

Political Goals

German Liberals want to strengthen individual liberty and responsibility. The FDP believes that it is not governments who grant freedoms to citizens but citizens who grant their governments the right to rule and sometimes to limit freedoms. The FDP trusts society, not state bureaucracy. Its political core goals include:

- strengthening individual liberty
- free market economy
- radical tax reduction
- a focus on research, development and new technologies, on modern education with equal opportunities at the start, not at the end
- labour market reforms to benefit from the chances globalisation entails
- a reasonable balance between security and civil rights
- tolerance and open mindedness
- a multilateralist foreign policy governed by the rule of law

Free Democratic Party The German Liberals



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The Party

The **Free Democratic Party** (FDP) is Germany's **centrist liberal party** stressing fiscal responsibility, cultural tolerance, and market economy. With its belief in more freedom for more citizens, the FDP firmly holds that **economic freedom and personal freedom** are closely knotted. The German liberals strive for a dynamic, creative, open, and prosperous society. The kind of freedom the FDP cherishes is not freedom from responsibilities but the freedom to engage in a responsible conduct for one's own life and for the lives of those around us.

Since its **foundation in 1948**, the FDP has been part of German governments for over four decades. German liberals have been pushing for the integration of West Germany into the Western Alliance, for the introduction of an economy based on entrepreneurship and limited state intervention, for negotiations with the former Warsaw Pact nations, for German reunification, and for structural reforms to cope with the challenges of globalisation. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, **the FDP was the first German party to reunite with liberals from the former East Germany.**

Presently, the FDP is **Germany's biggest opposition party** in parliament. The FDP sees its challenging function in controlling the so called Grand Coalition, by pointing out liberal alternatives to the policies of the smallest common denominator the government engages in. **On the state level, the FDP is part of coalition governments that rule half the German population.** On the local level, more than 200 majors are members of the FDP. The liberal community is being represented by the **65 000 FDP members** organised in 16 state parties and district or town branches as well as by an increasing number of members living and voting abroad.

The Leadership



Dr. Guido Westerwelle,
MP, German Bundestag
Chairman of the FDP
Parliamentary Group,
Chairman of the FDP



Dirk Niebel,
MP, German Bundestag
Secretary General of
the FDP



Dr. Silvana Koch-Mehrin,
MEP, Vice Chairwoman of the ALDE
Group and Chairwoman of the FDP
in the European Parliament

Vice Chairpersons

Rainer Brüderle, MP, German Bundestag

Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Deputy Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia and Minister for Innovation, Science, Research and Technology

Cornelia Pieper, MP, German Bundestag

Treasurer

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Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, MP, German Bundestag

Birgit Homburger, MP, German Bundestag

Dr. Philipp Rösler, Chairman of FDP group in the Parliament of Lower Saxony

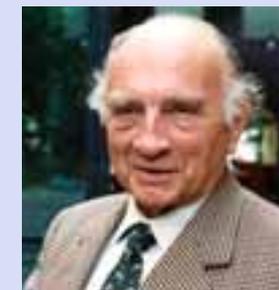
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