

VOTE BURNS

DOUGLAS SOUTH MANIFESTO



Hello constituents,

My name is Amy Burns, I am a 32 year old woman who was born and raised in the Isle of Man.

I have been married to my husband Gary since 2004 and we are blessed with four children. We all live in the Centre of Douglas South constituency in Harcroft Meadow.

My main influence on my decision to stand to become member of the House of Keys in Douglas South is because I believe it's time for change, time for the people to be represented by one of the people. I understand the everyday needs and that we need a future for our community. I know what it takes to find solutions, navigate complicated issues and how to get things done.

I was raised in Laxey and educated at Laxey Primary School then Queen Elizabeth II High School in Peel. From the Island education system I achieved 12 GCSE grades all C and above. I then attended the Isle of Man college of Further Education studying Beauty Therapy, Anatomy and a Physiology and Business Management diploma which has all added to my experience of life and business life alike.

I have worked in telecommunications, the shipping industry, and e-gaming during my working life to date. I also ran a successful family business for several years, in between raising my four children and investing myself into the role as mother and homemaker. I have campaigned locally against the Toilet Tax and closure of state funded pre-school. My team and I achieved a positive result with the Council of Ministers going back to Tynwald and agreeing on a scheme that has seen vouchers introduced rather than losing any form of pre-school altogether. This success has given me the drive and experience which has led to my decision to stand. I spent vast amounts of time in Tynwald during long debates, watching, listening, learning our system of government and I believe there are many issues that we need to press for a better outcome for us all.

I have lived on the Island all my life, being fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel spending time around different parts of the world. Places such as the United States, and parts of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Taking in their cultures and experiencing how other parts of the world live and how they are developing their economies.

Representing you requires the understanding and ability to relate to our community. I have spent a great deal of time talking, listening and trying to help people on the Island and in our community already and feel I understand concerns and frustrations of people from all walks of life. This has helped me form some key points. I am always learning and willing to hear new concerns.

MY VOICE IS YOURS

I offer a combination of business and social experience. Not only to help the business community and economic growth but represent my constituents. I understand public concerns, however my experience has given me an insight into how to get things noticed and combining those two things allows me to speak up for the people. We seem to have lost our way with the present Government, no leadership, no vision, lack of clear policies, and quite often seen turning their back on the less well off in our community.

I want to see change, new diversity and direction for our Island. I feel a strong importance that we maintain a balanced society and care for those less fortunate and more vulnerable, but feel we need a stronger understanding to actually identify who the vulnerable people in society actually are.

If elected I intend to serve honestly, approachably and efficiently, and as your voice. After all, you are the reason I am here.

Amy Burns

Amy Burns

VOTE AMY BURNS

Rates reform

Modernisation of the rating system is long overdue. While this may not be a popular change island-wide there needs to be a fairer evaluation across the island. I would like to see an all Island system distributing rates so Douglas ratepayers do not shoulder the burden of so much cost.

Infrastructure

There is still a vast amount of work to be done in Infrastructure on the Island. From the basic foundations of our roads to our housing system. We need to make sound investments in this area and not have unnecessary wastage. We are still seeing far too many grandiose, ill thought out schemes which are not value for money. Money is always being wasted in this area, jobs taking too long, or being half done. More local contractors should be encouraged to give fair prices for work that needs carried out so we can support local business and workmen, and protect skilled workmen we have invested in training from leaving the Island looking for employment elsewhere.



Tynwald

As long as we continue to have an upper house in Tynwald (LEGCO) we should have a more democratic process. All members of the Legislative Council should be publicly elected on their mandate. Doing so every five years around election times would be an ideal way to do this.

Do we need a President of Tynwald and a speaker? We should be seeking a public consultation on this. I want to see the role of the President abolished so savings can be made.

We need modernisation in the voting system so everyone can have easy access to casting their vote.

Online voting is one way we could do this allowing people with work commitments or restrictions to access polling stations have another way available for them to exercise their democratic right.



We should have a publicly elected Chief Minister at election time. Again, the decision should be the peoples on who will preside over this important position within the house.

The budget system process at present is unfit for purpose. It needs re-thought out and modernised so at the end of the year instead of seeing some departments rushing to use up their budget allowance on non-essentials it will be spent on a need by need basis rather than allocation. We can invest more money into the key areas such as Health, Education, and Social Security. We run our households on essentials first, luxuries later, I expect our government to be doing the same.

Structure of Government

I am a strong advocate of the pyramid system. Having experience in recruitment, HR and working roles within a business I believe the structure of workers in Government has over the years been missed. Protecting frontline services and workers should be essential, we have become Management top heavy in Government and that goes against the pyramid effect. We are toppling over at the top and there are savings to be made by restructuring Government starting from the top down, so we can protect public servants and front line services staff. The present administration have done nothing about the bloat, it has grown too big, inefficient and lack lustre. We have to see a revision of the scope of Government that has still not been delivered. There is a bomb waiting to go off in Government pensions, why is this not been taken in

USE YOUR VOTE, USE MY VOICE

hand while the state pension is? All that seems to be under the spotlight.

The expenditure on external consultants has been a big eye opener and should be vastly reduced by getting Managerial staff within Government and staff with the knowledge to work more on obtaining results for decisions themselves.

Health

Our hospital has been subject to scrutiny in the past couple of years and findings have been worrying, but have they been addressed?

We still have large waiting lists to see consultants, for operations and for Dental Health. This really needs taking in hand once and for all.

I would propose some kind of external public committee to investigate the shocking revelations that have come about regarding Nobles Hospital.

I would like to promote our Islands hospital as a choice destination for specialist health care, attracting more consultants and specialists to base their clinics here on a permanent basis.



Home Affairs

We need to protect our services and frontline staff. Again a restructure of this department is needed. We need to stop putting so many people through the court system at a huge cost for crimes that are not necessarily needed and in need of the grand scale cost that is incurred. More community service schemes should be delivered.

Our prison is costing a lot to maintain, it needs to be reviewed and the public consulted on their views on what exactly we feel fit for offenders to have available to them. We also should work towards an independent body for police complaints with no link within the Island

Growth is vital to a strong economy. I am a believer in a proactive approach to the economy rather than the negative cut back approach. Sound investments will make our Island more attractive and grow our business and in turn working population.

Attention needs turned to our education system and improvements sought so we are inline and keeping with our UK counterparts giving us an education system to be proud of once again. Children are our future, they are an investment worth making.



It is beneficial for the Isle of Man to work with the UK. However to some people it has been seen we are sacrificing some of our independence of late and copying some of their disastrous policies, and yet not following their positive. We should stand alone more, and concentrate on making us unique and an attractive place to settle. We need better negotiations for our reciprocal arrangements and Islands international relations.

The Isle of Man economy remains strong. We should continue to attract the right economy with low tax rates. There is still room for movement on the tax cap and it should be increased depending on the individual's amount of wealth. When the average earning working class pocket is being hit and we have seen this sector of society squeezed the most, movement on the tax cap is fair.

Economic Development

More discussions need to be opened to join European Free Trade Association since the UK joined the EU our island has left these. Trade with the Commonwealth should be a must, there is a way here to boost our economy.

VOTE AMY BURNS

We need to work alongside the private sector and people of the Island to provide much needed leisure facilities for tourists and residents of all ages. Motorsport is big on the Isle of Man we already have the TT, a well-built close circuit stadium could attract so much more sport series and in turn be beneficial for our Island economy. There should be no limit to what we can achieve as a sporting Island.

We need a complete review of the shipping and aviation links before entering into any more agreements with the airlines and shipping company.



More stipulations on our benefit and housing system are needed, so that people relocating to the Island should be coming here to contribute and invest in our community. No one should be entitled to claim benefits until they have paid Tax and NI here for 5 years. Minimum requirement to receive social housing for relocating individuals should be 10 years. I do not believe in the benefits cap but rather assessing individuals more closely, and putting better regulations in so they miss no one, but also give no one a long term opportunity to be claiming rather than working. Work permits also need some further scrutiny.

Protection for the less fortunate in society is a must. It costs our economy less in the long run to continue to protect the vulnerable in our community. We have seen the vulnerable and working class part of society almost punished with increased taxes and charges. Pensioners should be all of our concern and never left to feel like they are a burden to us. They are the generations who have built our economy and made it what it is. They deserve protecting and all services currently available to them. Most pensioners living in the Isle of Man with less than £13,000 savings are worse off than their UK counterparts once cost of living has been factored in.

Community

Douglas South, I would like to work towards us being whole as a community. Living in the area I have already seen that we do all look out for one another and work well together. I would however like to see an investment in the area for children and more support for the vulnerable in our community. Sadly, we do have the highest suicide rate on the Island in Douglas South and parts of Douglas South have been ranked the most deprived poverty stricken section of the Island. Working towards us having a community centre to offer support to more people around Douglas South will have a positive effect on the area. A place for people to go when lonely, a sanctuary so no one is left isolated or without somewhere to go and ask for help. A day centre for our elderly. Somewhere for the people of our community to build on and make the heart of their area.

Should you wish to contact me at any time with any concerns please do so, I am here for you!



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