

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, say 6 months ordinary continuous residence would be sufficient. The 2 years is attributable to Deputy Jersey Dorey I recall. It's a form of penance. Suffer for 2 years then you will be admitted to the Kingdom.

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

Freedom of speech and assembly are vital to a democracy. With Covid we have seen laws introduced that limit assembly. This is potentially dangerous.

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

Free speech is vital to a thriving democracy.

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?

I am open to persuasion.

The real issue is that there is a 5% chance of succeeding with a race discrimination claim and a 95% chance of collecting unpaid wages. Having brought a race discrimination claim *Marta Cowal v Shinzo (Jersey) Ltd*, you will not be surprised to hear that an expression "You fucking Polish Bastard", said by a young Jersey boy runner about to assault a Polish Assistant Manager, was considered to be no more than a 'slur'. The Tribunal did not believe it was said or that it was racist. This is Jersey.

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

The Dean should be removed.

This is a legacy of the ancient regime constitution of 1771, which constituted the States Assembly for the passing of Laws. The Assembly comprised the Bailiff, the Jurats, Constables and Church of England Rectors. At the time, that may not have been a bad idea, as the Rectors were part of the elite of Jersey society and Oxbridge educated.

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

Yes. These are historic buildings and should be maintained.

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?

Jersey is an island of massive inequality. Nothing surprises me.

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

Get rid of the current Alliance Party government and all its members, covert and overt, and replace them with representative of the People. A pious hope I know, when 70% abstain from voting.

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

A free Bus service or nominal ticket price, would encourage collective transport and get people out of cars. Encourage cycle paths over cars in Town.

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

In my manifesto I have called for a £15 minimum wage. Workers' wages have stagnated for over 10 years. Much poverty is in-work poverty. Strengthening workers ability to form and join trade union and to bargain collectively with employers for higher wages.

I asked Unite the Union to help fund my campaign, as a Community Member and as a recognised campaigner for workers. They refused.

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

The existing government and the future one about to be formed will be of the political right. It has no solutions to the spiralling rents and house prices. Its electorate, home owners, are quite content with rising asset prices. Its also great for speculators and landlords. Most States Members currently are landlords.

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?

Yes. They are probably more valuable to the community that lawyers and bankers in the Finance industry.

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?

I have brought my wife's niece and grandnieces to the island. Only 20 Ukrainians have arrived via the 'family route'. Its tokenism by the Jersey government, ever fearful of foreigners and a section of the electorate that is simply racist, especially just before an election.

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

Yes, and perhaps it should be increased.

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?

Culture wars. I hate them.

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

'Free abortion on demand, as soon as possible or as late as necessary' has been a slogan of the women's movement for a long time.

I was a founder of the Pro-Choice group that campaigned in the 1990's to support the Public Health Committee legalisation of abortion.

The law seems to work well to the 1st trimester.

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?

Assisted dying – Yes.

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

It will come. The Royal Court will resist. It's a way of criminalising the working classes and keeping control.

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

I am an atheist. I believe in freedom of expression for religious groups.

Generally, they pay lip service to changing the circumstances of the poor, but actually do little, since challenging authority requires saintly conviction and a preparedness to suffer for ones beliefs – and oh boy, you will suffer if you challenge our rulers.