

## **Election 2022 Jersey Evangelical Alliance Questionnaire**

(Please respond by 2 June 2022 to [secretaryjea@gmail.com](mailto: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?

I believe the residency requirements before a person is allowed to vote should be reduced to 6 months. If you are paying social security and tax and therefore contributing to the community you should be entitled to vote but there should be a minimum period to allow any individual to acquaint themselves with Jersey.

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

Freedom of speech and assembly is a fundamental principle of a democracy. There are though times , such as during the recent pandemic , that the right of assembly should be withdrawn for public safety.

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

Yes there should be limits on free speech. We have discrimination laws that must be adhered to and it is wrong , for example, to incite racial hatred.

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?

Yes

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

I do not believe the Dean should sit and speak in the States. Its an elected assembly and the Dean only represents a small proportion of the faith groups in the island.

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

Yes but its ratepayer support and not taxpayer support and should remain that way.

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?

I don't believe your statement is correct.

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

Better resourcing, better planning of services, co- production in delivering services and early intervention to prevent any problem deteriorating unnecessarily.

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

It's a very wide question. A better local bus provision with the cheapest possible fares, improved and more walking and cycling routes especially in the North and East of the island. Maintain the support for the current air links especially into London which are vitally important to the finance industry and where possible grow routes to other parts of the UK and Europe such as Rennes in France.

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

Yes its in the Progress Party and Jersey Liberal Conservatives manifesto.

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

The Progress Party and Jersey Liberal Conservatives are committed to providing more affordable homes to rent and buy on States owned sites .Better supply will eventually reduce demand and the high prices that we are currently experiencing.

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?

No. Exemptions to the Control of Housing and Work Law need to be applied consistently and fairly across the islands sectors. We will need to provide more and better key worker accommodation if we are to meet labour shortages but this should be done within the current rules.

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?

Yes to both but they would have to be in limited numbers ie as a proportion to those being accepted in England , as the island is not capable of accepting large numbers of refugees.

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

At present ,yes, but much will depend on the future financial stability of the island and our ability to maintain budgets.

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?

No.

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

There is currently a right to an abortion in Jersey so I am unsure what you mean by ' more accessible'

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?

Yes. There must though be safeguards to protect vulnerable groups such as the mentally ill and to prevent coercion of any type. Any new draft legislation requires wide consultation strong scrutiny before being presented to the States Assembly. Any new legislation should only cover islanders who wish to apply for assisted dying and not to those living elsewhere.

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

Not at the present time but I do understand the arguments being made by both sides including that criminality would be reduced on one side and the risk of addiction and long term health issues on the other. I wouldn't want Jersey to be a holiday destination for recreational cannabis use.



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

Faith groups are strongly represented in the island and are an important part of the community. I profess to not being a regular church goer so my experience is limited.