



Home away from home in Wassenaar

Election Program

2026-2030

Our choices for a vibrant and
livable village.



From. For. By.
Wassenaarders

Foreword

Over the past years, I have had the pleasure of working with great enthusiasm as Deputy Mayor and Alderman for Finance, the Economy, and Sports. I have met countless residents through wonderful neighborhood initiatives, visited our sports clubs, and taken part in the 15 of Wassenaar. And of course, I have spoken with our entrepreneurs in the shops, at Maaldrift, and at De Hoge Klei. It is precisely these conversations and encounters that show what makes Wassenaar so special: we are a village with strong connections. Simply special!

Through this cooperation, we have already achieved a great deal. Think of the new sports hall on Dr. Mansveltkade, the future prospects for our small and medium-sized businesses, and the first steps toward a vibrant town center where it is pleasant to shop and spend time. But there is still much work ahead of us.

Wassenaar faces important choices. We want to build more homes for our young people, families, and older residents who wish to move on. Wassenaar is aging. How do we ensure a safe and green living environment that remains traffic-safe and accessible? And how do we continue to be a village where people feel at home—young and old, entrepreneurs and volunteers, athletes and walkers? We stand side by side and need one another.

In this program, you can read what we as the VVD Wassenaar stand for. No long stories with vague promises, but a short and concise program with an overview of the issues that matter most to us as residents of Wassenaar, along with a number of clear solutions to improve things. By continuing on the chosen path, focused on cooperation. The VVD Wassenaar is from the people of Wassenaar, for the people of Wassenaar, and above all by the people of Wassenaar. We listen to you. Your voice is of great value. There is truly something at stake. Make your voice heard and help Wassenaar move forward.

Working together for Wassenaar!

With kind regards,
Laurens van Doeveren
Lead Candidate, VVD Wassenaar



Laurens van Doeveren

Lead Candidate, VVD Wassenaar

List of Candidates

1. Laurens van Doeveren (M)
2. Matthijs Stekelenburg (M)
3. Laurina Nieukerke (V)
4. Elroy Visser (M)
5. Mildo Meijer (M)
6. Karin Vierwind (V)
7. Simon Tacx (M)
8. Alexander Schuil (M)
9. Sjoerd Spaanjaars (M)
10. Paul de Man (M)
11. Miriam van Eekelen (V)
12. Ruud Bellekom (M)
13. Jen Ruijgrok-van Wijngaarden (V)
14. Cécile Schijffelen (V)
15. Gijs Felix (M)
16. Leon Koning (M)
17. Monique van Deursen-van Gool (V)
18. Bernard Menken (M)
19. Gerbrand Nijman (M)
20. Luc Demarteau (M)
21. Paul Ronke (M)
22. Anneke Remijnse (V)
23. Roderick de Greef (M)
24. Matthijs Spits (M)
25. Anne-Rose Vincente (V)
26. Rashwan Khorany (M)
27. Alexander Barge (M)
28. Duco Nijpels (M)
29. Hugo Noordhoek Hegt (M)
30. Alexandra Haesen-Kuiper (V)
31. Rob Bloem (M)
32. Paul Deneer (M)
33. Edwin Welling (M)
34. Marc van Dijk (M)
35. Ans Meijer-Reinders (V)
36. Niek Klooster (M)
37. Peter Römer (M)
38. Folkert Sneep (M)
39. Dennis Ziengs (M)
40. Katya Smit van Cortenberghe (V)
41. Niek Kaptein (M)
42. Dick Sluimers (M)
43. Willem Topper (M)
44. Jan Anthonie Buijn (M)
45. Bente Becker (V)
46. Luc Blok (M)
47. André van Herk (M)



Introduction

Wassenaar is our home.

A village where people know one another, where associations are run by volunteers, and where you want things to be simply well organized. A place where you enjoy living, working, growing up, and growing old. That feeling of home is something we want to cherish—and protect.

The VVD Wassenaar believes that politics does not start with big words, but with taking responsibility. For the village. For one another. And for the future. Not by shouting about what should be done, but by doing what is necessary.

Wassenaar faces important choices. Young people want to be able to continue living here. Families are looking for space and facilities. Older residents want to be able to move on safely and appropriately. Entrepreneurs and associations keep the village vibrant. And residents expect a municipality that is reliable, communicates clearly, and handles their money with care. We choose good governance. A municipality that has its affairs in order, that listens and takes action. Without unnecessary waste. Without hassle. With attention to what truly matters: safety, quality of life, green spaces, accessibility, and a strong village community.

At a time when many parties make the same promises, we show what we stand for through what we do. The VVD Wassenaar is a party of doers. With a broad list of candidates made up of committed residents of Wassenaar from all neighborhoods—people who know what is happening in the village and who use their knowledge and experience to deliver solutions.

This election program shows the choices we make for Wassenaar. Choices that suit a village that feels like home to many people—today and in the future.

From. For. By. Wassenaarders

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An independent Wassenaar

The VVD Wassenaar is from, for, and by the people of Wassenaar. With decades of experience, we work every day for a livable, safe, and future-proof village. We choose stable governance, local involvement, and a strong community. Together, we are building a vibrant Wassenaar where everyone feels at home—now and in the future.

Wassenaar is a beautiful, independent village—an oasis in the Randstad—and it should remain that way. A lively and attractive village where many people enjoy living, including the many entrepreneurs who form the foundation of our prosperity. Safeguarding the future of our village requires good and reliable governance. No political squabbling, but cooperation in the interests of all residents of Wassenaar—and in the interest of our independence. Wassenaar must remain an independent village.

An independent village with a close-knit community. A municipality that thinks along with residents of Wassenaar when they submit a request, raise an issue, or wish to bring something to attention.



We work with systems, but above all with people for people—even when that takes a bit more time. For entrepreneurs, there is a fixed point of contact within the municipality. The VVD Wassenaar believes in the power of participation.

We listen not only to the outspoken voices, but also to the silent majority who may not have the time to speak at meetings or write opinion pieces, yet whose views are just as valuable. It is in our interest to hear all voices and to ensure that the interests of Wassenaar always come first.

That is why we choose:

- ▶ An open dialogue, encouraging involvement and the swift handling of questions at the municipality. Emails from residents are answered in a timely manner.
- ▶ Good contact with neighborhood associations. Sufficient budget to quickly resolve small nuisances raised by neighborhood groups and residents of Wassenaar.
- ▶ Active participation in the region. We attach great importance to regional cooperation, for example within the Rotterdam–The Hague Metropolitan Area (MRDH).
- ▶ Working together with neighboring municipalities enables us to find solutions more quickly and effectively that truly move Wassenaar forward. Think of improved traffic flow on the A44. We can also work with the region on plans to address vacancy in our town center and strengthen the vitality of our shopping area.

Housing

Too many young people from Wassenaar are still forced to live at home or have to move far outside Wassenaar because there are too few affordable rental and owner-occupied homes. That can be done differently. We want to build for starters and families, with attractive, affordable homes that fit the Wassenaar style. This can be done at former school sites, the municipal works yard, and wherever it is feasible and appropriate. That is why we also commit to improving mobility within the housing market: older residents who wish to downsize should be given real opportunities to do so, freeing up homes for families. Many older people live in family houses that no longer suit their needs. They would gladly move to smaller and more comfortable homes, but the supply is very limited.

In addition, we want to allocate as many social housing units as possible to residents of Wassenaar, using at least the legal maximum of 50%. Status holders will no longer automatically be given priority over residents of Wassenaar: the current priority status for status holders will be abolished.

Allocation only makes sense if we also build. We will build at locations where this is possible and appropriate. We will tackle excesses, such as Huize Ivicke, but we do not support stifling regulations that unfairly target well-intentioned homeowners and entrepreneurs.

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That is why we choose:

- ▶ Build as quickly as possible on the municipal works yard and former school sites for young people, starters, and families. This means hundreds of homes for everyone currently stuck in a hopeless housing situation.
- ▶ Support for housing development plans and the new Community Clubhouse in Kerkehout. New investments and additional housing are urgently needed there.
- ▶ Convert vacant office locations into housing and enable the development of additional homes above and behind shops.
- ▶ Implement the housing and care vision and develop care homes for our older residents so they can continue to live in Wassenaar.
- ▶ Ongoing and swift performance agreements with housing corporations, ensuring they primarily build social housing for residents of Wassenaar and promote mobility among seniors.
- ▶ An approach that makes it possible to develop 1,000 new homes in Wassenaar before 2030.
- ▶ No land speculation and preventing excessive short-term profits for developers in new construction projects.
- ▶ Allocate social rental housing as much as possible to residents of Wassenaar.
- ▶ Fair allocation of social housing, where status holders no longer automatically take precedence over residents of Wassenaar.

Safety

If you do not feel safe in your own neighborhood, it affects your trust in your surroundings. In Wassenaar, we want to prevent things from reaching that point. That is why we strongly commit to visible enforcement, preventing burglaries, and tackling drug-related crime.

We support our police officers and community enforcement officers (BOAs) and welcome the strengthening of capacity at the Wassenaar police station. We take seriously the signals from residents of the town center who have begun to feel less safe.

The current reception at the asylum seekers' center (AZC) has led to feelings of insecurity among some residents. In new agreements with the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) regarding the AZC, we therefore want to focus on more accommodation for families and a maximum scale size.



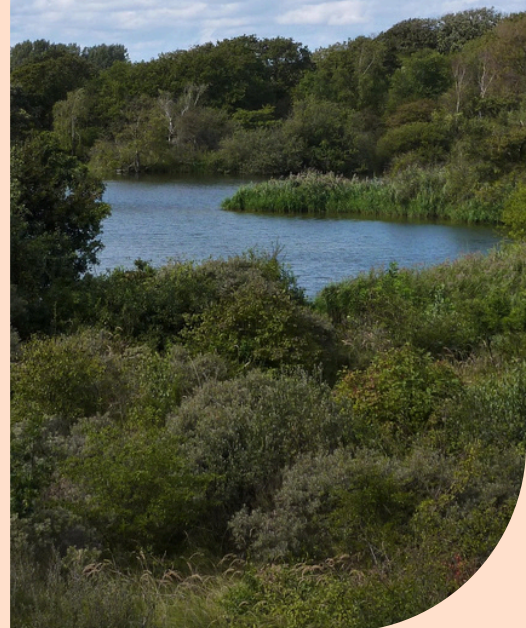
That is why we choose:

- ▶ A visible and well-equipped police station, preferably with further expansion, and an adequate fire station in our municipality.
- ▶ More visible and additional enforcement (BOAs), focused on nuisance, reckless traffic offenders, and public order.
- ▶ Priority for improving cycling safety and tackling reckless riding on fat bikes.
- ▶ More prevention and public information when it comes to preventing burglaries and home robberies.
- ▶ Strengthening the approach to undermining and organized crime; this is also a serious problem in Wassenaar.

Clean and Green Public Space

Wassenaar is a beautiful village—green, spacious, and full of character. But maintaining that quality also requires care and attention from both the municipality and residents. A clean street, a tidy park, no litter around trash bins—these may seem like small things, but they make a big difference in how we feel about our surroundings. That is why we commit to better maintenance, more frequent cleaning, and stricter enforcement where necessary.

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That is why we choose:

- ▶ Further improve the maintenance of our public space: all streets, pavements, jetties, quays, playground facilities, and green areas must be upgraded—for example in the harbor area and residential neighborhoods such as Groot Deijlroord and Oostdorp.
- ▶ Add more greenery where possible, including trees and plants in bare or underdeveloped areas.
- ▶ More small-scale playgrounds in various neighborhoods and support for community gardens such as those in Weteringse Park.
- ▶ Clear signage and better wayfinding, including accessibility for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Listening to our neighborhood associations: the top five annoyances per neighborhood will be addressed as quickly as possible. We are happy to make additional capacity available for this.
- ▶ More underground waste containers where possible and sufficient litter bins. This leads to cleaner streets and less nuisance from seagulls.
- ▶ A simple waste collection system with the lowest possible costs, without constant revisions every few years. Waste collection should be clear and understandable for residents at minimal expense.

Education, Events and Culture

Wassenaar has much to offer for both young and old: good education, a wide range of sports and cultural facilities, and its own library. These amenities ensure that residents of Wassenaar can be part of a close-knit community. That is why the VVD wants to preserve and strengthen these facilities. By aligning the offer with demand and maximizing the involvement of residents, these amenities will remain future-proof.

The VVD wants to invest in the future—and that means investing in young people. Investing in education is central to this, but we also want to invest in youth facilities: in sports clubs, as well as in playgrounds and spaces for secondary school students. Good education and room for young people are essential for a vibrant village.



That is why we choose:

- ▶ Support for the renovation and more intensive use of De Warenar! De Warenar will remain our local theatre and village community center.
- ▶ Support for our library as a meeting place, with an expansion of its functions, such as a tourist information point (VVV), job-market mediation, or film screenings.
- ▶ Implementation of the Integrated School Housing Plan; healthy classrooms, sustainable school buildings, and green schoolyards are our priorities.
- ▶ Continued support for the broad school concept at Huybregste Veld in the coming council term.
- ▶ Making it easier to organize events: less red tape for volunteers when applying for permits and making more locations available where possible.
- ▶ Preserving the annual Paauw Festival; we want a yearly event that brings all residents together!

Work and Entrepreneurship

Wassenaar is sustained in large part by its local entrepreneurs: the shopkeeper on Langstraat, the local café or restaurant, the well-known family businesses, the SMEs at Maaldrift or De Hoge Klei. Together, they provide jobs for more than 10,000 people, deliver essential services, and give the village its character. Think of the plumber, gardener, or shopkeeper who is always ready to help. Or the hospitality businesses and shops that organize the Puur Natuur Market and bring the town center to life. The same applies to the companies in our recreational sector, with whom we are happy to continue working for Wassenaar—they too are of great value.

Their involvement goes beyond entrepreneurship alone. They sponsor, for example, football club Blauw-Zwart, contribute to events in our village, and are a quiet force behind much of the volunteer work in our community. The Wassenaar VVD is also proud that many local companies help residents of Wassenaar with disabilities find their way into the labor market. Everyone who wants to work deserves support.

The VVD Wassenaar has great appreciation for these residents of Wassenaar. They deserve room to do business, clear rules, and a municipality that thinks along with them.



That is why we choose:

- ▶ Buying from and contracting local entrepreneurs wherever possible—our local businesses first. The municipality should lead by example.
- ▶ Implementing the Economic Vision: maintaining strong cooperation with entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Yes to more business space for growth. Where possible, we will offer additional space to our entrepreneurs so they can expand. Given the scarcity of space, we see opportunities for conditional expansion especially around the Maaldrift area.
- ▶ A future plan for Van Hallstraat: developed together with our entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Continued investment in strong cooperation with shopkeepers in the town center and on Stadhoudersplein; attractive terraces, more opportunities for housing in the center, and tackling vacancy are our priorities.
- ▶ Freedom for shopkeepers and residents of Wassenaar to decide when they buy fresh bread, visit a garden center, or go shopping. Shopkeepers should therefore be free to decide for themselves whether to open on Sunday mornings.
- ▶ Free parking in the town center must remain!
- ▶ No removal of parking spaces near shopping areas such as Stadhoudersplein or the town center.
- ▶ Lower parking fees at Wassenaarse Slag if the municipality takes over management. The public interest comes first.
- ▶ Implementing the plans for Wassenaarse Slag, giving entrepreneurs more room to develop new facilities such as a guarded bicycle parking facility. Year-round opening of beach hospitality should be possible, provided that there are sufficient options for walkers to enjoy food and drinks.

Sustainability

The VVD Wassenaar aims for a CO₂-neutral municipality by 2050, in a way that is realistic, achievable, and affordable. We also have a responsibility toward future generations. We see that many residents are already taking steps themselves: neighborhoods greening their streets together, homeowners insulating their houses or installing solar panels, or local initiatives to develop heat and cold storage. We want to support and encourage this local enthusiasm—for example through local climate tables. The municipality should primarily facilitate, not frustrate. At the same time, we recognize that making homes and businesses more sustainable is not easy everywhere.

In Wassenaar, we have many listed and older buildings where energy measures are complex or costly. We therefore advocate tailored solutions, good information, and room for creative approaches, without rushed obligations.



That is why we choose:

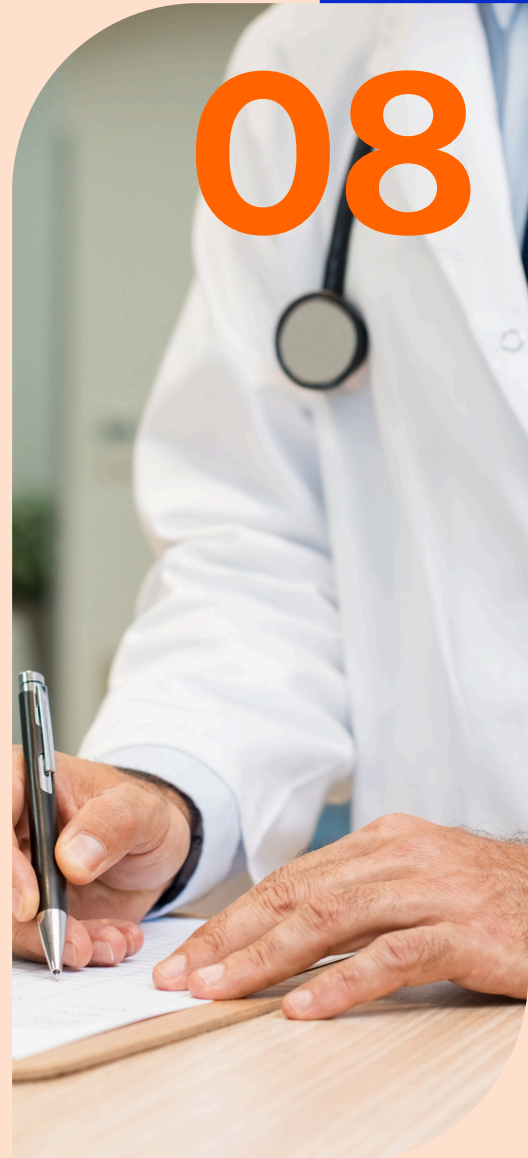
- ▶ Implementing the Heat Transition Vision: supporting neighborhoods, homeowners, and housing corporations in better insulating homes and using new energy sources.
- ▶ A municipality that leads by example: further sustainability measures for municipal property and enabling solar panels at suitable locations.
- ▶ Helping our entrepreneurs at Maaldrift to work together on sustainability initiatives.
- ▶ No wind turbines. Wassenaar is Dunea's water extraction area; that is our contribution to the region. Wind turbines do not fit within Wassenaar.

Health

Health is the most important asset we have. Across the Netherlands, the demand for healthcare is increasing, and we feel this in Wassenaar as well. Due to an aging population, more and more people need assistance, care, or support. That is why we believe it is important to have good, accessible, and personal care in our village. We want healthcare in Wassenaar to be less bureaucratic and more focused on what people truly need, with short lines of communication between the various care providers. This keeps care clear, fast, and close to home.

Good cooperation with hospitals in Leiden (LUMC) and The Hague (HMC and Haga) is essential. We also want a strong and easily accessible health center in Wassenaar, so residents can receive medical care close to home.

At the same time, we believe it is important that everyone takes responsibility for their own health. By approaching this more realistically, we can keep healthcare affordable and workable together, now and in the future. When it comes to youth care, we are concerned about the fact that the number of children receiving care has risen explosively since the decentralization of youth care.



That is why we choose:

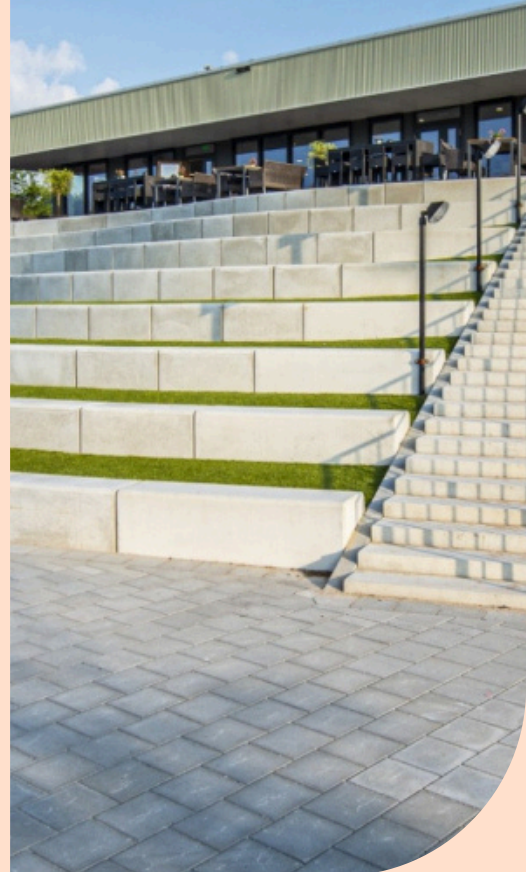
- ▶ Preserving the health center and supporting GP practices in Wassenaar, as well as maintaining on-site care at Bronovo (HMC).
- ▶ Sufficient GPs, district nursing, and home care, close to home.
- ▶ Support for informal caregivers, meeting places, and daytime activities in a village that also holds its older residents in high regard.
- ▶ Increasing awareness of the Social Team: the central access point for support for both young people and older residents, with clear points of contact and swift assistance.
- ▶ Support for youth work at Dr. Mansveltkade, to engage young people at an early stage.
- ▶ Sharing responsibility with residents and social organizations.
- ▶ Raising awareness of prevention and self-reliance, without being patronizing.
- ▶ Implementing the youth care reform agenda: youth care must remain accessible for vulnerable children, while we remain critical of the rapidly rising costs and scale of youth care.

Sport

Sport connects people, promotes health, and contributes to our overall well-being. It is important that as many residents of Wassenaar as possible have the opportunity to participate in sports, and that sports clubs are able to offer a diverse range of activities. In recent years, the municipality has made significant investments in sports facilities. The most important project has been the construction of the new De Duinpan Sports Hall, where a wide variety of sports can be practiced. This area will become the sports campus of our village—a campus that, of course, must be as accessible as possible. That is why we want good access to the sports campus via the Katwijkseweg.

Sport is not a luxury, but a necessity in a healthy society. The VVD Wassenaar is proud of all sports clubs, both outdoor and indoor, as well as mind sports. The main sports locations in which we want to invest are Dr. Mansveltkade, Roggewoning, and Kerkehout.

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That is why we choose:

- ▶ Implementing the first Sports Vision.
Strengthening our sports clubs! We support our volunteers and athletes so their clubs can thrive.
- ▶ Clarity for sports clubs: clubs must know what to expect when it comes to maintaining their sports facilities. More funding for the maintenance of outdoor sports fields and water sports facilities, and more sports and play opportunities in public spaces.
- ▶ Increasing the youth membership subsidy by 50% so that all young people can participate in sports.
- ▶ More room for water sports, with good facilities (such as sailing and surfing) at Wassenaarse Slag.
- ▶ Creating an access route to the sports campus via Katwijkseweg. This will reduce traffic and improve traffic safety on Dr. Mansveltkade.
- ▶ Supporting participation in the Disabled Sports Foundation, because we believe it is important that people with disabilities are also able to take part in sports.

Spatial Planning

A core task of the municipality is sound spatial planning: zoning plans, permits, and other forms of regulation. In Wassenaar, we want to carry out this task with care and vision, so that the scarce space we have is used optimally. This also creates opportunities to add more greenery to densely built-up neighborhoods.

We strive for a Wassenaar in which the people of Wassenaar themselves are central and where the development of our village takes place in a responsible manner. In doing so, we ensure that rules do not restrict us, but instead create room for freedom and growth—always with respect for what makes Wassenaar special.

Wassenaar is a place where the village character and nature go hand in hand. It is important to preserve the beauty of our estates, green spaces, and unique natural areas such as Meijendel for future generations. These special places contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Wassenaar. We will continue to work to protect the dunes, parks, and recreational areas, so that we can all enjoy the outdoors in peace.

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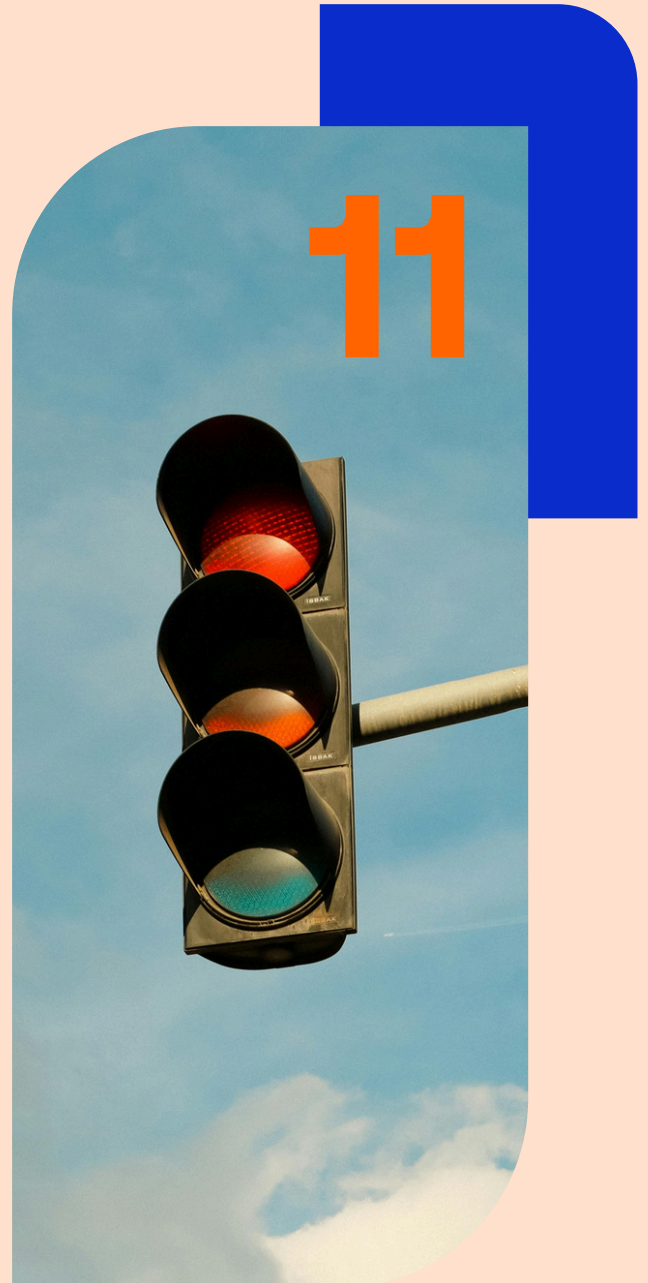
That is why we choose:

- ▶ An Environmental Vision that contributes to a vibrant Wassenaar and puts our residents and entrepreneurs first.
- ▶ Cherishing our cultural heritage, keeping it alive for future generations.
- ▶ Doing justice to the Duindigt site in Wassenaar, with preservation of green space, room for equestrian activities, horse sports and recreation, involvement of the surrounding neighborhood, and without space for large-scale tourism or development.
- ▶ Developing a program that considers the municipal works yard, harbor area, and Van Hallstraat in conjunction, in order to use the area more effectively and make it more attractive.
- ▶ Ensuring that residents of Wassenaar receive timely clarity about potential changes to zoning plans, with proper participation.
- ▶ Preserving all estate routes and Meijendel, while encouraging the spread of recreational use.

Traffic

Good accessibility is essential for both residents and entrepreneurs in our village. This is about finding the right balance between livability, traffic safety, and accessibility. For the VVD, livability and traffic safety for our residents are the top priorities, as well as preventing through-traffic that has no business in our village. Lower speed limits can help reduce this type of traffic, as navigation systems will be less likely to direct passers-by through our village.

At the VVD, you decide for yourself how you move within the village or beyond it. We want to encourage cycling and walking, but we are well aware that many parents, working people, and seniors rely on their cars every day. That must remain the case.



That is why we choose:

Traffic Safety and Livability within Wassenaar

- ▶ More cycling safety, safe routes to school, and good walking paths.
- ▶ More bicycle parking facilities.
- ▶ Where traffic safety requires it—such as around schools, sports clubs, and in residential neighborhoods—the speed limit will be 30 km/h. On roads such as the Wittenburgerweg, where it is safe to do so and traffic flow is important, 50 km/h will remain the standard. Safety for the people of Wassenaar always comes first. Emergency services such as ambulances and police must always be able to meet their response times.
- ▶ Giving priority to further improvements in traffic safety around schools and bus stops.

That is why we choose:

Better Accessibility for Wassenaar

- ▶ We support initiatives by entrepreneurs and the current “Wassenaars proposal” from the municipality to the Ministry of Defence to develop grade-separated intersections on the N44, so residents can enter and leave Wassenaar more easily.
- ▶ An additional exit on the N44 for Maaldrift, to relieve business vehicles and destination traffic around Rozenplein.
- ▶ An additional exit on Katwijkseweg for Duinrell, so visitor traffic no longer needs to pass through the town center.
- ▶ The new Voorschoten–Wassenaar railway station and a direct bus connection to Wassenaar.
- ▶ The introduction of a parking app and electronic signage for all major parking areas in recreational zones (Wassenaarse Slag / Meijendel), allowing visitors to see in advance whether parking is full. This prevents cars from waiting and queuing.

Parking

- ▶ Free parking in the town center will remain! No penalty for shopping locally.
- ▶ Lower parking fees at Wassenaarse Slag, with parking revenues benefiting the whole of Wassenaar.
- ▶ No removal of parking spaces in neighborhoods where they are urgently needed.
- ▶ Investigating the possibility of a parking garage beneath Kloosterland.

Our money

The VVD stands for reliable and sound municipal finances. That has been the case in Wassenaar in recent years, and we want to keep it that way. Good financial policy starts with careful handling of public money. Not everything is possible, and certainly not everything at the same time. Politics is about making choices, and the VVD does so in a responsible and pragmatic manner.

Wassenaar is a village with a lot of green space, many facilities, and relatively few residents. As a result, property tax (OZB) is higher here than in some other municipalities. The VVD believes that the scope for further increases in this tax is very limited. We do not want additional increases in municipal charges simply to build up large reserves.

Municipal taxes are intended to cover ongoing expenses and to invest in good facilities for our residents. For major investments, the municipality can borrow, provided that the associated costs are repaid properly each year.

Moreover, if Wassenaar builds more homes, this will generate additional income from property tax and from the municipal fund. In this way, we can continue to invest in a beautiful, green, and livable Wassenaar—without making it unaffordable for our residents.



That is why we choose:

- ▶ An annually balanced budget that meets with the approval of the province.
- ▶ Property tax (OZB) and dog tax to be increased at most in line with annual inflation. If national compensation is provided, the dog tax can be abolished.
- ▶ Using our reserves to invest in municipal facilities. The municipality is not a savings bank; it should invest in schools, roads, public spaces, and support for entrepreneurs.
- ▶ A clear depreciation method for municipal investments, ensuring that over time everyone pays their fair share.
- ▶ Effective project management to keep major investment projects within budget.
- ▶ Seeking co-financing wherever possible from private parties or project subsidies from the national government, the province, or the EU, so the municipality does not always have to bear all costs.

Closing remarks

With pride, we present this election program, made possible through the involvement and ideas of our community. We thank everyone who contributed and shared their thoughts. Your input has led to clear choices on key issues for Wassenaar.

This program is from and for everyone who is helping to build a strong and future-proof Wassenaar.

On behalf of the board and the program committee.



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**Our choices for a
vibrant and livable village.**

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