



# Manifesto



House of Keys General Election  
Thursday 29 September 2011



*Bringing politics  
back to the people*

# David Jones

for RUSHEN

Dear Constituent

The Isle of Man is set on a course towards insolvency thanks to the ineptitude of the outgoing government. As an engineer and businessman I am focused on delivering and receiving best value for money and as a family man I am passionate about the economic and social wellbeing of this Island - reasons why I am standing in this election as a member of the Liberal Vannin party, the voice of positive change and parliamentary reform.

I am 58, married to Jean with two adult sons and live in Baldrine. I lived in Port St Mary when my parents owned a shop in High Street and in Close Corneil Port Erin. I trained as a precision machinist and toolmaker at the Ronaldsway Aircraft Company. I have operated a number of businesses including paper recycling and the manufacture of hand built sports cars and I believe that running the Isle of Man should be like running a business; you have to balance the books. Having been a lecturer in colleges of further education and university I am a firm believer in ready access to quality education available to all. Education creates innovation.

I am therefore deeply concerned about the previous administration's ill-judged decisions that have damaged the economy and created debt burdens for future generations. The reciprocal health agreement fiasco and the weak kneed acceptance of a revision of the Revenue Sharing Agreement that costs us about £200Million per year are shameful. I believe that capital projects should be reviewed before commencement and the technical and managerial members of the civil service be held accountable without the use of foreign consultants. Wherever possible capital projects should be delivered using Island based companies and employees thus keeping public money circulating in the local economy.

We have a state of the art hospital and should be providing a matching service. We should provide specialist treatment here by engaging the best medical experts and have Nobles recognized as the centre of excellence it deserves.

A vote for the same government will hasten the Island's insolvency. A vote for the Liberal Vannin party will halt it...and bring politics and a brighter economic future back to the people.

**David Jones**



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# LIBERAL VANNIN PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

There is a widespread feeling of disappointment in our politicians: we need change. If the same politicians are elected it won't change - more of the same gets more of the same, and that isn't good enough for the Isle of Man.

A Liberal Vannin Government will get a grip on spending and international affairs, and involve the public with the difficult choices ahead to build on our success and secure our future.



## REFORM AT HOME and CONFIDENCE ABROAD

### Enhance openness and increase scrutiny

- Introduce a Freedom of Information Act
- Appoint an independent Auditor General and an Ombudsman
- Reduce the number of departmental political members to nine

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*90% think prospective Chief Ministers should take part in public debate*

**Manx People Power 2011**

### Reduce the cost of politicians

- Require all members of Tynwald to contribute to their pensions
- Eliminate the fixed annual sum for expenses
- Abolish the supplement to Tynwald members salaries for membership of departments and statutory boards

### Reform the process of selecting the Chief Minister

- Have an open Tynwald Ballot for Chief Minister
- Require all candidate Chief Ministers to publish a national policy programme before a general election

### Improve democratic representation

- Redraw constituencies for the House of Keys to provide equal representation for all voters
- Arrange national elections for Legislative Council

### Act more self-confidently abroad

- Exercise greater control of Government revenue by investigating repeal of VAT revenue sharing
- Negotiate better reciprocal arrangements and extend the Island's international relationships

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*54% of residents considered VAT, cost of living and government deficit as the most important issues facing the new government*

**LV Research 2011**

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# SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH

A Liberal Vannin Government will work with the private sector to sustain growth and maintain confidence and investment: despite the constrained government finances.



## Finance sector, diversification and innovation

- Continue to develop regulation and tax policy to enable the finance sector to flourish
- Open discussions to join the European Free Trade Association that our Island left when the UK joined the EU
- Address issues arising from the possible abrogation from the UK revenue sharing agreement
- Create business parks in north, west and south
- Promote the Island's business abroad by involving both the Lieutenant Governor and the business community
- Refund VAT on start-up expenses and promote the Island as a location to hold intellectual property

## Island's strategic lifelines

- Explore the development of a privately funded deep sea linkspan to encourage competition in sea freight, transport and attract cruise liners
- Secure London City and other UK landing slots
- Provide ownership and financing opportunities to Manx residents for all strategic lifelines

## Leisure, food, energy and environment policy

- Cooperate with the private sector and community to provide facilities for residents and tourists of all ages
- End the Countryside Care Scheme and provide production incentives to farmers
- Encourage our farmers to be part of the first Island Nation to be an organic and compassionate food producer
- Manage the forests for biomass fuel and leisure
- Increase the energy efficiency of all buildings
- Require MEA to pay a reasonable rate for micro generated electricity
- Increase recycling by joining up waste management initiatives

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*.....the Airport Director and Minister stated recently that if the airport were run on commercial lines annual cost savings of £2 million could be made*

**IOM Newspaper  
July 2010**

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*23% of people surveyed believed that the IOM should increase recycling and reduce waste*

**LV Survey 2011**

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# REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT WASTE

LVP does not believe in privatisation but will encourage Manx residents to be minority participants in the financing of our infrastructure and our strategic lifelines.

## Create culture change

- Appoint a political member to the Chief Minister's Office who is responsible for government culture change to improve quality and reduce costs
- Create a Tynwald committee to advise on priorities for delivery of services by reference to 2006 Scope and Structure of Government recommendations
- Avoid redundancies in the public sector by redeploying personnel
- Contract out some services and corporatise some operations

## Maintain competitive tax rates

- Set up a Tax and Welfare Commission to review the present regimes to ensure the Island can fund welfare provision without making our tax rates and national insurance rates uncompetitive
- Close existing public sector pension schemes to new entrants
- Ensure government expenditure is less than government income by the 2014/15 financial year

## Performance improvement

- Act on 2011 recommendations of Public Accounts and MEA Select Committees addressing inadequate financial management and budgeting in Government
- Reduce expenditure on external consultants by empowering Government managerial and technical staff to make decisions
- Empower all members of the public sector to identify and implement service improvements
- Only approve capital projects following review of published cost benefit analysis
- Create a level playing field when comparing private sector bids against public sector costs

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*"An annual review of basic expenditure and activity (BEAR) is in place which is no longer fit for purpose....."*

**Report by the Standing Committee of Tynwald on Public Accounts 2011**

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*Why does the MEA sell electrical goods when it makes a loss doing it?*



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# OUR CARING SOCIETY

## Health care

- Protect the front line staff and services
- Introduce benchmarking by speciality involving lay members who report to the Minister
- Develop a website listing consultants, their qualifications and waiting times
- Establish independent auditing and encourage the formation of a Patients' Association
- Promote the Island as a destination of choice for specialist health care by attracting world class specialists to base their business on the Island
- Implement adequate safeguards for the Liverpool Care Pathway and the "do not resuscitate" policy
- Set up a working party to develop an effective first class dental health care policy and system

## Social care

- Assist our elderly to remain in their own homes and retain their independence
- Review residential and nursing homes legislation
- Broaden and make public the results of independent inspection procedures
- Investigate the provision of financial assistance to family members who care for elderly relatives
- Introduce a system of direct payments allowing the elderly and disabled to retain more control of their lives
- Introduce measures to address the financial problems of an aging population
- Implement an independent audit of social care
- Introduce a committee of lay members to improve the effectiveness of the service
- Bring into force the Disability Discrimination Act

## Military covenant

- The Minister for Social Care will have responsibility for Manx Service Personnel and Veterans and seek to put into Manx Law a Military Covenant defining our duty of care to all past and present Manx Service Personnel

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*"..... on average Manx children have more than two decayed, filled or missing teeth by the time they are five"*

**Dept of Health  
August 2011**



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*....I am delighted to add my personal endorsement to the LVP's determined strategy towards the welfare and wellbeing of our Manx Service men and women*

**Charles Wilson  
Honorary Colonel**

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# OUR CARING SOCIETY

## Education and Training

- Protect front line teaching
- Empower parents to select pre-school education by introducing a voucher system
- Emphasise aspiration and achievement and teach all our young people about civic duty and responsibility
- Encourage more apprenticeships by positive discrimination for those who provide them in the tendering process for public contracts
- Provide work experience for those out of employment and training for more than 6 months
- Help the long-term unemployed get back to work by introducing incentives for employers
- Protect the grants system for qualified students and reintroduce tax relief for educational covenants

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*57% of Full Time Equivalent staff employed in relation to schools are not teachers*

**Hansard data  
February 2011**

## Housing

- Introduce a protected housing scheme to enable Manx residents to buy new houses for homes rather than investment purposes
- Encourage those in social housing to participate in our property owning democracy by the introduction of joint equity schemes
- Introduce a landlord accreditation scheme to improve the quality of the rental sector



## Immigration

- Improve the work permit regime
- Consider bringing into force the 2001 Residency Act
- Review the application of the June 2011 points based Immigration Rules

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*Housing availability and affordability for first time buyers were the most frequently raised concern by those under 25*

**LVP research 2011**

## Pensions and Benefits

- Investigate and prosecute cheats
- Monitor the changing UK National Insurance and basic state pension regimes and then review the Manx system recognising the importance of residence in the Island and contribution to the system

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Want to know more about our policies. Visit [www.liberalvannin.org](http://www.liberalvannin.org) for a spoken or large print copy just write to  
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# You and Liberal Vannin

Spend your vote wisely and vote for the only team committed to:

**Reform the political system**

**Reduce government cost and waste**

**Support the private sector to sustain economic growth**

**Provide efficient world-class health and education for all**

**Protect housing for locals**

**Provide better government, better scrutiny and a Freedom of Information Act**

## Meet the Liberal Vannin Party Team



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