

Election 2022 Jersey Evangelical Alliance Questionnaire

(Please respond by 2 June 2022 to 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?

Absolutely, the decisions made by the States Assembly will directly affect them and as such I believe they should have a say in who is elected to represent them.

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

I am an advocate for free speech and am opposed to any legislation that regulates speech or freedom of assembly. There have been numerous examples in history where peaceful protests have been required and made a positive difference. In my eyes, taking away someone's freedom to do this is a step away from democracy and closer to that of dictatorship.

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

I would describe myself as someone who values free speech but one who also values the responsibility that goes with it. Free speech should never be threatening to an individual or group and should not be used a tool for persecution.

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?

I would be very much in favour of this and am a firm believer that a person should not be discriminated against because of their religion or beliefs.

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

I do not believe that the States would operate differently if the role of Dean was not maintained, but I personally think it is a positive action to have the Dean in the States Assembly to represent the role that faith has in our Island.

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

Yes I am in favour, the parish churches play an important part in the community of many Islanders and to many are a valued part of the infrastructure.

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 aware of this and at this time of a cost of living crisis, I believe these plans should be postponed and re-evaluated. I would be in favour of seeing how a marginal tax relief allowance would work across a family unit as variables will need to be considered.

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

After a difficult couple of years, I think most people would agree that their mental health has been negatively impacted in some way. Especially young people who are already growing up in a world of insecurity where every little thing seems to be made into a controversy. From gender to climate, social media to education, I think it would be safe to say that our youngsters are growing up in the worst time thinkable in decades. Where Government and Media has cast a cloud of uncertainty over everything they do and dream of in the name of keeping us safe from Covid.

As a society, we need to rebuild their security and faith in the world around them, stop confusing them with labels and stop concerning them with the latest new cause. We should let our children be children for as long as we can, encourage them to take up sport and active pursuits, show them how to find balance and mental well-being, encourage them to find their own path and discover who they are naturally without this seemingly never ending push to label them. We need to provide them with facilities and a society where they are listened to. From martial arts to performing arts, our young people should have access to activities no matter what their household income is. This should be actioned by the next Government. Prevention is better than cure and I think the battle for improving young people's mental health lies here.

Jersey Sport have great proposals and initiatives to make a positive impact here.

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

Smaller electric shuttle buses to connect parts of the island to the main bus routes.

A trial of electric scooters and a trial of an Uber style/Jersey lifts app system for car sharing to see if these can be taken forward. Competition for Condor Ferries would be beneficial to travel on and off island. Further development of our tourism industry to encourage more flight routes.

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

Any raise in the minimum wage will have a knock on effect to business which in turn will make some goods and services on island more expensive. We need to find a solution to this and maybe one thing to look at it is by producing a living wage amount and reducing tax for those stuck between that and the minimum wage.

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

We must look at new ways to enable islanders to access a family home for life and increase levels of affordable & social housing. At the same time we need to protect the wealth of those who invested heavily in their own home.

I think one way we could do this is to allow Islanders on a certain income to buy social housing to enable a family home for themselves and future generations. However to ensure that home stays on the social housing market it could only be sold on at an index rate linked to inflation and to Islanders on a social housing register. The Government could retain a 0.05% ownership in the property to ensure this happens. Therefore the social housing would be delivering homes for families that need them and not become investments. This should have a minimal/zero effect on the private housing market but one potential way of making Jersey affordable for families to build a life here.

A quick win would be to show flexibility when it comes to residential listed buildings & repurposing while looking at ways to ensure the many empty buildings are used to assist in tackling the homes shortage.

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?

Yes

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?

This is a case of head and heart, the heart says that this is the most compassionate thing to do but the head calls for realism. We are a small Island and can only cope with a limited population. I think we should continue to do all we can but our immigration must be managed very carefully and that unfortunately means restriction.

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

Yes this is a compassionate thing to do but we must also ensure those living in poverty on-island are looked after.

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 do not know enough about this subject to make a knowledgeable decision. It would need further investigation before I could make an informed answer.

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

No I would not.

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?

Yes I am in favour of this as I feel it is the humane thing to do. Safeguards must of course be put in place as this decision must be made by someone of sound mind and judgement. It should also be backed by next of kin and after consultation with medical professionals and a confirmation that there is no chance of recovery with quality of life.

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

I am in favour of controlled medical use and making the provision of this easier for Islanders who would benefit from cannabis use. I also believe we should end cannabis prohibition here in Jersey. As with many other parts of the world I think recreational cannabis use will happen in the future but it will require debate and a road map for how this will be actioned.



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

I was christened at a young age and throughout my life have followed traditional Christian faith values. My life experiences have tested my faith at times and as I have been introduced to other religious and faith groups, my desire to believe in a higher power has increased however my commitment to religion has not. I am not a devout church goer or faith follower but I see the power of good in what a church community or religious group can accomplish and the positive impact they can have on our Island.