



Edition 197 – September 2021

Good News: Air Filters in Schools

This fall, Berlin's schools can count on comprehensive equipment with air filters in all classrooms. Berlin is already one of the federal states with the highest device density because 8,000 air filters have already been delivered. Another 3,000 devices began the delivery process on August 18. The devices that are still missing will be ordered in good time so that they are already in use when it gets colder outside.

Prayer: Thank God for this development which helps prevent infections in schools

“Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.”

On September 26th Berlin's eligible voters not only vote on three parliaments, but also on a referendum. The initiative “Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.” aims to socialize all private housing companies with over 3,000 apartments in the state of Berlin. Cooperatives are excluded. It's about 240,000 apartments. Rental prices in Berlin have risen sharply in recent years. The situation is exacerbated by influx and speculation. The initiative wants to counteract this by transferring it to common ownership. Apartments would be offered at affordable rents by an institution under public law. The Senate argues that a legal basis must first be created for this. It wants to obtain affordable apartments through acquisitions and new construction by the municipal housing associations and use legal means to dampen the rent development. The costs estimated of the initiative and the Senate are far apart from each other. The initiative expects compensation of 7.3 to 13.7 billion euros, which is to be financed from the rental income. The Senate would assume 28.8 to 36 billion euros. It also calculates costs of 1.5 to 1.9 billion euros for the recording and valuation of real estate and compensation payments.

Prayer:

- **Pray for wisdom for all those who will vote in the referendum**
- **Pray that all will accept the election result - no matter how it turns out**

Series - Parties for the Berlin Election: FDP

On September 26th, 2021, in addition to the federal elections, there will be elections for the House of Representatives and the District Councils (BVV) in the 12 districts. Since May we have been presenting the parties that have been represented in the House of Representatives, our Berlin state parliament, with their election programs and top candidates, and we want to remain as neutral as possible in terms of party politics.

The Berlin FDP is running under the motto “Let's get the future” with Sebastian Czaja as the top candidate. The state chairman is Christoph Meyer, who is running for the Bundestag. Focal points in their election program: In the future, the FDP wants each district to have a lighthouse school that provides educational opportunities with the best school concepts and additional funds. The focus is on individual, needs-based concepts with more personal responsibility. In the field of business, a welcoming culture is to be established for companies, “which will make the city a place of longing for everyone who wants to make progress through their own achievements”; Start-ups would be given more support. The only way to relieve rents is to build new buildings and sell the state-owned land to private individuals; The FDP rejects expropriations. The A 100 motorway would be completed. Apart from the demand for electric charging stations, climate protection does not play a major role. All personal procedures dealing with governmental offices should be able to be done digitally from home.

Prayer:

- **Pray for social cohesion and clarity of the parties' respective profiles**
- **Pray that candidates would have servant attitudes**
- **Pray for respectful interaction with one another and a fair end to the election campaign**
- **Pray that well-informed and spiritually responsible voting decisions would be made, also by believers**

Jewish Festivals

In September Jewish Berliners also celebrate three big festivals: Rosh Hashanah (6th-8th September), Yom Kippur (15th-16th September) and Sukkot (20th-27th September). Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. The German New Year's greeting "good slide (guter Rutsch)" is derived from the Jewish wish. The ten reverential days that end with the festival of Atonement, Yom Kippur, begin on Rosh Hashanah. It is the day to take stock of the moral and religious behaviour of the past year. You come before God with prayers for a good future. This is followed by a ten-day period of repentance, in which members of the Jewish community are supposed to reconcile with all those whom they have hurt in the past year. Sukkot is the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration of joy at the end of the harvest and to commemorate the exodus from Egypt. Foliage huts (sukkot), decorated with fruit and palm trees, are built.

Prayer:

- **Pray that the Jewish community can celebrate the festivals in peace**
- **Pray that anti-Semitism is not tolerated or accepted**
- **Pray that reconciliation takes place between Jews and Christians**

Nazi Past of BER

Because of never-ending construction delays, a few years ago there were two prayer events at the BER construction site, which brought the Nazi entanglement to light. The area of today's BER was a central production facility for combat aircraft during the Second World War. The planes produced here destroyed cities all over Europe. BER has now had this dark chapter dealt with. The administration of today's BER airport is located in the buildings of the former Henschel aircraft works. The historical research results have just been presented as a book. "With this book we want to enlighten and remember," said airport manager Lütke Daldrup.

Prayer:

- **Thank God for bringing the Nazi entanglements to light publicly**
- **Pray that BER, freed from the historical burdens, will be a blessing for many**

Final Report of the BER Investigation Committee

The 2nd Berlin investigative committee has submitted its final report on BER construction. According to the report, the airport operating company of Berlin, Brandenburg and the federal government (FBB) will be held responsible for the eight-year delay in opening and for the higher

construction costs which were three times higher than planned (a total of 6.8 billion euros). FBB was overwhelmed with the construction of the BER and should now be urgently restructured and realigned. Construction "without a plan" took place, at least in the years 2012-2017, and various construction companies earned ridiculous amounts on the construction of BER. These years were actually lost years that could have been avoided with a construction freeze, an inventory and a "dismantling to the shell" in 2012. The BER could then have opened in 2015/2016. The report recommends keeping the old Schönefeld Terminal in operation and to carry out necessary extensions of the BER cautiously and in small steps. Since BER / FBB is still completely over-indebted, it is proposed that approximately 50% of FBB's debt be written off. Thus, FBB would become a crisis-proof public company ready for the capital market that could exist without subsidies from taxpayers

Prayer:

- **Pray for sensible ways to finance the BER that relieve the taxpayers**
- **Pray for prompt and effective realignment and restructuring of FBB**
- **Pray for good success organizationally and financially for the benefit of all for the future operation of BER**

Transforum Conference

From the evening of August 27th to the evening of the 28th, the Transforum of Together for Berlin takes place – in-person on site at the Gemeinde auf dem Weg in Tegel and also with online offers. "Restart - Dare to do something new together" is the theme, which will be demonstrated through people and stories that advance the kingdom of God in church and society. The winner of the German School Prize 2019 will report on how God has called him to take responsibility for his school and to transform it. The Transforum aims to focus on encouragement. There are over 20 workshops on site, some of which are also online. Registration and the entire conference program can be found here: <https://www.transforum-berlin.de/startseite/>

Prayer:

- **Pray that the Transforum can safely take place on site in spite of Corona**
- **Pray that the right people will attend**
- **Pray especially that teachers will be encouraged and that impulses are set for a new start in Berlin's schools**
- **Pray for good impulses for Berlin's Christians**

Keeping On: Corona Infections

Berlin is among the areas with highest infection rates in the country. **Keep on praying!**

Dates

August 27-28: Transforum Conference with accompanying 24-hour prayer for the city (see article)

September 8: Prayer for City Politics: 6-7pm
Rotes Rathaus, in front of the main entrance