



Empowering Change Together

**Manifesto
General Election 2024**

voltuk.org

FUTURE  MADE IN EUROPE

Volt UK stands for a Europe based on a strong political union between the European nations, where risks are shared and benefits reach all Europeans, and where every person has a voice. It stands for a Europe with a robust economy that provides opportunities for all, now and for future generations, a Union that is an economic powerhouse. It stands for a Europe that takes care of its people, where children enjoy a cleaner environment, where migration flows are managed together, and where rights are guaranteed and responsibilities shared. Volt UK stands for a truly progressive European project.

We have a plan to make Britain ready for the future, by rising above the divisions in our societies and rebuilding a sense of belonging and unity. To help achieve this, we will lead by example by building bridges with other political forces to start a constructive dialogue; promote progressive and redistributive policies; and base solutions on fairness and scientific evidence instead of ideologies.

The united Britain we envision will be a strong voice within the EU, and able to fit its global role side by side with its European family. By rejoining a reformed, transparent, and citizen-friendly European Union, we can amplify our economic influence, enhance security cooperation, and achieve a greater global impact through a united front. We recognize the complexities of this path, but joining forces with a reformed Europe is the best way for Britain to remain a strong global player.

British independence and national identity will be safeguarded in the empowering framework of the European Union. We plan to bring power as close as possible to citizens, where they can understand it and keep it accountable. To do that, we plan to embed citizen assemblies in the heart of public administration and strategic companies, enabling citizens to directly contribute to policy decisions. Additionally, we aim to grant greater autonomy to the countries and regions of the UK on issues where they are best suited to make decisions.

You, the citizens, are the driving force behind our policies. We're committed to empowering you beyond just casting a ballot. We will empower you through information, education, and responsibility. We will enable you to actively participate in shaping our democracy through methods like citizen assemblies and electronic voting on an extended range of topics. Today's world demands a collective effort from all of us. From confronting global threats like pandemics and climate change to countering totalitarian regimes, the challenges we face require all of us to take ownership of our actions and work together.

5 Objectives for our citizens



1. Rejoin the EU

Our aim is to rejoin the EU as a full member, re-enter key EU programmes, adopt EU standards and regulations, and join the Customs Union and Single Market to strengthen our ties with Europe.

2. Overcoming global challenges

We will set ambitious climate targets, start a transition towards a circular economy, lead in tech regulation, tax AI profits for social security, and work to ensure energy independence and affordability.

3. Renewed economy

We propose a fairer tax system, incentives for research & development and innovation, digitised tax collection, a flexible and secure labour market model, and support for lifelong learning and apprenticeships to foster economic growth.

4. Rebuild politics and empower citizens

To build a genuine, citizen-led, political system we will implement proportional representation, secure e-voting, enhance government digital platforms, and support citizen assemblies and regional governments.

5. Inclusive and Fair society

We advocate for affordable housing, protecting access to abortion and LGBTQIA+ rights, banning conversion therapy, ensuring timely mental health support, and promoting a compassionate and inclusive society.

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Rejoin the EU

The European Union represents a unique political and economic partnership that has delivered peace, stability, and prosperity for its member states.

By rejoining the EU, the UK can regain access to the world's largest single market, foster stronger ties with its neighbours, and benefit from collaborative programmes that enhance education, security, and scientific research. By contrast, Brexit has been damaging economically and socially. It has brought no tangible benefits, and it has paved the way for a dangerous wave of populism. Volt unequivocally stands for full membership in the European Union.

- In the interim, we aim to align the UK as closely as possible with the EU's regulatory framework and enhance our cooperation.
- We will take a gradual approach and seek to join the Customs Union and Single Market before the UK is ready to rejoin as a full member.
- Moreover, we will seek to rejoin vital EU initiatives such as Europol, Euratom, and Erasmus+.
- There will be a focus on sharing data and collaborating with European countries.
- We pledge to reform the EU to bring it closer to citizens, and make it more transparent and representative.

Overcoming Global Challenges

The modern world is faced with challenges that require citizen involvement, global cooperation, and forward-thinking solutions.

Volt UK is committed to addressing these issues head-on, ensuring that the UK plays a leading role on the global stage. Our focus spans from regulating emerging technologies to achieving energy independence and safeguarding the environment, all while fostering human rights and inclusivity.

The UK on the global stage

- Maintain and strengthen the UK's role as a bulwark of freedom and democracy, in close cooperation with European and global allies.
- Unconditionally commit to the Trident nuclear deterrent and long-term integration towards a single, shared, nuclear umbrella for Europe.
- Reaffirm the UK's unwavering commitment to NATO, ensuring that our defence spending continues to meet or exceed the 2% of GDP benchmark, thereby strengthening our collective security and operational readiness.
- Strengthen the capabilities of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre and National Cyber Force to protect national infrastructure, counter cyber threats, and enhance cooperation with international partners to address current global cybersecurity challenges.
- Long term integration of the armed forces with other NATO/EU allies to better protect Britain and share procurement costs.
- Ensure comprehensive support for service members and veterans, including mental health services, housing, career transition programmes, healthcare, education, and employment assistance.
- Unconditional support for Ukraine until it regains full control over its internationally recognised 1991 borders, including Donbass and Crimea, in accordance with the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. Additionally, we pledge to support Ukraine as a long-term ally in peacetime.
- Side with all civilians in Israel and Palestine, supporting an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and a lasting resolution to the conflict where there is no space for any war crimes committed by either side. Advocate for accountability through the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice to ensure justice and uphold international law.

Energy Independence and Affordability

- Fund and support solar and wind energy projects across the UK.
- Develop initiatives to support renewable local energy production and reduce dependency on imports.
- Invest in research and development for renewable energy technologies and efficiency improvements.
- Support projects for building new nuclear reactors that are subject to stringent conditions on safety, waste, and financial transparency.
- Upgrade the national grid to better handle renewable energy input and improve efficiency.
- Provide subsidies for businesses and households to adopt renewable energy solutions.
- Establish a long-term energy strategy that includes strategic reserves and innovative storage solutions.
- Encourage responsible energy consumption through digital education and incentives.

Immigration and Asylum

- Keep the UK within the European Court of Human Rights.
- Carry out deportations humanely, focusing on safety rather than political posturing.
- Promote human rights and solidarity, keeping Britain open and connected to the world.
- Seek an arrangement with the EU as close as possible to free movement on the path to rejoining the EU.
- Reform the immigration system to attract the workforce that Britain needs.
- Allow refugees and asylum seekers to work and integrate as soon as their application is accepted, to avoid pushing them into illegal activities.
- Rejoin the Dublin Regulation for better coordination with European countries, reforming it to include an effective burden-sharing settlement system.

Protecting the Environment

- Abide by the principle that economic growth should not take precedence over the environment and wellbeing.
- Reinstate EU environmental standards that have been repealed after leaving the EU.

- Europe-wide, aim to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% by 2030, achieve climate-neutral energy production by 2035, and net climate neutrality by 2040.
- Implement a Carbon Tax in cooperation with the EU to fund environmental protection and climate adaptation.
- Promote a circular economy by mandating the production of durable goods that are easy to repair.
- Assist businesses in transitioning to a circular economy with tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and digital training and assistance.
- Phase out single-use plastics progressively and consider taxing plastic packaging.
- Offer incentives for take-back schemes.
- Invest in environmental research and technologies and ensure proper funding for monitoring air, water, and land quality.
- Repeal legislation permitting water companies to discharge raw sewage into rivers, and accelerate efforts to clean and restore our rivers and lakes.

Governing technology

- Regulate technology advancement to make it serve progress and wellbeing.
- Invest in local development by enhancing AI education and training programmes to equip people in the UK with the skills needed to innovate and lead in the AI sector.
- Build on the UK's established position, and tie closer relations with the EU, to place the UK at the forefront of AI regulation and implementation.
- Support AI profit taxation in both national and European parliaments, using the revenue to fund social security.


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Renewed Economy

Volt UK envisions an economic revival that balances the free market's dynamism with necessary state interventions.

Our goal is to create a fair and thriving economy where innovation flourishes, businesses grow, and every citizen has the opportunity to prosper.

- ❑ Implement a fairer tax system that reduces the burden on lower and middle-income earners while ensuring corporations and high-income individuals contribute their fair share.
- ❑ Address risk of capital flight with targeted measures in cooperation with our European partners in national and European parliaments.
- ❑ Introduce tax incentives for businesses investing in scientific research and strategic sectors.
- ❑ Foster a supportive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship through startup incentives, access to funding, and an updated intellectual property regime.
- ❑ Strengthen anti-tax avoidance measures in line with EU directives and increase international cooperation.
- ❑ Combine flexible labour markets with a strong welfare system. This approach promotes job security, economic dynamism, and adaptability for both employers and employees.
- ❑ Increase funding for childcare and develop flexible options to support working parents and enhance workforce participation.
- ❑ Incentivise businesses to support lifelong learning and continuous professional development, ensuring a competitive and adaptable workforce.
- ❑ Expand apprenticeship programmes to provide hands-on training and career development opportunities for young people.
- ❑ Integrate the UK more closely with European research initiatives to foster collaboration and access to cutting-edge developments.
- ❑ Offer tax breaks to companies investing in R&D to encourage innovation and technological advancement.

-  Foster partnerships that combine the UK's leadership in the law and regulation fields with the EU's economic and geopolitical weight to ensure effective enforcement of patent law worldwide.
-  Create special research and testing innovation zones with light regulation to spur technological advancement and economic growth.
-  Invest in smart grid technology to improve energy efficiency and reliability, drawing lessons from countries like Germany.
-  Encourage investments in renewable energy sources to ensure long-term energy security and sustainability.

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Rebuild Politics and Empower Citizens

Volt UK is dedicated to revitalising democracy and empowering citizens through comprehensive reforms.

By enhancing democratic participation and supporting local communities, we aim to create a more inclusive, transparent, and responsive governance system.

Democratic Reform and Participation

- Replace the First-Past-The-Post system with Single Transferable Vote. This proportional representation voting system will allow voters to choose their preferences and ensure fairer representation in Parliament.
- Support the formation of citizens' assemblies and devolved regional governments to ensure that local voices are heard and citizens have a say in policy-making.
- Consider the implementation of an electronic voting system to enable UK citizens to vote online on a broader range of issues, increasing accessibility and participation.
- Expand the government's digital platforms to make them more user-friendly, providing easier access to parliamentary proceedings, documents, and other resources.
- Start an open national debate on the reform and modernisation of the Houses of Parliament: review the nature of the second chamber, update the rules by which the House of Commons works to allow and encourage our representatives to be effective legislators and to improve the separation of powers between the legislature and the administration.
- Introduce national holidays on election days to encourage voter participation and ensure everyone has the opportunity to vote.

Rebuild Local, Regional, and National Communities

- Ensure councils are financially supported and equipped to provide essential services, tying the funding to scrutiny by citizens through local assemblies, transparency rules, and electronic voting and participation.
- Empower Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland with more autonomy to address local needs and priorities.
- Explore the case for nationalising transport companies, with mechanisms to make them accountable by setting clear rules for transparency and involving citizens and public administration in scrutinising processes.

Empowering through education

- Build a free-at-point-of-use digital platform, open to all citizens and residents, to provide lifelong education on subjects including citizenship education, life competences and responsibility, tolerance, mental health, and media literacy.
- Promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects to maintain Britain's leadership in all fields, including culture.
- Offer better compensation and training for teachers to address shortages and workloads.
- Rejoin the Erasmus+ scheme to foster European integration in the long term.

Healthcare

- Ensure the NHS does not face increasing privatisation; rebuild NHS capabilities so that subcontracting need only be done as a temporary stop gap.
- Create new scrutinising bodies that will include citizens, doctors and nurses in the boards, and which will hold meaningful powers in the way the NHS is run - for instance, they could veto decisions or force reviews. The scrutinising bodies will be set up both locally and nationally to help prevent the mismanagement of resources.
- Replicate good practice schemes that have been proven to be effective elsewhere, and promote healthy lifestyles through lifelong education to prevent diseases.
- Re-enable freedom of movement with the EU to ease some of the staff shortages in the healthcare sectors in the short term. In the long term, train the workforce locally and retain them through adequate pay and fair working conditions.
- Advocate a joint procurement scheme with other European countries to bargain for better prices for medical supplies.

Volt UK is committed to building an inclusive and fair society that respects and protects the rights of all its citizens.

Our social reforms focus on ensuring equality, justice, and dignity for everyone, while our housing and law enforcement policies aim to create safe and supportive communities.

Social Reforms

- Respect the principle that humans are the only owners of their bodies, and base decisions on scientific evidence and compassion.
- Ensure abortion is a healthcare, not criminal, matter by enshrining a right to abortion within current limits, withdrawing punitive measures from existing legislation.
- Ban conversion therapy outright.
- Guarantee timely access to mental health support and gender-affirmative care.
- Prohibit all medically unnecessary “sex-normalising” surgeries and sterilisation on intersex babies, deferring treatment until they can participate in the decision.
- Allow administrative recognition of protected characteristics according to the Equality Act 2010 in official documents and forms for intersex and non-binary individuals.

Law Enforcement

- Negotiate closer bilateral agreements with European countries to align standards, improve extradition and judicial cooperation, and facilitate real-time data access.
- Increase liaison officer numbers and enhance operational and strategic collaboration, particularly on cybersecurity and terrorism.
- Rejoin Europol, ensuring a better understanding of organised crime and terrorism threats.
- Provide police forces with adequate funding and powers.

Housing

- Enable councils to build or purchase large amounts of new homes that will be rented below current market prices. The initial cost will be recouped through rent revenue over the years. This will end the de-facto monopoly of private landlords on the housing rental market, contributing to lowering overall housing prices.
- Suspend the Right to Buy scheme to encourage council housing development and maintain social housing stock, helping to keep the private sector in check.
- Set ambitious targets for house-building to match demand.
- Promote the construction of new homes by reforming urban planning to balance local input with the need to address housing shortages, and actively involve the local community in decision-making.
- Promote high-density urban planning that integrates green spaces, ensuring sustainable and liveable urban environments.
- Implement a progressive Vacancy Tax and regulate short-term rental platforms, freeing up more housing for long term rentals, and increasing supply.

Read our European policies in full at volteuropa.org/policies

Vote Volt on 4th July for a united, empowered and future-ready Britain!



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