



Folkpartiet på andra språk: engelska

Folkpartiet – The Liberal Party of Sweden

Folkpartiet liberalerna is the Liberal Party of Sweden. Since 2006, we form the government together with the other parties in the Alliance for Sweden. We are now asking for your renewed confidence – in order to strengthen the nation's schools and labour market.

Our key issues are:

- » **Schooling and education.** We need to improve the knowledge levels within our school system. We want to introduce written marks at an earlier stage, and we have already introduced early knowledge checks that help us to quickly recognize and assist children who need extra help. Teachers should be allowed the authority to create order and peace and quiet. Bullying should be vigorously counteracted.
- » **Jobs and entrepreneuring.** It should pay to work and study. We have lowered the taxes for low and middle income earners by more than SEK 1,000 per month. We want to continue lowering income taxes and improving the conditions for businesses. We also want to initiate apprenticeships so that more young people can gain a footing in the labour market.
- » **Safety and crime-fighting.** Every working person should have the security of unemployment insurance. This is not the case today. We also want to strengthen the rights of older people and legislate for older couples to be able to continue to live together even when one of them has to move into eldercare. The fight against organized crime needs to be intensified.
- » **Integration.** By the time the Social Democratic Party stepped down, integration had been on the backburner for so long that it took in average seven years for an immigrant to get a job. We believe that a job and being able to speak Swedish are the keys to integration – which is why we lower the costs for companies that employ immigrants. We further courses in Swedish for immigrants by clarifying what the students need to learn and by providing teachers with the rights skills. We want to clear the way for rebuilding where required in segregated housing areas.
- » **Europe and the world.** We don't want to build walls and shut out the world – we want to throw open the doors. Free trade benefits both Sweden and other countries. Sweden should be a fully fledged member of the EU – which is why we say yes to the Euro. Refugees shall have the right to remain in Europe instead

Välkommen att
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of being persecuted in their home countries. We defend the goal of using one percent of Sweden's GDP for aid towards developing countries. The money shall be used to fight poverty and support democratic movements. Sweden shall not give aid to dictatorships.

- » **Gender equality.** Make it easier to utilise the parental leave equality bonus – the money should simply be paid into your account without you having to apply for it. We also want to introduce a bonus for couples who take it in equal turns to stay at home with their sick child. Make the punishment for gross violation of a woman's integrity more severe. Men who violate their restraining orders should be electronically tagged.
- » **The climate.** Climate changes are the greatest environmental threat of our time. We want to maintain and develop Swedish nuclear power in order to curb carbon dioxide emissions. We need an international and binding climate agreement. Wind power and other renewable energy sources need to be expanded and energy savings need to be increased.

The Challenges of the Future

The international economic crisis has had severe repercussions in Sweden. But thanks to the efforts of the Alliance, Sweden has managed the crisis better than many other countries.

We have focused on the labour market. Thanks to a responsible fiscal policy, we have been able to stimulate the economy. Without well-managed government finances, the recent recession would have resulted in welfare cuts and increased taxes.

The prospects for economic growth during the next term of office are favourable. But the recovery is dependent on the nation's policies. It is crucial that more people find work. The tax deduction on income has made it more profitable to work, but we need to introduce more changes in taxes and rules and regulations.

Young people who need to learn a profession should be offered apprenticeships.

It should pay to study. Taking the chance of establishing one's own company should pay. It should be easier to employ people. Sweden shall spearhead an environment in which research and new ideas from other countries thrive.

Our country is dependent on energy-intensive industries. We should replace old reactors that are being dismantled with new nuclear power in order to provide Sweden with carbon dioxide-free electricity for our basic industries.

Work and studies should pay, for which reason Sweden should reintroduce the policy of retaining at least 50 percent of increased earnings, i.e. nobody should have to pay more than 50 percent in tax on the balancing SEK 100.

The keys to successful integration are work and Swedish language skills. Courses in Swedish for immigrants need to be improved. Introductory appointments and so-called new start jobs will make it easier for immigrants to gain a footing in the Swedish labour market.

It is imperative that we support people who have lost their jobs with well-functioning unemployment insurance. We need to introduce a general solution.

World-class Education

Education is our best tool in providing equal opportunities for everyone. With the help of a decisive school policy, all pupils will be given the ground to succeed in life.

The recently sparked reform of Swedish schools is one of the Liberal Party's core issues. Written marks shall be initiated from form six, and new training for teachers has been launched. The national exams in form three that have been introduced will

be followed up by providing better support for pupils who are unable to meet the goals. The state should have the primary responsibility for Swedish schools.

A positive way of participating in globalization is to learn foreign languages. We want pupils who study at least two foreign languages at compulsory schools to earn extra points when applying for upper secondary education. Chinese as a foreign language should be introduced already in upper secondary schools.

Cooperation in the Age of Globalisation

Sweden shall throw open our doors to the world – not build walls. Through above all the EU, Sweden can join in and affect developments in the world. We want to strengthen European cooperation and introduce the Euro as the currency in Sweden.

Free trade benefits everyone. We want to abolish the EU's tariff barriers on poor nations. The rich countries also have the moral obligation to support the fight against poverty and to promote democracy. The goal of using one percent of Sweden's GDP for aid towards developing countries shall be maintained.

We stand for a generous refugee policy. The right of asylum is a basic human right. People fleeing persecution have the right to protection in Sweden and in other free countries.

Safety and Crime-fighting

We want people to feel safe. We have increased the police force from 17,000 to 20,000. Preventive work and rapid responses are particularly important to ensure that young people don't get caught up in crime.

It is not acceptable for a welfare state to force couples who have spent a whole life together to be separated when one of them no longer can live at home. We need a new law that determines the right for older couples to live together – even in the last stages of life.

We should continue to focus on psychiatric care. A person who requires acute help should receive immediate response. Full accessibility for disabled people shall be the norm – anything less is discrimination.

Demonstrating Equality

Equality is a freedom issue. We have to continue to focus on financial independency for women. Involuntary part-time work shall be counteracted. In order to promote parental equality, the equality bonus needs to be simplified and expanded.

Violence towards women, just because they are women, is an issue with top priority. The fight against sex-related crimes has to be intensified and the focus needs to shift to the perpetrators.

Nuclear Power for the Sake of the Climate

The climate issue is the single most pressing global challenge today. Sweden and the EU must continue our efforts to reach a global climate agreement, and we shall also show the way by working towards ambitious climate goals.

New nuclear power shall be put into operation to replace current reactors once they are dismantled. A combination of new nuclear power and efforts on promoting renewable energy will ensure that Sweden's electricity production continues to be carbon dioxide-free. Climate issues also encompass protecting biological diversity and not losing sight of environmental goals such as improving the marine environment.

The development of electric cars would significantly reduce emissions from the transport sector. We want to introduce a premium for climate-friendly cars.