



Edition 196 – July/August 2021

Good News: Energetic Renovation

The Berlin Senate intends to strongly promote the energy-efficient renovation of buildings in the future. The program was adopted in June. The funding program with a volume of 48 million euros is aimed at owners of commercial and residential properties. The maximum funding amount per project and calendar year is 500,000 euros; the funding rates range from 15 to 40% of the total costs. Buildings account for around half of Berlin's CO2 emissions. This makes the program an important contribution to climate protection.

Prayer: Thank God for this new program; pray for further efforts for climate protection

Series: Parties for Berlin Elections

CDU

On September 26, 2021, three parallel elections will take place in Berlin: in addition to the Bundestag election, the election for the House of Representatives and the District Council Assemblies (BVV) in the 12 districts. In the months up to then, we want to present the parties that have been represented in the House of Representatives, i.e., our Berlin state parliament, in a series with their election programs and top candidates, while remaining as neutral as possible in terms of party politics.

The Berlin CDU, with its top candidate Kai Wegner, has chosen the motto: "Our Berlin. More is only possible together / CDU Berlin plan". Kai Wegner calls for a new start for Berlin in many areas. He categorically rejects cooperation with the AfD. The election manifesto outlines the party's plans for the period 2021-2026 in the following areas: education; economy, work and finance; security, law and order; urban development, building and housing; administration and digitalization; climate and environmental protection; cooperation within Berlin; families; health and care; sports; science and research; culture; outskirts. The CDU rejects the expropriation of housing companies because the costs are too high and there are too few benefits for the tenants and promotes other measures such as rent subsidies, new construction, in particular by promoting home ownership, and affordable rents for everyone. The mobility of the city is to be guaranteed by the further expansion of the A 100 city motorway, the subway network, cycle paths and shorter bus and suburban train cycles. The security of the city is seen as very important

(more cooperation with the police, the fight against drug-related crime, for integration, against anti-Semitism, compliance with the neutrality law). The CDU also wants to campaign for schools, day-care centres, universities and the reopening of the children's rescue centre in the Benjamin Franklin Clinic. Teachers should be better paid and made again civil servants. Day-care centres and schools are to be built from scratch. In the area of the environment, the commitment to more waste disposal and more trees in the city is guaranteed. The CDU also wants to campaign for nursing staff and the health professions.

Die Linke

What is special about the Left is that they have drawn up a candidate list in which women and men alternate. This ensures that a balance between the sexes in the House of Representatives is elected through the second votes. In the last survey, Die Linke came in fourth with 12.6%. Klaus Lederer is the top candidate. Under the title "red - radical - realistic", the election program includes the following focal points:

- They will continue to be available for a red-red-green coalition.
- The housing issue is central and a housing management law is intended to cap the constantly rising rents. They support the popular referendum to "expropriate Deutsche Wohnen."
- They separate themselves from the SPD in that the Left does not want to advance any expansion of the subway, but rather relies on the cheaper tram.
- They are demanding a master plan against homelessness and basic income instead of Hartz IV.
- They advocate more offers for single parents and the abolition of §218 and 219a.
- In particular, they feel the activities of right-wing groups should come into the focus of the constitution protection authorities.

Prayer for both articles about the parties:

- **Pray for social cohesion and clarity of the respective profiles of the parties**
- **Pray for servant mentalities**
- **Pray that candidates will respect each other and for fair election campaigns**
- **Pray for well-informed and spiritually responsible voting decisions, also by believing, praying people**

Greater Poverty After Corona

Even before the corona crisis, Berlin was at risk for a high percentage of poverty (19.3% higher than the national average). But with the lockdowns, many people lost their mini-jobs or additional earnings after retirement. But the self-employed are also suffering from economic losses. More and more people are camping under bridges or begging in the subway, and the influx of aid organisations has increased.

Prayer:

- **Pray for necessary resources and motivated, strengthened employees**
- **Pray that Christians carry out their mission of practical charity**
- **Pray for effective, sustainable poverty reduction through politics and society**

Transforum Conference

On August 27th and 28th this year's Transforum of Together for Berlin will take place - live on site at the Gemeinde auf dem Weg. "Restart - dare to do something new together" is the theme that will be unfolded through people and stories that advance the kingdom of God in church and society. So, we will hear from the winner of the German School Prize 2019 how God has called him to take responsibility for his school and to redesign it according to God's good ideas. The Transforum aims to focus on encouragement. More details here: <https://www.transforum-berlin.de/startseite/>

Prayer:

- **Pray that Transforum can actually take place in-person**
- **Pray that the right people participate**
- **Pray that teachers in particular will be encouraged and that impulses are set for a new start in Berlin's schools**

Cocaine in the Sewage

Cocaine use increased during the corona pandemic. Analyses of the Berlin wastewater indicate a significant increase in cocaine consumption in the capital. Consumption also rose significantly in other German cities. The head of the drug department in the Berlin State Criminal Police Office, Olaf Schremm, also registered a steady increase in criminal investigations against cocaine traffickers. People seek strength and freedom from pressure in drugs. One reason for the flood of drugs could be "the multiple stress factors of home-office and home-schooling," said Ute Keller, senior physician at the Alexianer addiction clinic in Berlin.

Prayer:

- **Pray that people start afresh to seek help from God and Christian institutions**
- **Pray that Christians will be ready to offer prayer, listening, and conversation**
- **Pray that cocaine users will recognize that drugs are not a solution**
- **Pray for a solution to the sewage problems**

Model Project for the Old Tegel Airport

With the re-use of the airport site in Tegel, Berlin has the unique opportunity to develop a model project that is recognized worldwide. The planned construction of the 5,000 apartments in the Schumacher Quarter in complete timber construction alone is already being a magnet for companies from related industries in the region. In the "Urban Tech Republic" north of today's Terminal A, around 80 hectares are to be available as an industrial park for research, development and production. Up to 20,000 qualified jobs can be created here. Nowhere else does a metropolitan region have a comparable opportunity for a new start in urban development. The Berlin University of Technology (previously Beuth University) with 2,500 students in the previous terminal can be integrated into the overall project as a source of inspiration. Most of the previous airport site to the northwest of the planned commercial settlements is to be retained as a landscape park (Stadttheide).

Prayer:

- **Thank God for this unique urban development opportunity for Berlin**
- **Pray for fast and effective planning**
- **Pray that Berlin will develop this and other innovative and ecological model projects**

Keeping-On: Corona-Variants

Although the number of infections continues to decline in Berlin (**thank God!**), many experts are warning of the dangers of the much more contagious Delta variant, especially towards autumn.

Let us continue to pray for God's gracious work, that the pandemic recedes, and that public life can soon take place again with fewer restrictions!

Dates

July 14, and August 11: Prayer for City Politics, 6-7pm, Rotes Rathaus in front of the main entrance

August 27-28 Transforum-Conference accompanied by 24 hours of prayer for the city (see article)