

Attīstībai / “Par!” [Development / Pro] Party platform

The goal of our party coalition is to create a modern and just Latvia within a unified Europe: a country that does not belong to a select few but includes and offers opportunities for all.

A Just Latvia

A just Latvia offers accessible and timely health care for all. Health care is provided by the state. Patient co-payments will be cut by half¹, and health care worker wages will be doubled to discourage emigration.

All children will have access to quality education in a unified system that includes children of all abilities and ethnicities. Children will be taught skills needed for the future, including skills in three languages. The best candidates, experts in their fields, will be encouraged to become teachers who are respected and admired.

All families are valued equally. The state must also support single-parent families, protect against domestic abuse, and adopt a cohabitation law. Pensions increases will be tied to cost of living increases, and a guaranteed basic pension will be introduced.

Judicial processes will be timely, and no one will be above the law in a strong and independent judicial system that fights corruption. Competition will be fair – without fraudulent bankruptcy proceedings and without the mandatory Procurement Component System and other “political business” schemes.

Wages will increase, but taxes will decrease. Tax payment procedures will be simplified and easily completed by all; lower wages and smaller properties will be taxed at a lower rate.

People remain in and return to a just Latvia, because here they are respected and welcome. Latvians abroad are a part of Latvia through culture, language, and business ties.

A Modern Latvia

Manufacturing will be encouraged in the regions, and export services will be developed in Riga. State and European Union funds will be used to build infrastructure, encourage

¹ From the current 40% to 20% of total costs incurred by individuals for health care

innovation, and foster digitization. Development will be focused in 30 centres. The state will have a pro-active strategy to support our “national champions”.

In modern Latvia, people will be able to conduct business and vote electronically; people will car pool to work in newly developed businesses; and continue to acquire new technologies. The state will support continuing education throughout one’s lifetime.

Modern Latvia’s economy is green and digital. Higher education encourages a global perspective. Latvia will export advanced technology, education, and health services, but import new talent. The civil service will be friendly, forthcoming, and “slim”.

Robots and artificial intelligence will replace routine jobs and increase productivity. Education will develop creativity, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem solving skills.

Modern rural Latvia will flourish and persist, free of pesticides and herbicides. All school meals will be prepared with organically grown food; field and forest biodiversity will increase; waste will be sorted and recycled; and excessive polluters will be fined.

Song festivals, modern culture, independent media, and strong civic and democratic participation will develop modern Latvia’s spirit.

Unified Europe

Latvia is an integral part of Europe and will tie itself more closely to the Eurozone and European common market, European defense and security, and internal cooperation. A unified Europe guarantees Latvia’s safety: it is a shield against mass immigration, terrorism, and authoritarianism by guaranteeing rule of law and liberal democracy.

Latvia fulfills its budgetary commitment to NATO and supports the presence of defensive forces against various types of threats to Latvia.

A unified Europe ensures fair competition in manufacturing and farming in the various countries, fair regional support, a truly unified market and budget, and genuine solidarity in times of need.

Our plan:

- Significantly decrease patient co-payments and annul the projected and regressive health care law²

² Health care law that proposes restrictions on availability of health care to hundreds of thousands of Latvia’s inhabitants

- Raise the minimum monthly wage and non taxable minimum to 500 euros³
- Double nurses' salaries⁴
- Double the average pension over the next 10 years⁵
- Create a non taxable minimum property tax based on property value⁶
- Eradicate orphanages and ensure each child the opportunity to live in a family
- Supplement the existing school network and raise teacher competence levels and salaries⁷
- Hire lecturers from abroad in higher education institutions
- Reform research policies and foci, triple funding for research⁸
- Double funding for the State Culture Capital Foundation⁹
- Reduce number of municipalities by two-thirds¹⁰
- Review all proposed policies to determine effects on society and reject those that may increase levels of social injustice
- Grant Latvian citizenship to all minor children of non-citizens¹¹
- Raise total tax revenue as part of GDP to 35%¹², significantly decrease the informal economy¹³, increase the tax base, close tax loopholes, introduce progressive taxation, and make the entire system transparent¹⁴

We are a new beginning for Latvia. Support Attīstībai / "Par!"

³ The 2018 minimum monthly salary is 430 EUR, non taxable minimum income is 200 EUR, non taxable minimum monthly pension – 250 EUR

⁴ In 2018, nurses' monthly wages varied between 675 and 929 EUR

⁵ I.e., from 320 EUR in 2017 to 640 EUR over the next 10 years with an annual 8% increase (in 2017, pensions increased by 7%, compared to 2016)

⁶ 40 000 EUR non taxable minimum for property taxes for each individual

⁷ Raise the minimum salary for teachers from the current 680 EUR to at least 1000 EUR

⁸ From 25 million in 2018 to 75 million by 2023

⁹ From 10 million in 2018 to 20 million by 2023

¹⁰ Consolidate the current 119 municipalities into no more than 40 more effective municipalities

¹¹ Automatic Latvian citizenship granted to children (up to the age of 15) born in Latvia to non-citizens (if parents do not object)

¹² From the current 32% GDP

¹³ From the current 22% to 15% of GDP

¹⁴ Mandate obligatory annual tax declarations; publication of company tax and wage payments, and use of internet tools to monitor budget expenses