

suessem@dei-lenk.lu 2023.dei-lenk.lu





### More quality of life !

Traffic, Environment, Housing, Economy & Work, Finances

## More social justice !

School & Children, Young People & Students, Seniors, Social Issues & Solidarity, Culture, Sport

# More citizen participation !

Democracy, Co-determination and Citizen Participation

## **OUR CANDIDATES!**





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57, specialised teacher, Member of Parliament, former alderman and local councillor, Sanem, president of EPISOL and Eis Epicerie - Eis Brasserie.

Myriam is known for her great ecological commitment which she has never dissociated from her social sensitivity. In her capacity as alderwoman, she was the driving force behind the community gardens in Matgesfeld and the Eis Epicerie Zolwer, which she chaired from the start. As a member of parliament for déi Lénk, Myriam is also committed to all social and ecological issues.



64, retired state official, Belvaux, local councillor, former alderman, member of the building and the traffic committee, consultant at Eis Epicerie.

His experience as a former volunteer manager and current consultant of the social, ecological and employment reintegration project - Eis Epicerie Zolwer / Eis Brasserie Boulodrome - and as former founding president of the Entente des Offices sociaux, have shown the dean of the town council the need for a broader transitional movement towards a social and solidarity economy. Affordable housing policy is another of Jos' battlegrounds



61, retired lecturer, Sanem, local councillor, member of the school board, Klimateam, Pacte nature, president ff of the Biergerinitiativ BIGS a.s.b.l., member of the board of CIGL.

Equal opportunities, participatory democracy, fundamental, social and ecological rights are the issues that Patrizia, former lecturer in an inclusive school, is interested in. Her commitment is consistent, energetic and constant, whether as a volunteer in various associations, as acting president of the BIGS or as a member of the local council for déi Lénk.



40, librarian-documentalist, Belgian native, Belvaux, coordinator of dei Lénk Suessem, member of the culture and sport committee, member of the comittee of the Pakt vum Zesummeliewen, Singer-Songwriter.

When she is not on stage or in the studio, librarian Irina is committed to a less political and more participatory politics. Whether in advisory boards, forums or workshops, Irina continues to be outraged by all kinds of injustice. Strengthening social ties, supporting culture - in all its diversity - and making democracy more lively and participatory: these are the key reasons for her commitment!



64, retired consultant, Italian and Luxembourg nationalities, Sanem, active in ANPI and CPJPO.

Pietro is an Italian and Luxembourg national, an activist of the Italian left and a founding member of the Luxembourg section of the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia (ANPI). Pietro worked as a freelancer for the European Commission for many years. Retired for 3 years, he continues his political and social commitment in the International Commission of dei Lénk and in the Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East (CPJPO Luxembourg).



37, parliamentary assistant, Sanem, member of the environment committee.

Steve has a degree in political science and economics and works as a parliamentary assistant in the fraction of female deputies of dei Lénk. He is a member of the environment committee. He works primarily on social and ecological transition and housing policy. For Steve, the right to renewable energy as well as a policy to integrate social progress with environmental and climate protection are particularly important.



35, theater educator, Soleuvre, member of the youth committee, active at Maskenada.

Born in Luxembourg, Mirka is of Italian origin and has a degree in social work. She also trained as a theatre teacher and worked in various social and cultural institutions and as a freelancer. She is currently a theatre teacher in the performing arts department at Les Rotondes and a producer with the multidisciplinary artistic collective MAS-KéNADA. Mirka is a member of the youth commission.



39, railway worker, Belvaux, president of the Société avicole Belvaux

Franky is very interested in the subject of nature conservation through the breeding of farm animals. For him, the preservation of the genetic heritage of flora and fauna is an essential prerequisite for guaranteeing biodiversity in a sustainable way. Franky is also convinced that we must pass on these values to our descendants. He even sees his personal commitment as an educational mission.



36, sales person, Belvaux, equality delegate at BRAM (OGBL).

Married and mother of two beautiful children, Carmen has been working as a shop assistant for more than 20 years. She is a union member of the OGBL and an equality delegate. So she knows the daily worries of people. Why did she join déi Lénk? Carmen is a person who seeks a challenge. Being a candidate is a new experience and in any case it is exciting to be able to commit oneself concretely at different levels!



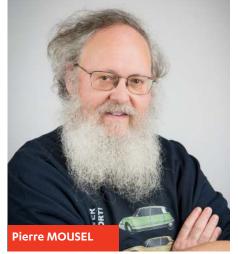
61, retired nurse, Soleuvre, secretary/ treasurer at LRIV-Bieles/Zolwer, Women's Union Committee.

Former nurse in different sectors (emergency, cardio, blood test), Romy is one of the people with essential jobs. Today, in retirement, Romy remains active and involved in various organisations in our community (L.R.I.V., UFL). She is especially interested in health and senior citizens' issues and her commitment tends towards a positive evolution in both sectors and the recognition of care professions.



33, librarian-documentalist, Belvaux, member of the youth commission, of the equal opportunities and diversity commission active member of the Zolwer-Musek & of the Brass Band Esch-Alzette.

Tania is mainly interested in social inequalities personally and professionally as she is «in charge of the collection for sociology and economy at the National Library of Luxembourg». Tania has been a member of the Harmonie de Soleuvre for many years and has been active in the Sporting Club Belvaux for a long time. She has been a member of déi Lénk since 2017 and represents it in the youth commission and in the equal opportunities and diversity commission.



64, retired teacher-researcher, Belvaux, treasurer of Kulturkrees Celobrium, dep. committee SEW/OGBL, CA Amicale Brass Band.

Successively a computer scientist researcher at the CRP-CU (since integrated into the LIST), a consultant and a science teacher at the Lycée Guillaume Kroll, Pierre is now retired. He is interested in the dysfunctions of the current economic system, which is at the origin of growing inequalities, and is convinced that the solutions are to be found on the ecological left.



Maria de Lurdes PEREIRA DE AZEVEDO

#### 45, educational assistant, Portuguese nationality, Belvaux

Daughter of immigrant parents, Maria enjoys the exchange with people from different countries and cultures. She denounces the social inequalities in our society and is especially interested in housing, integration, ecological transmission and children's well-being. Maria is a Portuguese citizen and is happy to be involved in déi Lénk and is running for the first time in the municipal elections.



#### 30, civil engineer, Portuguese and Luxembourg nationalities, Belvaux, secretary of the ADACP asbl

As a railway engineer, Dany is running for the first time in the municipal elections. Determined to contribute to the construction of a resilient municipality adapted to current and future challenges, he is particularly interested in mobility, urban planning, sustainable development and ecology. To create a sustainable future, Dany advocates a participatory approach and close collaboration between experts, scientists and citizens.



550, state employee, Belvaux, member of BLËTZ asbl.

Sandra has been interested in politics since her time in high school, when her political awareness was raised by a very committed teacher. The issues that interest her most and that she is confronted with every day, being disabled and gay, are the current situation for people with disabilities, as well as gay rights, two areas in which there are still many disadvantages and inequalities to overcome.



27, delivery driver, Belvaux, active member of Seasheperds, Taekwondo.

Olivier has been involved in the defence of animal rights since he was a young boy with Sea Shepherd. He is a candidate for the first time in the local elections at déi Lénk and advocates a more united and egalitarian world and condemns all kinds of discrimination. He is concerned about the social and ecological transition. There is no planet B! Olivier practices «taekwando» and eats exclusively vegan.



71, retired lawyer, Sanem, former Member of Parliament and local councillor, member of the finance commission, CA Biergerinitiativ BIGS asbl.

Politically committed since his youth, Serge has been a driving force in numerous battles for social, democratic and ecological rights. Known for his perseverance, Serge wants to contribute his life's experience to the success of the renewal with the representative list of déi Lénk for the municipal elections.



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### **OUR PROGRAMME!**

# More quality of life !

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### More social justice !

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### More citizen participation !

Democracy, Co-determination and Citizen Participation

Between 2017 and 2023 déi Lénk Suessem has been a constructive opposition party in the Municipal Council, with our questions, motions, resolutions, statements, proposals, demands, and actions! The following electoral programm is characterized by the continuity of our past work in the municipal council: we need policies that combine the social question with the ecological question and we need a political process that includes the people of this Community and doesn't exclude them.

We offer an electoral programm that focuses on change, based primarily on three elements: More quality of life, more social justice and more citizen participation:

### Méi fir Suessem! More for Sanem!

### More quality of life !

#### Traffic

We have often taken a stand in the Municipal Council, on problems related to traffic: on unadjusted TICE timetables, on the need for traffic-calmed zones, on traffic and parking problems, and we have contributed our ideas to the Mobility Plan. It is high time to rethink our notion of mobility. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- TICE schedules must finally be aligned with train schedules. We demand an end to years of inaction by community representatives in this syndicate!
- We need the promised car park (P&R) at Käerjeng station NOW! And the Sud-Tram must not come after 2035 either!
- More quality of life and safety for pedestrians and cyclists through early planning of bicycle connections in major construction projects (servitudes).
- General and systematic involvement of citizens in all future traffic and mobility measures, e.g. PNM2035.

#### Environment

We have repeatedly pointed out in the local council the threatening destruction of old forests by the planned bypass. Our local councillor, Patrizia Arendt, has been at the forefront of the opposition to the road construction project with the Citizen Initiative BIGS and the regional nature conservation organizations. We have regularly protested against the nuisances caused by Kronospan (odour, dust and noise) in the local council. We have fought against the concrete deserts in Beles center and on Belval. It is high time to make a change. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- The little left over forests and natural zones around and in our Community are untouchable !
- Emissions from industrial plants like Kronospan must no longer be talked down but must be seriously controlled and reduced.
- More green areas and quiet zones must also be preserved or created in the localities as protection against noise and exhaust fumes! We want to actively support the development of community gardens, small animal husbandry and the cultivation of fruit and vegetables within the village, as well as the planting of native trees, hedges and plants, thus contributing to biodiversity. The future lies in community projects on the ground!
- Renewable and non-fossil energies, such as solar energy by homeowners and cooperatives, must be increasingly promoted and mandated in new development areas (example Wiltz).
- Rainwater catch basins and double water lines (grey water) should also be mandated there. Flood-prone areas (such as in Sanem) need increased protection.

#### Housing

We have regularly drawn attention to the exponential increase of prices on the real estate market, especially on Belval. 20% price increase in three years, even for so-called "affordable housing", is a public scandal! The municipality must take action against this. For this, our councillor, Jos Piscitelli (he's also in the Building Commission and in the GT Logement), has been persistent. He was often met with incomprehension on the part of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor. It is high time to reconsider. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- The "Service Logement" must be expanded, an inventory of buildable land must be drawn up and more must be invested in the purchase of land and in the creation of municipal housing!
- A real estate fund should be created that allows more land to be bought up; land owned by the municipality should remain in public hands!
- The municipality itself should be the builder of affordable housing scaled by income, including through a non-profit developer, with professional staff from the construction sector and in close cooperation with the relevant municipal services.
- SNHBM and Fonds de Logement should also focus on rental housing. 10% of all housing in the municipality would have to be affordable rental housing by 2030.
- Collaboration should be strengthened with "Gestion Locative Sociale" actors who provide housing with a rental guarantee for owners.
- The municipality should have enough housing available for emergencies.
- Alternative forms of housing should be specifically promoted (intergenerational housing, shared flats, etc.). The building regulations must therefore finally be adapted to this!

#### Economy & Work

We have not missed any opportunity in the municipal council to point out that we need sustainable economic planning and cannot continue to act short-sightedly. As president of "Eis Epicerie", our Member of Parliament Myriam Cecchetti has fought for the advancement of this important institution. It is high time to reconsider. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- We demand the creation of a municipal economic and development commission!
- We must promote new services, commerce and crafts in the village centers and in the university district on Belval and we must expand public services!
- The municipality must build a second retirement home and not sacrifice this crucial social service to private economic interests!
- The solidarity economy and circular economy must be promoted and expanded (example: Eis Epicerie). The solidarity economy has been recognized by the state as an alternative. It should be able to develop freely according to its own democratic operating principles, supported by the community. Permanent jobs should be created here, aligned with working conditions in the public sector.

#### Finances

In the Municipal Council, we have repeatedly criticized the cost recovery principle for municipal taxes, as it is neither social nor ecological. In our opinion, the municipal budget should continue to be financed mainly through the Fonds de dotation communale from, among other things, progressive income tax (the higher the income, the higher the tax) and increasingly from increased business tax (the higher the profits, the higher the tax). As the now free public transport shows, freedom from costs means democratization and thus increased accessibility of services. It is high time to reconsider. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- The business tax must be increased and harmonized. Fees, taxes and subsidies must be socially just, graduated and differentiated.
- Staggered water price: Now! Our proposal (which is absolutely feasible, as European legislation explicitly provides for it!):
  - Daily per person in the household:
  - the first 50 liters: free
  - 50 to 150 L: current price
  - from 150 L: double price
- Stop the index automatism of the prices in the old people's home: a pension price structure must come, broken down according to clear, social and comprehensible criteria!

### More social justice !

#### School and Children

The well-being of children should be a main focus as it affects all areas of life. Our society needs a fundamental rethinking of the value of children. Formal and non-formal education and upbringing must complement each other. Public space should be used for creative and constructive educational activities. Child-friendly urban planning benefits everyone. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- The "departments" of school and "day care centers" should be united under the responsibility of a member of the Board of Aldermen, and the powers of the School Commission should be extended in that sense.
- Parents and children are to be given a greater say, more opportunities to shape the school, and more responsibility through a charter.
- School and day care centers should be located close to each other. School and play zones should be easily accessible on foot or by bicycle! A Pedibus service should operate at all schools. Elementary schools and day care centers should ideally, consist of small units.
- Introduction of a "children's school council" following the example of the "Kannerbüro" in Wiltz.

#### Young People & Students

School, teaching and studying, leisure time, work and living outside the family - new ideas and concepts of living together are emerging. If we want to take the youth, i.e. their future, seriously, then the necessary space and resources must also be provided for this. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- We need an expansion of the "streetwork" work, a new youth meeting hall for Sanem, a night bus for young people so that they can get home safely from the capital at night, more meeting and leisure places for young people and rehearsal and meeting halls.
- We need to focus more on youth participation!
- Young people need a roof over their heads!

#### Seniors

One of the main problems of growing old today is the risk of loneliness and the threat of impoverishment (there are still people, especially women, with very low pensions). To guarantee a dignified old age for all is a noble goal that we must not lose sight of. Here, too, the municipality must assume its responsibility and act in a complementary way to state aid. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- We need a second, community-owned retirement home!
- We need barrier-free access to all public buildings, easy and clear language in the communication of regulations and information, and a contact point for questions!
- We need suitable housing structures for seniors in our village centers. In cooperation with the "Service loyer" we have to help the elderly citizens to find a subtenant, to find a suitable apartment, or to sell/rent an apartment!

#### Social Issues & Solidarity

Social cohesion and solidarity are indispensable to guarantee a harmonious coexistence. The "Office social" of our community does a good job, but it cannot solve all social issues. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- The gratuity resp. affordability of the communal services must be guaranteed!
- We want to create a department for social policy, with an advisory commission in which social associations, trade unions, etc. are also represented. Through regular reporting, organizing forums (assises sociales), submitting new proposals, concrete measures should be taken at all levels of municipal policy.
- Citizens must be informed more about their rights, interest groups must be involved, regional structures in the field of addiction and drug prevention should be supported more strongly and the needs of people who are limited in their mobility, for example, must be taken into account!
- We advocate the creation of an integration table!

#### Culture

Supporting and enabling culture means recognizing that the interpersonal in our society is a pillar of our coexistence. Culture feeds off diversity: diversity of origins, diversity of generations and lifestyles, diversity of opinions. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- We need small, manageable and easily accessible events in all localities, as well as rehearsal rooms for music associations and bands, studios and workrooms for visual artists.
- We support decentralized cultural institutions (e.g. libraries and media libraries), and want to support and promote local artists!
- We need a clear statute for the Artikuss!
- We want more citizen participation in the planning and implementation of cultural sites and in the elaboration of cultural projects! Assises must not be an end in itself, but should inform us about the wishes and demands of the citizens of this municipality!

#### Sport

What is true for culture is also true for sport: sport unites and it helps to break down prejudices; sport is a universal language that connects people of all cultures. To exercise outdoors is beneficial for everyone's health, and that's why places where everyone can play recreational sports and enjoy athletic activities are so important. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- Bicycle paths and walking trails must be extended throughout the area and they must be interconnected.
- Sports clubs must continue to be supported logistically and financially, and we remain strictly opposed to the privatization of cultural and sports facilities.
- Recreational sports must be increasingly promoted and local recreation areas must be preserved!

### More citizen participation !

#### Democracy, Co-determination and Citizen Participation

People must be included as equal partners in discussions, in planning and decision-making processes. As a society we continuously write the same story of "those up there" and "those down there". déi Lénk have always advocated that representative democracy be supplemented with participatory democracy. "Méi fir Suessem" means for us:

- All municipal councillors must be involved in new planning processes and that from the beginning; expert opinions or recommendations must be considered.
- Reports of the advisory commissions should be made available to the public and commissions in general should be opened to citizens.
- We would like to see more citizen participation through, among other things, the establishment of a citizens' council, we continue to demand live video transmission (online) of municipal council meetings and we advocate the introduction of municipal forums in all localities! A municipal charter for citizens' rights is needed!
- Kuerz & Knapp must be and remain a municipal newspaper and must not be the mouthpiece of a mayor. Here we require more neutrality and variety!
- Organising "Assises" and forums, is one thing. To let "Assises" degenerate into an "event" is another. We demand serious citizen participation!
- Expand and concretize "Safe Spaces" for queer people!





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Here is an abridged version of our programme. The original version in French or German can be downloaded at 2023.dei-lenk.lu.