



**Malcolm Ross Ferey
Jersey Liberal Conservatives
Standing for Deputy
St. Saviour**

Election 2022 Jersey Evangelical Alliance Questionnaire

(Please respond by 2 June 2022 to secretaryjea@gmail.com)

1. Would you be in favour of expanding voting rights to all resident Islanders over the age of 16 and eliminating the two-year residency requirement before a person is allowed to vote in elections?

Yes, anything that could improve voter engagement and give people a voice should be welcomed.

2. What are your views about legislation which would regulate speech or the freedom of assembly?

This is a basic human right and it is very important that any such restrictions are only used in the most extreme circumstances i.e. during the recent pandemic.

3. Would you describe yourself as a free speech absolutist or should there be certain limits on free speech?

Speech that incites hate or calls for harm to others should be restricted, other than those caveats I am absolute.

4. Currently "religion or belief" is not included in Jersey's equality law as a protected characteristic. Would you be in favour of amending the law to make it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their religion or belief?

When I was the CEO of Citizens Advice Jersey, I was heavily involved in the development of the discrimination law, and the last piece of the jigsaw within our suite of legislation, is to have religion and belief as a protected characteristic. I am therefore strongly in favour of bringing this regulation forward.

5. How important is it to you that Jersey maintains the role of the Dean in the States Assembly?

The Dean brings the voice and thoughts of many Islanders to the Assembly and his guidance is valuable to the debate. I therefore believe that it is incredibly important that the Dean remains in the Assembly.

6. Are you in favour of maintaining tax-payer support of parish churches?

Yes, without doubt.

7. Are you aware that current government plans to eliminate marginal tax relief for married people will result in tax burden shifting to poorer Islanders as it lowers taxes for wealthier Islanders? Are you in favour of eliminating marginal tax relief for married people? Would you be in favour of allowing married couples to share their marginal tax relief allowances across a family unit?

Our tax system did need up-dating but this should not be to the detriment of families. I am in favour of protecting the current reliefs while the move to independent taxation is adopted.

8. What improvements do you think need to be made to improve the mental health and well-being of islanders, particularly young people?

This is an area of concern for me. The pandemic has exacerbated an issue that was already a big problem, particularly for young people. While funding for support services is important, we all have a role to play in nurturing our young people and making sure that nobody in our society is left wanting.

9. What would you propose to improve transport links within and to the Island?

This is largely consumer driven and the coming recession will only make this more difficult but I believe that there are opportunities to improve travel links and to work with the other Channel Islands to provide a joined up offer.

10. Are you in favour of a raise to the minimum wage or to institute a living wage in Jersey?

Yes, This exact phrase is in our JLC mini-manifesto. [JLC-Mini-Manifesto-2022.pdf](#)

11. What are your views about how to make housing more affordable in Jersey?

Rises in house prices are obviously good for homeowners but not so good for those trying to get on the housing ladder for the first time. Providing sufficient

affordable housing for those wanting to get on the housing ladder is a challenge which must be tackled. We want to increase owner-occupancy in Jersey which is far too low. [Currently just over 50% c.f. UK (65%) and Portugal (73%)]. The Andium approach to shared ownership is a model which could be developed and we support the Housing Minister's recent plan. The Andium approach involves retaining up to 25% of the ownership of the property, and taking a second charge, but charging no interest or rent on that 25% to the buyer. The buyer can purchase the remaining 25% when he or she can afford to do so.

12. Would you be in favour of creating a special category of licensed employee for not-for-profit organisations that would give charities the ability to hire and offer housing to trained charity workers who are not currently resident in Jersey?

The Jersey Care Model, once implemented, is going to put the non-profit and charity sector at the front and centre of what they do, so it has to be fair that there is dispensation for people who come here to work in these areas.

13. Are you in favour of allowing allow Ukrainian nationals without family ties to stay in the island? Would you be in favour of Jersey receiving refugees from other areas of the world where there is a clear humanitarian crisis?

We all have a responsibility to act as a responsible global citizens and providing funds via Overseas Aid, while laudable, is not the whole of the story. To really change lives we have to look very closely at ourselves and how we can serve others. Providing refuge is the single most charitable thing that one human can do for another.

14. Do you support maintaining a minimum overseas aid budget of .7% of GDP?

Yes.

15. In view of the UK's proposed conversion therapy ban would you be in favour of a similar ban in Jersey? If so, what are the specific practices which would be made illegal?

The UK has exempted conversion therapy for trans people and I think that this area is more complicated than same sex couples.

16. Would you be in favour of expanding abortion provision in Jersey or making abortion more accessible in Jersey?

Aborting a child is often a tragedy for a young woman and educating young men and women to take responsibility for their actions is surely far preferable. The law currently allows abortion to take place in Jersey before the end of the 12th week of pregnancy where the woman's condition causes her distress. We do not seek to change the law.

17. Are you in favour of legalising Assisted Suicide in principle in Jersey? If so, what safeguards would you propose creating as a part of any draft legislation put forward in the States assembly?

This is an ethical question on which different people will have strong views and we respect the right of our members to hold their own views. So far as the Coalition is concerned, we believe that the sanctity of life is paramount. If legislation is to be introduced to permit people to assist someone else to draw life to an end, there must be clear and precise safeguards to ensure that the wish to die is genuinely on account of intolerable suffering, and not influenced in any way by others. [Palliative care is a better option].

18. Are you in favour of legalising recreational cannabis use?

No. For obvious reasons, very little research has been undertaken on the long-term effects on mental and physical health of taking cannabis. It would not be sensible to legalise cannabis without much more scientific information. Access to cannabis treatments for medical reasons has brought pain relief to some people, and the data from this change in legislation needs to be carefully considered before any further steps are taken.

19. What is your general view of religion, churches and other faith groups in Jersey? What is your experience with these groups?

The church is part of the fabric of our society. During the pandemic, when many people were talking or thinking about how to help, our faith groups got out there and actually DID something practical and tangible, often putting themselves in harms way to help others. I have deep respect for our faith groups and regularly meet with the various leaders of our valued church community.