

It *can* be done

Election manifesto 2026–2030



D66
veldhoven

It can be done

Preface

This is Veldhoven. Here we create the future!

On March 18, 2026, we face a crucial choice. Do we choose to stand still, or do we take a step forward together? D66 Veldhoven wholeheartedly chooses progress. For a municipality where everyone can live, work, and thrive in a sustainable, innovative, and inclusive environment. Choosing D66 means choosing a strong Veldhoven, an economy in balance with livability and nature, and a future in which we prioritize the well-being of everyone. For the current residents of Veldhoven and for generations to come.

Brainport is the beating heart of the Dutch economy, and Veldhoven holds a special place within this region. From our municipality and the surrounding region, we provide the world with technological and sustainable innovations. However, the growth that this development brings also presents challenges: a housing market under pressure, climate change requiring us to adapt our public spaces, and businesses that are forced to go to extremes to attract scarce talent and scarce energy. D66 Veldhoven takes responsibility for addressing these challenges.

We achieve this by working together. Naturally, with other political parties in our city council. But above all, with the people who live and work in Veldhoven. We believe in the power of community. Especially at a time when that community is under pressure from increasingly extreme polarization, we choose commonality and common sense. From more affordable housing and easy accessibility to vibrant, green neighborhoods and excellent education. We strive for a Veldhoven where everyone counts and participates.

Veldhoven deserves a future where growth is balanced with well-being, sustainability, and livability. This program offers concrete plans to realize that future. Vote for progress on March 18, 2026. Vote for a progressive and sustainable Brainport. Vote D66

It can be done!

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Opportunities and challenges in a broader perspective

Veldhoven is not an island. We are at the heart of the world, and therefore the major global challenges also affect our local communities. Major transitions in housing, mobility, healthcare, climate, and the economy demand a steady, future-oriented policy, rather than decisions based on the whims of the day. At the same time, we are open to new opportunities through technological innovation, international collaboration, and social engagement. Nowhere is this dynamism more tangible than in Brainport, where the innovative power of the Netherlands converges with the challenges of rapid growth.



The central question is: how do we ensure that economic progress goes hand in hand with liveability, sustainability and social justice?

Housing: a fundamental right, under pressure

The housing market is under pressure throughout the Netherlands, from villages to cities, from north to south. Shortages are increasing, prices are rising, and the flow of new homes is faltering. First-time buyers, families, and the elderly are particularly affected by the impact of finding suitable housing. In Brainport, the explosive economic growth is compounding this, with an expected need for 70,000 to 100,000 additional (primarily affordable) homes by 2040. The construction challenge is complex. Scarce space, high land prices, and slow permitting processes pose obstacles.

At the same time, this also presents an opportunity: by smart densification, circular construction, and improved regional collaboration, we can build faster and more sustainably. With space for everyone; from families to singles and from international workers to refugees.

Mobility: from crowds to smart accessibility

The Netherlands is experiencing increasing traffic pressure: traffic jams are a permanent fixture, public transport capacity is limited, and accessibility is under pressure. This trend is also exacerbated in Brainport by rapid economic growth.

The solution lies in a mobility transition: we need to start working on real alternatives to the car. More than ever, it's necessary to invest in high-quality public transport, fast cycle routes, and shared mobility. In our region, billions in government funding are being used to create new public transport connections, fast cycle paths, and dedicated bus lanes. This is crucial not only for accessibility, but also for our climate goals. As a municipality, we benefit from the additional government funding, but we also need to invest ourselves. For example, in safe cycle paths and pedestrian paths, bicycle parking, and public charging stations for cars.

Facilities and care: keeping pace with growth

Increasing population growth and an aging population are putting pressure on healthcare, education, and other social services. Staff shortages and rising costs are a concern throughout the Netherlands. Hospitals, general practitioners, youth care, and elderly care are reaching their limits. (Special education) is also facing shortages.

To manage this growth effectively, significant efforts are needed to expand facilities and support healthcare professionals. At the same time, residents must be prepared more than ever to take on greater personal responsibility when it comes to caregiving. The government simply can no longer keep up with the growing demand for care. That's why we want to invest in "social reliance": a community where people care more for each other. A good cultural and social offering can help with this: clubs, theaters, sports facilities, and community centers are crucial for an inclusive, livable, and healthy society. Brainport already demonstrates that collaboration between governments, businesses, and social organizations works; now it's time to scale it up.

Sustainability and energy: accelerating despite bottlenecks

The climate challenge is significant, nationally, regionally, and locally. The Netherlands is struggling with nitrogen issues, grid congestion, and drought. In Veldhoven, the full electricity grid is hindering new business and housing development, while the region has ambitious goals for solar and wind energy.

The urgency is clear: energy conservation and insulation, local energy hubs, sustainable heating systems, and greener cities are necessary to resolve grid congestion and achieve climate goals. Climate adaptation must become the standard in public spaces: water storage, cooling, and biodiversity are prerequisites for future-proof living environments. Therefore, we are opting for at least 8 square meters of additional green space in public spaces for each new home and are exploring collective energy solutions.

Economy and labor market: investing in people

The Netherlands is developing into a sustainable knowledge economy. Brainport plays a key role in this, with sectors such as high-tech mechanical engineering, semiconductors, photonics, and medical technology. The region contributes significantly to the Netherlands' earning capacity. But with this growth comes responsibility. Labor market shortages are acute, particularly in technology, healthcare, and education. Tens of thousands of additional jobs are expected in Brainport in the coming years, a significant portion of which will need to be filled by international talent. This requires focused efforts in education, housing, migration policy, and social integration.

This requires investing in talent development, from vocational education to university. And in equal access to opportunities. This also includes an inclusive labor market where everyone participates, whether you were born in Veldhoven, Madrid, or Damascus.

Society and cohesion: building trust

Veldhoven is becoming more international, but not everyone feels comfortable with this development. Polarization is increasing. Shouting sometimes seems to take over, especially on social media. On the streets, emergency services are also noticing the hardening of the environment. They are increasingly threatened. New residents and those who have called this place home for generations too often live separately from each other instead of together. In Veldhoven, with its growing international community, we must focus on connection and coexistence.

Rather than exaggerating differences, our municipality benefits more from bridging them. Instead of name-calling, ranting, and violence, D66 chooses reason, consultation, and collaboration with the most diverse communities. Meeting and sharing values are central. That is the way forward: green economic growth and social justice. Locally, too, we stand firmly for all the elements that constitute a democratic constitutional state.

Governing with courage: from local region to national government

The major challenges of our time don't stop at municipal boundaries. Whether it concerns housing, energy, or mobility, collaboration at the regional and national levels is essential. In Brainport, the power of collaboration between government, knowledge institutions, and the business community is demonstrated daily.

The collaboration between the 21 municipalities in the Eindhoven Metropolitan Region deserves an even stronger foundation and deeper understanding. This requires clear direction for regional cooperation, customized solutions, and room for initiative and individual identity. This collaboration can inspire municipalities to take on major challenges and make sometimes difficult choices with confidence. This requires a government that leads by example: reliable, helpful, and steadfast.



What are we as D66 Veldhoven focusing on?

We distinguish six substantive themes. For each theme, the program outlines what D66 Veldhoven will focus on in the coming years.

Residing & living

Everyone deserves living space that suits their needs or wishes.

Mobility & accessibility

The region must be and remain accessible to accommodate sustainable economic and social growth.

Community & amenities

Everyone has access to good and accessible facilities.

Climate & sustainability

Everyone deserves a sustainable, liveable environment to live, work and stay in.

Vibrant economy & labor market

Growth in balance of this technology region.

Inclusive & just society

Meeting, understanding and accepting each other.

Chapter 1

Residing and living

Residing & living

"Everyone deserves housing that suits their situation or needs."

Accelerating housing construction: with fewer rules and more cooperation

The region's growth will require the construction of 100,000 homes by 2040. In Veldhoven, we will grow by almost 10,000 residents by 2040. Building more and faster will by far contribute most to what people need now: suitable housing. This requires fundamentally different thinking and actions.



Standardization of construction processes and regulations

By standardizing construction methods and procedures more effectively without sacrificing the unique character and minimum size of homes, we can build faster. D66 also believes that issues such as land (price) policy and building regulations should be reexamined to facilitate acceleration.

Urban development unity in diversity

We're building a lot, in many different places. To prevent it from becoming a mishmash of styles and spatial layouts, guidelines must be established for the quality and appearance of the buildings. Veldhoven should still be beautiful in 20 years, when most of the plans have been implemented. This doesn't mean uniformity, but rather unity in diversity of buildings that won't be dated in a few years.

Better regional cooperation

In the "Southeast Brabant Development Strategy," the 21 municipalities have jointly agreed on sufficient locations for building new homes. There is room for growth throughout the region. D66 wants municipalities, housing associations, and developers to collaborate more intensively. Each municipality has its own policy, but excessive differences can slow down housing construction. We don't all have to reinvent the wheel. D66 advocates for better coordination and collaboration between the MRE municipalities.

Open and honest participation

Municipalities must take charge of public participation in construction plans. This prevents bogus participation and ensures honest and clear information for stakeholders: what are we discussing with each other and what are we not discussing? It's important to pay attention to the "quiet middle," in addition to the noise on the flanks.

Logical places for new homes

Areas with good bus connections are ideal locations for adding large numbers of homes. In the coming period, it's crucial to ensure these housing plans are properly implemented. A completely new, trendy neighborhood with 3,000 homes is planned for De Run. We also need to accelerate the construction of 1,000 new homes in the City Center. Between these new homes on De Run and in the City Center lies the so-called urban axis. This area, too, is a logical spatial location for adding a substantial number of homes.

Better flow on the housing market

Not only is building new homes important, but also ensuring that people live in the right, suitable home. Many seniors aren't actively looking for another home yet, but if they're encouraged to move, more homes will become available. It's clear that these transitional homes must also be attractive enough to justify giving up their old, familiar home. After all, you don't leave your large family home with a paid-off mortgage for a tiny apartment with a hefty rent or purchase price.

Suitable housing and support for the elderly

A suitable home contributes to longer independent living. D66 Veldhoven wants the municipality to develop housing options that meet the needs of older adults, such as shared living arrangements and informal care homes. We believe it's a good idea to have mixed generations live together as much as possible, so they can rely on each other's support. We must all be aware that we are increasingly responsible for our own care. Self-reliance is important in this regard and should be encouraged by the municipality and care organizations.

Strong and healthy neighborhoods

Everyone should be able to live in a way that suits them. That's why D66 is committed to a good mix of owner-occupied and rental properties in various price ranges. To achieve this, we need to build more, especially in the lower and middle price ranges. There should also be plenty of green space in the neighborhood, as this is good for mental and physical health. The diversity of areas, from rural village centers to more urban neighborhoods, is a strength and characteristic of Veldhoven that must be preserved.

Living and care combined with space for meeting

Good meeting places are important for social cohesion in neighborhoods. This helps people with minor care needs, especially, to look out for each other. As far as D66 is concerned, we should promote this by focusing more on (facilitating) neighborhood activities and meeting places.

Building more sustainably: biobased and circular

D66 wants new homes to be built as sustainably as possible, using (renewable) materials sourced locally. This means shorter production chains and increased use of natural materials like wood and fibers from natural crops. In this way, we contribute to a more sustainable construction sector and opportunities for the agricultural sector.

Every home is one that's needed

Home sharing must become easier. This can be achieved by removing restrictive regulations and creating more leeway for splitting homes, placing tiny houses in backyards, and converting vacant shops and offices into living spaces. Long-term vacancy of buildings must be prevented. Therefore, we must monitor vacancy rates closely. The eventual imposition of fines for prolonged vacancy is an important signal to property owners that this is simply unacceptable in these times of severe housing shortages.

More control through active land policy

The municipality must take control of the housing market. Too often, the market determines where, when, and for whom construction takes place. D66 Veldhoven wants the municipality to take a more active role in acquiring and allocating land. With a targeted land policy, we can better manage the affordability, sustainability, and quality of construction projects. Through strategic purchases, establishing preferential rights, and—as a last resort—expropriation, the municipality can have more influence on what we build and where. Especially in times of extreme scarcity, it's important to view housing construction as a significant public task.

Green living remains the norm

Living in Veldhoven means living surrounded by greenery. Accelerating housing construction must not lead to urban sprawl. D66 Veldhoven wants at least 8 square meters of additional green space for every new home. And not just roof gardens or facade plantings, but proper parks, public gardens, and green spaces. Green spaces provide cooling, collect rainwater, and promote biodiversity. This way, we not only build new homes but also healthy, climate-resilient neighborhoods and preserve Veldhoven's green character.



D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- The appointment of a city architect who will bring more cohesion to diversity. Veldhoven, with its enormous construction project, must not build a uniform design, but rather design buildings and public spaces that are relevant not only now but also in the future. This also means recognizing the spirit that reflects Veldhoven's unique position in the region and the Netherlands.
- Managing participation in construction projects. For (medium-)large projects, the municipality should take the lead when it comes to participation. It must be clear from the outset what the discussion will and will not cover. The goal should be to give space to the opinions of the "silent majority."
- New homes have a minimum living space of 55 square meters. Plans to build large numbers of 42 square meters are not future-proof: seniors won't leave their large family homes for it, and singles are forced to postpone cohabitation, let alone starting a family.
- The municipality's active land policy will provide greater control over the housing market. The municipality must make strategic (land) purchases, establish preferential rights where necessary, and, in extreme cases, be willing to resort to expropriation in the public interest to ensure continued construction momentum.
- Villages will remain villages in the future. The village atmosphere is part of Veldhoven's character. To maintain this in the future, thousands of new homes need to be built concentrated in the City Center, on De Run, and along the urban axis of Burgemeester van Hoofflaan. According to D66 Veldhoven, the plans for this last area must be developed much faster than is currently the case.
- If living and business no longer align well in an area, we will choose one of the two functions. Quality of life, including in the long term, is paramount in Veldhoven's development. Residents and residents must be generously consulted and accommodated in the choices we make in this regard.
- Providing more opportunities for housing construction. Splitting and adding floors to existing apartment buildings should be possible. A tiny house or assisted living home in your garden is also an option if there's enough space. We understand that this may result in fewer parking spaces on certain streets.
- Multi-generational cohabitation is key to building true communities. Housing options where only young people, families, or seniors live aren't the solution. We can do more for each other when we live together. We want to give extra attention to the opportunities for first-time homebuyers.
- For every new home, 8 square meters of green space will be added. Despite the enormous construction challenge we face, we must also keep Veldhoven green. This is only possible if we make firm commitments to it. Especially considering that D66 Veldhoven is committed to a construction target of 6,000 new homes by 2040.

Chapter 2

Mobility and accessibility

Mobility and accessibility

"The region must be and remain accessible to accommodate sustainable economic and social growth"

Priority for bicycles and public transport

D66 Veldhoven is fully committed to alternatives to the car, such as public transport. This is inevitable in a region where hundreds of thousands of homes are being added and a comparable number of jobs are being created. Highways are becoming congested and will continue to do so if we don't offer a truly good alternative. Besides public transport, cycling is another viable alternative: fast, clean, and safe cycling routes are becoming increasingly available in our region. Veldhoven must lead the way in this area. If we no longer prioritize cars in our mobility, we won't need to completely redesign our public spaces. Fewer cars means fewer parking spaces and more space for green spaces!

Good facilities for electric cars and sufficient (shared) cars

If a car is the right mode of transport, make it an electric one. This isn't without its challenges, as the electricity grid is full. Nevertheless, municipalities are providing more charging stations for cars. This also makes it easier to use electric car-sharing. Because we need to take serious action on this too. D66 Veldhoven wants sufficient car-sharing stations available in Veldhoven to make the car-sharing concept truly attractive to a large number of users. Because only when you feel confident that a car will be nearby when you need it will you switch to a car-sharing service.

Working together towards an accessible region

To keep Veldhoven accessible, people from outside the city who work here need to park their cars in parking spaces ("hubs") on the outskirts of Veldhoven. From there, special buses will take them to places like De Run. Public transport in our region will also be boosted. For example, a direct express bus (HOV4) will be introduced from Eindhoven Central Station to De Run. This bus will run several times an hour on a dedicated bus lane. Veldhoven cannot finance this alone. The government and the business community are working together to finance these major mobility plans and enable people to make this transition.

Public transport as a fully-fledged alternative

Municipalities have limited influence on public transport, but they can exert pressure on the provincial government. Bus connections between municipalities need to be improved: buses should run more frequently and connect with trains, including early mornings, late evenings, and nights. Not only the high-speed public transport (HOV) lines, but also buses to and between surrounding smaller municipalities deserve much more attention. Bus stops should contribute to a comfortable journey, for example, by offering shared mobility options and bicycle parking for the last minutes of travel to the final destination.

Road safety

To reduce the number of traffic accidents, the speed limit within built-up areas needs to be set at 30 km/h by default. To maintain traffic flow, this isn't feasible on several major arterial roads, where the speed limit is 50 km/h. A lower speed also has a positive effect on harmful emissions and noise. The 30 km/h limit in neighborhoods also allows for the creation of even more pleasant and safe public spaces, which also benefits social interaction, play, and cycling.

Less nuisance from Eindhoven Airport

Flying is essential in an international region like Brainport, but the health and living environment of local residents are paramount. Noise pollution and environmental impact from Eindhoven Airport must be reduced. The D66 party wants the agreements from the Van Geel Committee report to be seriously implemented. Less noise, lower CO₂ and particulate matter emissions, and no increase in the number of flights. That is the only way to a sustainable future for the airport and its surroundings.



D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- The bicycle comes first. Veldhoven is compact enough to make cycling a priority. We don't need to completely design our municipality for cars, sacrificing valuable green space for ever more parking spaces. We're investing in good parking facilities and cycle paths, and giving cyclists priority over cars at traffic lights.
- Good bus connections to Eindhoven, but also to surrounding municipalities. In our opinion, the new bus station near the hospital (MMC) will not only improve accessibility to Eindhoven but should also ensure faster access to surrounding municipalities, for example, by not routing every bus route through Eindhoven Central Station.
- Accessibility of Veldhoven by accommodating commuter traffic at parking hubs. The Kempenbaan is congested during rush hour, and this will only worsen in the future if we don't quickly implement parking hubs with rapid public transport at the edges of our municipality.
- A green space is more important than a parking spot. Sure, there should be enough parking in Veldhoven. But when a neighborhood has to choose between a spot for a tree or a car, D66 Veldhoven chooses the tree. And that also applies in the city center.
- Press the province to ensure the public transport concession aligns as closely as possible with the needs of the city: early and late buses to Eindhoven city center and the airport. The bus connection to Habraken must also be established.
- Car sharing is a real alternative to owning a car. With enough shared cars, we can replace street parking with more trees. But that requires many more shared cars. We aim for a shared car within 300 meters and are convinced that its use will increase rapidly.
- Within built-up areas, the speed limit is 30 km/h. Road safety and noise pollution are the benefits of introducing a 30 km/h speed limit throughout Veldhoven. A lower speed is also much better for air quality because it reduces emissions. We are making an exception for two main roads in our municipality. On the two major roads, Kempenbaan and Heerbaan, we are in favor of reducing the speed from 70 to 50 km/h. If road adjustments are necessary to reduce the speed, we will give cyclists more space.
- No increase in the number of flights at Eindhoven Airport. As far as D66 Veldhoven is concerned, we continue to insist on a further reduction in air traffic at the edges of the day (morning and evening). We will do this by actively participating in the Eindhoven Airport Consultation (LEO).
- We need to incorporate bus stops into the planning of new neighborhoods from day one. We're seeing that many residents are having to wait too long for bus connections to their neighborhoods, resulting in increased car use. D66 Veldhoven wants public transport stops to be considered from the very beginning and for consultations with the provincial government and bus companies.

Chapter 3

Amenities and communities

Amenities and communities

"Everyone has access to good and accessible facilities."

Strong neighborhoods and involved residents

Everyone should have the opportunity to develop, live healthily, and participate, regardless of age, background, or income. Good and accessible facilities in sports, education, culture, and health are crucial for this. They make Veldhoven an attractive place for residents and businesses. Moreover, they help connect people and improve well-being.

Neighborhood and village associations are ideal partners for the municipality when it comes to maintaining dialogue with residents. This is where opportunities and challenges often first become apparent. It is up to the municipality to take their signals seriously and translate them into action. By strengthening neighborhood platforms, we also strengthen the communities themselves and the bond between residents and the municipality. Eventually, neighborhood budgets can be introduced, giving residents more direct influence over their own living environment. D66 Veldhoven also wants to work with a residents' panel. The format of such a panel can vary from a citizens' council to a survey and from online to offline meetings, depending on the agenda item. This way, we ensure that policy is not only developed for residents, but also with them.

Amenities in the neighborhood

Good and accessible neighborhood amenities strengthen community spirit. That's why D66 promotes community centers, medical facilities, and cultural activities in neighborhoods. We support initiatives that contribute to an inclusive society, such as language education and integration programs. We pay special attention to libraries, which play an important role as places to learn and connect.

By creating meeting places and actively involving residents, we reduce the risk of loneliness and increase the chance of a longer, healthier life. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities. They deserve appreciation from everyone in Veldhoven, but especially from the municipality. An open attitude toward their work and actively engaging with volunteer organizations to ensure their future sustainability should be a given for the municipality



Growing up with opportunities and targeted care

Many studies indicate that young people relatively often feel lonely and find it difficult to feel at home. This is reflected in the increasing demand for youth care. The pressure is high: on the young people themselves, on their caregivers, and on care professionals. Currently, 7 out of 10 young people are in contact with youth care in some way. This is unsustainable: there are too few staff, and costs continue to rise.

We must be honest about what we can expect from healthcare. Not every problem requires professional help. Sometimes it's about learning to cope with setbacks or accepting that we're all different. The increasing pressure to perform and mental health issues among young people, whether or not exacerbated by social media, are also worrying. Preventive measures and strong social networks are essential for this.

D66 Veldhoven wants youth care to focus primarily on young people who truly need it. These are the young people who are largely, if not completely, dependent on the government for their daily care. There are no alternatives for them, and so we as the government must make every effort to properly guide them into adulthood. We also call for more robust youth work, with a focus on resilience, social connection, and suitable meeting places in the neighborhood. The municipality needs a strong local team that can provide youth care and support itself. This will reduce our reliance on commercial providers, lower overhead, and anticipate the Youth Reform Agenda. We also see opportunities in Veldhoven for additional support for vulnerable (young) parents, for example, in the form of a mother-child home where they can stay even if housing is a problem. The latest homelessness figures unfortunately also warrant this.

Investing in good education

Brainport is a region of knowledge and innovation. To further strengthen this, investment in education is essential, at all levels. While this is naturally a responsibility of the national government, it is the responsibility of municipalities and the region to continuously prioritize this area and provide funding. Technical education and language support, in particular, must be prioritized. As a municipality, we are responsible for our school buildings. They must be clean and safe, have healthy air quality, and provide a safe environment for all students and teachers.



Special attention should be paid to better integration of international education into mainstream Dutch education. Newcomers should be able to catch up as quickly as possible. This will benefit their integration. School buildings should, in principle, be available for use all day and evening. This means opening them outside school hours for other community activities that require a space.

More and diverse sports facilities

Sports are essential for a healthy and social society. That's why D66 wants more public sports facilities, such as in parks. It's crucial to encourage collaboration between sports clubs and schools and to ensure that sports remain accessible to everyone, especially young people and vulnerable groups. Just like school buildings, the numerous municipal sports facilities should, in principle, be available for use all day and evening, including for non-members and other (social) organizations in Veldhoven.

Of course, D66 remains realistic: when considering investments in (sports) facilities, consideration should also be given to neighboring municipalities. Sometimes it's worthwhile for municipalities to jointly develop facilities or to connect with sports facilities located a few kilometers away in the neighboring municipality.

Internationals

Veldhoven is changing. The growth of the international community brings with it new people, languages, and customs. This makes our municipality richer and more vibrant, but it can also take some getting used to. Some residents no longer recognize their street or neighborhood as they once did, and that feeling deserves understanding. D66 Veldhoven wants everyone to feel at home, especially in a changing environment. This requires encounters and openness on both sides. We welcome new residents to our community and value the knowledge and culture they bring. At the same time, we ask newcomers to get to know and appreciate Veldhoven, so we can truly connect with each other.

The municipality helps by encouraging language skills, contact, and collaboration. But ultimately, we create that sense of belonging together. By staying curious about each other, having a chat, or organizing something together in the neighborhood. Because only by getting to know each other will we keep Veldhoven connected.

Culture accessible to everyone

D66 wants to support both large and small local cultural initiatives. As the population grows, our cultural offerings must grow along with it. We need events, performances, and exhibitions to maintain a vibrant Veldhoven in the future. The new City Center is the perfect place to finally create the long-awaited "cultural hotspot," where theater, library, museum, and perhaps even a music school will come together. If it's more practical to include the town hall in this, we should do so. After all, we only have one chance to get it right, now that the City Center is being renovated. Let's seize that opportunity to build a vibrant heart for culture, encounters, and creativity.

A municipality that is there for the community

That the municipality is there for the community seems self-evident, but in practice, that's not always the case. Steps are being taken to send less complex letters or to respond to reports more effectively and intelligently. D66 Veldhoven continues to champion a truly accessible municipality. Whether you're reporting a loose paving stone, have questions about healthcare, or need help with digital matters: residents should be able to easily contact the municipality in a way that suits them.

D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- Sports parks and sports halls that are open all day. The sports facilities in the municipality should be an open invitation for our residents to come together and exercise.
- Sports equipment in parks and flowerbeds. Public spaces are a great way to get residents of all ages exercising in their immediate neighborhood. Free, accessible, and just around the corner!
- School buildings are the neighborhood's main meeting place outside of school hours. It's a shame we don't also use our school buildings in the late afternoon and evening. They offer space for clubs, but also for card clubs, reading groups, yoga classes, and more.
- A community that knows and recognizes each other. Understanding is a two-way street. Established Veldhoven residents and (international) newcomers must actively work together to thrive in Veldhoven. Integration is a verb. The municipality's responsibility is to encourage it. A first step is an integration action plan.
- Each community center will have a youth center and youth worker. Young people are the primary focus of attention when it comes to issues. D66 Veldhoven believes we can prevent a great deal of personal suffering by paying more attention before problems arise. A place where young people can come together, where a youth worker knows them and understands their needs, offers opportunities for everyone.
- Supporting a healthy lifestyle. Of course, everyone has the right to make their own choices when it comes to healthy living. At the same time, we need to make healthy living as easy as possible. For example, by banning smoking in public spaces and critically reviewing the locations of fast-food restaurants.
- Professional support for the further development of neighborhood platforms. A neighborhood is a world for many people. Those square kilometers around your own home are the most important. Neighborhood platforms are important links between residents and the municipality. To help them develop, professional support is needed.
- The cultural hotspot where knowledge, culture, and nightlife converge. D66 Veldhoven wants to develop plans for a cultural hotspot in the city center by 2026, combining a library, theater, museum, and parts of the town hall. A place where you can take a digital skills course in the library in the afternoon and enjoy a drink in the theater foyer late in the evening to round off a wonderful day. A vibrant place for all residents from early morning until late at night.
- Sufficient space for socializing. To keep Veldhoven attractive, we must provide space for recreation, restaurants, and events. It goes without saying that disruption to local residents must be minimized through clear regulations and enforcement.

Chapter 4

Climate and sustainability

Climate and sustainability

"Everyone deserves a sustainable, liveable environment to live, work and stay in."

Sustainability requires collaboration

Together, we face major sustainability challenges. The good news is that Veldhoven is located in the heart of one of the most innovative regions. If there's anywhere to find solutions for grid congestion, climate adaptation, and circularity, it's here. However, we do need to collaborate beyond our municipal borders: what we learn from setting up an energy hub on an industrial estate in the Kempen region can also benefit Veldhoven. A successful neighborhood approach to insulation in Veldhoven can, in turn, offer relief to our neighbors. That's efficient and effective progress. Collaboration between government bodies isn't the only important factor; D66 Veldhoven greatly appreciates all the volunteer organizations promoting sustainability in our municipality. From Veldhoven Duurzaam to IVN and from the Go Clean Foundation to the Repair Café: it's incredible how much valuable work volunteers do!

Accelerating the energy transition together

D66 Veldhoven is committed to making every effort to implement the Regional Energy Strategy. Together, we can generate approximately two terawatt hours of sustainable energy from solar and wind power in the region, essential for truly reducing CO₂ emissions. There's limited space for this in Veldhoven itself: large wind turbines and solar farms simply don't fit. Therefore, we're focusing on what we can do: better insulation for homes and innovative sustainability improvements for businesses. D66 believes that heat is a utility, not a market product. The municipality must maintain control over an affordable, sustainable heat supply and collaborate with neighboring municipalities and the province. We won't be held back by difficulties, but rather by what is possible. This also applies to resolving grid congestion. To relieve the burden on the electricity grid, we want generated energy to be used locally as much as possible. This way, we make the energy system smarter, future-proof, and keep the energy transition affordable for everyone.

Measures for a liveable and sustainable environment

To keep cities and towns livable and better equipped to withstand extreme rainfall, drought, and heat, D66 Veldhoven believes that municipalities must invest in greening and climate-resilient outdoor spaces and sewer systems. We cannot continue to grow businesses and homes without increasing green spaces and water resources. However, municipalities cannot finance such changes alone: without central government support, local taxes would rise too sharply. The central government must provide financial support, and we as a municipality and region must lobby for this together. We also want to support our residents in greening their own gardens. Fewer paving stones means less flooding, a cooler living environment, and more food for birds and insects. As a municipality, we, together with our residents, are responsible for removing as many paving stones as possible and adding greenery.

A livable environment is also a clean environment. A pilot program involving fining people who dumped waste next to underground containers was successful. Therefore, D66 Veldhoven wants permanent enforcement capacity to reduce litter and illegal dumping within and outside built-up areas. Our forests also require additional supervision and enforcement to combat drug-related activities, actively track down drug waste dumpers, and clean up these dumps. Furthermore, our forests and the people who walk, exercise, and play there benefit from better enforcement of the ban on motorcross, which is harmful to the environment and nature.

Green and blue as a guideline

When allocating space, D66 deliberately chooses more green and blue (water) to ensure livability. In Veldhoven, every new home must have at least 8 square meters of green space in the immediate vicinity. And preferably even more! To absorb heavy rainfall, investments in public spaces will also be necessary in the future. The same applies to combating heat stress with sufficient greenery. The municipality has already made significant progress in this area in recent years.

Water quality and water availability will be the next major challenge in the Netherlands after nitrogen. Drinking water is so essential that we must use it much more sparingly than we do now. Where new homes are built, D66 Veldhoven believes they should be built as circularly as possible and with separate rainwater drainage. Rainwater will be reused, for example, for flushing toilets, so we no longer use scarce drinking water for that purpose. Furthermore, we must tackle pollution at its source: we support the water board in taking action against polluting discharges into surface and groundwater. Clean and sufficient water is no longer a given, but a responsibility we all share.

Building within existing city and village boundaries

When it comes to housing, D66 Veldhoven prioritizes building within existing city and village boundaries. This means we first explore opportunities within the built-up area before deciding to use agricultural land on the outskirts of the municipality for development. Building valuable, natural green spaces is not an option for D66 Veldhoven. This way, even in a densely populated region, there remains space for biodiverse flora and fauna, allowing residents to enjoy them responsibly.

Healthy environment

Health is partly determined by the living environment. D66 Veldhoven is committed to cleaner air and better environmental quality. Veldhoven recently joined the Clean Air Agreement. It's good to act accordingly from now on. For example, by urging our residents to first check whether the weather permits when using wood-burning stoves, to avoid half the street being enveloped in smoke, with all the ensuing (respiratory) consequences.



D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- Additional enforcement capacity. Most residents do everything they can to keep Veldhoven clean and safe. However, we're also seeing increasing amounts of waste being dumped in underground waste containers and littering because people don't bother to throw their empty packaging in a bin or take it home with them. As far as D66 Veldhoven is concerned, additional capacity should be freed up to track down and fine offenders. We intend to seriously explore the possibilities of camera surveillance in areas with high levels of dumping. We also want to see this increased enforcement in the woods, where motorcyclists endanger nature and hikers.
- Rainwater harvesting in the neighborhood. To adapt to climate change, we need to create more space for capturing downpours. Rainwater harvesting in bioswales and paving stones in public spaces offer possibilities. As a municipality, we will encourage residents to climate-proof their own gardens, starting with reducing paving and focusing on rainwater for garden irrigation.
- Improved handling of reports and complaints regarding public spaces. The municipality receives numerous reports annually regarding public spaces. The vast majority of these reports are quickly forwarded and addressed. D66 Veldhoven wants all reports to be properly processed and is committed to a consistent complaint registration and tracking system. This way, no report goes unnoticed, and we keep our living environment clean and safe.
- A new energy system. With the grid grid snarling, electrification in Veldhoven is also stalling. We are therefore focusing heavily on insulation, but we also need long-term solutions. D66 Veldhoven wants the path to a new energy system to be affordable and accessible for all residents.
- Implementing the Clean Air Agreement. By joining the Clean Air Agreement, the municipality has the opportunity to actively contribute to cleaner air in Veldhoven. According to D66, one of the first things to address is communication about wood burning. Wood burning is one of the biggest polluters, a fact that is particularly noticeable to people with lung problems. Consciously burning wood, only when the RIVM app indicates favorable weather conditions, is a small effort that literally gives many people a breath of fresh air.
- Parkstraat Resident Initiative. We want the municipality to actively support residents' initiatives where neighbors want to transform their streets into green spaces. Less space for cars, more space for trees and for socializing.
- Research into DIFTAR. To better manage the costs people incur for waste collection and processing, research is needed into the introduction of differentiated rates. The polluter pays system is the fairest way to allocate costs: if you're diligent about waste separation and therefore have little residual waste, you pay less than someone who doesn't.

Chapter 5

Vibrant economy and labor market

Vibrant economy and labor market

"Growth in balance of this technology region"

Choices for a sustainable knowledge economy and labor market

If we want a sustainable knowledge economy and a strong labor market, we must make clear choices. We will determine which sectors we want to grow in and invest in education and continuing education. This way, we ensure that people's knowledge and skills are better aligned with the labor market. D66 Veldhoven wants to focus on utilizing untapped talent, such as lateral entrants, partners of expats, and refugees with refugee status. The municipality must do everything in its power to get everyone who wants to work into work.

A future-proof SME

Small and medium-sized businesses are essential to daily life in Veldhoven. From local bakeries to bike shops, and from restaurants and bars to gyms, they provide local amenities, craftsmanship, and personalized service. D66 Veldhoven wants to ensure that there remains room for these entrepreneurs in the future, despite the pressure from housing, infrastructure, and industry. At the same time, like all businesses, they must be able to make their businesses more sustainable and meet requirements such as the energy label C for commercial buildings. The municipality must support them where possible and enforce them where necessary. This way, we help our local entrepreneurs thrive, create a level playing field, and make Veldhoven's economy greener and more future-proof.

The Run: working, living & life

De Run is the economic heart of Veldhoven and is growing into an area where work, housing, and socializing converge. D66 Veldhoven wants the north side of De Run to develop into the trendy, future-proof, green urban district of Veldhoven. It will have a contemporary look, comparable to the energy and creativity of Strijp-S in Eindhoven, but with its own distinct Veldhoven character. The Beek de Gender stream will regain a prominent place in the area and will soon form a blue-green artery with space for greenery and relaxation. This will create an attractive living environment where business and living complement each other. Some businesses will no longer have a place in parts of De Run after the transformation due to their activities, but we are committed to helping these businesses find a place where they can flourish again.

Furthermore, De Run continues to offer space to many companies and institutions that have been established here for years. One of these is ASML, a global company we are proud of. At the same time, growth is putting pressure on the surrounding area, the housing market, and infrastructure. We mustn't ignore these challenges, but must address them together with the business community and the region, with sound agreements on spatial planning, mobility, and livability. This way, De Run remains attractive to everyone who works and lives there.

Habraken: sustainable business park with quality and space

Habraken is a key business park for Veldhoven, offering space for local SMEs to grow. It also serves as a valuable alternative for businesses that no longer fit elsewhere in Veldhoven, for example, due to developments in De Run. By maximizing the reserving of space in the region, we prevent Veldhoven businesses from having to leave our municipality.

The completion of Habraken offers opportunities to future-proof the site. D66 Veldhoven wants new businesses to establish themselves in a high-quality, green working environment where energy-efficient construction and climate-adaptive design are the norm. The expansion with new plots and the construction of a green-blue zone with water storage, cycling and walking paths will make Habraken an attractive site that is both economically and ecologically sound. D66 Veldhoven wants to significantly improve Habraken's accessibility, with better cycling routes and a comprehensive public transport connection. To give businesses a chance to establish and expand in Habraken, the problem of grid congestion needs to be addressed. To this end, Habraken must be transformed into a fully-fledged energy hub: a place where businesses can intelligently generate, store, use, and share energy.



D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- Maintaining sufficient space for SMEs. Attention in our region and municipality often focuses on large companies. D66 Veldhoven is specifically calling for attention to the position of SMEs in our municipality. For example, through proactive support for entrepreneurs by the municipality.
- Support for making business premises more sustainable. Businesses need knowledge and assistance with the necessary sustainability improvements to their buildings. Furthermore, there must be a focus on monitoring the implementation of these improvements.
- ASML as a partner. ASML and Veldhoven are a natural fit. This means that, despite ASML's enormous strength, we must act as equal partners. For example, when it comes to integrating local businesses into economic growth. The municipality, ASML, and the local business community are jointly responsible for translating economic growth into broad-based prosperity for everyone in Veldhoven.
- A high-quality finish to Habraken. Habraken deserves a finish with more greenery, water, and attractive public spaces. A proper bus connection is also part of this.
- Habraken Energy Hub. Given the challenging situation on the electricity grid, every effort must be made to offer businesses alternatives and, above all, to encourage businesses to find them themselves. The municipality is supporting this by appointing an energy coordinator to work with businesses to establish an energy hub in Habraken.
- De Run's vision for the area as an excellent place to live and work. D66 Veldhoven sees many opportunities for developing De Run into an ultra-modern mix of residential and commercial areas, spread across two sides of the Kempenbaan. We recognize that its development is not progressing as quickly as originally intended. We advocate for acceleration and specifically call for attention to climate-adaptive measures, heating and energy solutions for businesses and residents, and accessibility.
- A strong regional lobby for new work locations and alternative locations. Space for businesses in our region is limited, and demand is high. D66 Veldhoven sees opportunities for a strong regional lobby to secure additional alternative space for Veldhoven businesses at Habraken or elsewhere in the region, based on the exceptional spatial pressure ASML is placing on De Run.

Chapter 6

An inclusive and just society

An inclusive and just society

"Meeting, understanding and accepting each other."

A warm heart for the democratic constitutional state

D66 Veldhoven stands for the democratic rule of law. Non-negotiable. Democracy is the best possible alternative to any other form of government. A key principle of this rule of law is that everyone is equal and belongs. For us as a party, this means we want to meet, understand, and ultimately accept everyone. This doesn't mean we always have to agree with everyone. Differences of opinion are precisely the foundation of our rule of law. But we do want to be known for our willingness to engage in dialogue. To listen and speak, to express opinions and, if necessary, to adjust them based on new insights. Unfortunately, this may no longer be the norm at all times and in all parts of the world. Polarization is deeply affecting societies. Fortunately, in Veldhoven, we are actively engaging in dialogue. And let's certainly continue to do so.

For example, about the impact of the growing number of foreign residents in Veldhoven on our community. Or the consequences of ASML's growth on amenities, the road network, and the housing market. D66 Veldhoven views the developments in our region, in our municipality, with a positive and optimistic outlook. The economic engine that drives us here keeps hundreds of thousands employed and brings with it an unprecedented vibrancy. At the same time, we are naturally also aware of the challenges that exist: the overheated housing market, the difficulty of finding a general practitioner, and long waiting lists for some sports clubs. To name just a few examples. Our call is: let's also discuss the downsides of growth. Not with the aim of looking back at the past, romanticizing it, and retreating into discontent, but rather with the intention of finding solutions, to explore how we can best incorporate all these new developments into the future of Veldhoven.

As far as D66 Veldhoven is concerned, we're doing this with the entire community: from ASML to the village association, and from first-time home seekers to recently arrived internationals. Only by meeting with an open mind and engaging in conversation can we keep polarization at bay in our municipality. We believe political participation is also important in this regard.



Stronger cooperation also means that D66 is committed to strong ties with the region. Many challenges in Brainport can no longer be solved by individual municipalities and require regional efforts. Partnerships, such as the Eindhoven Metropolitan Region, need to become more transparent and could perhaps be given more leeway to act on behalf of the region and become more decisive. This is necessary to revive the housing market, maintain regional accessibility, and address the shortage of capacity on the electricity grid. Making decisions within municipalities often takes too long. This is partly because tasks and responsibilities are too widely distributed across the municipalities. D66 Veldhoven supports plans that ensure strong municipalities with good governance and preserve the distinct identity of villages and neighborhoods. In our opinion, an independent municipality must have the following three things in order: good governance, the ability to perform legally mandated tasks, and sound finances. Veldhoven meets all three criteria!

Veldhoven is there for everyone

In Veldhoven, we want you to be able to fully participate, regardless of your personal circumstances. Unfortunately, this isn't a given for too many in this rich, diverse region. It's important to offer support to everyone who needs a boost to actively participate in our society. Attention to personal circumstances is crucial. We need tailored solutions to ensure we offer neither too little nor too much assistance. Poverty reduction also deserves continued attention. We maintain the 130% social assistance standard for minimum income policies. And we want to pay more attention to the implementation of the inclusion agenda. When redeveloping policy or spatial plans, we consciously consider how we can best organize things, including for those with mental or physical disabilities.

Distribute burdens

Everything that happens in our municipality costs money. From cleaning up illegal dumping to major redevelopments in the city center and De Run. Municipalities nationwide are under pressure to balance their budgets, and this also applies to Veldhoven. Shortages in youth care and the broader social services sector, in particular, pose a continuing challenge.

A large portion of our budget is tied up in national regulations. There's limited room for local policy. Yet, Veldhoven's growth demands investments that anticipate the benefits. Therefore, strong collaboration with the national government, province, region, and business community is essential to continue supporting this growth financially.

D66 Veldhoven believes that cost-covering levies, such as sewage and waste collection charges, are fair. We don't consider property tax on residential properties a cash cow, but it shouldn't be an outlier either. After all, the challenges we face are significant. Moreover, entrepreneurs and commercial property owners benefit from the strong Brainport economy. Because property tax for non-residential properties (i.e., business premises) in Veldhoven is much lower than in surrounding municipalities, we see room for a slightly larger contribution.

In the event of any shortfalls, we will not opt for panic reactions or rapid cuts. Our starting point remains a balanced budget, but with a sense of realism and a long-term perspective. To ensure a fair distribution of investments in facilities, D66 Veldhoven wants to maintain a clear framework for consideration, so that financial resources are not determined by who shouts loudest, but by what contributes most to a sustainable and livable Veldhoven.

D66 Veldhoven focuses on:

- Further development of the Vision for Veldhoven. The Vision for Veldhoven must be put into practice by continuing discussions with Veldhoven about the future development of our municipality. This can be done online, but we also see the many benefits and opportunities of in-person meetings with the diverse Veldhoven community.
- Increased political participation. To truly empower people in Veldhoven, it's important to encourage residents to become more involved in the municipal council. The "Politically Active" course is a suitable tool for this. According to D66 Veldhoven, this course will be offered to a new group of residents twice a year. Communication about what's happening in and around the council also deserves a robust, innovative approach that particularly resonates with young people in our municipality.
- Intensified collaboration within the MRE.
While we see the national government focusing all its efforts on the MRE, we also find that the metropolitan region isn't as unified as people in The Hague might think. We need to address this openly and honestly, so this collaboration is ready to tackle the challenges we face. Veldhoven must take a strong position and initiative in this regard. This proactive, collaborative approach will enable us to continue as a strong, independent municipality in the coming decades.



Accountability

The following individuals contributed to this election manifesto (in a personal capacity): Mariëlle Giesbertz, Erik Blokland, Erik Simonse, Riëtte de Vries, Carsten Köhler, and Wouter van der Molen. The manifesto was approved by and with the members of D66 Veldhoven in the run-up to and on October 30, 2025.



It
can
be
done

