



## **Municipal Election Programme 2021**

### **Turun vihreät nuoret ja opiskelijat ry**

Approved in board meeting 15.2.2021

Green Youth and Students of Turku (Turun vihreät nuoret ja opiskelijat ry) wants a feminist city where personal qualities do not limit anyone's opportunities for life and growth. Our Turku is an active leader that understands that investing in young people and students is an investment for the future. Therefore, issues related to ecological sustainability, equality, accessibility, problem prevention and city amenity are at the heart of the 2021 municipal election campaign. Green Turku combats climate change and deprivation at the same time and is economically sustainable for future generations.

### **1. Welfare public services**

Turku must be a city that takes its citizens into account, even in difficult life situations. When coping is over, applying for help should be easy and quick. At present, the situation is often the opposite. In order to improve the mental health situation in Turku, comprehensive solutions must be made: The Therapy Guarantee must be implemented and versatile preventive services must be developed. As part of the development of preventive services, the number of social workers and psychologists in municipal welfare services and student care must be increased.

Currently, not all young people or others in need of help always have the opportunity to make a difference in their own homes. In Turku's housing services, some residents and employees face inhuman treatment on a daily basis. Not everyone gets the help they need to take care of hygiene or eating. In addition, waiting times to get help can take several hours and employees may not even have time to help clients to brush their teeth. The city must pay more attention to controlling the quality of outsourced services and ensuring adequate

resources. In this way, we can guarantee employees humane conditions and customers' right to a dignified life.

Although the social and health reform (SOTE) is coming, preventive services will remain to be the municipality responsibility. Preventing problems is a sensible option, both humanly and economically, so it must be invested in. In addition, it must be ensured that cooperation at different service levels remains good so that help and support in changing life situations can be obtained without difficulty. As responsibility for organizing healthcare shifts to "Welfare areas" (Social and healthcare organization level), we demand faster access to healthcare, as the current situation in queuing times is unsustainable. This situation can lead to worsening of problems. If access to care threatens to be caught up in resources and perseverance, people are in an unequal position. In the future, we want everyone to have equal access to treatment without delay. For this to be possible, linguistic minorities and accessibility for all must be taken into account when designing all services.

- Investing in better mental health services
- Increase the number of social workers and psychologists in municipal welfare services
- Ensuring high-quality and multi-professional preventive services
- Upgrade the services and resources of supported housing

## **2. Green Turku fights climate change!**

The climate goals of the city of Turku are ambitious even from an international perspective. The next city council will make significant decisions on how Turku will achieve its previously set goals by 2029. The means to achieve the climate goals and build a green Turku must be diverse and cover all the city's responsibilities. Climate impacts must be taken into account when planning investments and urban development. This means, for example, building green roofs and green walls, adding planting areas and parks, and safeguarding nearby nature. The opportunities for urban farming must also be improved. The city must grow and protect the area's Co2 sinks and expand integrated green networks. These means also guarantee every citizen access to the surrounding nature, preserves biodiversity and improves the well-being of the citizens.

The City of Turku must promote the circular economy and the reuse of materials more efficiently by offering its residents high-quality recycling and repair points, for example for bicycles. More needs to be done to use environmentally friendly and sustainable building materials. The energy efficiency of new construction projects and the renovation of old buildings to improve their energy efficiency must be promoted.

- The nearby nature of the Turku region is to be protected
- Introduce a green factor in zoning to measure the green area of urban space and promote the introduction of emissions budgeting
- Pay attention to responsibility in the city's investments
- Provide recycling and repair services to citizens
- Providing attractive and high-quality vegetarian food as a first choice in educational institutions and other city food services

### 3. City of Education and Culture

The extension of compulsory education to the second grade will take effect next year. The reform guarantees a free secondary school, which is important for achieving equality. In the forthcoming council term, special attention must be paid to the adequate resourcing of the big reform: teaching must be of high quality throughout Turku, both in high schools and vocational training.

Turku must offer its young citizens high-quality services. Accessible youth facilities must be provided comprehensively throughout the city. Youth services enable the participation of young people in the activities of the city and offer meaningful hobbies and new acquaintances. Turku has the opportunity to become Finland's most active city for young people and students, if we take into account young people's views on urban planning.

Turku is a student city. The city must support and encourage Turku's student culture, as it is also one of the city's attractions. Currently, it can be difficult to find employment in Turku immediately after graduation; the educated population flows to other large cities and especially to the metropolitan area. The city should provide more internships and summer jobs for students and take into account, for example, the potential of a summer company voucher for employing young people. In Turku, it is also necessary to promote the provision of internships where it is not necessary to be fluent in Finnish. This would also promote the employment of international students during and after their studies. Young people in Turku are key players in a vibrant urban culture, and more needs to be done to reach them.

The goal of Turku's decision-making must be a comfortable city center, where it is nice for city dwellers to come for services and culture. There is a lot to do and see in visually comfortable and vibrant Turku. The shores of the Aura River are the heart of Turku's city center, and the city must continue to invest in their development. The city must support cultural professionals in the midst of and after the difficulties caused by the corona crisis, so that Turku will continue to be a vibrant city of culture.

- Ensure the adequacy of resources for the reform of compulsory education
- Increasing the accessibility of the city's cultural services
- Promoting Turku's student culture
- Provide employment opportunities for both domestic and international students after graduation
- Promoting summer job opportunities for young people
- Ensuring the financial coping of Turku's cultural operators
- Expanding the city's youth services more outside the city center
- Invest in the visual appearance of the city in the form of street art

#### **4. Turku that favors walking, cycling and public transport**

The priority of urban transport must be shifted away from motoring towards efficient public transport and the promotion of cycling and walking. The decline in motoring is not a threat, but an opportunity for both citizens and businesses in the city: the downtown attraction is emerging city promenades and pedestrian streets, not highways and parking lots.

The return of the tram system to the streets of Turku creates an easy-to-use and environmentally friendly way to move, regardless of income level. Innovative public transport solutions and the active development of services attract the use of public transport to city dwellers who are not already familiar with it. In bus traffic, there is a need to use more electric buses, which will significantly reduce both emissions and noise nuisance in the Urban Area. On longer routes where electric charging of busses is not economical, the introduction of gas buses at Föli should be piloted.

There must be ambition in promoting cycling; Turku can be the cycling capital of Finland. This will be achieved by investing in the construction of clearly marked and safe cycle paths and the addition of frame-locked bicycle parks. You must get to every part of Turku easily and safely by bike. The main cycling routes should also be kept in use in winter.

Train transportation is a low-emission and efficient way of moving. A pilot cycle must be created for commuter train traffic in the vicinity of Turku. Promoting the Helsinki-Turku one-hour train project is important: a high-speed train connection would promote, among other things, business travel to the Helsinki metropolitan area. At present, more than one in three Turku graduates leave for Uusimaa in search of work.

- Return the tram system to the streets of Turku
- Commissioning of the Turku region commuter train in 2023
- Keep the price of bus tickets affordable for the whole population
- Expanding the bicycle network in the city center and adding safe bicycle parks in the urban Area
- Ensuring the continuity of the Fölläri city bikes and adding bike parks so that the bike can be deployed anywhere in the network
- Promoting the hourly train Turku-Helsinki