

Reykjavík City Municipal Elections
Election Platform of the People's Front of Iceland

Socialism

in one municipality

Equality - Welfare - Social Solutions

The main points in the politics of the People's Front of Iceland in municipal matters are the party's focus, that the condition for more equality, more democracy and more welfare of the people is increased socialization, as opposed to marketization. The PFI does not regard social solutions as alms to the poor, as many do, but as ways to solve social problems without the rich siphoning profits of them at the same time. Social solutions generally save a lot of resources for society and they prevent poverty, rather than being an expensive reaction to poverty, as we often hear. We believe that by intertwining different categories it is possible to achieve more, both for individual and social progress. For example, it is a scandal that mentally ill people can not be discharged from institutions because of the lack of suitable housing, spoiling their recovery and even creating regress, while blocking beds others need. Municipal politics are somewhat conditioned by state policy on income and projects, but



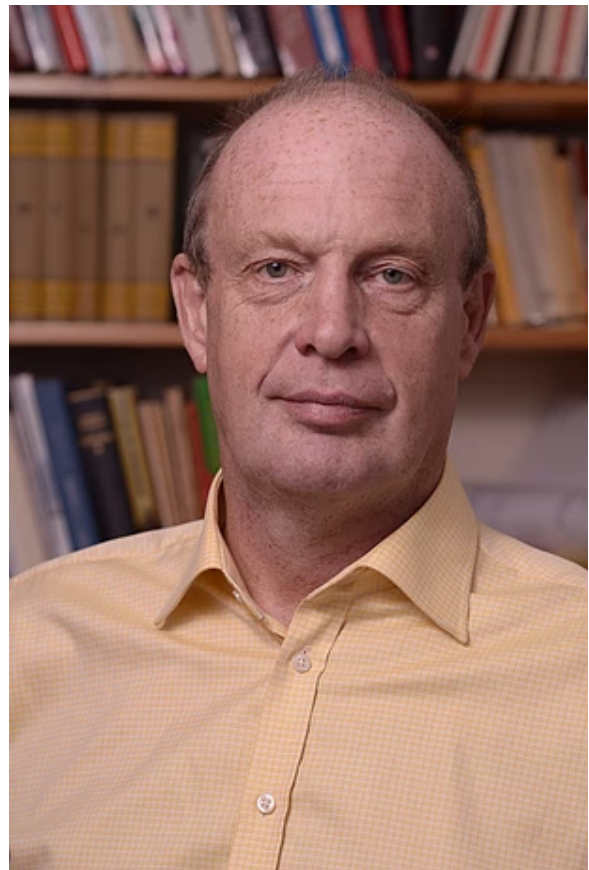
nevertheless there are various possibilities for social progress at the municipal level if the politics of the People's Front of Iceland set the course and is backed by the people. We shouldn't act as if it doesn't matter how the governance is, while we wait for the revolution. Life doesn't start then: the people need to live and thrive until they can take all power into their own hands and become masters in their own home.



Our Vulnerable People

Children

Low wages are a hindrance to the kindergartens and preschools. They need to be raised and more demands need to be done to staff competence, because pedagogically ambitious work with young children needs to be done by plenty of well trained staff. We want kindergartens to be guaranteed for all children who have become 2 years old. For those younger, it is best to be as much as possible with their parents. While childbirth leave doesn't reach full two years total, we need to bridge the gap by building daycare centers with ambition for a cosy environment. Later (with longer leave for parents) the houses will come to good use, because then there can be fewer children in each department and they will thus get more attention each. The city also needs to build up comfortable and interesting spaces where parents on childbirth leave can hang out with their children and meet other adults. In primary schools there's also great need to raise wages and the conditions to get better, e.g. with fewer children per class, so that there's more time to attend to each student. Parents should have more influence on the management of schools. Books and other study material should be free of charge, as well as a hot meal every day for every child. We need to give special attention to children with another native language than Icelandic, including to teach them their native language and to guarantee their parents access to information and service in a language they can understand. Parents of children with special needs should, in cooperation with school authorities, have a



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choice if they send their children to schools "without discrimination" or to a special school that meets their needs. In order for this choice to be realistic, both need to be well funded, because special needs can not be well met in an environment of cuts. Service agreements that the municipality makes with private schools should all be on the minimum condition that they do not pay out profits and their wage policy is according to the wage policy of the municipality.

Welfare Issues

To maximize the welfare of it's inhabitants, the municipality should prevent poverty by all means and meet people's needs where they are. Benefits need to be raised enough to provide for a decent living. As many as possible need to get the means to provide for themselves.

We need to get rid of the obligation to have lived in the municipality for a certain period of time before being entitled to social housing or other welfare. People who live in special municipal housing because of disability or ill health, should be as sovereign and enjoy the privacy of their home as much as possible.



The municipality should establish a rehabilitation center for people who are trying to get on their feet after prison or after neglect, drugs or crime in their youth.

Reykjavík should establish decent conditions for asylum seekers, so that they can enjoy full human rights while they stay here. The ban on visits to asylum seekers also needs to be lifted, along with other means of isolation, discrimination and other inhumane treatment.

Transport and Planning

Transport

We need to strengthen public transport and make it more accessible. They should be socially run and the fare should be very low, or none. Because it is to the benefit of all that public transport is attractive, the vehicles need to be in order, time schedules and routes need to work and the departures to be on time.

Good, efficient public transport for the future could be an electric system on rails, that could partially be underground, depending on the landscape and density of houses.

The People's Front of Iceland wants the airport to stay in Vatnsmýri in the future, or until another and better solution can be found.

Streets and sidewalks need to be cleaned more often.

City Planning

We need to protect the spirit and the structures of the older parts of town and be very cautious in all change, especially demolition. We need to prevent real estate speculation from grabbing the planning authority by means of their ownership of land, pressing for ever increasing building permissions that regularly puts the community into trouble only to maximize profits for the rich.

Planning for more density should not mean everything is crammed into old, vulnerable communities, but all parts of the city should be developed to preserve life quality and local services.

It is important that everywhere there is easy access to outdoor recreational areas for children and adults.

Housing

Housing is a basic necessity that society should prevent from being a source of profit for capitalists.

The municipality should take the initiative to both build and buy houses and increase the supply of municipal housing, run in a social way to guarantee a fair rent for the people, not only those who are unable to compete in the market: All who want should be able to get social housing that fits their needs.

We should aim at slight oversupply of apartments, both to be better able to meet unforeseen catastrophes (such as a volcanic eruption) and so that shortage doesn't press housing costs up.

Interest usury is one of the main problems in housing, and to solve it, the city should found a socially run financial institution, run neither for profit nor as alms, but as a lending service for all inhabitants of the city. The municipality itself should be served by a social financial institution, to get rid of the cost of interest.

The municipality needs to guarantee enough supply of small, cheap building plots, so that not only the big construction firms can build houses.

Environment & Natural Resources

The People's Front of Iceland opposes all marketization, privatization and unsustainable exploitation of nature. Socially run energy firms should provide energy and clean tap water at a low price and capitalist private interests and values need to be outlawed.

We want to stop the exploitation of geothermal hot spots around Reykjavík, because it pollutes considerably, is unsustainable and wastes a lot of energy. We want to increase the usefulness of already superfluous warm water by using it in greenhouses on municipal land. That way we can increase local food production, provide jobs and domestic growth and save transport.

Warm rest water should be used more for melting snow in sidewalks and streets.

The municipal power company Orkuveitan should engage in international development on the basis of socially run, sustainable use of natural resources.

We want to drastically decrease the New Year's fireworks and the pollution that comes with them, by the city funding rescue squads so they aren't dependent on selling fireworks, and by the city having its own firework shows instead of the public firing up explosives itself.



Our Workers

Labor Rights Issues

The People's Front of Iceland wants to introduce democracy in the workplace where this is possible, so we want the city to establish rules giving municipal workers the right to replace their superiors if it's possible, that functions and bookkeeping of municipal institutions be transparent, that workers themselves can adopt equality policies, environmental policies etc. for their places of work.

The gap between the highest and the lowest municipal wages (of workers, officials and politicians) should not be more than double. The city should take up a transparent wage system, i.a. to eradicate gender based wage difference.

Employment Issues

The city should take an initiative in various valuable operations in production and services, including a municipal fishing industry. It would increase city income and at the same time create appropriate jobs for people who have reduced abilities and have a hard time in the common labor market.

People with a foreign background need to be secured access, equal to others, to jobs that fit their education and skills.

The city should so far as possible re-socialize operations that have been privatized in recent decades, such as bus driving, snow removal, asphaltting, garbage removal, various maintainance etc.

Procurement Policy

Reykjavík City should, so far as possible, divert it's business away from corporations and states that commit illegal military occupation, genocide or serious harm to the environment.

These policy points are NOT a list of promises that we'll fulfill, only if we get a clean majority on the city council, but goals for the struggle Reykjavík's masses. The masses have never been given anything for free, they have fought bitterly for all it's gains and will continue to have to do so as long as we live in a class divided society. Who controls this country? Take part in the struggle for your own future!

The People's Front of Iceland is a radical left party that focuses on whetting the masses to a struggle against the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

The key to a social change to the benefit of the public is the socialization of the financial system and other infrastructure of society.

Struggle with us and contact the People's Front of Iceland:

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