

Summary election program Student & Stad 2022

Culture

Nightlife

We want to preserve the unique character of Groningen's nightlife and make it even more diverse. However, the vibrant nightlife must not come at the expense of safety. We want everyone to be able to go out in the city safely. Student & Stad wants to increase the space available for pubs, clubs, and events, and to realize a Night City House as a "safe haven" during nightlife and a place to get drugs tested during the day. In addition, we want to provide training for bar staff, so that unsafe situations can be recognized earlier, and we want to create a diverse pub offer.

Events

Groningen is among the top ten best event cities in the Netherlands! Student & Stad wants to maintain this status and stimulates the organization of new events. We want to create more event locations in and around the city to meet the demand. In addition, we want to support the events industry in Groningen and ensure the diversity of events on offer by supporting alternative 'scenes', for example through a co-investment fund.

Club life

The presence of many associations makes the student life in Groningen unique and contributes to the social cohesion and personal development of tens of thousands of students. Unfortunately, many associations struggle with capacity or image problems. Student & Stad therefore wants to help student associations to increase their capacity so that every student who wants to join, can. In addition, we also want to improve the image of the associations by entering into a dialogue between students and Stad and by supporting the social initiatives of student associations.

Art and Culture

Student & Stad envisions Groningen as the cultural center of the Northern Netherlands. We want to invest more in art and culture and advocate a diverse range that appeals to all target groups in the city. A new Oosterpoort must function as the cultural temple of the North. To achieve this, substantial investments will have to be made. We think it is important that the municipality makes an effort to support cultural institutions. In addition, we want there to be more room for art and culture in the streets, which will make the public spaces of the municipality more attractive. Finally, we want to support the cultural initiatives of students (associations).

Living

Student Housing

The core of the student experience is a nice house. The housing shortage is a national problem, but it certainly hits students very hard. In 2020, approximately 1500 student rooms in Groningen were lost as student houses were converted into studios. The student housing that will be built in the future, will be in the form of studios on the outskirts of the city. We want the conversion of student rooms into individual studios to stop and we want to make it possible again to create new student houses by issuing conversion permits. We also want to preserve the student culture, where student houses have the possibility to choose their own roommate.

Protection of tenants

Students who rent in Groningen unfortunately often have to deal with excessive rent, overdue maintenance, fraud with energy labels, and sometimes even intimidation by the landlord. We call for doubling the budget for the landlord inspection, an expansion of the rent team, and we want landlord permits to be revoked more quickly when there is serious abuse. Student & Stad also wants to see an end to the loophole called "short stay," which allows landlords to meet fewer obligations and charge any price they want.

Building for the future

To combat climate change, we must all do our part and the municipality of Groningen will have to build sustainable housing. Student & Stad wants at least 2000 homes with greenery and a GK (common area) on the Zernike Campus. We also want to start developing and building as soon as possible at various locations in and around the city. We facilitate temporary housing, such as houses on the water, and in places where nothing will happen in the near future. We are also sticking to the principle of a shared neighborhood, which means that depending on the composition of the neighborhood we are looking at issuing different permits.

Sustainability

Electricity

The municipality of Groningen has set itself the goal of being CO2 neutral by 2035. Unfortunately, however, this includes 35% purchase of electricity outside the municipality. Student & Stad thinks this percentage is too high and does not want the municipality to be so dependent. We therefore want to reduce it to 20%, by ensuring more generation of solar energy by covering roofs and designating land for solar parks. We also want to place windmills, where we take into account the minimum distance from homes, and we want to talk to companies about what they need in the short term to switch to sustainable energy.

Warm houses

We will achieve complete CO2-neutral heating of buildings by 2040. This means that not only new, but also existing homes must be made more sustainable. We want to achieve this by providing subsidies to homeowners and by carrying out stricter checks on the correct energy labels of homes. New homes must also be built in such a way that they can be heated entirely electrically and we will realise more heat networks in densely populated areas of Groningen.

Biodiversity

In addition to reducing the use of fossil energy, restoring nature is also of great importance to the municipality of Groningen. Student & Stad wants to realize growth in biodiversity and nature in both the rural and urban areas. We want to expand the existing forests and realize opportunities for growth in biodiversity everywhere in the municipality. We want to do this by, among other things, green roofs and green strips on agricultural land. We also see more parks for us in the city, which have cooling and recreation as an added benefit.

Circular Economy

Waste is not worthless. By reusing raw materials we want to work towards a circular economy. We do this by reducing the use of plastic and throwing away less. We want to support student associations in this by sharing success stories and best practices with them. In addition, by collecting bulky waste four times a year free of charge, we want to reduce the amount of waste on the street. We also want to make the process of separating waste more efficient, so that more can be recycled and less waste ends up in nature or is burned.

City Planning

Space to relax

At the moment there are a number of nice places in the city where one can relax in nature. However, Student & Stad thinks that Stadsstrand, Noorderplantsoen and Stadspark are not enough yet. We therefore want to address the role of the Groninger Diepenring (the canals). Instead of parked cars and lots of passing traffic, we would like to see plenty of room for greenery and places to relax near the water. We also want to upgrade Stadspark to make it more attractive to residents. In addition, we want to place drinking water taps and public toilets near recreational areas and at strategic locations in the city center. Finally, we are going to provide a new Stadspark at the Noorderhavens!

Infrastructure

Bicycles

The bicycle is very important in a city like Groningen. We want to create more space for cyclists and discourage the use of cars. However, badly parked bicycles cause nuisance and annoyance, which is why Student & Stad wants two new underground and indoor bicycle parking facilities in the city center. One at Westerhaven and the other next to the Vismarkt. These should be open 24/7. At the request of residents, a car parking spot in the neighborhoods can be converted to a bicycle parking spot. In addition, we want the existing cycle paths to be better maintained and we want smart cycle routes to be promoted, where cyclists have priority as much as possible.

Public Transportation

We want public transport to be the solution when cycling is not an option. However, public transport in Groningen is currently substandard. Student & Stad therefore advocates a tram connection between the city and Zernike. Groningen must also become more accessible from the rest of the country. We want to achieve this by sitting down with the municipality, the NS and the provincial and national authorities with the aim of creating faster train connections between Groningen and Amsterdam, Enschede and Zwolle.

Car

Despite the fact that the car will still be an important means of transport in the future, we believe that the vehicle is currently still too present in the cityscape. We want the inner city to be as car-free as possible. We therefore lower the speed limit in the city and divert traffic via the Ring road. At the same time, the city must remain accessible, which is why we are investing in electric transport, shared transport and the use of P+R sites. To this end we intend to install a sufficient number of charging stations, stimulate the use of shared scooters and invest in large and safe P+R spots.

Health

Sport

Sports are not only incredibly important for physical health, but also for mental health. We want to offer all residents of the municipality the opportunity to exercise and feel fit. Unfortunately, we see too much lack of capacity in sports facilities. We therefore want to invest much more in new indoor sports halls and outdoor fields. We also want to renovate the Karding Sports Center, so that top athletes no longer have to move to locations outside the municipality. Finally, we will provide more outdoor sports parks so that people can keep fit outside of clubs.

Welfare and care

The municipality is responsible for arranging care for its residents. However, in recent years we have seen that the waiting lists for youth care, psychologists and STD tests, for example, are long and increasing. Student & Stad therefore wants to work on reducing waiting times for psychologists and psychiatrists. During the corona crisis it became even clearer how badly they are needed. In addition, we want to make unlimited funds available for decentralized youth care, because we cannot let children down. This also means that we will do everything possible to provide the right care immediately, even if it is expensive. Finally, we want to increase the capacity of the GGD in the field of STD testing.

Economy

Business

Groningen must become the start-up city of the Netherlands. We want to combat the 'brain drain' by offering student-entrepreneurs the opportunity to temporarily rent office space at an extra low cost at Zernike. Student & Stad also wants the municipality to set up an investment fund for start-ups and to reduce the bureaucracy that is currently involved. In addition, we want the municipality to focus on cooperation between start-ups and scale-ups in order to increase the sharing of knowledge.

Digitalization and privacy

We think it is out of date that all communication from the local government is done by letter. We would prefer to see it done digitally as much as possible, provided that privacy is properly guaranteed. We want to offer residents the opportunity to receive information from the municipality only digitally.

Groningen international

Student & Stad wants to continue investing in Groningen's international network in order to further profile it as a green and progressive city. We want to attract international talent and also stimulate collaboration and the exchange of knowledge. For example, we support exchange programs with partner cities to share knowledge between students and starters. We also want to open a municipal counter where residents and businesses can get help in applying for European subsidies, because there indeed are some!

Social & Government

Integration students and Stadjers

Students are a big part of the city. They make it lively and attractive, but we also see that living together with the locals can sometimes cause friction. There is a risk of nuisance and we see this particularly in noise pollution. The loss of social cohesion in the neighborhood is also often a concern of residents. Student & Stad would like to focus more on prevention of this problem, rather than repression. We therefore appoint two neighborhood directors, one Stadger and one student. They will both be the point of contact and will act as mediators in conflicts. In this way we hope to start the conversation and create a sense of responsibility, togetherness and mutual understanding. Finally, we want to expand WIJS; an initiative where students can help residents with, for example, complicated letters or legal procedures.

Informing as a government

The information provided by the municipality to its residents is inadequate. Inhabitants quickly miss important information and sometimes they have hardly any idea of what the municipality is doing. Therefore Student & Stad wants to make more use of the municipality's social media channels. We also want to provide better information to international students and inform new residents about relevant matters concerning their home and surroundings immediately after they move in. To make this as easy as possible, we want to build an app for the municipality of Groningen.

Administrative Culture

Municipal politics often seems far away and it is most of the time unclear what exactly the municipality is responsible for. Student & Stad wants to keep municipal politics accessible and close to the citizens. We also want to create support for decision making by means of consultation evenings and by installing a youth advisory council of residents between 14 and 18 years old, which can give solicited and unsolicited advice to the city council. Finally, we think it is important that small parties in the municipal council receive sufficient support to be able to properly carry out their most important task; that of supervising the municipal executive.

Earthquake damage

Unfortunately, many inhabitants, of both the province and the municipality of Groningen, suffer from earthquake damage. This is a terrible situation where the government is failing. Northern political parties must send a strong signal to the national government that gas should not be extracted again, under no circumstances, and that the damage must be compensated quickly and generously.

Diversity

We as Student & Stad stand for a society where everyone can feel free regardless of gender, orientation or origin. Everyone should be able to feel at home in Groningen. Representation is an important part of society and politics. In addition, we are committed to a diverse nightlife where everyone is treated with equal value. We also stand for intellectual freedom, so that everyone can talk, think and research freely.