

Priorities for the 2022 Prague Municipal elections

Priority no 1: Modern urbanism

Prague must adapt itself to the climate crisis. Like many other modern European cities, it needs a comprehensive transformation of public space, construction and transport so that people living in Prague can live more comfortably in the future.

The human has to be at the heart of this process with the public areas at their service, providing a calm and friendly environment. Therefore, we will support the construction of blue-green infrastructure, together with water elements throughout the city, with special priority given to urban green spaces. We want to enable sustainable water management, reducing street surface temperature, notwithstanding the current regulations regarding the protection of the historic Prague centre. Otherwise, Prague shall become an uninhabitable museum in open air.

We want to make Prague a city of short distances, where each district provides citizens with all civic amenities so that residents in the vast majority of cases do without cars and use more ecological forms of transport such as public transport or bicycles. A modern metropolitan plan sets clear rules for new construction so that developers contribute to the construction of communal housing and full civic amenities.

Prague, Czechia and the European Union must become carbon neutral. We need a complex solution for the mobility, heating from sustainable sources and heat pumps, the use of alternative construction materials, the support of the city when building renewable sources of energy and in the insulation of existing buildings through the Prague Community of Renewable Energies.

Priority no 2: Affordable Housing

We want to make Prague an active public authority that regulates rents and the cost of living, and thus providing affordable housing for all and avoiding speculative investments.

We have to accelerate the construction process. We want to create a new permanent department with a mission to coordinate constructions, their transparency and the mediation of inquiries of all parties. Equally important is the

validation of the new Metropolitan Plan followed by the enforcement of conditions applied to developers, so that they contribute directly with their projects to offer a full scale of amenities, high quality infrastructure and negotiated quotas for social housing in every new construction. At the same time, Prague will launch its own social housing projects, together with modern dormitories for students, and support housing cooperatives.

We also want to implement a second, higher, taxation for all real estates in Prague where no permanent or temporary resident (if an EU or 3rd country citizen) is registered. To make sure that citizens and expats declare their residency in Prague, we want to motivate them with multiple incentives (e.g. public transport allowance, cultural pass for the citizens of Prague, allowance for kindergarten, school canteen or afterschool activities). It will also motivate property owners not to offer the real estate for offices, Airbnb, or to leave it unoccupied.

Prague should also be able to resort to reverse mortgage capped rent to protect, work on increasing its proper housing stock to protect its most vulnerable citizens. Given the current unpredictable inflation, the city of Prague would be able to help the citizens having difficulties to honour their mortgage, by covering the mortgage in exchange of a rental agreement with capped rent. By doing so, Prague will protect its citizens against bankruptcy and the loss of real estate, and at the same time it will consolidate the housing stock, helping to frame and regulate the real estate market on its own territory.

Priority no 3: Transport and infrastructure

Our ambition is for Prague to become a modern metropolis that goes with our time and isn't scared of a complex approach to solve transport. After a long time of giving more space to cars, we want to make Prague adapted to pedestrians, public transport and bicycles, which cannot be ignored as means of transport.

We will stand for our **historic center** to be transformed into a **pedestrian zone**, at least on weekends. In the areas **with enough capacity for residents in the underground parkings**, we want to eliminate useless street parking spaces. The newly freed up space would be adapted to the climate crisis and for the needs of the citizens. We will also continue in the efforts to get back safe pedestrian crossings, even in the busiest streets .

We want to continue the construction of rail transport in Prague, that means the construction of **metro D, a high speed**

line Prague-airport-Kladno, suburban train lines, and the construction of new tramway lines and their densification in the center. We want to make public transport more efficient and ensure the transparency of DPP and PID (public transport authorities) regarding the selection of the top management and tendering.

The current state of bike transport reminds us more of a bunch of disjointed pilot programs. We need to create a backbone net of bike lanes, separated from other modes of transport by physical barriers, and lower the speed limit outside of the arteries to 30km/h. A safe and dense net of bike lanes will guarantee a good mode of transport, where we don't need to be scared to send our kids to school on bikes. Due to the tough terrain of some districts in Prague we want to connect electro-bikes to existing systems of bike-sharing, make bigger bicycle-parking in the city, especially for shared bikes with a



rechargeable battery, and push for the development of cycling lifts, escalators or cable cars in the places with a steep climb, for example Vítkov, Letná or Smíchov.

We consider finishing the Prague ring road as a key pillar to lower the presence of cars inside the city. We want to charge

the entrance into the historic centre for non-residents, increase fees for parking, and for chronic non-payers we will guarantee quick towing. We stand for a revitalisation of the North-South Highway (Magistrála) into a modern urban avenue with two lanes for cars in both ways, with physically separated cycling lanes, and a widened space for pedestrians, completed with trees.

Priority no 4: Local democracy

There are currently 335 thousand foreigners living in Prague and 116 thousand of them live here permanently, and as an important part of the population they have the right for an active participation and representation in the questions concerning their home.

EU citizens have the possibility to vote in the communal elections, and be represented in the decision making of Prague and their district. Nevertheless this opportunity is not often used and many of them don't even know they have this right, or face a complicated administration and programs from the candidates only in Czech language; the interest of foreigners living in Prague are therefore not taken into account. Foreigners from third countries don't even have the right to vote and are not represented at all. For Prague to really

function for everyone, we propose the creation of an Expat council based on the model of functioning ones in other European cities.

This council would represent the interests of foreigners living in Prague, and would help with their integration in the urban society. The members of the council would be elected by the foreigners that live here permanently (with emphasis on the balance between countries they come from), and would have the function of advisory body of the City council of Prague. If we want Prague to stay an attractive destination for highly qualified foreign workers, we need to guarantee good living conditions, and with that comes a better representation, a better integration process and an increased number of legally secure and responsible citizens.