

# Out of the crisis in solidarity. Together. With us.

**DIE LINKE.**

DEAR VOTERS,

On 14 March 2021, the people of Baden-Württemberg will elect a new state parliament. DIE LINKE is standing for election as a force for socio-environmental change. A force like this is urgently needed: we only have a few years left to avert climate change. On top of that, we see that the pandemic has exacerbated social injustice. More and more people on reduced hours (Kurzgeld) income are struggling to keep afloat from one month to the next, while the richest have used the last months to significantly grow their wealth.

The risk of poverty in Baden-Württemberg is on the rise. Almost half of all single parents are affected. Instead of good jobs, free day-care centres, (Kitas) affordable housing and excellent health care, Kretschmann, Strobl & Co. have gone ahead with selling-off the state – at the expense of the majority of people living in Baden-Württemberg and their quality of life.

There is enough money, it is just unequally distributed. It is high time for a special tax on the super-rich to cushion the current crisis. Baden-Württemberg must become more environmentally-friendly and more socially just. People before profits. This is possible – with us!

## STATE GOVERNMENT FAILURES:

Fair minimum wage in the rich state? Baden-Württemberg is sticking to the national minimum wage of just 9.35€, while the Berlin state government, which DIE LINKE is part of, has raised the state-specific minimum wage to 12.50€. Social and environmental criteria play a secondary role in who wins contracts in BW, and that's why the state predominantly hires temporary workers.

Rents are rising rapidly: the state government is failing to provide affordable housing. Instead of introducing a law that puts on a brake on outlandish rents, tens of thousands of state-owned apartments have been privatised, there has been too little investment in the construction of social housing, and there has been a dearth of direct subsidies to municipalities and public welfare organisations for the construction of affordable housing in recent years.

Climate change and the transport transformation have been dismissed: the state government has ignored the need for restructuring the car and supplier industry and is staying loyal to the combustion engine – with fatal consequences for the employees, who are threatened with site closures and job losses. Instead of initiating a transport revolution and shifting the focus to buses and trains, the state government has allowed itself to become the chief lobbyist of the dominant car companies.

The healthcare system is unwell: Despite COVID-19, the Green Minister of Social Affairs, Lucha, is sticking to his planned clinic closures. Many small clinics have already been shut, for example the hospitals of Sankt Georgen and Furtwangen in Südbaden or Künzelsau in the Hohenlohe district. Instead of providing care close to home, the state government is moving towards centralisation and privatisation.

Poor education: there is a shortage of day-care places in Baden-Württemberg. Worryingly many school classes are being cancelled. In no other federal state are there as many teachers hired on a temporary basis and sent to the job centre during the summer holidays. Digitalisation is behind the times. Instead, the state is making deals with internet giants like Microsoft and is opening school gates for their commercial interests.

Bringing up the rear in gender justice: state politics has not been recognising the reality of women's lives. The proportion of women in the state parliament is just 26.6%. Violence against women\* has been on the rise throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but no serious measures have been taken to combat it. Women's shelters in Baden-Württemberg are short 2,000 spaces. Women\* are at a particularly high risk of poverty: they earn on average 25% less than men in Baden-Württemberg. This is the highest gender pay gap in Germany.

The dismantling of civil liberties and direct democracy: the police laws passed under the Green-Black coalition and the resulting gradual militarisation of the police are endangering our civil liberties. After two amendments to the law made since 2015, Baden-Württemberg now has one of the toughest police laws in Germany. While pursuing this policy, the Green-Black coalition simultaneously rejected a direct democracy initiative by denying last year's petition for free day-care centres.

The people of Baden-Württemberg deserve more. The state needs a breath of fresh air, new ideas and more heart and soul for a life that is socially just, environmentally-friendly and peaceful. DIE LINKE is standing in the 2021 state elections to campaign for a better politics.

## THESE ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS:

Enable good work: We want to make Baden-Württemberg a model state for good work. We want to put a stop to low wages, fixed-term contracts, temporary work and service contracts. We want to improve the collective bargaining agreements of companies, because in addition to social and environmental criteria, CBAs must become a decisive factor in the awarding of public contracts. For contracts

awarded by the state, a minimum wage of 13€ will be required. Social professions must be upgraded, because there is no other federal state where women are paid this much less than men. We want equal incomes for work of equal value.

Create affordable housing: housing is a human right. In order to give tenants a breather from outlandish rents, DIE LINKE will introduce a six-year rent freeze and roll-out a massive social housing project. Housing is too important to be left to the market and competition – therefore real estate companies like Vonovia & Co. should be expropriated and speculation should be regulated by law.

Stop climate change: the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. As a key location for the car industry, the state must be a pioneer in the social and environmental restructuring of the economy. DIE LINKE is committed to making the state climate neutral by 2035. In order to achieve this, we want to commit all state and municipal laws and measures to consistent climate protection policies and initiate a real transport revolution. We want to expand bus and rail services – and to make them both ticket-free and, of course, barrier-free.

Expand health care – also in rural areas: DIE LINKE is committed to good healthcare for everyone. To achieve this, we want to introduce a minimum statutory staffing level and more pay for nursing staff. The financing of the health system must be turned upside down: it is not about raking in the largest possible profit, but about providing the best possible care. Municipal hospitals must be saved and privatised hospitals must be renationalised.

Good education for all: DIE LINKE wants to advance the development of comprehensive schools and all-day childcare. We believe in keeping school groups together (Gemeinschaftsschulen) so that no child is left behind. In order to achieve this, we want to revitalise inclusive comprehensive schools. We want to increase the basic funding of universities. Education must be free of charge – from kindergarten until university!

Action plan against child poverty: in Baden-Württemberg, every fifth child is poor or at risk of poverty. In families with a migration background, this is the case for every third child. We want free day-care centres, free school lunches and a digital tablet for every pupil. Municipalities should also take on the full costs of housing, including electricity and internet bills. With us, there will be no forced relocation or electricity and gas cuts.

Equal rights – women to the fore! We demand women's representation in the Landtag to be at 50%. Baden-Württemberg needs a parity law. The realities of women's lives must be reflected in all political decisions. Women do more unpaid care and education work. This must not be to their disadvantage. We, therefore, want to increase the numbers of available spots in day-care centres and to increase the number of care facilities, as well as demanding higher wages in the majority-women professions such as care work, day-care, or retail. Baden-Württemberg must fully implement the Istanbul Convention to Combat Violence against Women. Assistance and counselling services for women must become a standard offer, and must be secured with state funding.

Strengthen civil liberties and democracy: the police laws passed under Green-Black coalition must be revoked. Racism in the police must be fought decisively. We want to set up independent complaint and investigation offices against police misconduct. We want to expand the role of direct democracy.

Open Baden-Württemberg to the world: Baden-Württemberg should become a safe haven. We demand a state reception programme for refugees from EU hotspots. We resolutely oppose all forms of racism and exclusion. Together we stand for a Baden-Württemberg that offers equal opportunities to all people – regardless of gender, income, sexual orientation, migration history or disability.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CANDIDATES WITH YOUR VOTE!**

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