of the state. Our vision: It's 2021, and we are still demanding highspeed internet. Sad, but true. And it's not even like we're talking about video calls as 3D holograms: we would simply be happy with the possibility of dealing with government services digitally for a start. A modern state also means being better organised than organised criminals, but without mass surveillance through things like the so-called "state Trojans".

We also believe that a functioning, capable state must include clear rules for immigration and asylum, for example like those in Canada. A strong democracy needs a strong parliament, so we are against an extension of special rights for the government, and in favour of term limits for the Chancellor and reducing the size of the Bundestag.



**THE ECONOMY**

## **ECONOMIC COMEBACK: MAKE IN GERMANY!**

Our economy needs a reboot and must be put back on a path for growth. We need secure jobs designed to meet the needs of the future. How? By relieving the burden on businesses, untangling red tape, and investing. Germany remains the World Champion when it comes to high taxes and duties. That's a title we can do without: it harms businesses, employees and the self-employed.

Our vision: Providing as much relief for businesses as possible. Bureaucracy and tax increases sabotage economic recovery. The solidarity surcharge? Get rid of it once and for all, for everyone! Let's awaken the entrepreneurial spirit and make the welfare state a springboard for upward mobility, because even people receiving unemployment benefits should still get a fair opportunity to earn additional income. Let's invest in our future and create catalysts for growth and innovation with a strong Europe, a strong European Single Market, rules-based free trade and the power of the social market economy.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

## **CELEBRATE INGENUITY.**

We want a country that celebrates rather than impedes invention and innovation. This is the only way we can effectively tackle climate change. We want a reset for climate policy, with clear targets, more binding liability and, at the same time, greater openness toward superior technological solutions for reducing CO2. Our vision: "Yes" to CO2 cap and trade, because trading in permits rewards emissions reductions and increases the appeal of investment in climate protection. We want to pass the revenues generated by this on to our citizens in the form of climate dividends. And sustainability also applies to our public finances. That is why we consistently support a debt "brake"; future generations need future opportunities, not a mountain of debt. We need secure pensions today and for tomorrow. To achieve this, more people need to be able to fulfil their dream of owning their own home and to build up assets through things like a statutory exchange-based pension. All of this translates into sustainability.

Things can't stay the way they are. And they don't have to. So let's not just wait for tomorrow, let's go out to meet it. There's never been more to do.

**MORE ON OUR IDEAS FOR THE COUNTRY:  
[FDP.DE/VIELZUTUN](https://www.fdp.de/vielzutun)**



# THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO VOTE FOR THE FDP. HERE ARE A FEW:

## RECOVERY REQUIRES RELIEF.

Let's put Germany on the road to growth by relieving the burden on business, untangling red tape, and investing. Let's be the world's leader in innovation and jobs instead of in taxes and duties.

## TODAY'S CLASSROOM DETERMINES TOMORROW'S GERMANY.

Let's create high educational standards throughout the entire republic, and make the best education and opportunities for upward mobility available for every child.

## FOR A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY STATE, NOT 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BUREAUCRACY.

Let's finally make highspeed internet and digital government services a reality. Only with a strong democracy and effective rule of law, can we secure freedom and civil rights.

## SUSTAINABILITY: FROM THE CLIMATE TO PUBLIC FINANCES.

Let's tackle climate change with technical innovations, not bans. With a solid financial policy, we can secure future opportunities for generations to come.

## THERE'S NEVER BEEN MORE TO DO.

You can find all of our ideas for Germany's restart at: [fdp.de/vielzutun](https://fdp.de/vielzutun)



### Impressum

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