

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION
Thursday 29th September 2011

Mahendra Patel



**Your Representative in
the House of Keys for a**

SOUND FUTURE

Your Candidate

MAHENDRA PATEL

I am aged 57, married to Mina and blessed with three daughters: Ameeta, 29, married to Russell and is a qualified doctor practising in the Paediatric Department of Sheffield General Hospital; Vanisha, 24, graduated from Kent University and is embarking on a career as a chartered accountant with PriceWaterhouseCoopers; Bhavika, 18, achieved excellent 'A' levels and is going to Leeds University to study medicine.

MY BACKGROUND

Following a first degree in Microbiology (BSc. Microbiol., London), I undertook a second degree in Pharmacy (BSc. Pharm., Brighton) and have been a Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain since. After gaining experience as a locum manager in Sussex and London, I re-located to the Isle of Man in December 1985 to acquire and run Castle Pharmacy in Castletown, which we have been successfully doing since. I am a member of the Isle of Man Pharmacy Contractors Association, and have served as Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary and as a representative on the Health Advisory Board.

INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL POLITICS

Since living on the Island, I have had the privilege of serving the community of Castletown as a Commissioner for eleven years. During this time I served on various Committees (Housing, Library, and Works) and the Malew and Santon Elderly Persons Housing Committee. I was proud and honoured to be Chairman of the Commissioners for three of those years.

As a candidate in the forthcoming General Election 2011 for the Member of the House of Keys for Castletown, it is fitting to outline the policies that I intend to pursue vigorously on your behalf. I hope you will give me the mandate to do so. I would be grateful if you would take the time to read this manifesto, for which I thank you in advance. Please feel free to contact me if you need to raise any issues that need addressing.

ISLAND ISSUES

Concerns have been raised from all corners of society regarding the future of our Island. We have undergone immense turmoil in economic terms due to the banking crisis followed by the global downturn, further compounded by the VAT debacle. Much needs to be done to navigate the troubled waters over the next five-year term if not longer! It would be virtually impossible for me to outline all the issues that need addressing – I would need to write a book! So I propose to outline the major ones that I believe are amongst the most important to the people of Castletown.

To avoid recession, further diversification of the economy is vital in order to create and maintain sustainable growth, thus making us less reliant on any one sector. Identification and development of niches such as the aircraft register, cleantech, biotech and space commerce are going to be vital for progress. The finance sector has served us well and we need to ensure it continues to thrive. However office work does not appeal to everyone so, as part of our continued diversification, it is important that we attract more light industry leading to further growth and employment prospects, etc.

The Island Economy

The VAT debacle and the re-visitation of the reciprocal health agreement are evidence of a decline of the level-footing relationship with the UK Government. This needs to be

addressed in order to avoid similar situations in the future. The extent of Isle of Man's contribution to the UK economy needs to be communicated effectively and robustly to the decision makers. The common purse agreement also needs to be re-examined to challenge the lack of understanding and real appreciation by the UK administration.

I believe it would be much fairer if all income earned in the Isle of Man was taxed in the Isle of Man. With this simple principle all retailers such as Tesco, M&S, B&Q, etc. would be liable for taxes on their profits derived in the Isle of Man. At present the income is taken to the UK with no benefit to our community!

Whilst the UK remains our primary trading partner, we need to identify and pursue negotiations of bilateral economic agreements with other countries, both in Europe and globally. Countries such as Russia, India, China, etc. are upwardly mobile economically and present us with tremendous potential for growth. In contrast, western countries will, at best, be stagnant, and, at worst, be in recession for some time.

The full implications of abolishment of ARI together with incorporation of the zero/10 taxation scheme need to be re-examined to avoid creation of an unfair tax regime - after all the basic tenet of the current regime is fairness for all.

Efficiency

The Isle of Man Government needs to conduct a major exercise to identify and eliminate waste of any nature - material or human resources - as this is a drain on society. Public service provision needs to be improved and increased constantly to address our needs in education, health, housing and social services. In all these fields, we need to identify economies, improve efficiency and thus increase productivity and quality of services to the general public.

Education

This remains in the forefront of the Island's needs and I believe cuts would be counter-productive. For the youngsters of today to become the responsible adults of tomorrow, we should guide and nurture them in the right direction. I also believe this investment in our future generations will help to address the decay in family values and lack of respect in society.

Health

It is said "health is something you cannot buy", so, in my opinion, every effort should be made for the timely provision of good quality healthcare and health education. The early detection/diagnosis of ill health with the philosophy of prevention should be pursued as it would ultimately lead to a reduction of costs. The earlier we reach the target of zero waiting lists; the better for us all.

Housing

A provision for the "first-time" buyer needs to be addressed. We have £1.4 billion in reserves that is languishing at a very low rate of return. Is it not more sensible to utilise some of that reserve in a newly-revived Government mortgage scheme? This would address two issues - a relatively cheaper source of finance for the buyers and a greater return for the reserve giving better growth - a "win-win" result!

I would also advocate an increase in the Government Land Bank to facilitate self-build schemes - this would be of immense support to the first-time buyers, the local trades (skilled builders, plumbers, electricians, etc.) and suppliers of building materials.

Social Care

The provision for the elderly should be increased as the elderly population grows year-on-year as a result of the good quality of life provided on our beautiful Island. Timely provision of help would enable the elderly to remain safely in their own home environment amongst loved ones rather than being placed in nursing homes. Nursing homes could then focus on the individuals in need of healthcare and/or nursing.

There are many other issues that need addressing such as:

- **Reducing capital expenditure to absolute requirements rather than for grandiose schemes such as the Richmond Hill and Ballakillowey roundabout schemes.**
- **Tynwald Members contributing to their pension schemes with effect from this term.**
- **Utility boards (MEA and Water) to be brought under a Government Department to proffer accountability, and improve efficiency and productivity.**
- **Local Government reform to redress the inequality between size of authority areas, the number of constituents per authority, rates collected and provision of services from those rates - duplication between local authority provision and central government provision should be eliminated to reduce waste of resources (e.g. housing).**

LOCAL ISSUES

We need to:

- **Continue to re-develop local authority estates as this helps rejuvenate the community and creates support for the Island's building industry.**
- **Establish partnerships between the retailers, the Commissioners and any developers to formulate a unified approach to the growth of Castletown. An example would be to improve the harbour areas for the mutual benefit of residents and boat users by regular dredging.**
- **Address the lack of parking facilities by investigating options available for additional provision.**
- **Improve and expand the facilities for the young people by providing meeting places, increased access to youth club premises, other sporting avenues for venting of energies, etc.**

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this manifesto and ask you to support me with your vote on Thursday, 29th September, 2011. There may be issues not covered which you might like to discuss, so please feel free to contact me on 823512 or email: mahendrapatel@manx.net

Yours sincerely,

Mahendra Patel

M. Patel, Ballamoar, Douglas Road, Castletown, IM9 1TJ.

Please do vote, as this is the only time your action will affect whom you have as your voice and representative at Tynwald Court - I will endeavour to do all within my ability to fulfil that commitment.

VOTE



FOR CASTLETOWN

Let us make a difference for us all, together

POLLING DAY

Thursday 29th September 2011

POLLING TIMES: 8.00am - 8.00pm

POLLING STATIONS:

- Castletown Civic Centre
- Royal British Legion's Hall, Janet's Corner

Please check your polling station

If you need transport to and from the Polling Station please telephone 823512

**HOUSE OF KEYS
GENERAL ELECTION**
Thursday 29th September 2011



VOTE

PATEL X

**Your Voice of
Sense and Reason
for
CASTLETOWN**