

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?

I believe that if you're less than two years here, as this would also include temporary workers being just few months in Jersey, won't allow people to form a very accurate opinion on the way Jersey is run.

At the same time, in any country you would go, there's a certain time in place until you can vote in there.

That's why I believe that the current two years residency before you can vote is a fair requirement.

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

Robust discussions and debate is healthy. Insults, personal attacks through Social media etc. are not acceptable.

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

See answer to number 2

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?

No strong view, either way.

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

Yes

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?

Currently, the changes made to apply independent taxation, allow you to opt to stay in the couple taxation until when made compulsory to go independent by 2025. Then you can claim compensatory allowance for 10 years if your tax is more under the Independent taxation than to the previous tax rules, so this will put them in the same position as before. After those 10 years this is to be reviewed to still be fair to each individual.

Please also see our manifesto on reformjersey.je regarding our proposition on reforming the tax system.

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

Perhaps schools could have better provisions and support for young people alongside more funding for the Youth Service, which should become statutory service.

Accessibility for adults also needs to be better funded, accessible and not stigmatised.

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

A Reform member, Deputy Rob Ward has got the States to agree a £20 annual bus pass for young people which is a start. We would also want to renegotiate the contract with Liberty Bus, to provide more routes, affordable and sustainable.

A policy to encourage low-cost airlines as well benefits both tourists and local families with better travel options.

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

Yes, see Reform Jersey pledge to increase the minimum wage at £10 ph by 1/10/22 and progressive to the living wage next year.

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

See Reform Jersey Housing Crises Action plan on our website for all the details.

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?

Applications need to be considered on a case by case basis (i.e. which charity, which person, what for- more details required)

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, but numbers to be agreed on, as we are still a small island.

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?

Don't know enough about this.

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

Current provisions are adequate, unless you know different?

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?

It's not a black and white decision. I've been raised with the Christian values as guidelines in life. Regardless of my faith, in any decision making, I'll use from these values the fairness, empathy and best interest for the people and situations involved. At this time, I'm not convinced that all safeguarding aspects have been considered on this topic.

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

Reform Jersey is in favour of decriminalizing recreational cannabis use. We are looking at options to lower the cost on the medicinal cannabis, for those that need to use it as an effective painkiller.

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

I'm a Christian, raised on these moral principles and interacted well with many Churches on the Island, of different religion.

There are many dedicated people and huge related variety of organisations within the Island. However, we need to encourage more young people to get involved.