



## **Election 2022 Jersey Evangelical Alliance Questionnaire**

*(Please respond by 2 June 2022 to [secretaryjea@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryjea@gmail.com) )*

1. Would you be in favour of expanding voting rights to all resident Islanders over the age of 16 and eliminating the two-year residency requirement before a person is allowed to vote in elections?

I support the current arrangements for voting rights, which also allow anyone who has a total of 5 years residency in the Island to vote if they have been permanently back in Jersey for at least 6 months before an election

2. What are your views about legislation which would regulate speech or the freedom of assembly?

I wouldn't support legislation that prevented the freedom of assembly – this is a fundamental democratic right. I see no need for any additional regulation to our existing right of assembly.

We must also be very careful before regulating free speech. Freedom of speech is a fundamental freedom.

3. Would you describe yourself as a free speech absolutist or should there be certain limits on free speech?

There need to be certain limits. Free speech shouldn't include the right to encourage violence or harm to be caused against another person or group of people.

Free speech does involve having to listen to views which we might not personally agree with, and to possibly take offence at those views. We need to be tolerant and accepting of those who we disagree with. We should protect the right to a minority view (within the limits I have set out), because we all at some point in our lives will find ourselves holding a minority viewpoint.

4. Currently "religion or belief" is not included in Jersey's equality law as a protected characteristic. Would you be in favour of amending the law to make it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their religion or belief?

Yes.

5. How important is it to you that Jersey maintains the role of the Dean in the States Assembly?

I support the role of the Dean in the States. It is a recognition of our history, traditions and existing constitutional arrangements. The Dean is not elected and therefore has no vote, which is the correct position.

6. Are you in favour of maintaining tax-payer support of parish churches?

So long as the Church of England is the established Church of the Island, I support the current position. Even for those who hold a different or no faith, the Parish Churches are beautiful, historic buildings which we must and otherwise would still have to maintain. They form a central part of our Parish communities, again in respect of both faith and non-faith activities.

7. Are you aware that current government plans to eliminate marginal tax relief for married people will result in tax burden shifting to poorer Islanders as it lowers taxes for wealthier Islanders? Are you in favour of eliminating marginal tax relief for married people? Would you be in favour of allowing married couples to share their marginal tax relief allowances across a family unit?

I am a strong supporter of the institution of marriage and believe that we should show our support for it through the tax system.

I am an equally strong supporter of the family unit and would be comfortable with any moves to support families by making the tax system more flexible.

8. What improvements do you think need to be made to improve the mental health and well-being of islanders, particularly young people?

Our everyday health services are facing great challenges, with delays and cancellations being made worse by staff shortages. These can be addressed through providing better facilities and accommodation and ensuring we are paying our staff competitively. Greater investment is needed in our adult and children mental health services to improve outcomes. Providing proper mental health support is crucial to the overall well-being of our community.

9. What would you propose to improve transport links within and to the Island?

Despite the collapse of Flybe, the Covid lockdowns and rising fuel costs, Jersey still has excellent air and sea transport links (in both passenger and freight services) for a small Island.

I fully support the work of Government and the Ports of Jersey to provide new routes across the UK and I welcome the new Blue Island service to Rennes which will commence this summer.

I would welcome more direct flights from Jersey to European destinations, and greater links between the Channel Islands. There is precedent for Government to support such initiatives where they benefit Islanders.

There is also greater potential for the Channel Islands to be marketed as a single holiday destination if we can make it easier to travel between each Island. We can see Sark very clearly from St Ouen and St Mary – it has to be easier to get there from Jersey than it is at present.

10. Are you in favour of a raise to the minimum wage or to institute a living wage in Jersey?

I support the introduction of the living wage across Jersey, supporting specific businesses and sectors where necessary to achieve this objective.

11. What are your views about how to make housing more affordable in Jersey?

A top priority of the next Government must be dealing with the housing crisis. We are losing too many talented Islanders, including many of our young people, because they cannot afford to live in Jersey.

To increase supply, we must build affordable homes on States owned sites and enable developments on other appropriate sites. I successfully brought an amendment to the Island Plan to allow taller buildings in St Helier where these benefit the public realm. This gives us a greater chance of providing the homes we need, delivering more and better public amenities and protecting our green spaces.

The States should offer assistance through shared equity schemes and support for paying deposits to first time buyers. I have previously overseen successful schemes for both.

I support the introduction of tax incentives to ensure properties are not left empty for prolonged periods and the ban on foreign buy-to-let investments in the residential market. Priority also needs to be given within the Island to those purchasing their first home.

If elected, I would seek to use existing States investment funds to help pay for new housing developments and support affordable purchases.

12. Would you be in favour of creating a special category of licensed employee for not-for-profit organisations that would give charities the ability to hire and offer housing to trained charity workers who are not currently resident in Jersey?

I don't think this would necessarily require a special licence condition.

It would require a change in policy to take greater account of the contribution an applicant can make to voluntary, social and charitable work.

I agree that, in the correct circumstances and as part of a balanced population policy, this work should be considered as equal to other sectors and given equivalent consideration to the direct economic contribution that a licenced employee might otherwise make.

13. Are you in favour of allowing allow Ukrainian nationals without family ties to stay in the island? Would you be in favour of Jersey receiving refugees from other areas of the world where there is a clear humanitarian crisis?

In respect of Ukrainian nationals, I believe there would be a case for expanding the existing family scheme into something akin to a "close connections scheme". This would allow Islanders with close ties to people living in Ukraine (but perhaps not a direct relation) to allow them to come to Jersey and live within an existing household. This would also ensure that there is no expanded housing demand.

14. Do you support maintaining a minimum overseas aid budget of .7% of GDP?

Jersey is currently some way short of achieving an Overseas Aid budget at 0.7% of GDP and, for that reason, I do not think it is realistically achievable during the next States Assembly.

That said, the current Government has begun to increase our Overseas Aid spending.

As a compassionate community which has always generously supported those in the world who are less fortunate than us, I believe we should be aiming to reach 0.7% in a managed way over the medium-term.

15. In view of the UK's proposed conversion therapy ban would you be in favour of a similar ban in Jersey? If so, what are the specific practices which would be made illegal?

I am not familiar with the various practices that are available, but I take the principle that as a community we must accept people for who they are. Where individuals are making significant life choices or changes, we must be compassionate, and offer them support, advice and guidance, so long as that is undertaken with the individual's consent.

16. Would you be in favour of expanding abortion provision in Jersey or making abortion more accessible in Jersey?

This is a matter of personal conscience. I do not support any change from the existing position.

17. Are you in favour of legalising Assisted Suicide in principle in Jersey? If so, what safeguards would you propose creating as a part of any draft legislation put forward in the States assembly?

Again, this is a matter of personal conscience. I did not support the proposal to introduce legislation in Jersey. I appreciate that many Islanders will not agree, and I respect their view.

As the decision has now been taken to introduce legislation, I will work for stringent safeguards to ensure, as far as is possible, that it cannot be abused or used to pressurise vulnerable members of our community.

18. Are you in favour of legalising recreational cannabis use?

No. I am comfortable with the prescription of medicinal cannabis by a doctor to help with the treatment of certain conditions, but I don't support a general legalisation.

19. What is your general view of religion, churches and other faith groups in Jersey? What is your experience with these groups?

I am a Christian, and have a very positive view of religion, churches and all faith groups in Jersey. They all do so much good community work, usually quietly and behind the scenes, to support people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our faith groups work co-operatively together, and do excellent work to promote understanding, acceptance and tolerance between communities.