

Party Program – The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm

For the Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm, a vibrant democracy means actively taking part in political life in our immediate vicinity. This goes for the municipal council and in organizations and groupings that in practical terms take care of children, youth, the elderly, nature and who push for concrete progress in addressing the overarching climate challenge.

We have been represented in the municipal council in 3 of the latest 4 election periods, and we are strongly committed to continue to do so after the upcoming local elections.

One Facebook and our website <https://bornholmsradikalevenstre.dk/> you can follow what we do and meet our candidates. Our lead candidate is Matilde Lissau.

Here, you can read about some of the principles and ideas that are fundamental to our party, and you can see examples of what they mean for Bornholm. From our last 12 years in the municipal council of Bornholm, we have a solid track record of being well-prepared, willing to cooperate, and being green and socially minded. We have extensive reach in Bornholm's civil society and among its professional networks.

Principles and Fundamental positions – Politics on Bornholm

Climate & Energy

The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm is a firm supporter of the coming offshore wind turbine projects at Rønne Banke, but we are also concerned with the grassroots level and are attentive to what we can do here and now.

We are in favor of real change, organic food production and market uptake of local products. In other words, responsible consumption and sustainable production. For this reason, we are supporters of initiatives such as Bornholms Økojord (a bottom-up driven organic produce initiative).

We support the vision of a zero-waste society by 2032, and are fully committed to the coming waste separation and collection schemes, and a strengthening of BOFA (Bornholm's waste management service provider) in a way that meets future challenges.

It is important to roll out charging stations for electric vehicles as soon as possible, in order to promote emission-free cars. We support the electrification of our bus fleet and municipal car fleet. We also see it as forward-thinking to ensure that our coming catamaran ferry is capable of switching to alternative, greener fuel.

Environment & Nature

We cannot take our clean water, clean air and nature diversity for granted. We can see what happens if we do. For our own interest, we need to provide more space for nature *now* and promote ways of life and consumption that ensure balance and sustainability.

Our agriculture must be reorganized in a manner that protects nature and climate. We need to transport, produce and eat more sustainably, and reuse and recycle to a far greater degree than we do now. We call this a "green restart". The corona pandemic has taught us what happens when we set food security and sustainability aside in our mass production of livestock, and in general when we exceed our planetary boundaries.

We are in favor of green education and civic responsibility as part of every citizen of Bornholm's practices and consciousness – both in education and in the public space.

The municipality itself must show the way as a green lighthouse. We support green and circular public procurement practices. We are in favor of minimizing food waste and, of course, sustainable packaging. And we support repair cafés instead of discarding all sorts of tools and items.

We are supporters of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm's participation in the national initiative to promote biodiversity as "Denmark's wildest municipality", being aware that completely "untouched forest" rather than forests utilized for productive means generally isn't a great idea. Less extensive productive forestry is better for both biodiversity and commercial interests.

Education and Research

Good educational opportunities close to where people live are absolutely central to the Danish Social Liberal Party. To cut back on education is to limit our future possibilities and the individual's opportunities to develop freely. The Danish Social Liberal Party is against thoughtless flat budget cutbacks of for instance 2%, and in favor of targeted upgrades and a strengthening of our education system, i.e. more resources, more freedom, and fewer tests. We are therefore completely opposed to the current initiative to cut 10% in study places in the four major cities. We would like to see more educational opportunities around the country, but we mustn't cut study places overall.

The same principle applies to primary schools, which must be permanently allocated more resources and provided a less restrictive framework to operate. The public primary schools must be able to unfold more freely in interaction with private primary schools, which we also support.

Similarly, research is essential, and research at universities that are free to operate should not be restricted. Research should not undergo forced cutbacks and or be tied to narrow interests. We would like to see collaboration with research environments in the progressive private sector domestically and internationally. In international research collaboration, on the other hand, we must not be naïve, as we've seen in relation to China.

The school closures of recent years have been something that we did not vote for in the Danish Social Liberal Party in the then municipal council, and we do not imagine that in a situation where 33% of our children go to private schools, that the municipal council will decide to close more primary schools. On the contrary, we find it necessary to ensure calm and stability in the remaining schools on the island as soon as possible. Pupils and school staff have been exposed to completely unfair working conditions for far too long. In general, we will prioritize the strengthening of the primary schools on the whole island.

With respect to the special school area: We are in favor of successful mini-institutions being allowed to exist to the extent that they meet the needs of children with special challenges. In our opinion, there are limits to how far one can push the idea of "inclusion" of special needs children in regular school classes, and we believe that we have already pushed it too far.

The municipality's visitation process to assign children to the special school system, and the pedagogical psychological counseling unit at the municipality, must have the necessary resources to finely capture problems while there is time.

We believe that locally and in principle regionally, supportive education should be provided to those children who after primary school stand without exams or professionally relevant educational programs.

For us, the key word in the field is diversity, and that includes, in principle, homeschooling.

The Commercial Sector

The Danish Social Liberal Party stands on its ideology. Denmark lives off free trade and extensive innovation, production and exports. We are particularly strong in green and circular technologies.

We must strengthen this with entrepreneurial opportunities, good conditions for research and investment, and by ensuring that we have the manpower that is the prerequisite for it all. Also, foreign labor - if it is 100% on the terms of the Danish labor market!

Half of our new jobs come from newly established small and medium-sized enterprises. Therefore, we must strengthen the opportunities for entrepreneurs and ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises can also utilize and develop domestic research results.

When we want to maintain the number of study places in the big cities, we also see it as a kind of business support: Our business community needs us to strengthen and educate purposefully in this country.

As far as the agricultural sector is concerned, should we make Danish farmers climate heroes and stop with high debt and high climate impact? Danish farmers and food producers are among the most skilled in the world. But parts of Danish agriculture are in crisis. The debt is 320 billion. Climate change is flooding some soils and drying up others. Therefore, we want to make our food production the next climate adventure, as we did with the wind turbines.

Bornholm has many really good business stories, e.g. large well-known and visionary companies, with innovative production in the field of food and beverages. We must uphold that development and innovation are possible on Bornholm.

We must speed up our processing of applications for building permits and establishment permits, so that we do not delay opportunities here. And we must maintain Business Center Bornholm as locally as possible.

In terms of agriculture, we want to stop cultivation on the worst soils, and thus reduce CO₂ emissions. Agriculture must focus on local, green produce, which offer a higher consumer price.

Approval of expanded pig production must return to the municipal council, and in general the volume of mass-produced pigs in Denmark must decrease.

Bornholms Økojord (a bottom-up driven organic produce initiative) is a project that fits squarely in the values of Danish Social Liberal Party. Here, the green, the entrepreneurial, the broad backing and business focus are fused together in an exemplary and future-oriented way.

We are aware of the capacity problems with respect to transport to and from the island, which are already a reality and which actually worsen when the new ferry is put into operation. Capacity problems are detrimental to our important tourism industry. We believe it is important to maintain and expand the current development within our overall tourism: emphasis on nature values and outdoor activities in parallel with continued quality development in hotels, summer cottages, campsites etc. Gastronomy, diversity in local quality products alongside outdoor tourism, shelters and nature camping. In short: we should preserve the uniqueness we have, which people in reality seek Bornholm out for. On the other hand, we can do without cruise ship tourism.

The Elderly

The Danish Social Liberal Party is fighting for a welfare state where we are seen and treated as the different people we are. Where skilled employees have the time to provide the professional effort and care for which they have chosen the subject. And where we appreciate the many with different ethnic backgrounds who work hard every day in the care sector.

We already lack hands to take care of our elderly citizens with dignity, and within a very short number of years that problem will become monumental. The Danish Social Liberal Party will put a stop to cutbacks in education and support the status and working conditions of the social and health care workers to address that situation. In this context, it is a really good idea to promote the opportunity to become an adult apprentice with a reasonable salary during education.

We will also promote diverse housing for the elderly, so that senior citizens have the opportunity to live in housing that reflects who they are. And we support greater freedom and local leeway to do the human and sensible and here we must point out the rigid reporting and rules management regime governing the work of the elderly care workers.

In the Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm, we have a nuanced perception of "the elderly": There is a lot of potential in this group and many elderly people are active and self-reliant up to old age. Of course, this does not apply to everyone, and it is important to ensure dignified and best possible conditions for our weaker, older fellow citizens.

The Danish Social Liberal Party will work for:

- Ensuring that elderly citizens who need help only have to turn to one place, which can then guide them on to the right place
- Ensuring that help arrives quickly and competently, so that you have the opportunity to become self-reliant as quickly as possible
- Rehabilitation in collaboration with the citizen and on the citizen's own conditions
- Visitation of assistance in relation to the citizen's needs, both physically, mentally and socially
- That flexible activity offerings are ensured for all senior citizens
- IT assistance for the digital mailbox system, and expanding and upgrading citizen service
- Flexibility and healthy

Europe

In light of the corona pandemic and the climate crisis, it is completely nationalistic to turn your back on the outside world. If the European Union did not exist, we would have to invent it immediately. We must precisely therefore support our common EU against the unpleasant tendencies towards illiberal nationalism (Poland, Hungary) which are prevailing in these times and more unreservedly committing and engaging in Europe AND thus the world.

We've got Biden in the US, but China is cynically attempting to strengthening its own positions, and Putin is unpredictable. In such a world, EU cooperation is essential.

The Danish Social Liberal party wants to fight climate change, migratory flows, fraudulent banks and IT giants cheating with our data. It is naive to think that we can do without strong European cooperation in the world we live in.

From a narrow perspective, EU agricultural support has provided benefits, but it has also helped pull modern agriculture in an unsustainable direction. Now the EU is opening up for agricultural support to a much greater extent to be given to green forms of production, and by the end of 2023 the EU will present a bill to phase out livestock behind bars in EU agriculture!

In the coming years, we must significantly strengthen the circular economy on Bornholm, and in this respect, there are right now gigantic funds set aside for this in the EU for a green restart after the corona pandemic.

Matilde Lissau, our local leading candidate, has just been elected deputy chairman of the European Movement on Bornholm.

Health & Disability Policy

During the corona pandemic, we have experienced a healthcare system that impressively mobilized, went to the forefront and saved lives.

Normal conditions are approaching, and we must deal with the unresolved problems in the Danish healthcare system:

- There is a shortage of doctors and nurses everywhere in Denmark. This provides insecurity for those who need help, and it is unacceptable in a welfare state based on free and equal access to the health care system.
- Today, there are patients who fall through the system when, for example, they transition from treatment at the region's hospital to rehabilitation in the municipality. This is especially true of the patient groups who are already most vulnerable.
- Although the Danes' life expectancy is increasing, the increase is primarily for those who already live the longest.
- Children and young people are unhappy like never before. Their performance is affected and they feel inadequate. They struggle with mental health problems or are diagnosed with severe mental illness.

We want to create more places in the medical school, improve the possibility of sharing a doctor's practice and for access to free medical practice, and make it easier to bring in foreign labor to fill vacant positions. This ensures that everyone has access to a doctor, no matter where in the country they live.

We will further support nursing education and take the lead in working conditions that can get the Danish nurses back into full-time positions at our hospitals.

We want to preserve the regions and strengthen the health care system as we know it.

We will give vulnerable patients the opportunity to have a treatment counselor.

We want to raise the price of cigarettes significantly, ban visible tobacco sales and put an end to tax cuts on alcohol, soft drinks, beer and wine.

We want to give all young people access to free psychological help and strengthen pedagogical-psychological counseling.

The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm will always work to ensure the conditions for the weakest citizens. We will look at the quality standards so that the division of responsibilities between the various professional companies is coordinated with the individual citizen.

We will work for smooth transitions throughout the sector. The citizen does not know who in the system is responsible for help. It just has to work. We will work to ensure that citizens who need help only turn to one place which is then responsible for the citizen being contacted by the right employee. It is important for everyone who needs help that this is implemented quickly and competently, so that you have the opportunity to become self-sufficient again. We will also support organizations, groupings and associations that work in various ways to increase health and well-being.

We are in favor of investigating the possibility of a comprehensive health center in Rønne.

We in the municipal council and in the regional council will work to find new recruitment opportunities to get more general practitioners to Bornholm to strengthen the primary health sector on the island.

Our local hospital must be strengthened and resources provided in integrated collaboration with the region, of which we benefit from being a part.

We will work to increase the opportunities for psychological help for needy young people on the island.

David Christensen takes over from Gerd Lyng as the Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm's candidate for the regional council.

Foreigners & Refugees

Denmark and Europe are not equipped for new refugee crises. A barrier at the Danish border does not prevent a single refugee from seeking asylum. There is a need for long-term and joint action in Europe.

Denmark is failing the UN quota refugee system. The quota system is basically the orderly solution that everyone wants, where the weakest get help first and where the countries receive refugees under orderly conditions. We must promote that system, not weaken it.

Tightening of immigration rules is poison for successful integration of citizens.

The children at Deportation Center Sjølsmark suffered. The Danish state must not stand in the way of children having an ordinary and safe family life.

Denmark must accept quota refugees again.

But there must be control over the influx of refugees. More Danish efforts must be directed toward common solutions that provide security, such as border control at the EU external border. We will work to ensure that all applications for asylum are made to the EU instead of to Denmark, and that Denmark can then receive refugees under orderly conditions according to an agreed EU model.

Refugees must start working from day 1. As soon as the asylum case is being processed, we must clarify what people can do and then give them access to the labor market. In return, poverty benefits must be abolished.

Denmark must accept quota refugees again. At least back to the previous 500 a year. In addition, we must put an end to the practice that quota refugees who are already here should only have temporary residence.

The Danish children stuck in Syrian refugee camps should come home with their mothers. Mothers, who of course must be held accountable by our Danish court system for their actions.

On Bornholm, we have been good at receiving and integrating foreigners and refugees: We have had space in the form of large, well-located buildings and empty buildings around the island. And many individual citizens or groups of citizens have been active and helpful in relation to their fellow human beings who have been forced to flee by violent and unfortunate events in their home countries.

The municipality was proactive and quickly established collaboration with the business community on work and internships, so that the learning of Danish was integrated as much as possible with external activities.

We must continue this excellent effort in recognition of the fact that, even on a small, privileged island, we have a shared responsibility towards climate and the international refugee policy.

The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm is by no means in favor of our borders being wide open and that we receive an unlimited number of immigrants and refugees in our country. This must be regulated, and it must be done in cooperation with the EU and the UN. But in the midst of the growing global inhumanity, we must preserve our own humanity and uphold the ideals and international conventions we have rightly acceded to.

Here on the island, we have proven that we can receive and integrate refugees in the best possible way, and we must be open to continuing with that if necessary.

Children and Young People in Vulnerable Positions

About 5-10,000 Danish school children or 5-10% of a year group are dissatisfied to such an extent that they need help and support. This corresponds to 1-2 children in each and every class. And problems are clearly on the rise; both in terms of number and degree of dissatisfaction. Furthermore, there are many indications that the last 1½ years with corona have increased loneliness and poor well-being in many children and young people.

Most people agree that something needs to be done about it.

The Danish Social Liberal Party has put forward a proposal that 500 million should be earmarked for targeted efforts to alleviate and remedy these problems, so that we can get many more children and young people back on track while there is time. And just as important: prevention, so that there are no more vulnerable children in Denmark.

The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm will work towards:

- Strengthening the current pedagogical-psychological counseling system at the municipality. Specifically, we will improve regional and municipal cooperation by ensuring that qualified staff from the country's psychiatric wards come out and contribute to the local pedagogical-psychological efforts.
- Ensuring that there is a free offer of psychological help to all young citizens aged 15-25. The offer must be open, in such a way that the first interview decides whether to offer more interviews. The offer must also be offered to allow anonymity.
- Underlining that resource persons - e.g. general practitioners who are in contact with the parents, that they should be aware of how the children are doing and assess whether they need help. It does not happen systematically today.
- Ensuring that all children in Denmark who have a parent with mental difficulties must have an offer from their municipality that they can participate in a tailor-made offering - e.g. a group course with other children in the same situation.

On Bornholm, we have had some very sad and criticisable examples of total failure towards vulnerable young people. Everyone probably agrees that these cases must not repeat themselves.

From 2016, there is a long, written "Guidance in service level" on the municipality's website regarding vulnerable young people and children and young people with disabilities. This must be followed.

The Danish Social Liberal Party on Bornholm supports ung.bornholmer.dk, leisure passes for young people who otherwise would not be able to participate in sports and leisure life in line with others, and we believe that there should be further support and listening via the upcoming municipal Youth Council on Bornholm.

The primary and lower secondary schools have just received an extra 250 million to catch up with the under-learning that corona has caused for school children and young people.

If there is increased funding from the government for vulnerable young people, this must be converted 1:1 aimed at the target group, and even without additional funding, we in the municipality should prioritize the area.