

**You can't get more Offenbach than this!**

**LOCAL  
ELECTION PROGRAM  
2026-2031**

**Shaping rather than administering. The tasks and rights of local authorities as the heart of democracy in Hesse for the people of Offenbach**

Dear citizens

The municipalities in Hesse – towns, cities, and districts – are the foundation of our democratic coexistence and the strongest level of everyday life. This is where decisions are made about how livable our Hesse home, the Rhine-Main area, and our Offenbach are, how well everyday life functions, and how strong social cohesion remains. And this is where decisions are made that have a concrete impact on people's daily lives – from infrastructure and social services to local community life. Local self-government, guaranteed by constitutional law and enshrined in the Basic Law and the Hessian Constitution, gives us the freedom and responsibility to shape the affairs of our local community on our own initiative.

**For us, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, this self-government is not an abstract legal concept, but democracy in action. It means that decisions are made where their effects are immediately felt – among the people. Cities like Offenbach in particular show how crucial local political decisions are for quality of life, opportunities, and cohesion.**

**Our election program therefore focuses on local creativity, a practical approach, and citizen involvement.**

**Infrastructure & public services**

A functioning infrastructure is the basis for a good life. Whether roads, public transport, schools, daycare centers, water and energy supply, or digital networks – local authorities bear a central responsibility here.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for reliable, affordable, and sustainable public services. Our goal is to maintain, modernize, and expand municipal infrastructure in line with actual needs, not ideological guidelines.**

**Urban development & housing**

Cities and municipalities must be allowed to develop without losing their identity. Local self-government makes it possible to create housing, upgrade neighborhoods, and design livable communities.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to balanced urban development: more affordable housing, smart redensification, preservation of green spaces, and forward-looking planning that connects generations ( ). Housing is a social issue – and it is decided locally.**

### **Economy & location policy**

Strong communities need a strong local economy. Cities and municipalities are engines for skilled trades, small and medium-sized businesses, and innovation. Municipal planning freedom can create attractive conditions: from the designation of commercial areas to fast approvals and business-friendly administration.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for a pragmatic location policy that secures jobs, strengthens regional value creation, and enables sustainable growth.**

### **Social**

Social policy is local policy. Whether it's child and youth welfare, senior citizen services, integration, or support in difficult life situations – local authorities are close to the people and know the challenges on the ground.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to a social local policy that leaves no one behind and organizes help where it is needed. For us, self-government means tailor-made solutions instead of centralized, one-size-fits-all models.**

### **Culture & Community**

Culture, associations, and civic engagement shape the face of our cities and communities. They create identity, promote encounters, and strengthen social cohesion. Local self-government creates the freedom to promote cultural diversity and support volunteer work.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER, want to preserve spaces for encounters, strengthen cultural offerings, and actively shape coexistence in our diverse urban society.**

### **Mandatory tasks of local authorities: reliable services for security, order, and public services**

Unlike the tasks that can be shaped by local politics, some mandatory tasks prescribed by law **must** be fulfilled – there is only limited scope for maneuver here. Mandatory tasks include registration, civil registry, and public order, building supervision within the scope of the respective responsibilities, fire protection and the fire department, as well as disaster control in cooperation with the state and district.

Local authorities are also responsible for organizing compulsory schooling, providing accommodation for certain groups of people such as the homeless, and ensuring reliable waste and wastewater disposal. These mandatory tasks in particular demonstrate how important solid financing, efficient administrative structures, and responsible local government action are in order to guarantee security, order, and a basic quality of life for all.

### **Delegated tasks: State responsibility – implemented locally in a citizen-oriented manner**

In these areas, local authorities act **as state administrative authorities on behalf of the state**. The so-called delegated tasks include, among other things, registration, civil status and public order, foreign nationals and residence law, the conduct of elections, driving licenses and vehicle registration, and parts of social law.

These tasks are clearly subject to the instructions of the state of Hesse. At the same time, they are implemented locally in town halls and administrative offices. In this way, local authorities

combine state requirements with local experience and ensure that central administrative services are provided in a citizen-oriented, efficient, and reliable manner.

Our claim is clear: **shaping rather than administering.** Local self-government gives us the opportunity to take responsibility and develop our home together with our citizens.

**This is what the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach stands for – independent, issue-oriented, and close to the people.**

Yours, Dennis Lehmann  
Chairman  
FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach

## **FREIE WÄHLER OFFENBACH. YOUR BEST CHOICE.**

Political engagement thrives on people who take responsibility, not on party membership cards. In our parliamentary democracy, politics does not have to be dominated by traditional parties.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach have always stood for politics from the center of society. However, because many decisions are made at the state, federal, and European levels that directly affect

everyday life in our cities and communities, the FREIE WÄHLER Hessen deliberately organized themselves as a party in 2009. Today, they hold government responsibility and represent the interests of citizens all the way up to the European Parliament. This shows that issue-oriented, citizen-focused politics can have an impact at all levels.

FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is committed to the people in all districts of our city with passion, conviction, and great personal dedication. Our political actions are guided by a firm commitment to the citizens of Offenbach who actively participate in the local decision-making process. We listen, we take concerns seriously, and we fight for solutions that tangibly improve everyday life – independently, transparently, and close to the people.

Our election program shows what the **FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach** stands **for: responsible, citizen-oriented, and future-focused local politics that tangibly improve people's everyday lives and make Offenbach livable, safe, and strong for future generations.**

#### **Our topics at a glance:**

**1. Finance, economic development, trade, crafts, municipal corporations, digitalization**

Our political work focuses on solid finances, active economic development, strong commercial structures, an efficient municipal corporation, and consistent digitalization of the administration.

**2. Urban development, construction, infrastructure, environment, sustainability, animal welfare, public transport**

Equally important to us are environmental and climate protection, responsible construction, modern infrastructure, and attractive and reliable public transport.

**3. Cleanliness, order, safety, prevention, disaster control**

We are committed to cleanliness, order, and safety, effective prevention, and well-organized disaster control.

**4. Social issues, family, seniors, integration, inclusion**

Beyond that, people are at the center of our focus: social justice, strong families, successful integration, and active inclusion.

**5. Education, culture, sports**

We stand for investment in education and promote culture and sport.

**6. Quality of life**

and we are working to improve the quality of life in all districts in the long term.

#### **A good program for the people of Offenbach:**

**1. Finance, economic development, trade, crafts, municipal corporations, digitalization**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are refraining from making big election promises. Given the tense financial situation of the city of Offenbach, these would not only be unrealistic, but also irresponsible. Despite the current situation, we must not lose sight of the goal of a balanced budget ("black zero"). Therefore, smart financial planning must be used to create opportunities to set priorities with the limited resources available in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the city for its residents. This also includes measures to maintain and improve infrastructure.

In our opinion, credit-financed investments are only permissible if they are unavoidable in order to maintain medium and long-term growth opportunities. They are not permissible if the interest and repayment burdens arising in the future for the loans cannot be covered by the budget. They are also not permissible if the additional follow-up costs of the investments (care, maintenance, repairs, etc.) place an exorbitant burden on the budget and are not beneficial to the revenue side or do not serve the common good.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see sound finances as the basis for a functioning city/municipality. If local authorities are unable to fulfill their tasks for financial reasons, this has a direct impact on the acceptance of state institutions and democracy as a whole.

For decades, more and more tasks have been transferred to local authorities by the EU, the federal government, and the state of Hesse. However, there has been no corresponding compensation for the resulting expenses, meaning that local authorities have been left to bear the costs alone. This was particularly evident in the context of the refugee crisis, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the requirements for childcare in kindergartens and schools, and the requirements for all-day childcare for children up to the age of 12.

**The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, together with the state association of FREIE WÄHLER Hessen, are therefore currently calling for the state of Hesse to finally cover the personnel costs for kindergarten teachers as part of a petition.**

The revenue side of the municipal budget consists of the following major revenue blocks:

- Allocations from the state of Hesse as part of municipal financial equalization
- Key allocations from the state of Hesse and the federal government
- Municipal share of income and sales tax
- Allocations for specific services, such as daycare centers and schools, as well as partial coverage of accommodation costs
- Trade tax – can be structured and controlled independently
- Property tax – can be structured and controlled independently
- Accommodation tax – can be structured and controlled independently
- Dog tax – can be customized and controlled
- Fees and charges for certain services, such as garbage collection, street cleaning, etc. – can be customized and controlled, but are earmarked for specific purposes

As shown, the allocations are insufficient, and increases in trade tax and property tax place a burden on tenants, owner-occupiers of apartments, and the local economy.

Against the backdrop of currently insufficient revenue, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach believes it is essential to use existing resources carefully and avoid unnecessary expenditure.

The SPD/Green/F.D.P. coalition in Offenbach failed miserably in this regard during the last legislative period. Expenditures were made and commitments were entered into without considering the follow-up costs or because they fit ideologically into the concept. There were also planning errors.

### **Here are some examples:**

- The letter of intent between ABG and the city of Offenbach includes the purchase of around 100 social housing units by GBO. At the time of signing, there was no financing for this. It is only thanks to the special allocation from the state of Hesse in November 2025, which is not earmarked for a specific purpose, that the city of Offenbach now has the funds available. At the same time, there is still a lack of funds for the necessary expansion of schools and daycare centers to meet the legal requirement for all-day education.
- As part of its relocation, Samson AG has clearly communicated that production is to commence there at the end of 2025. In August 2024, press reports revealed that the sewage system would not be completed in time. A temporary solution had to be found, naturally at the expense of Offenbach taxpayers.
- The town hall pavilions are undergoing a luxury renovation, including high-quality catering facilities, without any prospect of meaningful cost-covering use in the foreseeable future.
- Ideologically motivated bicycle path trials (especially on Waldstraße), which had to be withdrawn and placed a burden on the budget.
- The audit reports of the municipal audit office for all budgets of the SPD/Green Party/F.D.P. coalition were not prepared on time.
- Aliceplatz 10, the former post office building, was purchased without any idea of how it would be used.
- The former Kaufhof building was purchased to create a new library and externally rentable space, with the risk that losses could arise due to the loss of rental income from the commercial space owned by GBO. Another costly company was founded with two managing directors. The managing directors' remuneration and the costs of the company's financial statements alone generate costs without any added value for the citizens of Offenbach.

The citizens of Offenbach must be able to rely on careful management of both revenue and expenditure (this applies to all departments of the city of Offenbach and the SOH with all its companies). The Offenbach traffic light coalition has proven that it is not capable of doing this. We experienced five years of red/green/yellow financial policy based on the principle of hope, often with the city parliament only being involved after the fact and presented with a fait accompli.

### **Offenbach deserves a serious financial policy with foresight, without ideological blinders.**

The goal of achieving a balanced budget must remain the top priority. In order to massively reduce planning errors and cost explosions in projects and other construction projects under the management or participation of municipal companies, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is calling for more effective control bodies. Numerous prominent examples (e.g., Geschwister-Scholl-Schule, Emmy-Nöther-Gymnasium, Edith-Stein-Schule) of cost overruns in construction projects reveal quality deficiencies in cost reliability.

Since parliament can only exercise control over the implementation of its decisions by the legally independent municipal companies through the supervisory boards, but only on an optional basis and not binding on the magistrate, it must be ensured that these are not filled on the basis of party proportional representation, but on the basis of professional competence.

It must be examined to what extent it makes economic sense to strengthen the Offenbach authorities, such as the building authority, in terms of expertise and personnel in order to reduce expensive outsourcing of planning work.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach would like to see open and transparent dealings with the citizens of this city. We therefore call for the development of a referendum concept. This should include examining the possibilities for involving citizens in the work of the city council.

**Furthermore, during the new legislative period, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach will submit the following measures and demands, among others, to the city parliament for open discussion and voting:**

- Open-ended review of applications for certain project-related EU/federal/state subsidies if a list of possible follow-up costs has not been submitted to the city council for approval in advance.
- Demand that the city parliament and the respective supervisory board of the company concerned be presented with an overview of the resulting follow-up costs as part of an approval application (commitment authorization) before signing agreements such as the "Letter of Intent" with ABG.
- Half-yearly question times in the city parliament on the state of the city's finances, to be answered by the department heads responsible for the treasury and the audit office. In the event of foreseeable budget overruns, the heads of the respective departments will be questioned about the causes.
- The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach party is expressly committed to investing in schools and kindergartens, but also calls for a significant increase in investment in infrastructure, such as sidewalks, dilapidated roads, and urban green spaces. These areas are subject to wear and tear and there is a significant backlog of renovation work, which will cost the city of Offenbach even more the longer it waits.
- No increase in property tax A and B, but introduction of property tax C for undeveloped speculative land
- Use of AI (artificial intelligence) and IT (information technology) to the maximum extent permitted by law to alleviate the shortage of skilled workers and generate synergies between the departments/the SOH and its subsidiary companies, as well as to avoid misplanning and misuse of services
- Review of the necessity of SOH companies, as each additional company with a profit motive incurs costs for financial statement preparation and managing director salaries that have to be borne by the city and cannot therefore be spent on the necessary investments in infrastructure and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Offenbach.

**For each area of action, we clearly and comprehensively state the specific steps we intend to take to achieve these goals:**

### **Area of action: Economic development**

FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is expressly committed to the policy of attracting large companies such as Samson AG and BIOSPRING to the region. Despite good infrastructure, the marketing of land and new buildings in the premium commercial areas of Kaiserlei and Hafen has come to a standstill since the pandemic. It is painful that ING Diba AG prefers to build a high-rise next to the ECB in Frankfurt rather than in Kaiserlei, which has better connections.

This makes it all the more important for the city of Offenbach's economic development department to focus on retaining existing business tax payers and attracting smaller companies. This also reduces the cluster risk associated with business tax.

With a trade tax rate of 440%, Offenbach is competing with cities such as Eschborn (330% rate), Bad Vilbel (planned reduction to 327% rate), Frankfurt (460% rate), Neu-Isenburg (345% rate), and Rodgau (380% rate).

Samson AG and BIOSPRING came to Offenbach primarily because of available space and a 20 percentage point reduction in trade tax.

Offenbach must offer every other company added value that compensates for the higher trade tax rate compared to the surrounding area (with the exception of Frankfurt). In the case of the Kaiserlei industrial park, this added value is its location and transport connections.

For FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, economic development includes hard location factors such as broadband connectivity, fast internet, good infrastructure, and public transport connections, but also soft skills such as a good quality of life in the commercial areas, neighborhoods, and city center.

### **In order to promote the local economy, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach**

- advocates a service offensive for small and medium-sized enterprises, especially skilled trades, in the city of Offenbach
- advocates not increasing the trade tax rate
- strengthening infrastructure, especially road renovations, to reduce cost-intensive and environmentally harmful traffic congestion
- for faster approvals of commercial photovoltaic systems by ENO, which are necessary to convert factory fleets to renewable energies or to save fossil fuels in production.
- Strengthening small and medium-sized businesses by giving preference to Offenbach companies in private and restricted tenders
- Re-municipalization measures that have already been implemented should be reviewed for their economic efficiency.
- The competence of the Office for Economic Development must be strengthened and placed on a sound financial footing
- City marketing must be extended to the entire city in order to offer and maintain a healthy mix of butchers, bakers, retailers, and services in the city's districts.
- The city administration is called upon to rent vacant commercial space in the city center based on the Hanau model and to sublet it to pop-up stores at the same favorable conditions.
- In order to become attractive and fast, the city administration must offer and expand all online services. E-government is not a "voluntary" service provided by the city, but is now also required by law. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach therefore calls for online services to be made available to citizens and, if necessary, for more training in their use to be offered.
- The city of Offenbach does not have to develop everything itself. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach therefore also call for inter-municipal connections, municipal exchange, and the examination and implementation of regional cooperation.
- The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are calling for the establishment of a craft campus in Offenbach, which could be set up in Bieber-Waldhof, for example, to attract businesses to the city. This would also require comprehensive broadband coverage in the area to support Offenbach's small and medium-sized businesses and keep them in Offenbach.
- Offenbach as a trade fair location must be strengthened and given long-term support.

### **Area of action: Crafts**



Craft trades are at the heart of our city. They stand for performance, reliability, and the future. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are committed to ensuring that craft trades in our city regain the status they deserve. Offenbach needs an economic policy that strengthens small and medium-sized businesses, inspires young people to take up craft trades, and creates fair conditions for small and medium-sized businesses to grow.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want a city where craft businesses are not displaced but welcomed. This starts with a smart settlement policy.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are calling for the rapid development of **the remaining Allessa site** to enable a modern business location with space for small and medium-sized enterprises. A **craft campus** is also to be created in the **Bieber-Waldhof** area – a place where training, workshops, consulting, and innovation are combined. In this way, we are creating space for the future of craft trades in Offenbach.

Training is a key issue. Without well-trained skilled workers, the skilled trades cannot fulfill their role in the economy and society. We are therefore committed to genuine equality between vocational and academic education. Young people should once again realize that vocational training is just as valuable as a university degree. To achieve this, Offenbach needs stronger career guidance in all schools. We want students to come into contact with skilled trades at an early age – through workshop visits, internships, and cooperation with companies.

Another important component is housing for trainees. Offenbach is suffering from rising rents, which particularly affects young people. Many apprentices have to travel long distances every day or cannot find accommodation near their training company. That is why the FREIE WÄHLER are calling for the establishment of an apprentice campus with affordable housing, learning facilities, and communal areas. Municipal land should be used specifically for this purpose so that Offenbach remains an attractive place to live for young skilled workers.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, know that craft businesses in Offenbach have to contend with high costs. Too much bureaucracy, complicated contract award procedures, and rising costs make everyday life difficult for many businesses. That is why we are campaigning for simpler procedures, less bureaucracy, and SME-friendly procurement practices. Public contracts awarded by the city should be designed in such a way that smaller businesses also have a fair chance. The city of Offenbach must set a good example here and give preference to regional craft businesses when it comes to construction, renovation, or maintenance.

Offenbach must also refrain from placing further tax burdens on small and medium-sized businesses. We are firmly opposed to any increase in trade tax. Instead, we want the city to create incentives for new businesses to settle here through a reliable tax policy and targeted economic development. This also includes a modern and intact infrastructure. Craft businesses need fast connections, functioning transport routes, and comprehensive broadband coverage. Access to parking spaces in the city center is particularly crucial for customer service businesses. Here, we want to create solutions that facilitate commercial traffic rather than hindering it.

**The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach stands for a policy that sees the skilled trades as an industry of the future. We want our city to become a model for skilled trade-friendly local politics. This also means that Offenbach itself relies on regional skilled trades businesses for energy-efficient renovations and new buildings. This creates local added value and combines climate protection with economic strength.**

**Our goal is clear:** Offenbach should become a city where skilled trades grow again, young people find prospects, and small businesses find fair conditions. We are committed to bringing training, work, and housing back together in Offenbach. In this way, we will create a vibrant, sustainable city where skilled trades not only survive but flourish again.

## Area of action: A modern citizens' office for a modern Offenbach

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are calling for a citizens' office that works the way people live: **longer opening hours for working people, complete digitization of all services, an AI-supported citizen assistant, and genuine citizen participation in service times, waiting times, and satisfaction.**

We therefore propose:

- Opening hours **until 8 p.m.** at least two days a week, as well as one **Saturday service** per month.
- Establishment of a fully digital citizens' office with **online application forms, e-signatures, document uploads, and status tracking.**
- Introduction of a municipal **digitization guide** (also as an AI assistant) that guides citizens step by step through each application.
- Quarterly **citizen surveys** on opening hours, waiting times, and service quality – decisions are based on the needs of citizens.

**Our goal: less waiting, more getting done, more service.**

A citizen service center that doesn't slow people down – but supports them.

### Modern citizen service center – city services must fit into people's everyday lives

For many people, the citizen's office is the most important point of contact with the administration – but the current structures reflect neither the reality of working people's lives nor the possibilities of modern digitalization. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to change that.

#### 1. Opening hours that suit working people

Many people find it difficult to keep appointments at the citizens' office. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, demand:

- Opening hours on at least **two weekdays until 8 p.m.**,
- as well as one **Saturday appointment** per month.

This creates reliability, relieves the burden on families, and prevents avoidable absences from work.

#### 2. Complete digitization of all services

A modern citizens' office must function digitally – without media breaks, without printers, without signature slips. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, demand:

- complete **online processing of all procedures**,
- digital signatures,
- Online payment systems,
- digital document upload,
- automatic status notifications ("Your application is in step X").

No more unnecessary trips. No more waiting times that nobody needs.

#### 3. Digitization guide & AI assistant for citizens

Many people fail not because of the technology, but because of complicated forms.

That is why Offenbach plans to develop a digital "**Citizen's Office Guide**" that:

- explains each application step by step,
- automatically pre-fills forms,
- Recognizes and assigns documents,
- answers questions using AI and guides users through the process,
- is also easy to use on a smartphone.

Our mission statement: **Official correspondence must be easier to understand than online shopping.**

#### **4. Citizen participation in opening hours and service quality**

People themselves know best when they need appointments and how well a service works. That is why we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are calling for

- regular **citizen surveys** on opening hours, waiting times, and satisfaction,
- transparent publication of the results,
- adjustment of opening hours and capacities to real needs,
- target values for waiting times and service quality.

We want a citizens' office that is not organized "from above" but is geared to actual needs.

**This is what we have achieved for the people of Offenbach:** A citizens' office that is **citizen-oriented, digital, efficient, and reliable**—just as a modern city deserves.

#### **Area of action: Finance/city corporation**

One key factor that determines the financial well-being of Offenbach is the municipal corporation and its companies. To ensure that the municipal corporation can operate efficiently and economically, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach believes it is necessary to restructure SOH and, if necessary, divest itself of unprofitable areas that are a burden on the municipal corporation.

Unlike the city budget, the business plans are not subject to the budgetary law of the city parliament. The companies thus operate independently and can serve as a shadow budget for the treasury without any real parliamentary control.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach continue to call for the preservation and safeguarding of subsidized housing construction, for the GBO to remain independent, and for it not to enter into a profit and loss transfer agreement with the SOH or the city. This is the only way to ensure that the currently subsidized housing construction at GBO is maintained and that the gradual renovation and modernization of the properties is continued. The GBO's listed buildings must also be sustainably renovated to improve their energy efficiency.

GBO's apartments must continue to be modernized so that they can be rented to Offenbach citizens at attractive conditions.

GBO should be put back in a position to create new living space. To this end, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are calling for a sensible increase in GBO's land holdings in terms of subsidy and public procurement law. This can be done as a contribution by the city or through the purchase of land by GBO at a reduced price.

The goal must be to ensure that GBO offers housing in all segments of the housing market. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach also calls for the GBO to consider new housing concepts, such as the creation of a home office area where tenants can rent space so that they do not have to rent larger apartments.

Furthermore, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is committed to improving the living environment. Green spaces with playgrounds must also be attractive and encourage people to spend time there. FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is therefore also calling for the renovation of playgrounds and open spaces. Not every square meter in residential areas needs to be redensified and thus sealed.

The five-year standstill in subsidized housing construction, as well as privately financed housing construction, which is to be concealed by measures such as the contract with ABG Holding Frankfurt, must not be repeated.

The current management of GBO is responsible for this social misery, along with the full-time magistrate.

The complaints about the garbage situation in Offenbach, which have been going on for months and years, show that closer ties/greater control by the city of Offenbach are necessary. From the perspective of FREIE WÄHLER, poor decisions and poor planning are primarily the result of supervisory boards being filled according to party majorities. This must not be allowed to continue. We call for a rethink and for supervisory boards to be filled exclusively on the basis of professional knowledge and not party affiliation.

We do not want municipal companies to compete with tradespeople, service providers, or freelancers. We also call for municipal companies to focus more on their actual tasks and core competencies.

**In the new legislative period, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach will, among other things, put the following measures and demands to the city parliament for open discussion and voting:**

- Reducing municipal companies to a minimum in order to cut costs, increase efficiency, and eliminate duplicate structures, especially unnecessary management positions
- Use of AI and IT to the maximum extent permitted by law to alleviate the shortage of skilled workers and generate synergies between the departments/SOH/GBO, EVO, ENO, etc., as well as to avoid planning errors
- Services that the city of Offenbach awards to ESO and other companies must be publicly tendered for a maximum of five years, in particular to avoid excessive fees (e.g., garbage collection fees)
- The Offenbach municipal group may not compete with businesses that are taxable in Offenbach.
- The Offenbach municipal group, in particular SOH/ESO/EVO/ENO, is obliged to support the city of Offenbach and businesses in their concerns. This starts with unbureaucratic business registrations, business change notifications, trade tax payment procedures, gas/water/electricity/internet connections, installation and very fast approval of commercial solar power plants on industrial roofs
- The Offenbach municipal group and other stakeholders, such as the water utility association, are obliged to coordinate construction measures, in particular road renovations, in order to prevent double/triple construction sites and keep the burden on the population to a minimum.

- The GBO will be provided with funds and resources to enable it to act quickly and flexibly, similar to ABG Frankfurt Holding.
- Management is to be determined on the basis of performance.

## **2. Urban development, construction, infrastructure, environment, sustainability, and public transport**

The mission statement of FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach in this area is: **Plan responsibly – grow moderately – make Offenbach fit for the future.** The city of Offenbach is facing profound change. In recent years, our city has grown rapidly – faster than its infrastructure, administration, and social institutions could cope with. New neighborhoods have been planned and built, while schools, daycare centers, transportation, green spaces, security, and administration have not kept pace. People feel this imbalance in their everyday lives.

**The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach stands for urban development with a sense of proportion. We want an Offenbach that grows – but in an intelligent, socially responsible, climate-proof, and financially responsible way. For us, sustainability, quality of life, and sustainability are inseparable.**

### **Area of action: Construction**

#### **Our guiding principle: Infrastructure first**

##### **Urban development with foresight instead of blind growth**

Housing is necessary – but housing construction without accompanying infrastructure leads to congestion and a loss of acceptance. A key failure in recent years has been the lack of coordination between development and infrastructure.

We therefore demand:

- **Binding infrastructure planning before every new large-scale project:** Schools, daycare centers, transportation, fire departments, medical care, green spaces, and social facilities must be planned, financed, and secured in terms of timing from the outset.
- **Mandatory infrastructure follow-up cost analyses** so that the city is not surprised by costs years later.
- **Linking building rights to infrastructure:** no development plan without secured financing and a realistic implementation schedule.
- **Clear priority in the budget:** Infrastructure is not a marginal issue, but the basis for livable neighborhoods.

This creates stable neighborhoods that do not fail as a result of their own growth.

### **Field of action: Sustainable urban development**

#### **Firmly anchoring climate protection, quality of life, and water protection**

Offenbach is one of the hottest cities in the region. Heat, drought, and heavy rain have long been part of everyday life. Our "green lungs" are under more strain than ever, while at the same time the city is under high pressure to expand.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to urban planning that consistently strengthens climate resilience, biodiversity, and quality of life. Green infrastructure—i.e.,**

**parks, trees, unsealed surfaces, water bodies, green roofs, and green facades—must become a central component of all further planning.**

This includes:

- An **open space model developed in collaboration with citizens**
- More greenery in the urban area and the targeted **preservation and expansion of the tree population**
- **Dog parks and allotments** as places of recreation
- Adapted **irrigation and maintenance concepts** for parks and green spaces

### **Schultheis Pond**

The Schultheis Pond is a unique local recreation area in the nature reserve. We are committed to its preservation and careful development. This includes regular cleaning of the bathing beach, the permanent operation of the phosphate elimination plant, and the preservation of the natural bathing culture.

### **Water bodies and the Water Framework Directive**

The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive offers an opportunity to fundamentally change the way we have dealt with water bodies up to now. Too many streams have been built over, piped, or completely removed from the urban landscape. Attractive, accessible water bodies enhance neighborhoods and improve the urban climate.

Our priorities are:

- Transparency and **public participation** in water management
- More space for **streams, floodplains, and retention areas**
- A **forward-looking, flexible water policy**

Other key measures:

- Preservation and expansion of **cold air corridors**
- **Unsealing of** unnecessarily sealed areas, including through neighborhood partnerships (e.g., urban gardening)
- Mandatory **green space and unsealing quotas** for new buildings
- Climate-friendly mobility: safe bike paths, better public transportation, smart traffic management
- Qualitative densification instead of maximum exploitation
- Transformation of street spaces into **green, cool places to spend time**, with external expert support if necessary
- Climate adaptation of the city center and neighborhoods, including with support programs

**Offenbach's future depends on whether we become a heat-resilient, green, and healthy city.**

## **Our guiding principle: quality instead of quantity**

### **Designing new neighborhoods sensibly**

New residential areas must be more than just rows of houses. They need places for social interaction, local amenities, culture, good mobility, and safe routes.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to dual inner development: structural densification where it makes sense – combined with more green spaces and a higher quality of life.**

Our goals:

- **A city of short distances**
- Regional providers instead of pure investor logic
- Social diversity, no displacement
- Comprehensive mobility concepts with pedestrian, bicycle, and public transport connections
- Neighborhood parking garages to reduce traffic
- Promotion of renewable energies and expansion of e- and hydrogen infrastructure
- Smart neighborhoods with digital infrastructure and sustainable energy concepts

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want vibrant neighborhoods—not anonymous concrete districts.**

**Our guiding principle: finish what you start before starting something new**

#### **Reliability instead of permanent construction sites**

Offenbach has many projects that have been started or delayed. Our clear position:

- **Consistently complete** existing projects before starting new ones
- Transparent project management with clear milestones
- Regular public reports on project progress
- Uniform standards for quality, sustainability, and cost control

**Offenbach needs results – not just a constant stream of new announcements.**

#### **Area of action: Designing flagship projects responsibly**

Large projects shape the city in the long term. They need clear goals, secure infrastructure, and cost control.

- **Quartier 4.0 / Emmi Noether Gymnasium:** Education as the heart of the neighborhood, with a well-thought-out traffic and infrastructure concept
- **Kaiserlei:** Climate protection, mobility, and traffic reduction are priorities
- **Hafenspitze:** Public access to the water, high-quality use instead of a pure investor solution
- **Innovation Campus:** Future location for work, research, and sustainable development – only with good transport links
- **City center & Senefelder Quartier:** Conversion of vacant buildings, promotion of creative industries, start-ups, and new forms of living

**Our guiding principle: Ensuring financial stability**

#### **Shaping the future without overburdening**

Sustainable urban development is only possible if it remains financially viable.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, demand:

- **Cost transparency** for all projects
- Investor participation in infrastructure costs
- No project without secured financing
- Long-term planning security for municipal facilities

**Offenbach must not be allowed to falter financially due to overly ambitious projects.**

## **Area of action: Citizen participation and transparency**

### **Citizen participation: Shaping Offenbach together**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want Offenbach to be shaped together with its citizens. Good decisions are made when the administration, politicians, and urban society work together. That is why we are calling for significantly more citizen participation—early, understandable, open, and on an equal footing. The guidelines for participation are a good start, but they have been underutilized so far. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want citizens to be involved in important projects from the outset: in urban development, transportation, security, green spaces, digitization, and social issues.

Positive examples such as the Smart City project or the neighborhood park in the freight yard area show how valuable feedback from the population can be. But often, participation takes place too late or not at all – we want to change that. We are committed to easily accessible opportunities for participation: online, on site, during city walks, and in open discussion groups. Citizen participation should not be a special case, but a natural part of city politics.

Only when many people have a say can we create a livable, safe, and healthy Offenbach. That is why we are campaigning for more transparency, more co-determination, and more space for ideas. We, the FREIE WÄHLER, invite everyone in Offenbach to actively help shape our city – because Offenbach can only succeed if we work together.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, categorically reject the restrictions in the areas of citizens' initiatives and referendums passed by the CDU/SPD majority in the state parliament. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see themselves as advocates of citizen participation, especially at the municipal level. It is unacceptable that the CDU and SPD have massively restricted direct democracy by amending the Hessian Municipal Code.

### **Planning with the people, not over their heads**

- Early citizen participation in large-scale projects
- Digital project list with current project status
- Digital participation formats and transparent planning tools
- Regular neighborhood events

### **Participation creates acceptance – and better decisions.**

### **Our vision for Offenbach**

We want a city that is:

- is livable, green, and heat-resilient
- remains socially just and diverse
- becomes economically strong and innovative
- creates housing without overburdening infrastructure
- acts in a financially responsible manner
- is a place where people enjoy living

It is no longer acceptable for housing to be misused and used as collective accommodation for workers and fitters from across the metropolitan area. Such accommodation must be closed and returned to the regular housing market. Precarious employment conditions must not be



supported by unsustainable housing situations. Housing must be humane, fair, and part of responsible urban development.

## Area of action: Smart City

### Digital, citizen-oriented, and sustainable

The **FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach** want to ensure that our city remains an attractive **place to live and work** in the age of advancing digitalization. For us, a clear strategy, binding priorities, and a shared **smart city vision** are an investment in efficient, sustainable, and livable urban development.

The focus is on a powerful digital infrastructure. We are committed to providing comprehensive **5G** and **broadband** coverage for all districts and commercial locations. In addition, we want to expand **free Wi-Fi** in the city center and in the districts – for citizens, visitors, and businesses alike.

We place particular emphasis on modern **e-government**. Government services must be accessible securely, easily, and quickly via **a central digital portal** – for the public as well as for businesses. This will make tedious visits to government offices a thing of the past. In addition, we want to introduce **digital citizen participation and surveys** on important municipal issues to enable transparent, low-threshold, and modern participation.

Digitalization, climate change, and the experiences of the coronavirus pandemic are placing new demands on our municipal infrastructure. We want to respond to these challenges with foresight. In the future, traffic should be controlled **in real time and according to demand**. Intelligent traffic light systems can improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and lower emissions.

In addition to the consistent expansion of **the electrical infrastructure**, we want to create the conditions for a future **hydrogen charging and refueling infrastructure** today – including in local public transport. In this way, we are securing Offenbach's mobility for tomorrow.

In addition, we are committed to promoting **co-working spaces** and innovative forms of work. They facilitate business start-ups, strengthen start-ups, and make Offenbach more attractive as a business location. Innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and new business ideas are key drivers for the sustainable economic development of our city.

**Let's work together to make life in Offenbach more digital, more efficient, and smarter—for a modern city that serves its people.**

## Area of action: City life

### Liveable, barrier-free, and for all generations

The **FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach** are committed to ensuring that the interests of all Offenbach residents are at the heart of city policy – especially those of **senior citizens**. A livable city is evident in everyday life. That is why we want to create more **senior-friendly and barrier-free seating** throughout the city: in parks, on the banks of the Main River, and along walking paths in fields and forests. Places to rest promote interaction, health, and participation.

Another important issue is the **public toilet infrastructure**. In recent decades, many public toilets have been closed or removed. We want to reverse this trend. We are calling for **more public and disabled-friendly toilets** throughout the city, as well as clear and understandable signage. **External operator solutions** are also conceivable, because clean, well-maintained toilets are an expression of appreciation for citizens and guests – and a flagship for our city.

The **Bieber train station building** is particularly close to our hearts. We expressly support the renovation of this historically and urbanistically important building and are committed to finding a meaningful new use for it – for example, through restaurants or other publicly accessible offerings that will revitalize the district.

The **Offenbach pedestrian zone** and **Wilhelmsplatz** are central meeting places and the heart of the city center. In order to further improve the quality of life, we are in favor of **consistent traffic calming** measures. These should be implemented by means of electronically retractable bollards that can be controlled by residents in order to increase safety, tranquility, and attractiveness.

The renovation of the market square has shown that new design alone is not enough if **cleanliness and maintenance** are neglected. The conditions at the bus stops are unacceptable. There is an urgent need for action here. In addition, **paved areas and sidewalks throughout the pedestrian zone** must be comprehensively renovated to ensure safety, accessibility, and a high quality of life in the long term.

**Our goal is an inviting urban life: clean, safe, accessible, and livable—for all generations.**

## **Area of action: Roads and sidewalks**

### **Safe, accessible, and fair for all**

Roads and sidewalks are the lifelines of our city. They connect people, enable participation, and determine whether citizens in Offenbach feel safe and comfortable. However, the condition of many sidewalks and roads is unacceptable in many areas: uneven slabs, trip hazards, missing curb ramps, and damaged surfaces make everyday life difficult—especially for people with strollers, walkers, wheelchairs, or walking disabilities.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is therefore consistently campaigning for a comprehensive and widespread renovation of roads and sidewalks throughout the city. Over hill and dale – that doesn't have to be the case. Our goal is a city where everyone can participate in public life without fear of falls or obstacles.

### **Consistently implementing accessibility**

Accessibility must not remain a buzzword, but must be felt in everyday life. This includes:

- Systematic lowering of curbs at pedestrian crossings
- A comprehensive guidance system for the blind in public spaces
- Equipping all pedestrian traffic lights with acoustic and tactile guidance systems – taking into account low-noise technology in residential areas

Accessibility is not a luxury, but a fundamental right – and it benefits all generations.

### **Renovate with a plan – and act quickly when necessary**

In addition to a long-term renovation strategy, we are calling for an immediate program to tackle potholes and acute damage to roads and sidewalks. Deficiencies that affect traffic safety must be remedied quickly, unbureaucratically, and citywide – not just on selected main roads.

At the same time, Offenbach needs much better coordination of construction projects. Today, a lack of coordination and parallel construction sites often lead to unnecessary traffic jams, detours, and inconvenience for residents. We want:

- shorter construction times
- bundled measures
- transparent and resident-friendly diversions

### **Safe street lighting – saving energy with a sense of proportion**

Converting to LED lighting makes sense, but it must not be at the expense of safety. In many areas, it has become significantly too dark at night. People need to be able to feel safe, especially in the evening hours and during the winter months.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are therefore committed to intelligent, smart control of street lighting: more light where people are out and about, less where it makes sense. Modern technology enables energy savings and greater safety at the same time.

### **Protect residential areas – reduce through traffic**

Residential streets are not shortcuts for commuter traffic or heavy trucks. We want to noticeably relieve residents of through traffic. Shortcuts through residential areas should be restricted and, where appropriate, prevented by regulations such as "residents only." We are also campaigning to ensure that residential streets are no longer listed as attractive through routes in digital navigation systems. This protects children, reduces noise and exhaust fumes, and improves the quality of life.

### **Organizing parking space fairly and intelligently**

Parking space is scarce in Offenbach. The number of vehicles is increasing, they are getting bigger – public space remains limited. We recognize that individual car traffic continues to play an important role. That is why we are focusing on pragmatic and sustainable solutions instead of displacement. Our priorities:

- Expansion of resident parking zones
- Shared neighborhood parking areas
- Neighborhood parking garages where needed to relieve residential streets

At the same time, we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach call for the consistent enforcement of traffic regulations. Dangerous parking, blocked sidewalks, intersections, and bus stops must not be tolerated. Clear rules and consistent controls create safety and fairness for all road users.

### **Abolish road construction contributions – finance fairly**

A key concern of FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is the abolition of road construction contributions. These place a massive and often existential burden on individual property owners. Public infrastructure is a task for the entire community – its financing must not be shifted onto the shoulders of a few. We are therefore firmly committed to abolishing the road construction contribution statute and to social, transparent alternatives that create planning security.

### **Sustainable construction – making sensible use of space**

When renovating side streets and new development areas, we want to make greater use of permeable traffic areas to improve climate resilience and water management. Public space must be used efficiently, fairly, and sustainably.

**Our goal is an Offenbach with safe, well-maintained, and barrier-free roads and sidewalks – a city where everyone, whether on foot, by bike, by car, in a wheelchair, or with a stroller, can move around safely and fairly.**

## **Area of action: Supply and disposal**

### **Secure public services for a growing city**

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see a particularly urgent need for action in the areas of municipal supply and disposal. Reliable, affordable, and sustainable public services are a basic prerequisite for quality of life, social security, and a strong business location.

#### **Making energy supply future-proof**

The **electricity and gas supply** in Offenbach must be consistently developed and adapted to the requirements of the future. The basis for this is **a well-developed municipal heating plan** that is realistic, open to all technologies, and takes full account of the interests of citizens.

Necessary investments by EVO/GVO must be made in a forward-looking and targeted manner. A particular focus is on **establishing a hydrogen infrastructure with a connection point in Offenbach** in order to make the business location competitive and climate-friendly in the long term.

#### **Securing the drinking water supply**

A growing city consumes more drinking water. The **Offenbach Water Supply Association (ZWO)** must ensure that sufficient extraction rights are available for the implementation of the master plan and that the supply remains secure in the long term.

At the same time, we are committed to an **intelligent and balanced water usage concept**. Drinking water must be protected – among other things, through the increased use of service water and rainwater, for example for irrigation, cleaning, or technical purposes.

If necessary, future new development areas must be adjusted or postponed in order to ensure a permanent **drinking water supply for all Offenbach residents**. Security of supply takes precedence over unbridled growth.

#### **Strengthening cleanliness and wastewater infrastructure**

ESO Offenbach does excellent work every day to keep the city clean. We want to expressly support this commitment. Our goal is to continuously equip ESO with modern and efficient technology to improve work processes and conserve resources – for example, through the use of innovative, automated, or self-driving sweepers.

Equally important is the ongoing expansion and renovation of the wastewater infrastructure. In order to cope with the increasing volumes of wastewater resulting from new construction and redensification, Offenbach needs:

- the targeted expansion of the wastewater pipe system
- the consistent separation of rainwater and wastewater

- regular renovation of sewers and catch basins

**Our goal is clear: a modern city needs efficient, safe, and sustainable supply and disposal systems – today and for future generations. That is what FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach stands for.**

## **Area of action: Local public transport**

### **Modern, reliable, and tailored to people's needs**

An efficient local public transport system is a key component of mobility, climate protection, and quality of life in Offenbach. FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is committed to a local public transport system that functions reliably, is operated economically, and is consistently geared to the needs of citizens.

#### **Balanced bus frequency – regular review and adjustment**

The OVB has introduced balanced bus frequency to operate cost-effectively and reliably. However, this system must be regularly reviewed and further developed. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to continuously evaluating the frequency based on passenger numbers and customer surveys. Where demand increases – for example, during rush hour, at school times, or on weekends – the service must be specifically adjusted.

**The goal of FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is a bus service that is based on actual demand and ensures reliable service for all districts.**

#### **Real-time information – transparency creates trust**

Modern public transport needs digital transparency. We at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach support the further development of the RMV app so that buses in the city area are displayed in real time with their exact location. This allows passengers to plan better, identify delays early on, and make confident decisions about which bus they can still catch. Real-time information makes everyday life easier for commuters and strengthens trust in public transport.

#### **Taking citizen feedback seriously – dialogue instead of a one-way street**

The ability to express praise, criticism, and suggestions without barriers is an important building block for better public transport. We expressly welcome the introduction of a public transport feedback portal. For us, it is crucial that this tool is actively used, regularly evaluated, and bindingly incorporated into further planning. The experiences of users must lead to noticeable improvements.

#### **Consistently advancing the digitization of local transport**

In order to make public transport fit for the future, we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are committed to the further expansion of digital systems. This includes:

- better interfaces between OVB, RMV, and the city administration
- barrier-free digital services, such as read-aloud functions, easy-to-understand language, and intuitive operation
- reliable digital passenger information in vehicles and at stops

Digitization should make local transport easier, more understandable, and more accessible – for everyone.

#### **Trams – examining opportunities, weighing up the burdens**

We take a critical but constructive view of the expansion of the tram network. We at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see both potential and challenges. Shared traffic areas can cause obstructions, while noise and interference with trees can be a nuisance for residents. These aspects must be seriously examined.

At the same time, we recognize the potential of a tram system that efficiently connects the main train station, city center, and trade fair grounds. We consider a possible extension towards Bürgel and Rumpenheim to be conceivable in principle – but only after careful consideration of costs, benefits, traffic consequences, and effects on quality of life.

**Our goal: public transport for Offenbach that is reliable, digital, sustainable, and citizen-friendly. With clear analyses, modern technology, and the direct participation of citizens, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is shaping the local transport of tomorrow – fair, efficient, and livable for our city.**

## **Area of action: Animal welfare**

### **Showing humanity – taking responsibility**

Animal welfare is a sign of humanity and responsibility. For us at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, animal welfare means that we care for all living creatures in our city— ly pets, wild animals, and urban animals alike. Offenbach should be a city where animals are respected, protected, and seen as part of our habitat.

For us, animal welfare is not a side issue, but an expression of our attitude: we take responsibility for today and for future generations.

### **Urban pigeon management – fair and sustainable**

Many city pigeons live in Offenbach, and they are often misunderstood. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to animal welfare-friendly city pigeon management based on the Augsburg model. The aim is to regulate the population in a sustainable manner without causing suffering:

- Supervised pigeon lofts with fake eggs for the gentle reduction of young birds
- Order, cleanliness, and protection for humans and animals alike
- Avoidance of methods that violate animal welfare: no poisoning, no violence, no birds of prey
- Coordination center for urban pigeon management to bundle all measures
- Education of citizens, schools, and associations

### **Offenbach Animal Shelter – securing support**

Our animal shelter does valuable work every day for animals in need. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to:

- Provide sufficient funds and better equipment
- Promote close cooperation with the city
- Actively support the rehoming of animals and encourage citizens to give shelter animals a home

### **Small animal breeding clubs – promoting knowledge and responsibility**

Small animal breeding clubs are places for meeting and learning. We want to:

- Recognize and support their work
- Provide space, events, and hygiene standards

- Integrate clubs more closely into the municipal animal welfare strategy

### **Beavers and streams Beavers – experiencing nature, learning responsibility**

The return of beavers along the Bieberbach stream is a sign of successful renaturation. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to:

- Combine flood protection, path planning, and nature conservation
- Inform and involve citizens
- Launch projects such as "Beavers and Bieber Creek" with sponsorships and educational campaigns

**Our goal:** Offenbach should be a city where humans and animals live in harmony and children learn early on that every animal deserves respect.

### **Offenbach Forest Zoo – Wild animals in need. Protection and help on site.**

The Offenbach Forest Zoo is a place where people learn how important it is to treat animals with care. Nestled in the forest, it already contributes to an understanding of nature and biodiversity. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, see this as a great opportunity for the future.

#### **Creating natural aviaries and retreats**

- Use urban areas around the zoo to care for injured or weakened wild animals
- Species-appropriate care until release into the wild
- Supplementary environmental education programs

#### **Reliable cooperation and financing**

- Discussions with the city and the forest zoo about the planned expansion
- Financial support from the city so that the forest zoo can sustainably bear this responsibility
- Promotion of commitment, education, and animal welfare

**Goal:** The forest zoo should continue to be a place where animals receive the care they deserve and people can experience nature up close.

### **Animal cemetery in Offenbach – a dignified farewell and remembrance**

Pets are members of the family. Many people want a place where they can say goodbye and preserve memories. Offenbach has not had such a place until now.

#### **Examine sites and develop a concept**

- Re-examination of suitable urban sites
- Creation of a quiet place for the final resting place of beloved pets
- Opportunity for flowers, memories, and moments of peace

#### **Expressing respect and affection**

- Dignified treatment of deceased pets
- Expressing respect for the relationship between humans and animals

**Our goal:** Offenbach will have a place that combines mourning, connection, and dignity.

## **Area of action: Consumption**

## **Conscious, sustainable, and responsible**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are actively working with citizens, initiatives, and the Offenbacher Tafel to combat food waste. Food is not a disposable product. Our goal is to raise awareness of its value and prevent unnecessary waste.

### **Save food instead of throwing it away**

We want to enter into dialogue with local discounters and retailers to develop practical solutions to food waste. These include:

- timely delivery of edible food to the food bank
- Supporting food-sharing initiatives
- Setting up and using food-sharing cupboards

This is not about free food, but about ensuring that food does not end up in the trash unnecessarily. Less waste conserves resources, relieves the burden on social institutions, and actively contributes to climate protection.

### **Less paper waste through clear consent**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to reorganize the distribution of advertising brochures and free newspapers. In the future, the principle will be: "Yes, I would like to receive advertising and free newspapers."

Only households that explicitly indicate this on their mailbox should receive such mailings. In this way, we reduce paper waste, relieve the burden on the environment and the cityscape, and lower cleaning and disposal costs, which are currently borne by all taxpayers.

### **Repair, reuse, think ahead**

Upcycling and recycling must become a greater focus in Offenbach. Used or repaired items are often more sensible and sustainable than new ones. We are committed to establishing repair cafés permanently in Offenbach's district offices, thereby promoting repair knowledge, community, and resource conservation.

### **Protect bees – strengthen urban greenery**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, would like to cultivate a bee meadow and recruit sponsors for bee colonies. Together, we will make Offenbach greener, promote biodiversity, and enjoy a special regional product: Offenbach honey.

**Our goal: Responsible use of resources, less waste, more sustainability – for a livable city and future generations.**

## **Area of action: Air**

### **Clean air for Offenbach – protecting health, preserving the environment**

Clean air is essential for health and quality of life. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to improving air quality in our city and measurably reducing pollution.

### **Measuring ultrafine dust – making pollution transparent**

On our initiative, the installation of ultrafine dust measuring equipment was requested in order to systematically record pollution from air traffic over Offenbach. In the meantime, the first measuring stations have been installed in the Offenbach district and in Frankfurt. This is an



important step towards obtaining reliable data and being able to objectively assess the effects of air traffic.

### **Setting clear limits**

Measurements alone are not enough. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, call on the state of Hesse to set binding limits for ultrafine dust. Only with clear guidelines can health protection, planning security, and effective measures be guaranteed.

### **Reducing truck traffic – relieving residential areas**

Another priority is reducing inner-city truck traffic. The expansion of the B448 will help keep through traffic out of the city and, in particular, noticeably relieve Bieberer Straße. Less heavy goods traffic means fewer pollutants, less noise, and a better quality of life for residents.

### **Strengthening electric mobility**

The further electrification of the bus fleet and the consistent expansion of the charging infrastructure for car traffic are making an important contribution to air pollution control. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, support this path towards lower-emission mobility.

**Our goal: Clean air in Offenbach through measurability, clear rules, and sustainable transport and mobility concepts – for people's health and a livable city.**

## **Area of action: Water**

### **Schultheis Pond and water development**

#### **Preserve, maintain, and reevaluate**

The Schultheis Pond is much more than its bad reputation. For many Offenbach residents, it is a familiar place associated with personal memories and happy moments. Its special location in the nature reserve makes it a unique space for local recreation in the middle of the city.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, will continue to consistently advocate for the preservation, maintenance, and careful development of the Schultheis Pond and its surroundings.

#### **Preserving natural bathing culture**

To ensure that the pond remains an attractive place in the future, we want to implement specific measures:

- More frequent cleaning of the bathing beach
- Continuous operation of the phosphate removal plant to improve water quality
- Examine alternatives, such as connecting to the Main River

A natural bathing culture must have a future in Offenbach – clean, safe, and in harmony with nature conservation.

### **Implementation of the Water Framework Directive**

#### **Rethinking water bodies – reclaiming habitats**

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see the consistent implementation of the European Water Framework Directive as a great opportunity for a more responsible use of our water bodies and floodplains.

In recent decades, many streams and rivers have been transformed into technical structures, partially removed from the cityscape, or completely erased from the city map. We want to change that. Attractively designed, accessible waterways enhance public spaces, improve the urban climate, and increase the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods.

### **Impetus for urban development and quality of life**

Through swift, consistent, and citizen-friendly measures, we want to provide new impetus for urban development in a way that is more in line with the principles of the circular economy ( ).

We see four key areas of action that need to be addressed as a matter of priority:

- More public participation and transparency in water management
- More space for streams and floodplains
- A forward-looking, flexible, and climate-adapted water policy
- the restoration of water bodies as tangible components of the urban space

**Our goal: vibrant, clean, and accessible water bodies that combine nature, urban development, and quality of life – for a more livable Offenbach.**

## **Area of action: Green infrastructure and urban climate**

### **More greenery for a livable Offenbach**

Offenbach is a dynamic city with great potential for green infrastructure. At the same time, however, our "green lungs" are under more pressure than ever due to increasing demands, redensification, and climate change. Sustainable urban growth is necessary to prevent the loss of biodiversity and ensure quality of life in the long term.

### **Targeted strengthening of green infrastructure**

Green infrastructure is a key instrument of modern urban planning and nature conservation. It promotes biodiversity, improves the urban climate, and increases resilience to the effects of climate change. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to consistently developing this approach further.

This includes:

- an open space model developed together with citizens
- more green spaces in the city and the targeted enhancement of the existing tree population

### **Double inner development – building and greening**

For new construction projects, we call for a consistent focus on "double inner development." This strategy combines structural redensification with the development and enhancement of urban green spaces. The aim is to make better use of existing settlement areas instead of sealing new areas. At the same time, ecological functions such as climate adaptation, recreation, and biodiversity should be strengthened.

### **Promoting unsealing and participation**

We call for the unsealing of public spaces that have previously been paved over solely to save on maintenance costs. We see great potential here for civic engagement: neighborhood sponsorships can facilitate maintenance and create a real win-win situation – for the city and its residents.

### **Green spaces instead of heat islands**

Other cities are already showing how climate-adapted street spaces can be successfully implemented. Offenbach must also follow this path. Where in-house expertise is lacking, external expertise should be brought in. The aim is to reduce heat islands and noticeably enhance public spaces.

The climate-adapted redesign of the city center and neighborhoods can be supported, among other things, by the urban development program "**Growth and Sustainable Renewal.**"

### **More greenery – beyond the streets**

Street spaces are just the beginning. In addition to converting green strips into micro-parks, other areas should also be included in climate adaptation measures, for example through:

- Roof and facade greening
- Additional recreational and leisure areas in the neighborhood

The designation of dog parks and the further development of allotment gardens are also high on our agenda.

### **Maintenance, irrigation, and safety**

For public parks and green spaces, we call for an adapted irrigation concept and balanced, sustainable maintenance. To enhance the feeling of safety, adequate lighting concepts are necessary in parks and on the banks of the Main River – but these must be implemented in a way that is insect- and animal-friendly.

At the same time, light pollution in public and private areas must be significantly reduced.

**Our goal: a green, climate-adapted Offenbach with livable neighborhoods, resilient nature, and a high quality of life – for current and future generations.**

## **Area of action: Transportation**

### **Reliable, safe, and balanced for all road users**

Mobility is a key prerequisite for quality of life, economic development, and climate protection. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are committed to a balanced transport concept that takes the interests of all road users seriously – without giving unilateral preference to any one group and without creating new conflicts.

### **Strengthen rail transport – relieve roads**

We call for the expansion and renovation of Offenbach's suburban railway stations. The following have priority:

- the **Kaiserlei** S-Bahn station in connection with the development of the Kaiserviertel district
- the **construction of a new S-Bahn station in the residential area "An den Eichen / Waldheim"** to increase the attractiveness of the neighborhood and relieve the road network
- the **expansion of Offenbach's main station** in order to attract more people to rail transport

We expressly welcome the planned barrier-free redesign of the main station by 2029. At the same time, we are paying attention to reliable implementation and minimizing the impact on residents during the construction phase.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach party is committed to ensuring that owners, RMV, and Deutsche Bahn consistently fulfill their obligations to maintain, repair, and rebuild infrastructure.

### Further developing sustainable mobility

- Expansion of sustainable **car-sharing services** in all districts
- Additional parking spaces in public areas **without reducing existing parking space**
- Consistent expansion of the **charging infrastructure for electric vehicles**, as the existing charging stations do not yet meet the needs of the growing city

### Safety and order in the street space

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, welcome **the 30 km/h speed limit in residential areas** to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and especially children.

At the same time, traffic calming measures in the city center must ensure that sufficient **loading zones** are designated **for delivery and transport vehicles** in order to keep commercial traffic functioning.

The expansion, repair, and improved networking of **bicycle paths**, including connections to **bicycle highways**, remain an important component of modern mobility for us.

### Intelligent traffic control instead of gridlock

The current traffic situation in Offenbach is unsatisfactory for all road users. Traffic jams on main roads cause drivers to take shortcuts and even routes intended for bicycle traffic. Short distances often require multiple stops at traffic lights.

The consequences are:

- dangerous traffic situations
- high potential for stress and aggression
- economic damage due to long travel times
- unnecessary environmental pollution due to frequent acceleration, brake wear, and long engine running times

We are therefore committed to:

- **clear, efficient traffic routes** that enable rapid passage
- **Real-time control of private transport** depending on actual traffic load
- Demand-based traffic light systems to optimize traffic flow
- a **digital parking guidance system**
- integrated **mobility and construction site management** for Offenbach

### Rethinking parking strategically

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are calling for an **evaluation of the parking space regulations** in order to respond appropriately to population growth and redensification.

To reduce commuter traffic, we are advocating for **strategically located Park & Ride parking lots** with optional integrated RMV tickets. We see suitable locations including:

- at the Bieberer Berg stadium
- at the "Nassen Dreieck" near the town hall

These areas can also ensure sufficient parking space during major events.

In addition, **low-cost truck parking spaces** should be created at suitable locations to alleviate the tense parking situation for heavy goods vehicles in the city area.

### Examine additional offers

We also want to examine the establishment of **short-term RV parking spaces with supply and disposal facilities**.

Furthermore, we are advocating for the introduction of a **free market shuttle** from the city limits to the former tram terminus. This service is intended to attract new visitors to Offenbach, strengthen the retail sector, and reduce inner-city traffic.

**Our goal: A transportation system for Offenbach that is fluid, safe, digital, and fair – with clear routes, modern control systems, and balanced coexistence among all road users.**

## **Area of action: Aircraft noise and ultrafine dust**

### **Protecting health – ensuring quality of life**

For FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, one thing is clear: the people in our city have a right to quiet nights and clean air. Air traffic over Offenbach is a significant burden – both due to constant noise and ultra-fine particles, which have been proven to pose a health risk.

### **Consistently ensuring a good night's sleep**

We call for the preservation and consistent enforcement of the existing nighttime quiet hours from **11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.** throughout the entire city. In addition, we advocate for an **extension of the nighttime flight ban to 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.** This nighttime quiet period is non-negotiable for us. Families, children, and older people must be able to sleep at night free from aircraft noise.

### **Measuring ultrafine dust – taking health seriously**

Back in 2021, we advocated for the installation of ultrafine dust measuring equipment in Offenbach. The aim was to obtain reliable data in order to objectively assess the actual health risks posed by ultrafine particles. Thanks to the joint efforts of citizens, initiatives, and us, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, the first measuring stations were set up.

For us, it is clear that measurements are not an end in themselves. They must form the basis for effective measures. Where measurements are problematic, action must be taken.

### **Drawing conclusions from measurement data**

Based on the findings, we call for:

- stricter and noise-reduced flight paths
- a limitation of flight movements
- the use of quieter and lower-emission approach and departure procedures
- Transparent and regular publication of all measurement results

Only when data is publicly available can politicians, administrators, and citizens work together to make informed decisions.

### **Strengthening dialogue – increasing pressure**

We do not see the Citizens' Initiative Against Aircraft Noise (BIL) as an opponent, but as an important partner. Together with them and other affected parties, we want to increase pressure on state and federal politicians to finally implement noise and pollutant protection measures consistently.

**Our claim: Quality of life in Offenbach means not only green spaces and good neighborliness, but also effective protection against harmful air pollution and constant noise pollution. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for clear, responsible politics – so that Offenbach remains a healthy place where people can sleep peacefully and breathe freely.**

### 3. Cleanliness, order, safety, prevention, disaster control

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach see **safety, cleanliness, and order** as more than just buzzwords. A clean and safe city not only improves the quality of life for its residents. Safety, cleanliness, and order are also locational advantages when attracting new businesses, especially in the service sector, retail, and skilled trades.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach will continue to work consistently to ensure that the city police and the public order office are equipped with the necessary resources and personnel to consistently implement the city of Offenbach's hazard prevention ordinance. The SPD/Green/F.D.P. coalition lacked the will to do this.

#### Area of action: City cleanliness and city cleaning

##### **Clean, modern, and sustainable**

A clean city is the basis for quality of life, safety, and well-being. The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach is therefore committed to modern, efficient, and environmentally friendly city cleaning. Our goal is to gradually electrify waste disposal and street cleaning. Electric vehicles are quieter, emission-free, and improve air quality – an important contribution to a climate-friendly Offenbach.

##### **Efficient processes through digitalization**

At the same time, we want to further optimize the operational processes of city cleaning. Modern digital tools should help to better plan cleaning routes, manage personnel in a targeted manner, and respond more quickly to pollution. In this way, we ensure that city cleaning works reliably and at a high level of quality.

##### **Making sensible use of new technologies**

To make Offenbach sustainable and innovative, we want to promote the targeted use of new technologies. This includes the use of drones to regularly inspect streets, playgrounds, and public spaces. The view from the air makes it possible to identify accumulations of waste and areas of pollution at an early stage.

In conjunction with AI-supported work management, the city cleaning service can respond in the early hours of the morning. Our goal is clear: trash should be removed before the city wakes up – before children use playgrounds and visit parks and green spaces.

**Our goal: a clean, well-maintained, and livable city from the start of the day. By combining environmental protection, modern technology, and efficient organization, we want to make Offenbach a pioneer in modern city cleaning – for a city where everyone feels at home.**

#### Area of action: Waste and littering

##### **Zero tolerance for illegal waste disposal**

The increasing littering of entire streets, green spaces, and forests is a serious problem. It not only detracts from the cityscape, but also poses a continuous environmental, hygiene, and health hazard – even leading to pest infestations. Consistent countermeasures must be taken here.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach will advocate for the following measures in the coming legislative period:

- Flexible video surveillance at known hotspots for illegal waste disposal
- Examination of a packaging tax based on the Tübingen model, adapted to the circumstances in Offenbach
- Increasing fines for illegal waste disposal to the maximum permitted by law
- Increasing efficiency at ESO to remove waste more quickly and shorten cleaning intervals
- Examination of the extent to which job opportunities for citizens receiving welfare benefits can be used to support the ESO
- Multilingual information campaigns (at least 15 languages) on waste disposal and waste separation
- Early environmental and cleanliness education starting in kindergarten
- Increase in the staffing ratio of the city police, especially for night-time checks
- Establishment of a central "rubbish hotline" at the city police

## **Area of action: Road traffic and traffic safety**

### **Enforce rules – protect the vulnerable**

Traffic regulations are too often disregarded in Offenbach – often at the expense of the most vulnerable road users: children, senior citizens, cyclists, and people with disabilities. Offenbach's high classification in the motor vehicle liability insurance damage class underscores the need for action.

In addition, there is a considerable backlog of road and sidewalk repairs, which increases the risk of accidents, especially due to tripping hazards.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach therefore demand:

- Consistent combating of illegal parking through photo surveillance using front cameras in OVB buses (based on the Wiesbaden model)
- The purchase of additional mobile speed measurement devices
- Stationary speed controls at sensitive locations such as schools, kindergartens, retirement homes, cemeteries, and hospitals
- more frequent checks by city and state police, especially to combat drunk and drug driving
- increased staffing of the city police
- Establishment of traffic-calmed zones where residents and businesses support this
- Increase in fines for violations of Offenbach's traffic regulations
- Significant increase in budgetary resources for sidewalk and road renovations – separate from new construction and development projects

## **Area of action: Crime and subjective safety**

### **Strengthen prevention – speed up prosecution**

Even though statistics show a decline in overall crime, many Offenbach residents feel less safe. In particular, the increase in serious violent and knife crimes is causing uncertainty.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are committed to:

- Sustained pressure on the state of Hesse to fill the vacant youth court judge position in a timely manner

- further strengthening the House of Youth Justice, whose establishment we have strongly advocated
- higher funding for proven prevention projects such as the Nordend Boxing Club
- additional funding for the police, judiciary, and prevention work in Offenbach
- More prevention programs in schools on drugs, bullying, and organized crime
- More consistent and rapid responses from the relevant authorities in cases of obvious educational deficits

## **Area of action: Regulatory law and control**

### **Rules apply to everyone – consistently and fairly**

The citizens of Offenbach are entitled to the consistent application of regulatory law. This includes, among other things:

- Regular food inspections
- Inspections of gaming venues, kiosks, hotels, and similar establishments
- Emissions and trade supervision inspections
- Building inspections, especially for known problem properties

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach expressly supports the municipal authorities in performing their duties. At the same time, we are committed to further increasing the efficiency of the administration through better organizational structures, digitization, and modern IT.

**Our goal: a clean, safe, and orderly Offenbach – with clear rules, consistent enforcement, and a strong focus on prevention, fairness, and quality of life.**

## **Area of action: Offenbach disaster control concept**

### **Ensuring that Offenbach remains safe, capable of action, and well-informed even in times of crisis**

#### **1. Flood protection on the Main**

Parallel to the completion of the Main dam, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach consider a renewed, comprehensive review of the flood situation in the streets and districts near the Main to be absolutely necessary.

As part of this review, the following in particular must be recorded and documented:

- the capacity of the sewer system, especially during heavy rainfall events
- existing and missing backflow protection measures for the Main
- and the possible need for additional retention basins.

A rising water level in the Main can lead to backwater and thus flooding if the sewer system is insufficiently dimensioned. Flood protection systems such as dams lose their effectiveness when water enters the city via the sewer network. An efficient and future-proof drainage infrastructure is therefore crucial – in addition to the Main dam – in order to effectively minimize risks from extreme weather conditions and flooding.

#### **2. Warning systems and public information**

Offenbach now has several warning systems that are tested regularly. Nevertheless, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach sees a clear need for improvement. In particular, we call for the expansion of



the siren network, as sirens are a warning device that does not rely on apps or telephones and are indispensable in the event of a failure of the internet or mobile phone networks.

Past warning days have shown that in some parts of the city, siren signals are not sufficiently audible when windows are closed. The increasing use of modern, multi-glazed windows requires a higher density of sirens.

At the same time, there is a considerable lack of information among the population: many citizens are unaware of the meaning of the individual warning signals or the correct behavior in an emergency. Warning apps such as NINA are also not sufficiently widespread.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach therefore call for the population to be informed much more intensively and in multiple languages about:

- the meaning of warning signals,
- the use of warning apps
- and correct behavior in dangerous situations

Only well-understood warning systems can fully develop their protective effect.

### **3. Fire departments, disaster control facilities, and operational readiness**

The Offenbach fire departments—especially the volunteer units—face considerable structural challenges. Many locations are affected by a severe lack of space, structural deficits, and insufficient parking space for vehicles and equipment. A lack of changing facilities, cramped rooms, and an overall inadequate infrastructure significantly impair operational readiness.

These problems must be remedied in the short term – through renovation, expansion, or new construction. The goal must be to create operational sites that enable fast, safe, and smooth deployment. This also includes a clear location structure: vehicles and operational equipment must not be scattered across the city. Emergency services must be able to respond immediately at any time without first having to drive to other locations.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach criticize the fact that no coherent overall concept for professional and volunteer fire departments and the THW has been presented to date. We therefore call for the following immediate measures:

- a. Reservation of the Waldstraße/Odenwaldring property for an interim solution as part of the construction of a new fire station.
- b. Development of a comprehensive disaster control plan within six months that takes into account the requirements of the professional fire department, volunteer fire departments, police, ASB, DRK, Malteser Hilfsdienst, THW, and, if necessary, the German Armed Forces. In this context, existing and potential shelters must be systematically recorded.
- c. Preparation of a complete inventory of all stations, including equipment (vehicles, inventory, crew quarters), and an update of future requirements as part of a holistic concept, utilizing possible synergies between the fire department, THW, and other rescue services.
- d. Prompt elimination of obvious infrastructural deficiencies, especially in the volunteer fire departments.
- e. Application for appropriate funding, including from special funds for infrastructure, climate neutrality, defense, and transformation, as well as other funding programs.
- f. Submission of a cost and funding overview to the city parliament after completion of the plan and inclusion of the corresponding items in the medium-term financial planning and in the 2027 budget.

### **4. Parking facilities for volunteer emergency services**

Many volunteer emergency services personnel in disaster control – regardless of whether they work for the fire department, THW, DRK, ASB, or Malteser – often return from operations at night and cannot find a parking space near their homes. It is unacceptable that people who devote their time and health to the common good are additionally burdened by searching for parking spaces or receiving warnings.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach party is therefore calling for the introduction of a regulation that allows active emergency personnel to apply for a specially marked parking space near their homes. A corresponding ID card and clear markings and signage would strengthen operational readiness, reduce daily stress, and ensure that emergency personnel can reach the scene quickly in the event of an alarm.

Such a parking permit is not only an expression of appreciation for volunteer work, but also an important safety factor for the entire population.

## 4. Social affairs, family, seniors, integration, inclusion

### Field of action: Social policy

#### **Empowering rather than patronizing – providing responsible assistance and acting sustainably**

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach party stands for social policies that empower people instead of patronizing them: **as much personal initiative as possible – and as much support as necessary**. Offenbach contributes around **€144 million** annually to social services with only about **€62 million in counter-financing**. This means that the city provides over **€80 million per year from its own resources**. In order to be able to perform this enormous task on a permanent basis, a social policy is needed that **provides targeted help, prevents abuse, and uses municipal funds responsibly**.

#### **Dignified accommodation for homeless people**

There is a pressing need for action when it comes to **housing homeless people**. Those affected are still being housed in shelters or hotels that do not meet professional standards or human dignity. Dilapidated sanitary facilities, pest infestations, overcrowding, and lack of privacy should not be accepted. Individual facilities – such as the one on Bieberer Straße – show that there is a better way.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are therefore committed to **binding quality standards** that are a prerequisite for occupancy and remuneration. Facilities that do not meet these standards on a permanent basis must be closed. In addition, we are striving to **establish a municipal facility company** that operates high-quality accommodation itself and reinvests savings directly in care, support, and integration. At the same time, we want to support private investors who offer modern and dignified accommodation. **Dignity must be the minimum standard – regardless of the provider.**

#### **Empowering young people – opening up prospects**

Another focus of our social policy is **youth work**. Many young people in Offenbach grow up in cramped social conditions that limit their view of opportunities. Experts report of young people who have hardly ever left their own neighborhood or who do not know the Main River. A lack of support in and outside of school makes them particularly susceptible to radical political or religious movements. We do not accept this.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to specifically strengthen institutions such as **"Jumpers,"** which do valuable work with homework help, sports programs, social work, and school partnerships. At the same time, we demand that projects receiving municipal funding **be regularly reviewed for tendencies toward radicalization – consistently, transparently, and without ideology.**

In addition, we are committed to **modern, practical youth work.** A so-called **"maker center,"** where young people can do manual work, repair bicycles, or implement creative projects, strengthens self-efficacy and opens up new perspectives. We also want to significantly expand **cooperation between schools and clubs.** Young people should have easy access to sports, hobbies, and social communities – from rowing to fencing to sailing. Anyone who is active in a club should **be able to travel to training sessions free of charge on public transport.** This promotes participation, stabilizes living conditions, and strengthens social cohesion. At the same time, we want to integrate schools and business more closely in order to enable **early career orientation and training opportunities.**

### **Making social benefits fair and effective**

We will **consistently combat** abuse of social benefits, whether by beneficiaries or by third parties such as landlords. A fair social policy protects both those in need and those who finance these benefits. We want to further expand advisory services to provide support with applications and notifications. **Strengthening debt counseling** is particularly important to us. **MainArbeit Offenbach** does excellent work; we want to strengthen its staff so that it can provide more intensive support to the long-term unemployed and integrate them into work on a sustainable basis. **People receiving supplementary benefits** should also receive targeted support to help them transition into employment that provides a living wage. We want to provide special support to **large families** with the aim of getting at least one parent into permanent employment subject to social insurance contributions.

### **Strengthening participation, volunteer work, and prevention**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are clearly committed to **the Foreigners' Advisory Council.** Its work is valuable and should be more visibly integrated into political decision-making processes in the future. We are also committed to maintaining and strengthening key social institutions – from **the women's shelter** to the **Theresien Children's and Youth Home** to the **girls' home.**

Offenbach thrives on **the commitment of its citizens.** Volunteering deserves more recognition and better support. We want to create a **municipal online portal for volunteer work** that clearly bundles initiatives, associations, and projects. This will make volunteering more visible and easier to get started. We want to specifically promote **volunteer fire departments, rescue services,** and especially their **youth work.** **Crime prevention** also remains a central component of our social policy. Associations and organizations that do valuable work in this area should receive long-term support. The **Wildhof e. V. addiction and drug counseling center** is indispensable for Offenbach – we are committed to maintaining its location and further strengthening the facility.

The **family sector** is at the heart of our policy. Offenbach must be a city where children can grow up well and parents can find reliable support. We want **to modernize playgrounds,** create more **water features,** and finally implement the **playground framework plan** consistently. **Childcare facilities** must be expanded and staffing levels increased so that every child can be accommodated. The **traffic training area** should be modernized and also opened to families on weekends. Facilities such as the **JUZ Sandgasse,** the planned **Lauterborn family center,** and the **Waldhof youth center** should be able to expand their work. We also call for **reliable holiday**

**care** to relieve working parents. **Neighborhood offices** should be established across all districts in the future – as places for meeting, education, and cohesion.

## **Area of action: Senior citizen policy**

### **Aging well in Offenbach – independently, safely, and in the midst of life**

Offenbach is facing a significant demographic change: more and more people are reaching retirement and senior age, while lifestyles, living arrangements, mobility, and care structures are changing. Older people have taken on responsibility, worked, supported families, and helped shape our city for decades. For this, they deserve recognition, respect, and a community that takes their needs seriously.

The FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach party sees senior-friendly urban development as an integral part of a livable city for all generations. After all, a city that is good for older people is a good city for everyone. Our goal is to secure and sustainably improve the quality of life for senior citizens in the long term.

### **Aging independently – in familiar surroundings**

Growing old in Offenbach should not be a risk, but should offer prospects for the future. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to creating conditions that enable a safe, self-determined, and dignified life in old age – in one's own neighborhood, in familiar surroundings, and with social integration. Our policies are based on concrete everyday needs and measurable improvements, not on symbolic politics.

A key component is the establishment of an **easily accessible, neutral senior citizens' advice center**. It should offer guidance on issues such as care, housing, financial benefits, and coping with everyday life. This advice must be low-threshold, understandable, and realistic – not hidden behind official corridors, but visible and accessible. No one should feel left alone or overwhelmed by bureaucracy in old age.

### **Ensuring affordable, barrier-free housing**

Safe and affordable housing is key to quality of life in old age. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to promote the expansion of **barrier-free and senior-friendly housing** while also protecting the existing stock.

Modernization must not lead to displacement. Those who can remain in their familiar surroundings in old age retain their independence, social ties, and dignity.

We want to specifically support new forms of living, such as **multigenerational houses or communal living**, because they promote mutual help and social closeness.

### **Maintaining mobility – enabling participation**

Mobility is a prerequisite for independence. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to **barrier-free stops**, reliable bus connections, and safe, well-designed paths. Longer traffic light phases, sufficient seating, clean public toilets, and good lighting are not trivialities, but an expression of respect for older people. Those who can move around safely remain active and socially integrated.

### **Strengthen health, care, and prevention**

Health and care should not be a matter of chance. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, support the **expansion of outpatient services** and relief services for family caregivers. Care facilities need sufficient staff and fair working conditions so that care remains humane. At the same time, we

focus on prevention: exercise, social interaction, and preventive health care help to maintain independence for as long as possible.

### **Protection from heat and climate change**

Climate change affects older people particularly severely. That is why we, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are calling for **shaded areas, drinking fountains, cool places to stay**, and the establishment of a **heat hotline** to organize rapid assistance when needed. These measures are practical precautions and an expression of active care.

### **Making digitalization inclusive**

Digitalization must not exclude anyone. We at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach want to create **opportunities for learning digital skills** in all districts – patiently, practically, and without pressure. At the same time, all municipal services must remain **accessible in analog form**. No one should be excluded from information or services due to a lack of technical knowledge.

### **Promoting encounters – preventing loneliness**

Loneliness in old age is one of the greatest social challenges of our time. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to promote **meeting places, neighborhood cafés, and cultural offerings** that make encounters a matter of course. Our goal is an Offenbach where generations live together, learn from each other, and are there for each other.

### **Appreciation and participation**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for a policy that listens, observes, and acts. Older people should not only be cared for, but also perceived as an active part of our urban society – with their experience, knowledge, and commitment. Participation is the key to dignity and joie de vivre in old age.

Our goal is an Offenbach that radiates security, belonging, and warmth—a city that recognizes the value of every stage of life. Because you don't transplant an old tree. You care for it so that it continues to provide support and shade.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for responsible, citizen-oriented, and future-oriented politics that strengthen social security, self-determination, and participation in all phases of life and make our city livable for all generations.**

## **Area of action: Integration**

### **Shaping diversity in our communities**

With over two-thirds of its residents having a migrant background, Offenbach am Main is Germany's most diverse city. This diversity is a strength that shapes and enriches Offenbach. At the same time, we face the challenge of shaping integration as a dynamic process based on mutual respect, participation, and shared values.

### **Language and education as the key to integration**

Mastering the German language is the foundation for educational success, social participation, and professional integration. That is why we are committed to expanding and sustainably promoting language programs such as "Mama lernt Deutsch" (Moms Learn German) and "Deutschsommer" (German Summer). These programs not only promote language skills, but also the social integration of children and adults.

We also support FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach projects that combine education and integration. One example is the "Jumpers" children's and family center in the Mathildenviertel district, which has

been combining educational opportunities with social support since 2019, thus making an important contribution to integration.

### **Promoting social participation and equal opportunities**

Integration means more than just learning the language; it encompasses active participation in social life. We are committed to promoting projects that strengthen intercultural exchange and mutual understanding. These include cultural events, sports projects, and neighborhood initiatives that bring people from different backgrounds together.

We at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach pay particular attention to the integration of women with a migrant background. Through targeted education and training opportunities, we want to strengthen their social and professional participation.

### **Integration as a task for society as a whole**

The integration of people with a migrant background is a task for society as a whole that affects all areas of public life. We, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, therefore call for:

- The consistent implementation of anti-discrimination measures in education, the labor market, and housing.
- The promotion of intercultural competence in public institutions and administrations.
- Support for migrant organizations and integration advisory boards, which play an important role in building bridges between cultures.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, do not see integration as a one-way street, but as a mutual process characterized by openness, respect, and a shared desire to live together.**

## **5. Education, culture, sports**

### **Area of action: Early childhood education**

#### **Early childhood education in Offenbach – opportunities right from the start**

Offenbach is our home – a strong city with great potential. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to ensure that children and young people have the best opportunities to realize their dreams. We stand for education that includes, supports, and empowers everyone – from daycare to master craftsman or master's degree.

#### **Early childhood education as a foundation**

From the age of 1, we are committed to high-quality education – not just childcare. Small groups, more skilled staff, and individual support form the basis for lifelong learning, equal opportunities, and social participation. Families and educators need reliable framework conditions and binding measures to achieve this.

#### **Reliable care and the best support**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to ensuring that all nursery and daycare places in Offenbach are of high quality. This includes:

- Free nursery and daycare places through the use of state and municipal funds.
- Uniform and transparent staffing ratios in all facilities.
- Small groups for individual support, adapted to staffing capabilities.
- Staff reserves, e.g., substitute specialists, to cushion for absences.

- Strengthening parental participation in quality development – families, daycare centers, and local authorities working together for the best education.

#### **Transparency and information for parents**

- A central information and registration hub for places, waiting lists, care hours, and qualification rates of skilled workers.
- Information campaigns on training paths and career prospects in the teaching profession.
- Family-friendly opening hours for facilities, tailored to working parents.
- Support programs for low-income families so that access and quality are not a question of money.

#### **Attracting, training, and retaining skilled workers**

- Establishment of a skilled worker center in cooperation with EKO, independent providers, and technical colleges.
- Scholarships, labor market allowances, and employment guarantees for trainees and career changers.
- Targeted support for international skilled workers with very good German language skills.
- Expansion of practice-integrated training models (PIA) and shortened qualification paths.
- Mentoring and training programs for career development and management qualifications.

#### **Improve working conditions**

- Mandatory staffing reserves for every institution to ensure quality and reduce workloads.
- Fair remuneration, flexible working time models, health protection, and relief periods for managers.
- Regular training and further education as well as opportunities for advancement.
- Uniform staff-to-child ratios: groups for children under 3 years of age max. 12 children, groups for children over 3 years of age clear upper limits.
- Exemption for management in accordance with the Hessian Child and Youth Welfare Act.
- Occupational health management and measures to retain skilled workers.

#### **Municipal implementation and control**

- Establishment of a steering committee with the city, EKO, independent providers, parent representatives, and vocational schools.
- Analysis of the skilled worker situation and integration of all providers into the planning.
- Securing the budget through state programs and municipal funds.
- Pilot projects in 1–2 institutions for scholarship and skilled worker centers, evaluation after 12 months.
- Public awareness campaigns to recruit skilled workers and communicate diversity.
- Monitoring and quality assurance with key figures on care quality, skilled worker ratio, and parent satisfaction.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want an Offenbach where free education, small class sizes, qualified teachers, and fair working conditions are a reality—not just a vision. Together, we will create a strong education system from nursery school to the start of working life—one that is reliable, offers equal opportunities, and is future-oriented.**

#### **Area of action: Schools**

**Making education sustainable, fair, and secure**

Offenbach is a city of diversity – culturally, socially, and linguistically. Our schools face the task of embracing this diversity as an opportunity and providing all children and young people with a high-quality education. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to a modern, fair, and performance-enhancing school policy that develops the potential of all students.

**Expanding all-day care and ensuring its quality**

From August 2026, the legal right to all-day support for primary school children will come into force. Offenbach must not only fulfill this requirement quantitatively, but also implement it to a high standard of quality. We, the FREIE WÄHLER, call for needs-based services with individual support, cooperation with associations and extracurricular partners, as well as sufficiently qualified staff and modern facilities. The all-day school should be a place of learning, encounter, and personal development.

**Modernize school buildings and make them sustainable**

Many schools in Offenbach are in need of renovation. We are committed to a comprehensive renovation program that ensures accessibility, energy efficiency, and modern learning environments. School buildings should be flexible in their use, enable digital and cooperative forms of learning, and meet educational requirements.

**Promoting digitalization in an equitable manner**

Digital education should not depend on parents' wallets. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, call for comprehensive provision of digital devices, stable internet connections, uniform learning platforms, and training initiatives for teachers. This will enable all students to participate equally in digital lessons.

**Strengthen school social work and promote prevention**

School social work is a central component of a safe and supportive learning environment. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, call for the revival and expansion of support programs, preventive measures against violence, bullying, and drugs, as well as close cooperation between schools, youth welfare services, and parents.

**Shaping transitions and securing educational biographies**

The transition from daycare to elementary school and secondary schools is crucial for educational success. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to early language support, individual learning assessments, and intensive cooperation between daycare centers, schools, and parents. Regional transition conferences should ensure quality assurance and provide seamless support for educational biographies.

**Strengthening career orientation and securing skilled workers**

Early career guidance is crucial for securing skilled workers. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach ( ) party, call for binding offers at all secondary schools, cooperation with regional companies, the district craftsmen's association, and universities, as well as targeted promotion of internships, project days, and mentoring programs. School should prepare students for life in a practical way.

**Strengthen and network HfG Offenbach**

The University of Art and Design is a creative center in our city. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, support the integration of student projects into public spaces, the expansion of affordable housing for students, and the networking of the HfG with local schools and companies in order to further develop Offenbach as an attractive educational location.



### **Safe routes to school for elementary school students**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to safe routes: walking groups ("walking buses") and accompanied school routes increase safety and promote community spirit. Traffic-calmed zones, 30 km/h speed limits, safe crossings, and better lighting ensure that children get to school safely. Short-term parking zones for parent taxis and kiss-and-go zones relieve traffic congestion in the immediate vicinity of schools. In addition, regular checks by the public order office and city police increase traffic safety. Together with schools, parents, and children, we develop concepts that make the journey to school safe, relaxed, and independent.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want a city where schools are modern places of learning, children receive optimal support, and routes to school are safe. Education in Offenbach should be equitable, future-oriented, and vibrant – for all children, all families, and the entire urban community.**

### **Area of action: A strong and networked VHS Offenbach**

#### **Education for all – visible, diverse, and networked**

The VHS Offenbach has been suffering for years from cutbacks by the current coalition. The range of courses on offer has been continuously reduced – even though education is one of our city's most valuable assets. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to making the VHS a broad-based educational center for all Offenbach residents once again.

#### **Strengthening language and integration courses**

Sufficient language and integration courses are particularly important to us, including successful programs such as "Mama lernt Deutsch" (Mum learns German). As federal funding is being steadily cut, the city must not remain inactive in this area. Integration can only succeed through consistent investment in language, education, and participation.

#### **Ensuring diversity at the VHS**

At the same time, we want to strengthen the entire spectrum of the VHS: society and politics, the environment, culture, health, professional development, and IT. This diversity makes the VHS a central place for learning, encounter, and social cohesion.

#### **Networking as a model for the future**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, propose the establishment of a networking office at the VHS to digitally bundle educational, cultural, and club offerings from all over Offenbach. A city-wide portal can clearly display offerings for toddlers, children, young people, families, and senior citizens. The VHS provides the platform; the courses remain the responsibility of the respective associations, initiatives, or communities. Duplicate structures are avoided, and the VHS can expand its own courses in areas where demand is particularly high—such as swimming or language courses.

#### **More visibility for the VHS**

Education only works if it is visible. That is why we are committed to ensuring that the VHS has a more regular public presence – via information screens, in public buildings, and on buses and trains. Modern communication should be understandable, visible, and accessible to all.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want a modern, networked, and visible VHS that offers everyone in Offenbach real opportunities for education and participation.**

### **Area of action: HfG Offenbach and new campus at the harbor basin**

### **Shaping the future – creatively, vibrantly, openly**

The University of Art and Design (HfG) is a central part of our city. It brings creative ideas, young people, and new impetus to Offenbach, thereby strengthening our cultural and economic potential. That is why we, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, expressly welcome the construction of the new HfG campus at the harbor basin. The new location offers generous space for creativity, research, and cooperation, making Offenbach an even more visible city of design.

After the move, we want to work with the university to examine how the campus can be used optimally in the long term. A comprehensive evaluation will involve students, teachers, and staff. It is important to us at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach that the campus not only looks modern, but is also functional: with well-equipped workspaces, open meeting areas, and places where people can learn, work, and exchange ideas.

A modern campus also needs affordable and easily accessible housing options. We at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach are committed to creating more student apartments in smaller buildings – especially in the districts of Bürgel, Rumpenheim, Bieber, Mathildenviertel, and Senefelder Quartier. Young, creative people enliven neighborhoods, promote local restaurants, small bars, and new concepts for use, and make places like the Dalles or Ostendplatz more attractive.

**Our goal: to further strengthen the HfG, revitalize the districts, and develop Offenbach as a young, creative, and open city.**

## **Area of action: Cultural offerings**

### **Strengthening and highlighting Offenbach's creative diversity**

Offenbach is a city full of cultural diversity, ranging from traditional institutions to innovative projects. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to preserving and developing this diversity and making it accessible to all citizens. For us, culture is not a cost factor, but an investment in cohesion, identity, and quality of life—an indispensable building block for a strong, open, and sustainable city.

### **Strengthening central institutions**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, stand for the preservation and further development of central cultural institutions in Offenbach. The German Leather Museum urgently needs renovation in order to secure its outstanding collection and present it in a modern way. The Klingspor Museum also deserves reliable funding so that it can continue to fulfill its role in writing, book, and art culture. We want to rethink the House of City History – with lively communication formats, closer networking with schools, associations, and the urban community, as well as a contemporary presentation of our city's history.

### **Securing alternative and independent cultural venues**

Offenbach thrives on its independent and alternative cultural scene. Places such as Hafen 2, Robert Johnson, MTW, the Waggon am Kulturgleis, and the Wiener Hof shape the creative profile of our city. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to planning security, modern usage concepts, and support for renovations, temporary uses, or relocations. The Wiener Hof should become barrier-free and versatile, while viable interim solutions must be found for the Waggon am Mainufer during the construction phase.

### **Revitalizing and expanding events**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to strengthen events that bring Offenbach to life: the beer festival, "Tanz in den Mai" (Dance into May) at Wilhelmsplatz, and "See us there" in Leonhard-Eißnert-Park. In addition, the medieval market is to be revived and culturally repositioned. At the same time, we want to develop a city-wide event concept that integrates parks, the stadium on Bieberer Berg, and other locations in order to make culture visible in all districts of the city.

### **Promoting club culture and creative spaces**

Clubs and creative projects are a central part of urban life. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to providing suitable premises to preserve and promote Offenbach's cultural diversity. In doing so, low barriers, planning security, and sustainable usage concepts should be guaranteed.

### **Cultural education and integration**

Cultural education is key to integration, personal development, and social participation. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, therefore support music and youth art schools as well as museum education programs that make culture accessible to children and young people. Cultural and traditional associations, such as the Stadtgarde Offenbach, should be strengthened in order to preserve traditions and promote intercultural exchange.

### **Capitol and Stadthalle – securing central cultural venues**

The Capitol is a unique venue in Hesse. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to optimize its utilization, make greater use of its side halls, enable new formats, and examine how accessibility can be implemented. The Stadthalle needs fundamental modernization within the next five years, should remain at its current location, and be used flexibly for large and small events. In addition, we are advocating for a parking garage that will benefit visitors and serve as a P+R solution.

### **Bringing history to life – a house of city history in Isenburg Castle**

Isenburg Castle is one of Offenbach's most striking buildings – with great historical significance, magnificent architecture, and a prominent location directly on the Main River. With the construction of the new HfG campus, the previous use of the castle will be redistributed, opening up a unique opportunity for us, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach: the castle is to become a house of city history.

The historic castle rooms could house the city archives and the museum of city history. Old documents, photos, exhibits, and multimedia exhibitions will come together here to create a place where citizens and guests can experience Offenbach's eventful history up close.

But our concept goes further: the castle forecourt will feature outdoor dining to encourage visitors to linger. Open-air cinema events on balmy summer evenings and multifunctional rooms in the castle for conferences, meetings, readings, or cultural events will make the building a lively meeting place for all generations.

Special attention is being paid to the Ludo Mayer fountain in front of the castle, which is currently out of service. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are calling for its restoration, including seating, attractive lighting, and bubbling water, to make the square even more attractive for locals and visitors alike.

Thanks to its location directly on the Main River, Isenburg Castle has the potential to be a real flagship for Offenbach: a place that combines history, nature, and city life. For us, the FREIE

WÄHLER Offenbach, the castle should not just be a historical relic, but a lively center for city history, culture, and encounters—for the benefit of all Offenbach residents.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to strengthen culture in all its facets, ensure diversity, facilitate access, and make cultural offerings visible and accessible to all citizens – lively, inclusive, and sustainable.**

## **Field of action: Sports clubs**

### **Strong clubs, modern infrastructure, and attractive offerings for all generations**

Offenbach's sports clubs are pillars of social interaction, integration, and health promotion. They are the driving force behind social cohesion. With over 350 clubs and around 117,000 members in the Offenbach sports district, they make an indispensable contribution to the quality of life in our city. This commitment deserves our full support.

### **Strengthening and recognizing volunteer work**

Volunteering is the backbone of organized sports. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to the sustainable promotion of volunteer work, in particular through training and further education opportunities for coaches, public recognition and appreciation, and support with funding applications. Volunteers make an indispensable contribution—their work must be visible and appreciated.

### **Modernizing and expanding sports facilities to meet needs**

The city of Offenbach has laid an important foundation with its 2021 sports facility development plan. Nevertheless, further action is needed: we call for the renovation of outdated facilities, barrier-free access, and the continuation of the development plan. State and federal funding programs should be actively utilized, and clubs should have easy access to funds through a transparent process.

### **Promoting integration and inclusion**

Sport brings together people of different backgrounds, age groups, and abilities. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to an inclusive sports landscape: integration projects, offerings for people with disabilities, and cooperation between schools and clubs enable all Offenbach residents to participate in club sports.

### **Transparent and unbureaucratic sports funding**

Funding should be easily, quickly, and digitally accessible. A central funding portal, regular information events, and a central contact person in the city administration should effectively support the work of the clubs.

### **New impetus for sports in Offenbach**

To make sports and leisure more attractive, we want to promote innovative projects: a possible swimming ship on the banks of the Main, use of the youth hostel for training camps, sports festivals, and action days to raise the profile of club sports.

### **Needs-based occupancy planning for sports facilities**

Transparent and digital planning of sports fields and gyms ensures equal use by clubs, schools, and independent groups. Digital systems will prevent double bookings, enable short-term adjustments, and identify bottlenecks at an early stage.

### **Cooperation and coordination**

Efficient use requires cooperation: coordination with schools, coordinated allocation for special events, early information about closures, and regular round tables ensure conflict-free coexistence.

### **Expansion and modernization of infrastructure**

Where capacity is insufficient, facilities should be expanded, gyms renovated, and multifunctional sports areas created. Modern infrastructure is the basis for active sports in all age groups.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want a city where sports clubs are strengthened, volunteer work is valued, infrastructure is modernized, and occupancy plans are transparent and digital. Offenbach should be a place where sports, integration, health, and community can be experienced by all citizens.**

## **Area of action: AWO Offenbach**

### **Strengthening workshops and participation opportunities for people with disabilities**

The workshops and support services offered by AWO Offenbach – including the locations in Hainbachtal, Lindenstraße, and Café Frieda – make an indispensable contribution to the participation of people with disabilities in social and professional life. This work deserves clear political support and reliable framework conditions.

We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, together with our elected representatives in the Landeswohlfahrtsverband (LWV), are committed to making billing and administrative processes significantly less bureaucratic, faster, and more practical. The administrative burden has increased considerably in recent years, with skilled workers spending a lot of time on bureaucracy – time that they lack for working directly with people. Our goal is a return to clear, simple, and sustainable procedures so that employees once again have more time for care, support, and professional training.

### **The focus is on people**

Support must be reliable, continuous, and of high quality. People who are being prepared for the general labor market need close and qualified support—especially during internships, the transition to companies, and during training. This requires sufficiently trained specialists with enough time resources.

### **Spatial perspectives and modern structures**

Together with AWO Offenbach, we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach will examine which locations in the city are sustainable in the long term, especially if structural adjustments or relocations become necessary. We support the search for modern, barrier-free premises that meet care and work requirements.

The services financed by the LWV are a valuable investment by taxpayers. They ensure participation, professional development, and life prospects for people with disabilities. Promoting them is both a political mandate and a social responsibility for us.

**Our goal: We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities receive reliable support, modern workshops, and genuine opportunities for**

**participation—with sufficient skilled workers, modern structures, and clear, unbureaucratic framework conditions.**

## **6. Quality of life, quality of stay**

### **Area of action: Quality of life and public space**

#### **Enabling encounters, enhancing quality of life, bringing the city to life**

For us, quality of life means creating places where everyone can feel comfortable – regardless of age, origin, or life situation. Parks, squares, and green spaces should once again become lively meeting places where encounters, relaxation, and shared experiences are a matter of course.

That is why we, FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to specifically develop central locations such as **Leonhard-Eißnert-Park, Dreieichpark**, and the area around **Hessenring**. These locations should be transformed into attractive places to spend time, with small cafés, ice cream parlors, or bars, shaded seating areas, modern play areas for children, and quiet green spaces for relaxation. An integral part of this for us is a **barrier-free and clean "nice toilet"** so that these places can be used by everyone without restriction. This will create lively places where families, young people, and older people alike will enjoy spending time.

The **banks of the Main** also offer great potential as a high-quality urban space. A culinary trail could be created around the Kultur-Waggon, which would become a lively meeting place from spring to fall with small restaurants, bars, and cafés. Examples from other cities—such as the Rhine promenade in Düsseldorf or the Schlachte in Bremen—show how successful the combination of gastronomy, culture, and water can be. We want to exploit this potential for Offenbach and develop the banks of the Main into a place where people enjoy spending time, going for walks, and meeting others.

Culture should be visible, accessible, and part of everyday life. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, are committed to **small concerts, readings, street art, and open food markets** that enrich city life without high admission prices or barriers to access. To ensure that people feel safe in the evening hours, we want to improve the **lighting in parks, on paths, and along the Main River** in a targeted manner—bright, clear, and at the same time compatible with the city. Vibrant places need space for ideas.

That is why we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach want to provide targeted support for **local entrepreneurs**, start-ups, pop-up concepts, and food trucks – including through discounted lease models. Our goal is a city that is not dominated by interchangeable chains, but by local offerings that reflect Offenbach's diversity and independence.

**Our aspiration is clear: we at FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach want a city that is greener, safer, more culturally diverse, and accessible to all. A city that strengthens its public spaces and develops them into places where people enjoy spending time. Quality of life is not a luxury – it is the foundation for a good life in Offenbach.**

### **Area of action: Leisure and quality of life**

**Offenbach active, culturally vibrant, and for all generations**

For us, enjoyable leisure activities mean that everyone – children, young people, adults, and seniors – can find suitable spaces and activities in Offenbach to spend their time actively, safely, and in a variety of ways.

### **1. Attractive leisure activities for all age groups**

We, the FREIE WÄHLER, are committed to ensuring that Offenbach offers places where every generation can enjoy their leisure time. Specifically, we want to:

- Create new play and exercise areas for children and evaluate existing playgrounds annually, keep them clean, and repair them in a timely manner.
- Modernize and expand youth centers – together with the Children and Youth Parliament, local youth groups, and local educators.
- Support more outdoor sports and exercise opportunities, e.g., calisthenics and fitness facilities.
- Strengthen meeting places for senior citizens to prevent social isolation.

**Our goal: a city where every generation can find suitable spaces and activities.**

### **2. Strengthen parks, green spaces, and local recreation**

Recreation is an essential part of quality of life. We are committed to:

- Well-maintained and safe parks and green spaces.
- More seating and recreational areas – including those suitable for seniors.
- Shady areas for hot summer days.
- Preserving and expanding the green belt around Offenbach.
- Attractive areas on the banks of the Main with natural designs.
- Barbecue areas with tables, benches, trash cans, and ash containers – regular cleaning and controlled barbecuing by the public order office in cooperation with ESO.
- Implementation of approved locations for dog parks.

**This will make Offenbach a city where nature and recreation can be experienced right on your doorstep.**

### **3. Culture and events – experience Offenbach**

Offenbach is creative, diverse, and culturally vibrant. We want to:

- Provide greater support for local artists.
- Expand urban cultural events.
- Bring new formats such as open-air cinemas, street festivals, and music events to neighborhoods.
- Promote associations that enrich cultural life.
- Establish partnerships with schools, music schools, and cultural institutions so that children can experience culture at an early age.
- Provide unbureaucratic support to Offenbach associations for events – including security concepts, barriers, and cost reductions where necessary.

**Our goal: Culture in Offenbach should not only be consumed, but also shaped together.**

### **4. Sports, exercise, and health – promoting recreational sports**

Sport is central to leisure and social health. We are committed to:

- Needs-based sports field and hall occupancy.
- New exercise opportunities in parks.
- Expansion of cycling and running paths.

- Low-threshold sports activities for families, young people, and senior citizens.
- Barrier-free sports facilities.

**This is how Offenbach stays active – and on the move.**

### **5. Safe and clean public spaces**

Leisure activities require safety and cleanliness. We, the FREIE WÄHLER, want:

- A greater presence of public order officials in heavily frequented leisure areas.
- Regular cleaning and maintenance of public spaces.
- Better waste management concepts with more trash cans and intelligent emptying intervals.
- Safe lighting in parks and on paths that are frequently used.

**A clean and safe public space significantly improves the quality of life.**

### **6. Strengthening clubs – the heart of leisure activities**

Clubs are indispensable for sports, culture, and social interaction. We are committed to:

- Better support programs for clubs.
- Simplified terms of use for urban spaces.
- Support for digitalization and recruiting young members.
- Closer cooperation between the city, schools, and clubs.

**Clubs bring Offenbach to life – they deserve our support.**

### **7. Leisure time for families – getting out and about together**

We want to make Offenbach more family-friendly by:

- More family-friendly events.
- Expanded leisure and play opportunities.
- Safe and attractive routes to school and kindergarten.
- Family-friendly opening hours at swimming pools, museums, and playgrounds.

Offenbach should be a place where families enjoy spending time together.

**Our goal: A lively, safe, and diverse Offenbach**

## **Area of action: A new swimming lake for Offenbach**

### **A family-friendly lake with clear water, a sandy beach, and a wide range of leisure activities for all generations**

The Schultheis pond and the surrounding nature reserve are reaching their limits with over 200,000 visitors per year. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, welcome the installation of the phosphate elimination plant, which protects wildlife and ensures safe swimming conditions. Nevertheless, Offenbach needs additional local recreation areas – for families, sports clubs, and all citizens who seek relaxation in nature.

That is why we are pursuing the vision of a new swimming lake. It should be family-friendly, offer clear, clean water, and include leisure activities such as beach volleyball, stand-up paddling, adventure playgrounds, sunbathing areas, and sandy beaches. Parking and barbecue areas as well as catering facilities should also make the lake a lively meeting place for all generations. Together with the Office for Environment, Energy, and Climate Protection, a suitable area in the south of Offenbach is to be identified. The potential area covers around 80 hectares in the area



of the young and old Hegestück, with sand and gravel deposits up to 15 meters thick – ideal conditions for the construction of a sustainable swimming lake.

Financing will come from trade tax revenues from gravel extraction and future revenues from bathing operations. This project is an important step toward giving Offenbach more leisure and recreational spaces and sustainably improving the quality of life. We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, want to give the go-ahead for implementation in order to achieve completion in five to ten years.

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER, stand for attractive leisure activities, modern sports and exercise areas, cultural diversity, strong clubs, clean and safe public spaces, and genuine meeting places for all generations. For us, leisure time means quality of life in Offenbach – that is why we are committed to ensuring th stays a lively, dynamic, and livable city for all citizens, where young and old alike can feel at home.**

### **CANDIDATES for the local elections on March 15, 2026**

Find out more about our candidates [here](http://www.fw-of.de). [www.fw-of.de](http://www.fw-of.de)

- 1 Dennis Lehmann
- 2 Annette Schroeder-Rupp
- 3 Mustafa Tapkiran
- 4 Jonathan Mendez
- 5 Yunus Candan
- 6 Torsten Bracone
- 7 Muhsin Senol
- 8 Filiz Elmas
- 9 Paul Lauer-Schmaltz
- 10 Enes Tapkiran
- 11 Sonja Ziller
- 12 Abdulkadir Dogan
- 13 Jutta Lehmann
- 14 Muhammet Ali Saltik
- 15 Kevin Costa
- 16 Felix Feuerstein
- 17 Holger Horster
- 18 Christine Schuster
- 19 Tefvik Tayfun Özer
- 20 Ivan Ivanov
- 21 Jürgen Rupp
- 22 Ivanka Ley
- 23 Leonard Hain
- 24 Jochen Prescher
- 25 Helmut Lehmann
- 26 Philipp Sator
- 27 Mustafa Gürsü
- 28 Sofia Mendez
- 29 Günther Muth
- 30 Faruk Can Öztürk
- 31 Mike Galle
- 32 Domingo Alves

By voting for List 6, you will help us represent you in the upcoming city parliament and ensure that our **Offenbach** is **shaped rather than merely administered!**

**We, the FREIE WÄHLER Offenbach, thank you for your interest and the trust you have placed in us. A big thank you goes to all our supporters and friends in Offenbach. We look forward to the local elections in Offenbach am Main on March 15, 2026.**