**Welsh Liberal Democrats Easy Read Manifesto Summary**

We are the Welsh Liberal Democrats. We want to build a Wales that works for you.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats are a political party.

Our leader is Kirsty Williams.



We are one of the groups taking part in the election this year to decide who will run the country. Whoever wins will make the new Government for Wales. They will work in a building in Cardiff, but we want to help everyone across Wales.

This document tells you some of what the Welsh Liberal Democrats believe in and what we will do if we win the election.

Our Vision for Wales

We want to make sure Wales works for you.

We should be proud of our past, and confident in our future.

People want to trust that the government is running the country well and making sure everyone benefits. But after 17 years of Wales being run badly by the Labour party they can’t trust that any more.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats have supported local communities for 150 years. We want to keep doing that.

We believe in everyone. Liberal Democrats do not exclude anyone. We want everyone to have the chance to have a good and happy life, no matter where they’re from or what they do.

We are not in the Government in Wales but we have made a deal with the Government to get millions of pounds for poor school children, thousands more apprentices and more money for the NHS.

We have listened to the people of Wales and written this manifesto.



The Economy

Too many people do not have jobs or homes. More people do not have jobs in Wales than in England or Scotland. More children in Wales are poor than in London.

We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to get a job. We want everyone to have enough money to live a good life.

We want to make a new Bank to give money to small businesses. Businesses sometimes do not have enough money to give people jobs. We want to help businesses get bigger.

We want to make buses more regular and get better mobile phone signal in rural places. This will help people get to work.

We want to double the number of people who get the chance to do apprenticeships. An apprenticeship is where you can work but still learn at the same time at a college.

Education

We think children should have good education. Wales does much worse than other countries at teaching children to read, do maths, and understand science.

We know that helping people at school means that all their life they’ll have more money and chances to succeed.

We want to have smaller classes so teachers have more time to help pupils learn.

We want to give more money to poor school children, especially young pupils.

We want to give people at university more money to help them pay for their rent and other costs.

Health

We want healthcare to be good and available to people for free when they need it. Too many people can’t talk to their doctor when they want to. We do not have enough nurses in Wales so all our nurses get busy and tired. We do not like politicians talking badly about the NHS, but we know it could be better for people.

We want to have more nurses in Wales, especially in communities, for new mothers, and when people are having mental health problems.

We want to spend £10,000,000 to help people get appointments with their family doctor.

We want to make sure that people who have mental health problems are treated fairly and do not have to wait too long to get help.

Housing

It is very difficult in Wales to buy your own house. Lots of people save money for years, but can’t buy their own house. We think everyone should have the chance to own their own home. But there are not enough houses for everyone. This means that house prices and rent is expensive and people cannot afford to buy their own house.

We want the government to build 20,000 new affordable homes during the next five years. The Labour party only wanted to build 10,000 over the last five years.

We want to help people buy a home for the first time by helping them get a house without needing to save for a long time.

We want to protect people who rent their homes, because they deserve the same rights as people who own their homes. We want to stop landlords increasing your rent by too much.

Environment

The environment is changing because of what other people are doing. Every year the world is getting hotter and we’re getting more floods in Wales.

We think we need to look after the earth and reduce the rubbish we make. Burning coal, which we use to make electricity, can hurt the planet and make the world less clean.

We want to produce less polluting gases and make more energy that doesn’t hurt the planet like coal.

We want communities to be able to make their own energy, using power from rivers and the sun.

We want to help people recycle drinks bottles, and get some money back when they do.

Communities

Your local community is important. Lots of communities do not have local shops, swimming pools or pubs, because they’ve closed.

Your local council supports a lot of the services in your community. But there are too many, and some do not work like they should. They also do not always listen to the people who live there.

We want to give communities more powers over their local area. We want your local council run more services.

We want to make sure councils listen to you. We want to make the way you vote for politicians fairer. Lots of people live in areas where one party has all the power even though not all the people support what they do. We want to share the power more fairly.

We want to help communities take over services like their local pub if they’re afraid it will close.

Rural Wales

Rural places in Wales like Powys and Ceredigion have lots of problems people in cities do not have. The Welsh Liberal Democrats have represented rural areas for over 100 years, and we understand what it’s like to live there.

We want to help rural areas by making sure there’s more doctors in rural areas. We want to make more apprenticeships in rural areas, especially in farming and tourism. We also want to help make sure everyone can use the internet wherever they live.

Farming

Farmers are having a difficult time in Wales. They make food for all of us, but big shops do not pay them a fair price. It is extra difficult to farm in hilly places. A lot of farmers are old and are having to sell their farm because they can’t work on it any more.

We want to help young people who want to be farmers get involved. We want to give special help to people who farm in difficult places. We want help for farmers to be less difficult to use.

Tax

Some of the money people earn goes to the Government in order to pay for things like doctors and teachers. This is called Tax.

We want to lower the amount of tax people pay, while still making sure we have enough for things like the health service. When we were in government in London, we helped people on low pay to pay less tax.

We want to cut taxes for people who make their homes waste less energy. This means we’ll all use less energy.

We want to cut taxes on businesses which take over empty shops. We want to cut taxes on businesses which use big machines, like steel companies, to help them spend more money on improving their factories and giving more people jobs.

Changing Politics

People do not always trust their politicians. Lots of politicians have voted to give themselves more pay or cheated on their taxes. We want to help people trust politicians. We voted against politicians having more pay.

We want to give people the chance to get rid of their politicians between elections if they do something wrong.

We want to give 16 and 17 year olds the chance to vote.

We want to give Wales more powers. Right now, lots of decisions about Wales are made in London. We want more decisions about Wales made in Wales.

Speaking Welsh and the arts

We think everyone who wants to should have the chance to study and speak Welsh. We also want everyone to be able to take part in Welsh culture, no matter what language you speak.

We want more people to come to Wales to visit – this is called tourism. Right now, almost one in every ten people in Wales works in tourism.

We want to give arts in Wales more money, over a long-term.

We want to make it easier to learn Welsh. We want to make Welsh lessons more focused on helping you speak Welsh at work afterwards.

We want to help tourism by cutting their taxes.

The World

Wales is a part of the United Kingdom, which is a member of the European Union. We want Wales to stay part of the European Union because it makes it easier for Welsh people to have jobs and visit other countries like France and Germany.

There’s lots of people around the world who are poor. There are also a lot of people who live in places where there are wars. Sometimes these people want to come live in Wales because it’s safer. We believe we should be kind to these people and help them. We want to spend twice as much as we do right now on helping poor people in other countries.

-----

These are our policies for this election. We hope you will vote for us so we can make these ideas happen.

If you have any questions about this document, you can e-mail your questions to Policy@WelshLibDems.org.uk and we will try to give you more information.

You can read more at [www.welshlibdems.wales/manifesto](http://www.welshlibdems.wales/manifesto)

Published and promoted by Richard Thomas on behalf of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, both at 38 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AD.