



## **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 believe the age of voting should be reviewed in light of changes to the age a person can marry and the age a person can drive. I do not believe someone who has only been resident in the Island for a day or a week should be allowed to vote.**

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

**It is important to speak out at times and to have freedom to do so.**

**Regulation of speech is permissible under Article 10 of the Human Rights Law notwithstanding the right to freedom of expression if it is in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.**

**Legislation against hate speech and defamation is acceptable: "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech."**

**I believe the definition of honesty in the States Members' Code of Conduct should be amended to refer to knowingly or recklessly not telling the truth. Parliamentary privilege should not be abused.**

**Freedom of assembly and association also is a human right with similar caveats. Like all freedoms it must be balanced against community interests like public safety. It is important exemptions like these are not abused by government.**

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

**See above**

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 support the draft Crime (Prejudice and Public Disorder) Law including hostility towards a person based on religion in its definition of prejudice. We must all remember the parable of the Good Samaritan.**

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

**It is important that everyone has a voice in the States Assembly or can be represented in some way. I think it is good for States Members to have spiritual guidance.**

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

**Yes**

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?

**Income tax thresholds can and should be raised to compensate... we need to see where we are in ten years time in terms of elimination for married people. I'm very much hoping, if elected, that I may be able to help improve the economy and public finances through the propositions listed on how.je, which also advocates a fundamental tax review.**

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

**It is good to see a mental health strategy and proposal for PSHE focussed education has been formulated by government. A concern is government does not have a good track record in conducting meaningful gap and needs analysis or in delivery. The Proposition List on how.je proposes the formulation of strategic and delivery panels with independent expert resourcing to achieve this. Resourcing again is an issue which I would like to help resolve by targeted action in government management, economic management and taxation**

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

**Increased use of supervised school buses, more working from home and support of the transport review**

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

**Yes, as set out in my manifesto**

- **Require living wage to be paid by all business establishments other than:**
  - **Farming establishments supporting food security strategy providing adequate accommodation to employees plus minimum wage**
  - **Visitor economy establishments providing adequate accommodation to employees plus minimum wage**
  - **Charitable establishments, farming and visitor economy establishments paying minimum wage or more to those receiving States or public sector pension or in full time [grant funded] education.**

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

**Increased housing supply (supported by measures set out below) and improved economy with better immigration management and better paid jobs (more on this in my manifesto on votemoz.je)**

- **Provide more independence to Andium by reconstituting as a housing trust and manager of partially owned government housing**
- **Treasury to adjust terms of loan provision to Andium so that margin over interest can be reinvested in social housing and to investigate use of States/public sector pension funds to invest in local social housing**
- **Dissolve States of Jersey Development Company to enable development of suitable land by Andium for public housing at no additional cost to Andium**
- **Amend competition law to allow collaboration between Andium and housing trusts to produce plan for additional social housing (retaining provisions that target prejudicial cartel arrangements)**

- Designated conservation areas in St Helier to be coupled with selective property delisting plans in St Helier to help preserve character areas while enabling new social housing development.
- Establish independent strategic delivery panel for improved public transport provision (which could help support removal of requirement for new housing in St Helier to include parking provision)
- Affordable housing sites to be compulsorily purchased by government before on-selling with agreed pricing/development concept plan. To include pod housing for those just leaving home. Affordable gateway to be less restrictive.
- Improved supply chain should reduce construction costs (see EDD reform)
- Improved public property management and improved economic planning should release more sites for housing
- Implement tax disincentive (administered through Parishes) on second homes/abandoned accommodation if not rented out with allowances for reasonable renovation breaks or absence for health reasons
- Reduce stamp duty by removal costs for downsizers
- Consider update of Dwelling-Houses (Rent control) (Jersey) Law as follows:
  - Extend to accommodation other than houses
  - Manner of regulating return on capital. E.g., Rent tribunal on application could either:
    - confirm rent is compliant with a formula referencing acquisition and maintenance costs (as can be supported by landlords' records) plus an investment margin to cover RPI (less housing cost element) and provide a return on capital rate bank base rate/agreed investment ; or
    - order reduction/rebate in accordance with the formula,

but this may have the result of reducing rental accommodation supply or triggering sales that lead to rent increase. Increased social housing supply rather than artificial rent control therefore could be the better solution.

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?

**In principle, 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?

**To an extent. Need to balance resources while also recognising the value that immigrants with certain skills can bring. We must also be mindful of continued failings in caring for children in care.**

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

**Yes**

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 about the details of the ban or specific practices in conversion therapy. I believe harmful practices should be discouraged.**

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

**I am not seeking to do this. My focus is on the failings in care for children in care.**

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?

**I believe sensitivity and awareness was shown by the Panel in balancing the desire not to have the terminally ill suffer with their safeguarding. As a lawyer I will be interested to see the detail of the proposed draft legislation.**

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

**I am in favour of the Minister for Health and Minister for Home Affairs looking into this matter. The Bible frowns upon drunkenness but does not mention the use of other mind-altering substances – that has been left to obedience of the law or perhaps regarded as a parallel to drunkenness.**

**It is important to find the best way of avoiding addiction and abuse and my main concern is not enough education about mind management takes place in schools. With enough of this education, there would be no need for people to resort to mind-altering substances like alcohol or cannabis. We should aim to be**



**as resilient as Paul in Corinthians 6.12 'Everything is permissible to me but I will not be mastered by anything.'**

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

**Faith is important. I have had good experiences.**

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