

# Volt Malta Manifesto 2022

## Governance Reform



Ivvota Aħjar.  
Ivvota Volt.

*Is-Sibt, 26 ta' Marzu*

# Governance Reform

## Parliament

- **Adopt a fixed-term parliament.** By removing the Prime Minister's prerogative to call elections, and adopt a fixed 5-year parliament term.
  - A snap election can only be called through a vote of no confidence or if the government resigns.
  - We will define clear boundaries of when an 'election campaign' starts and ends, to ensure political parties & candidates can transparently provide their campaign spending.
- **Make being a Parliamentarian a full-time occupation,** and ensure proportional remuneration.
- **Legalise voting through Embassies & Postal Voting.** In light of the pandemic, Maltese living abroad who are eligible to vote should have the right to exercise their civic right & duty without worrying about pandemic related restrictions.

## Party Regulation

- **Decouple media outlets from political parties.** Political party ownership of media outlets does not balance out, issues are generally not binary.
  - Ensure the political parties work to publish their audited accounts within 2 years.
    - Lack of cooperation would be penalised by fines on the party.
    - Parties may ask for a 2-year extension, once, if they have been cooperative throughout the process in regularising their audited accounts.
    - The decoupling can only commence once audited accounts are published.
  - Ensure decoupling involves separation of administration and finances.
  - Allow One and Net to continue operating, separate from the political parties, to ensure media plurality.
- **All political party activities,** businesses & social enterprises should be regulated by political party financing law.
  - Ensure all income a political party earns through its activities adheres to political party financing law to ensure a full picture of a party's finances.
  - Reform Political Party Financing Law to ensure it can regulate political party activities, businesses & social enterprises.
  - Resolve the Constitutional issue of the Electoral Commission being investigator, prosecutor and judge of breaches in the law by creating separate bodies performing each role.

- The Electoral Commission can't investigate cases since the laws put it in breach of the Constitution and the European Convention, including the right to a fair hearing.
- **Provide free auditing services** for small parties with less than €5,000 in assets.

## ***Diaspora***

- **Create a Diaspora Council** within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to build a bridge between Malta and its global diaspora. The Council will work toward facilitating engagement between Maltese living abroad and Malta, through cultural and economic means, and as a way to encourage participation in Maltese society in a national and global context, and also encourage re-integration and/or investment into Malta. It will;
  - Have at minimum 1 representative per continent;
  - Countries with a significant quantity of Maltese emigrants have a dedicated country representative (e.g UK, Italy, Australia, USA, Canada)

## ***Rule of law***

- **Implement the outstanding recommendations made by the Venice Commission, the European Commission's Rule of Law report and the Daphne Caruana Galizia Inquiry Report.**
- **Scrap the Golden Passport Scheme.**