

# A NEW WAY OF THINKING.

BRIEF ELECTION MANIFESTO.

Freie Demokraten

FDP

**We are going through a radical upheaval.** Digitisation and political turbulence change everything. Not just Germany, but the whole world stands at the dawn of a new era. We Free Democrats believe that we also need a new way of thinking for this new era. A way of thinking free from prejudices, free from habits, free from "that's the way we've always done it". A way of thinking that is forward-looking and does not look for solutions in the past. Because we are in a state of upheaval, that's for sure. But equally sure is the fact that it offers opportunities. Let's take advantage of them.

Sincerely yours,



Christian Lindner



## EDUCATION GOOGLE'S GREATEST COMPETITORS ARE IN OUR SCHOOLS.

**Success must be possible for everyone.** Our country deserves equal opportunities. The best education, right from nursery school through to lifelong learning, is the smartest answer to digitalisation. Adaptive policy must understand that education is the responsibility of society as a whole and funding it is also the responsibility of the federal government. We want to be among the top 5 in the world in terms of the national budget.

One good solution is better than 16 bad ones. That's why educational standards are a must. Because in a global economy, students from Bremen are not competing with Bavarian students, but with American or Chinese students. If we turn our schools into a model for success, then the whole country will follow suit.

**As with successful start-ups, nothing can be done without investors.** We Free Democrats want to invest more than 1,000 euros per student in technology over the next five years. The occupations of tomorrow require creativity, curiosity, and the ability to deal with the latest technology. Many schools lack even a decent internet connection. Teachers must finally engage in lifelong learning: consistent further education and training is a core component of our digital strategy. Our schools must also be able to learn. Let's give them the freedom to determine their own organisation, budget, and focus. Because when people can decide for themselves, they take on the responsibility and thus achieve better results. A better student-teacher ratio ensures the same start in life in schools in disadvantaged areas.

We all need to change our way of thinking to achieve our goal of offering the world's best education: with the help of parents and pupils, we want to carry out a quality analysis and learning progress surveys and publish them online. This will make learning success measurable.

## DIGITALISATION WHY GERMANY NEEDS A DIGITAL MINISTRY.

**The Grand Coalition is sleeping through the opportunities of the huge upheaval of digitalisation.** Any pioneering spirit is lost in a turf war between five ministries.

Stop! Start again. Germany needs a digital ministry. We will create a central interface for the decisive issue of our times. We will give the go-ahead for the Herculean task of expanding the glass fibre network nationwide.

Instead of relying on outdated technology such as copper cables and vectoring, we will build a highperformance internet and mobile network in the gigabit range. The necessary starting capital will be provided by selling post office and telecom shares. All internet providers should be able to rent transmission capacity. This will result in competition and enable infrastructure investments to be funded in the long term in order to maintain our living standards in the future as well.

**We book holidays in private apartments and amateur transport services and arrange project work all online.** The legislature must become just as innovative, visionary, or ground-breaking: passenger transport is also possible without a taxi licence. We think that an impeccable police clearance certificate and passenger insurance are sufficient. Those who offer home-sharing should not have to deal with the same bureaucracy as a hotel owner. We want fair rules for newcomers and well-established businesses alike. This leads to competition, which in turn leads to the best product.

Nor do outdated regulations belong in a modern workplace. We want to make the employment law suitable for home offices and make legal provisions in line with the trend towards project-oriented employment. Flexible working patterns should be possible without complication. Only the weekly maximum working time of 48 hours should provide a fixed framework. We want to simplify matters and relieve burdens. Because only freedom brings progress.

**RULE OF LAW MODERN RULES  
FOR A NEW TIME.**

**Choose a comprehensive update at this election.** Understaffed police stations and overworked prosecutors are not in keeping with our times. It's time to make the police and judiciary system a budgetary priority. The way to catch more criminals is with sufficient and well-equipped personnel, not by tightening laws. A modern state under the rule of law is capable of enforcing the law and protecting its citizens: so say "Yes" to more security, but "No" data retention, state Trojans, and increased surveillance.

Data protection, data transparency, and data sovereignty are what guarantee freedom in the 21st century.

Germany needs modern laws. For example, reformed family law. We want to introduce child allowance 2.0, make joint custody the standard in custody cases, and create the legal institution of a community of shared responsibility. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, make the choice of a modern society.

**ECONOMY GERMANY HAS MORE TO OFFER  
THAN POLITICS ADMITS.**

**So much potential is lost day by day in our country.** The relationship between citizen and state is out of balance. Let's adjust our tax rate in line with the general price increase, now and in the long-term. And let's abolish the solidarity surcharge by 2019. €30 billion worth of tax reliefs for the large middle class are possible. We can help families own their own home more easily with a taxfree allowance for the real estate transfer tax.

Germany needs a modern administration. Superfluous and complicated bureaucracy stifles opportunities. A more flexible labour market makes us more creative and more digital. We all need to do more to reduce debt. We want to create a society committed to justice with a sustainability assessment for each new law. A well-founded impact assessment makes the costs for subsequent generations comprehensible. Because only policies where the numbers add up can safeguard the prospects of our children and grandchildren.

**EUROPE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO EUROPE  
IS ITS LACK OF UNITY.**

**The EU needs to be fundamentally reformed.** Instead of two parliamentary seats, superfluous posts in the Commission, and empty lip-service, we need genuine parliamentary elections, top transnational candidates and a European Council that evolves into a second chamber. Each Member State should continue to be responsible for its unemployment insurance. For the sake of a stable euro, aid in the spirit of solidarity should only be provided when there is a stable economy. We want to put an end to the low-interest policy.

We want an EU that works. This is the only way to achieve a fair distribution of refugees, the provision of aid, and a new regulation of legal immigration from crisis regions. A united Europe can achieve a great deal, thanks to free trade. It is the engine of our prosperity. Italian pizza, French fashion, and Irish beer are the best arguments for it. Let us not turn our back on globalisation, but shape it – with good standards for human, consumer, and environmental rights.

**A NEW WAY OF THINKING.  
FIVE CHANGES OF THINKING TO MOVE OUR COUNTRY FORWARD.**

**Education is the overall task.**

We'll revise education funding regulations and set clear learning standards.

**Glass fiber beats copper cable.**

We'll launch the expansion of the fibre optic network by selling post office and telecom shares.

**We can do without the solidarity surcharge.**

Abolishing it is the beginning of tax reliefs worth 30 billion euros for the large middle class.

**For the EU to work better.**

Fundamental reforms will bring about the necessary efficiency, for example to tackle the refugee crisis.

**Freedom and security are core tasks.**

Budget expenditures for the police and the judiciary will be made a priority after years of neglect. This will create security. We will protect fundamental rights and privacy. This will create freedom.

Find out more at  
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