

# Volt

**Electoral  
program  
Enschede  
2022**

**#GenerationVolt**

**FUTURE  MADE IN EUROPE**

# High in Energy



## Volt says hello in Enschede!

Those who dare to dream can move mountains. We dream of a Europe in which a new generation in politics will bring about change. Volt is a European movement and political party. We are positive, pragmatic and progressive, and seek, with ambition and nuance, to connect with others who also show to be socially engaged. Our goal is to make our continent more social, democratic and decisive. With a European programme we are the first and only European party to connect people in all member states. Our actions and our stories are the new and optimistic sound that Europe desperately needs. Also in Enschede!

As a border municipality, Enschede is the gateway to Europe. European cooperation comes to life in the border regions. Volt can do something that has never been done before: working together with people from the same political party on the other side of the border. Volt Enschede and Volt Münster have already agreed to work together structurally. We can learn from each other by sharing experiences and successes and tackling cross-border challenges together. Because the climate crisis, unemployment and housing shortages do not stop at the national border.

Volt thinks European but wants to make a difference locally. We don't want to reinvent the wheel twice, so we are looking for the best solutions all across Europe, to solve the challenges we face here in Enschede. In our Electoral program and our policy program you will find proven solutions from all across Europe and we want to implement them right here in Enschede. We are also looking to expand on the practical and theoretical knowledge that is already present in our education institutions, such as the ROC van Twente, Saxion and the University of Twente. We want to stimulate and challenge

these institutions towards better co-operation and better development for our city.

We want the citizens to regain trust in the (local) government. That is why Volt is striving towards an honest and transparent government, that is what we are doing in Parliament, and that is what we want to do at municipal level. The establishment has lost touch with the average citizen. We do not just want to talk about people, but also engage with all citizens who want to get involved.

Volt has an elected representative in the European Parliament, but also at municipal level in Portugal, Bulgaria and Germany. The successes we've made on a national level in the Netherlands, where Volt gained 3 seats as a newcomer, gives us confidence to score positive results at the municipal elections here in Enschede on the 16th of March 2022.

This is Volt's debut in Enschede and we're bringing a healthy current and vision for a future made in Europe. For a future:  
Made in Europe.

**In this electoral program we want to explain our ideas and policies for Enschede for the coming 4 years. All documents can be found on [enschede.voltnederland.org](https://enschede.voltnederland.org).**

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# 1 Tackling The Climate Crisis

Volt strives for a happy and healthy future for everyone. We recognise the climate crisis and want to tackle this head on. This goes hand in hand with an economy that does not put profit before the habitat of humans and animals. Let's be an exemplary green city where nobody gets left behind. We do this out of solidarity, for every resident of Enschede and for every other resident of our planet. We want to tackle the climate crisis at the root by quickly taking the needed actions to reduce carbon emissions and produce more sustainable energy. This also means reducing the current energy consumption where we can. Improving the isolation of your house will reduce your energy bill. We also need to prepare Enschede for the future consequences of the climate crisis, such as making our city more resistant against heat waves or drought.

1. Planning is useless without proper execution. That is why we are introducing the **climate monitor** for the municipality of Enschede. This should give the average citizen proper insight in the progress the city makes towards the climate goals; by mapping where the city is producing its energy, how much it currently consumes, how much consumption has been reduced, indexing local biodiversity and listing actions taken to ensure Enschede is going to become a green city. We hope this will increase public awareness and motivation of local residents and public officials to fulfill the climate goals.



2. We want to produce more **sustainable energy** in Enschede. We are looking at all feasible options. All roofs that are suitable can be equipped with solar panels. We are also in favour of wind turbines in windy places at a safe distance from the city. We are also willing to explore the renewable energy sources of the future. We think local expertise of individuals, corporations and education facilities are key in realising this.

3. The municipality of Enschede isn't just the urban area around Enschede but also some rural areas. We want to make the **biodiversity noticeable in those areas and if need be to expand, strengthen and protect biodiversity.**

4. Enschede is a green city on which we already pride ourselves, however there is plenty of room for improvement. We want a **strategic approach to go green** to reduce heat stress, properly manage extreme rainfall, and improve biodiversity. By connecting green areas with each other and by developing bioswales, we can increase the presence of butterflies, bees and birds, as well as retain rainfall. We also want to make the city more cleaner by prioritising the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. We strive for emission-free public transit and publicly accessible electric charging stations.

# 2 Digitalisation to empower residents

Digitalisation is a driving factor of change in modern society. It allows for quicker and cheaper service provision to residents. But we also realise the risks associated with digitalisation. Think of cybercrime, loss of privacy and the risk of losing contact with residents that are unable to adapt in the quickly changing digital world. We see that more and more people get lost in filter bubbles and echo chambers. Manipulative algorithms in 'social' media causes people to receive highly filtered information. This hinders a healthy public debate, and thereby also the functioning of our democracy. We think it is key that there will be a coherent strategy for digital affairs Enschede to deal with the risks and challenges of digitalisation.

1. We want an **Alderman of Digital Affairs**, in line with our national wish for a Minister of Digital Affairs. This position already exists in Frankfurt. This Alderman should have proper knowledge of digital affairs and cyber security. This new Alderman should work towards improving professional expertise on digital affairs within the municipal organisation.



2. An **inclusive digital administration** means that every resident should be able to use the advantages of digitalisation on their own level. We want the municipality to organise more meetings to improve digital literacy and digital resilience. We will use students and experts to help residents with basic digital skills, privacy and social media. They can also explain residents how they can protect themselves against digital criminality, and what they can do if they still become a victim.

3. We want our government to lead by example by using **transparent and independent technology**. The municipality should be willing to structurally pay more for open-source solutions. When spending public money, public code should be the norm.

4. We want to make our **society less dependent on tech-companies** that are massively harvesting personal data and selling it to the highest bidder. The municipality should strive to include all residents in social life if they don't want to use the big tech platforms. The municipality can stimulate alternatives, that do use open standards, and stimulate those alternatives at schools, sports- and cultural associations.

# 3 An honest and transparent government

It is vital for the government to trust their residents, and vice versa. Over the last couple of decades we saw that the establishment makes more and more decisions behind closed doors. Volt wants more transparency on every level of government. We also want to actively engage all residents on local politics by stimulating more civil initiatives. Because involving residents directly improves policy. We want the local government to be an active part of society.

1. We like to stress the importance of a **clear and easily accessible municipal budget**. The current budget is an unnecessarily complex document of 230 pages, which forms a barrier for interested residents and council members who want to get involved with the practices of the municipality. That's why we propose a yearly "municipal budget in one peek". This accessible version should also clearly highlight which part can be used freely for new policies.



2. To ensure that everyone's voice is being heard, we propose that **council members adopt a neighbourhood** as a duo. When these duos regularly engage with residents, they decrease the distance between residents and local politics. Ideally the municipal council is a representation of the population, but until that is achieved this will ensure easy accessibility to council members, in every neighbourhood.

3. We want **residents to be more actively involved in the municipality**. One way to do this is to organise Citizens' Assemblies where you as resident can actively participate in the design process of local policy. The municipality will let citizens' assemblies invite experts to let everyone make an informed decision. Furthermore, we would like to start a think tank with residents, council members, local businesses and educational organisations to think about 'the government of the future'.

4. We value **transparent use of personal data by the municipality**. Inhabitants have to decide themselves what happens with their personal data. They should be able to view and decide if their data can be used when the municipality wants to. It should be possible to allow residents to grant the municipality access to use certain data for a certain period of time, so that permission does not have to be asked each time. Then you should be able to periodically extend this permission, so that personal data doesn't get stored longer than necessary and without knowledge of the resident concerned.

# 4 Focus on vulnerable residents

We stand for a society where everyone can participate. In a civilised society, the needs of the most vulnerable residents are seen and respected. But these days, this is not a given. Over the last years, there has been a very tough enforcement towards residents in Enschede. This has troubled many people who rely on social aid. It's time to bring back the human dimension for social policies. We want to provide customised services to vulnerable residents, and acknowledge this group is diverse. Think about people in poverty, immigrants, people with mental or physical disabilities, elderly people with care needs, people with an addiction, homeless people, international students and children in an unsafe home situation. We want to strive for an inclusive society, so we have to do extra efforts to support these groups.

1. Effectively combating inequality results in more happy and more healthy residents. We want to start a municipal trial wherein people on social aids can start **working part time, with retainment of aid**. So they can start participating in the labour process of which they would directly reap the fruits.

2. We can greatly improve how we as a society deal with mental problems. First, having mental problems and talking about it should not be a taboo. **Easier and quicker access to professional help is necessary**. Currently, waiting lists lead to people receiving help later than required. Especially in youth care, the organisation of aid is too fragmented. Caregivers have too much administrative tasks, which takes time away of actually providing care. We strive for a reduction of bureaucracy and see integrated youth care as a necessity. All organisations should form teams in one center, where one team is responsible for one home, with one shared file. If organisations work together they can also offer integral help in an early stage. It would help if help is accessible in the form of open walk-in moments. By coordinating care, we make sure no one gets left behind.

3. Educational development is important for every child. That's why we want to make education equally accessible for every child by providing a stable basis. In public schools we want to reduce the need for private education. We also want to provide free school meals and offer free fruit in schools. We want to stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle, proper exercise and personal expression. Enschede knows great centers of knowledge with the University of Twente, the ROC of Twente and Saxion Applied University. Together with the municipality they can work on effective measures to improve **equal opportunities in education**.



4. Enschede knows a very diverse group of new residents such as labour migrants, international students and refugees. We want to support them with a **multilingual welcome desk**. A place where they can go with questions, and where they are proactively informed about their rights and practical issues such as care, housing, self-sufficiency and work opportunities.



# 5 Good housing and good living in Enschede

With 160.000 inhabitants, Enschede is the 14th largest city of the Netherlands and the largest city in the Twente region. For all of her residents, Enschede should be a good place to live. But in order to live, you first need to find a house, which is currently very hard, especially for starters and students. Besides that, there are many things which can be improved, such as the offerings of sports and culture, accessibility, and safety in the city.



1. We want to invest in **innovative and sustainable living**. Volt wants to take more measures in order to increase the available housing for students and starters, for example by implementing compulsory residence. If extra houses are built, we want to make sure it is for the correct group. Vacant office buildings can also be repurposed to living spaces. We want to stimulate new methods of building such as circular or prefab. You can also think about the temporary container houses that are being built at the campus of the University.

2. Culture, sports and recreation give life flavour. This is important for the mind and body. In the municipality of Enschede there is plenty of room for more of these facilities. We want to **extend existing sports- and cultural facilities**. On the sporting front we want to expand by offering more room for aquasport, mountain biking and E-sports. We also want to have attention for future recreational facilities such as a new swimming pool in Enschede. Furthermore we want to encourage more street-art and traditional art in public spaces, such as an art project on the road that connects 'Rijksmuseum Twenthe' with 'De museumfabriek'.

3. We want to **further improve mobility** in Enschede. Whilst listening carefully to the wishes of residents. Public transport needs to facilitate easy access to any place in and around Enschede. We want to make our public transport emission-free, and sustainably extend it. We can combine that with more parking places in the north and east of the city, extending the bicycle highway F-35 and realising more footpaths. We also want to improve accessibility of the city for people with a disability.

4. Security on the streets is a point of attention. Everyone should feel safe to walk through Enschede. To work towards this goal, we want to implement '**Stadsnoabers**', the Twente version of the City Marines they have in Rotterdam. These are resident-focused civil servants who are appointed to a specific neighbourhood or area, to solve persistent safety issues. These 'Stadsnoabers' should be an accessible talking point for residents who want to express their concerns about safety. They are visible, but also have links with the municipality, the police, district councils and residents' associations.

# 6 Think European, act local

There is no better place for European collaboration than in a border region. Volt Twente and Volt Münster already work on cross-border challenges together. European thinking is a part of the DNA of the Euregio. By an intensive collaboration with European partners we can look at good ideas from other regions and apply them locally in Enschede. In the end, we want to make a difference locally.

1. Enschede can use its strategic position near the German border to improve the regional labour market. Volt wants to stimulate educational exchanges for youth. By learning about cultural and economical differences we can bridge these gaps. Making regional job offers digitally accessible can be a good step towards a **borderless job market**.



2. Good mobility in the region is a prerequisite for more regional collaboration. We are happy with the bicycle highway F-35 and would like to see its expansion within Enschede and towards Oldenzaal and the German border. We are also going to push for **faster train connections**, as well as connections to the rest of the Netherlands as to Osnabrück and Münster. This is important for us as a region, but also for Enschede and its role as a gateway to the rest of Europe.

3. In the Euregio, there are more than 200 museums and cultural attractions. We want to take the initiative and develop an **Euregio-culture card**, with which you will get a discount when visiting these places. This way we want to stimulate cross-border visits and we will tap into a new public for the cultural sector in the region.

4. Sister cities are a good basis for exchange of knowledge. We want Enschede to have **more European sister cities** with a comparable profile as to norms and values, but also as regards to their location in a border region. Sister cities can help with the exchange of (high school) students. Companies and the municipality can also learn from the ideas that work well in the sister cities.

# 7 The candidates of Volt Enschede



Erik Kemp



Linda Wissink



Oscar Escobosa Bosman



Iris Allijn



Luc Blokhuis



Elize Hulscher



Thomas Hazewindus



Anna Kaal



Dick Schlüter



Michelle Meijer

Thank you for your time!

As you have read, we will focus our attention on the big themes of our time. Fighting the climate crisis and enabling the transition to a digital world that empowers citizens instead of harming them.

In our policy program and electoral program we specifically look at what is going on in Enschede. Volt Enschede focuses specifically on vulnerable inhabitants because the human dimension in policies has been a bit lost the past few years. We will also commit ourselves to work on a green and livable city with modern cultural facilities, to make sure Enschede stays an attractive place to live. We think European, and make a difference locally.

This is the first time Volt is joining in the municipal elections in the Netherlands. While writing this electoral program, there are undoubtedly good ideas that we have missed. We are looking forward to getting good ideas from citizens and other political parties in Enschede.

By working together in a constructive way, we will try to make our beautiful city even better. We happily do this together with everybody that, just like us, is driven to leave this world (and Enschede) in a better shape for the next generations.

Have you become enthusiastic about our program or do you have suggestions yourself on how to make things better in Enschede? We would like to hear it from you! You can reach us via [twente@voltnederland.org](mailto:twente@voltnederland.org). We think it is time for a healthy current in the city council of Enschede. You too? Vote for Volt. For a future: Made in Europe.



**Anything is possible in  
a cooperating Europe**







**Download program:**  
[enschede.volteuropa.org](https://enschede.volteuropa.org)

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