



House of Keys General Election
Thursday 29 September 2011



*Bringing politics
back to the people*

Chris **Thomas**
for **DOUGLAS WEST**

Dear Voter,

Thank you for having considered my manifesto and I apologise if we have not met. I tried to visit everyone, and it has been my privilege to talk with so many people who clearly care about the future of this Island.

Committed and capable

I hope you are in no doubt about who I am and what I can do. My family is settled in Douglas with our kids studying at Ballakermeen and Ballacottier.

I would use my financial skills and international experience diligently if I were to become your MHK, and I understand that communication between us remains crucial after the election, including through newsletters and meeting.

I also pledge that I would contribute immediately to my own pension, as I believe all MHKs should, and would not expect a salary supplement if I serve as political member or claim unjustified expenses for carrying out my job.

What I can do for you

I can contribute valuably to "survive the storm", as Dominic Delaney, former MHK, put it. We need:

- To work with public sector staff and the public to make government provision and tax raising more relevant, effective and efficient to minimise use of financial reserves and to maintain competitive tax rates: the 'what, when, who, how much?' questions which need to be answered immediately;
- To ensure that a Chief Minister is selected whose policies acknowledge the wishes of the electorate, and that an administration is formed with fewer departmental political members to improve scrutiny by MHKs; and
- To learn from the past and neither perpetuate nor repeat the costly mistakes made by the outgoing government.

An MHK should ensure government departments and the council carry out their duties and support constituents. I have already discussed with officers parking review, road and pavement maintenance, drains, the use of parks and kerbside collection and considered a case of what would appear to be bad employment practice by government.

Chris Thomas and the Party

Liberal Vannin works by consensus, without a "whip". If I do not agree in a particular case I am not forced to vote against my judgment. However, I was instrumental in structuring important dimensions of our programme for government - a set of policies to which our team is bound and which will guide our negotiation and work - and we are a group of people standing together to secure reform to enhance the Island's future through building on its success.

Of course I want to be in Government after the election, but I would make valuable contribution outside it scrutinizing government's work. My actual role depends on the vote and post-election negotiations about policy and, secondarily, people.

There are crucial national choices and decisions ahead in which you need to be involved and for which you need to have an MHK with the heart and mind to establish and interpret the facts, and take political responsibility to maintain our prosperous and caring society. I can be that MHK with your vote. Thank you.

Chris Thomas



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