

VOTE

Jane Stephens

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- I am an experienced Deputy and politics is my full time occupation.
- Just as our Community worked together to deal with the pandemic, politicians need to work together to better serve the community.
- Politicians must use their votes in a responsible way, researching the evidence and consulting with the community.
- My record shows I do as much as I can, as well as I can, as often as I can.

Dear Voter,

I begin by thanking all of you who have contacted me in recent times and allowed me to work with you on the issues that concern you.

Social policy is my main interest. To anyone who thinks social policy is a 'fluffy' subsidiary to the main business of government I must point out that it requires substantial investment, an extensive evidence base, and consultation with the community to develop effectively.

I know that if healthcare and education, housing, justice and security and services to support those who cannot support themselves are not prioritised then those services will not develop to meet our community's expectations.

Social policy development impacts us all and is a serious undertaking.

So if I am re-elected I want to work to improve living standards, and give everyone the best possible experience of life in Guernsey.

As a member of the Policy and Resources Committee I appreciate the importance of government supporting wealth creation and employment opportunities, and of clear, prudent fiscal planning and sensible investment. This includes investment in infrastructure and to stimulate action the Island needs politicians who will make decisions. I am cautious by nature but recognise that the time is right to invest in what we see, and use and need to maintain.

This investment must bring sustainability and by looking after our Island in environmentally responsible ways we can contribute to the sustainability of other places.

So my wish is to work in government to provide good lives for us all in ways that preserve Guernsey for future generations.

As we move through Recovery in the next four years I want to work with you as my constituent, and I would very much appreciate your vote in this election.

Best wishes
Jane Stephens

Why Have I joined the Guernsey Partnership of Independents when I am an experienced Deputy, and I have never done this before?

I have three reasons.

1. **The Guernsey Partnership of Independents reflects the way I work.**
I work for Guernsey, I prefer working in partnership with others and in this association of like-minded people I am not required to compromise making independent decisions.
2. **In an island wide election there is the practical challenge of contacting every voter and a group approach seems sensible.**
3. **The aims of the Partnership align closely with my views on how to steer Guernsey through Recovery. I would not have joined the Partnership if they did not.**

Our C19 experience has brought us anxiety and separation from loved ones, but also some positives.

When government needed to act, it did so decisively – the future Assembly should learn from that.

When we had to work from home and depend on digital devices, help each other, teach our own children and accept restrictions, the community did so willingly and worked together – the future Assembly should learn from that.

When we realised building up financial reserves in the past was part of the solution to funding the immediate impact of C19, and those funds bought time to plan the next steps, we were pleased we had been prudent in the past - the future Assembly should learn from that.

The last months have shown me that prudence, careful financial planning, decisive action and the good will of the community will be essential to the recovery period.

My background

I am a teacher, with a Master's Degree in Education, advanced qualifications in managing educational change and effective schools leadership, and in special needs education. I have worked in many local schools. My voluntary interests have included fostering and adoption and mental health, and disability.

In the Assembly of 2008 to 2012 I served on the Public Accounts Committee, on the Housing Committee, the Public Sector Remuneration Committee, the Legislation Select Committee and I was the first Political Disability Champion. In 2016 I joined the Policy and Resources Committee.

Our island deserves great leadership. We need deputies who will work together. Deputies who will respect a democratic majority. Deputies who will not stand in the way of progressive thinking and positive leadership. That way, our island and its people can 'move forward together'.

What does Recovery look like to me and how will I help?

If I am successful in this election I will support policy to aid the recovery of our economy and our prosperity. The Assembly will have to work together to prioritise, make decisions and deliver faster. Personal agenda politics will only slow down what needs to be done at speed.

My list for immediate action includes settling the High School building programme debate, progressing the hospital modernisation project and starting the dairy rebuild.

Recovery is not only about buildings. We need to decide if our charges, taxation and benefits regimes need updating.

I would like to give special consideration to children in their early years, the changes proposed in the new Education Law and a review of all services for children with educational needs.

Paying for care for older people is not a new concern, but it needs resolution soon and linked to this is my interest in working towards better co-ordination of community services.

Young and not so young people want to own their homes. The barriers to home ownership need to be overcome and I want to assist in making this happen.

If I can influence what the next Assembly does I cannot promise always to vote the way you would. But you can be sure I have done my best to understand the topic, listened to your opinion and voted honestly.

If you want to contact me I will be very pleased to hear from you.

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