

The healthiest town

Working together for tomorrow

Election program 2026 - 2030

The logo for the D66 political party in Wassenaar. It features a bright green square background. Inside the square, the letters 'D66' are written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below 'D66', the word 'wassenaar' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font.

D66
wassenaar

The healthiest town

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Preface

With pride, we present the election programme of D66 Wassenaar, centred around the theme “The Healthiest Town.” We believe that health is about more than our physical and mental wellbeing alone. It is also about pleasant living, having contact with others, being able to move through green spaces, and feeling at home in a community where everyone matters.

That is why we commit ourselves to a healthy and sustainable living environment. We make conscious choices for the environment: less waste, more biodiversity, and clean air. We want a town where cycling and walking are safe and natural choices, and where traffic does not cause nuisance. A town where facilities are close by and easily accessible.

We want to move towards a town where we look out for one another even more and can rely on each other. A town where care is available close to home when it is needed, and where there is plenty of room for initiatives that come from the neighbourhood itself.

Tomorrow brings challenges. Our population is ageing, and technological developments will have major consequences. The national government may change how it allocates funding, leaving fewer resources for municipalities.

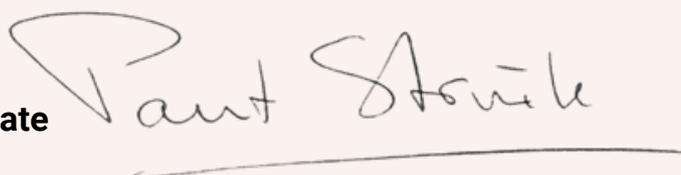
In every decision we take, D66 Wassenaar will continue to ask the same questions: How does this decision contribute to Wassenaar as the healthiest town? What small steps can we take? How will people in this neighbourhood benefit from it? What difference will it make for ourselves, for our children, and for our grandchildren?

We invite you to work with us towards the Wassenaar of tomorrow.

That challenge starts today. With you, with us, together.

It *can* be done.

Paut Struik, Lead candidate



Introduction

This election programme is for all optimists in our town. For everyone who sees how things can and must improve. Not by saying what cannot be done, but by asking ourselves every day: how *can* it be done?

Wassenaar is a unique town. We are located in the heart of the Randstad. Everything is so close, yet feels far away. We have large green areas, a diverse community with many international residents, and a strong group of volunteers.

Our town faces major challenges. Young families cannot find a home, older residents need more care, and people look to politics for direction. We cannot afford to let ourselves be turned against one another. That is why we take inspiration from people who pursue their ideals despite everything. Because progressive politics inspires and connects.

Imagine a Wassenaar where everyone has a good place to live. Where we have the healthiest generation ever, and where young and old feel at home.

Imagine a Wassenaar where entrepreneurs have room to grow, where older residents can move more easily and affordably to suitable homes, and where politics is service-oriented and reliable. A town where life is good.

The ideas already exist. Now it is up to us to put them into practice. D66 Wassenaar chooses solutions that give people the space to move forward. We give every opportunity to every resident who wants to build a better future. Where barriers stand in the way, we ensure the municipality removes them. For the healthiest town ever.

It is up to us. Join in. Because if we want it, it *can* be done.

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Chapter 1

Enjoyable living and safe mobility

Housing and mobility



Housing

D66 Wassenaar envisions a municipality where everyone can find a suitable, affordable and sustainable home. We want to actively shape housing policy to create real movement in the housing market, protect the social character of our village and prepare Wassenaar for the future. By building ambitiously yet responsibly, making better use of existing housing stock and embracing innovative living arrangements, we ensure that young families, starters, seniors and newcomers can all find a place in Wassenaar. Housing policy is not left to chance, the municipality takes the lead, prioritising social value, sustainability and long-term liveability.

- **Start an investigation into the Hoge Klei as a potential new housing location, focusing on affordable and sustainable housing and responsible development conditions.**
- Deliver 1,000 new homes by 2030, with the ANWB location as the main development site.
- Develop housing at Den Deijl gardens and Kerkehout.
- Add at least 50 new homes per year on an ongoing basis.
- Actively search for new building locations, including options outside the current built-up area.
- Enable housing solutions such as splitting existing homes and adding extra floors to buildings.
- Ensure that two-thirds of new housing is affordable, in line with regional agreements.
- Guarantee that half of the affordable segment consists of social rental housing.
- Build suitable apartments for seniors so they can remain in the town and free up larger homes.
- Make released homes available to starters through schemes such as KoopGarant or similar.
- **Quickly redevelop soon to be former school locations such as St. Jan Baptist and St. Jozef for housing or social functions to prevent vacancy.**
- Accelerate the sustainability upgrades of existing homes, starting with the 10 percent worst insulated dwellings.
- Provide targeted support through VvE guidance and energy coaches.

- Reduce energy poverty and lower housing costs through insulation and sustainability measures.
- Require all new developments to be nature-inclusive and climate-adaptive, including green roofs, water retention and biodiversity.
- Allow building higher than three storeys where appropriate, for both existing and new developments.
- Encourage creative proposals from developers.
- Pursue an active land policy with strong financial governance.
- Prioritise social and societal value in land use decisions.
- Publish an annual housing monitor covering construction, sustainability and housing mobility.
- Work closely with housing corporations, neighbouring municipalities and grid operators.
- **Maintain humane and well-organised reception of asylum seekers with clear agreements between the municipality, COA and housing providers.**
- **Enable asylum seekers to start language courses, education and work as early as possible during procedures.**
- **Eliminate the backlog in housing status holders.**
- Support innovative housing forms such as multi-generational living, life-course-proof housing and housing cooperatives.
- Simplify the construction of informal care homes to support family-based care.
- Explore locations for flexible housing.
- **Establish a housing initiatives support fund.**
- Actively guide resident groups who want to build or live together.
- Ensure clear and accessible procedures for housing initiatives.
- Make concrete agreements with housing corporations and market parties to speed up delivery.

Mobility

D66 Wassenaar aims for a village where moving around is healthy, comfortable and pleasant for everyone. Mobility should enhance quality of life, not undermine it. We prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, reduce unnecessary car traffic and design streets that invite people to stay, meet and move safely. By working together with residents and using smart solutions, we create a village that is accessible, liveable and future-proof, where traffic supports daily life instead of dominating it.

- Use the outcomes of the citizen assembly on traffic as a foundation for mobility policy.
- Create more space for cyclists and pedestrians and reduce through traffic.
- Improve traffic safety and liveability across the town.
- Ensure children can safely and independently walk or cycle to school.
- Introduce school streets where cars are restricted during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Develop action plans with schools for child-friendly and movement-friendly school environments.
- **Actively pursue a new motorway exit at Maaldrift in discussions with the Ministry of Defence.**
- **Reduce pressure and congestion around the Rozenplein.**
- Improve traffic flow within town by linking infrastructure to regional developments.
- Create wide, clear and safe cycle paths throughout town.
- Widen cycle paths where possible and improve crossing safety.
- Develop policy for fast cyclists.
- Improve visibility of cyclists and pedestrians through safe crossings.
- Maintain cycle and pedestrian paths properly by addressing weeds, loose tiles and obstacles.
- Develop car-light residential areas designed as living streets and introduce a maximum speed of 15 km/h in these areas.
- Design streets to prioritise children, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Build additional safe crossings over the N44, where possible combined with eco-ducts.
- Improve east-west connections for cyclists and pedestrians while strengthening nature connections.

- Keep through traffic out of the village road network as much as possible.
- Use traffic metering installations at the edges of the municipality during peak hours.
- Prevent Wassenaar from being used as a shortcut by regional traffic.
- Participate in innovative traffic safety pilots, including navigation app warnings near schools.
- **Improve pedestrian crossings on busy streets, including a crossing at Hazelaan near Jagerslaan.**
- **Identify and address additional locations where safe crossings are needed.**
- Advocate strongly for frequent and reliable bus services in regional cooperation.
- Reduce car dependency through strong public transport.
- Investigate the feasibility of a night bus connection between The Hague and Leiden.
- Expand bicycle parking facilities, including charging points for electric bikes.
- Place bicycle parking at key locations such as public transport hubs, the village centre, Meijendel, the beach, sports and recreation areas and near hospitality venues.
- Strengthen enforcement of short-term car parking rules in the town centre.

Chapter 2

Taking care of what keeps us healthy

Nature and climate



Nature and climate

D66 Wassenaar sees nature and climate as the foundation of a high-quality living environment. A green, resilient town offers clean air, clean water, space to relax and protection against climate change. We want to safeguard and strengthen nature, both within and around Wassenaar, while making the town more climate-resilient and future-proof. Many residents, entrepreneurs and organisations are already taking sustainable initiatives. The municipality should take the lead by connecting these efforts, providing clarity and support, and ensuring that sustainability goals are translated into concrete action that benefits both people and nature.

- Protect and strengthen nature in both quality and size.
- Take a strong municipal leadership role in sustainability and nature policy.
- Support and facilitate initiatives by residents and societal organisations focused on green space and biodiversity.
- Ensure fast, clear and reliable municipal services and permit procedures for sustainable initiatives.
- Appoint a coordinating role within the municipality to oversee and connect ongoing sustainability projects.
- Develop an implementation programme with clear priorities in cooperation with involved parties.
- **Organise a local citizens' assembly on climate and sustainability to involve residents in decision-making and raise awareness.**
- Promote a circular economy as a way to reduce waste, save resources and create economic opportunities.
- Reduce residual waste per resident from the current average of 205 kilograms per year towards the national target of 30 kilograms.
- Provide residents with monthly insights into their waste production.
- Financially reward households that produce little residual waste.
- Work towards cleaner and more efficient waste separation.
- Aim for an energy-neutral town by 2040.
- Stimulate energy-saving measures for homes and buildings.
- Promote the installation of solar panels on homes, municipal buildings and large roofs.
- Actively contribute to the realisation of a solar carport at the Dr. Mansveltkade.

- Use location-specific solutions instead of environmental norms.
- Improve air quality, drinking water quality and reduce the use of harmful substances.
- Include clear environmental standards in the Environmental Vision.
- Increase awareness about responsible wood burning.
- **Create more space for nature by transforming suitable agricultural land and areas such as Duindigt into nature and recreation zones.**
- **Develop Duindigt as a green nature and recreation area with good accessibility.**
- Align with The Hague's plans for a green buffer zone between the Haagse Bos and the Waalsdorpervlakte.
- Strengthen ecological connections between natural areas.
- **Establish green recreation zones along the edges of the Natura 2000 area Meijendel & Berkheide.**
- **Provide low-threshold recreation and outdoor sports facilities in these zones.**
- **Reduce recreational pressure on the vulnerable nature of Meijendel.**
- Improve opportunities for residents to enjoy nature close to home.
- Enhance biodiversity in built-up areas through flower-rich verges, nest boxes and ecological corridors.
- Appoint a town ecologist to develop and coordinate biodiversity and greening plans.
- Expand green play areas so children can play and explore nature safely.
- Explore new locations for green playgrounds near the town centre.
- Link green playgrounds to local facilities and hospitality where possible.
- **Develop a green playground with parking facilities as a gateway to Meijendel.**
- **Enable visitors to access Meijendel on foot or by shared bicycles.**

Chapter 3

Caring for and with each other

Health and wellbeing



Health and wellbeing

D66 Wassenaar believes that a healthy town is one where people feel supported, connected and able to participate. Good health is not only about care, but also about strong neighbourhoods, accessible support and early help when problems arise. By organising care close to residents, strengthening social networks and working together with local initiatives, D66 Wassenaar aims to ensure that everyone in the town can rely on timely, personal and accessible support.

- Care and support should be organised as close to residents as possible, starting from neighbourhoods and existing local networks.
- D66 Wassenaar supports the development of care circles (Voorzorgcirkels), in which residents help each other with everyday tasks and informal care.
- Existing neighbourhood initiatives will be actively supported, connected and made more visible.
- Every neighbourhood should have a low-threshold contact point where residents can turn to for advice, support or referral.
- The Social Team Wassenaar will be strengthened further, working with neighbourhood-based teams and knowable contact persons.
- Neighbourhood meeting places will be encouraged, where care, support and social activities come together.
- Existing public buildings such as schools and sports facilities should be used more effectively as neighbourhood hubs.
- The development and programming of community centres will be shaped together with residents, volunteers and local organisations.
- D66 Wassenaar promotes strong neighbourhood involvement, giving residents more influence over their living environment and local solutions.
- Neighbourhood teams consisting of residents, professionals and entrepreneurs will be supported, with a knowable municipal contact person
- The municipality will actively engage in neighbourhood dialogues and facilitate participation through tools such as a digital ideas map.
- Young people are the future of our community. D66 is committed to ensuring that they are given the space to grow, develop their talents and have a say in decisions about their living environment.

Chapter 4

Strong companies that connect

Economy and labour



Economy and labour

A strong local economy is essential for a healthy town. Wassenaar thrives because of its small and medium-sized businesses, volunteers and local initiatives that provide jobs, vitality and social cohesion. D66 Wassenaar believes that entrepreneurs should feel supported and that residents are encouraged to choose local products and services more often. The municipality plays an active role as a partner and facilitator, creating the right conditions for sustainable, inclusive and locally rooted economic growth.

- D66 Wassenaar wants entrepreneurs to feel supported by the municipality and encourages residents to choose local products and services more often. The municipality plays an active, facilitating role.
- Faster permit procedures, predictable frameworks and lower regulatory pressure. One fixed point of contact per entrepreneur for complex applications. Improved digital processes to make applications clearer, simpler and faster.
- Support for sustainable and circular business models through subsidies and advice, including the Circular Desk. Circularity becomes the standard in municipal procurement and tendering.
- If the recycling centre is relocated, it should be transformed into a Circular Craft Centre with thrift shops, repair cafés and reuse initiatives working together.
- Strengthening cooperation between business associations, social organisations and local initiatives.
- Targeted municipal support for entrepreneurs who contribute to liveability, culture and local events.
- Appointment of a municipal consultant who supports small entrepreneurs with permits, sustainability measures and business development.
- Tackling vacancy through flexible rental contracts and support for pop up shops.
- Investing in public space, greenery and local events to keep shopping streets attractive and future proof.
- Closer cooperation between entrepreneurs, schools and social organisations to create more work and development opportunities.
- Promotion of internships and work learning pathways for young people and career switchers.

- Active support for people with a distance to the labour market towards suitable work or meaningful daytime activities.
- **Introduction of a municipal Local Spending Credit. Residents receive an annual digital or physical credit to spend at participating local businesses. The municipality covers the discount while entrepreneurs receive the full sales price.**
- Tourism that strengthens nature, tranquillity, culture and the local economy, without mass tourism.
- Investment in walking and cycling routes and better connections between nature areas and the town centre. Economic benefits while safeguarding liveability.
- Recognition of volunteers as being essential to sports, culture, care and neighbourhood initiatives. Annual appreciation by the municipality, for example through a volunteer award or personal recognition.

Chapter 5

A promising and safe environment

Education and safety



Education

Education is the foundation of opportunity and personal development in Wassenaar. D66 Wassenaar believes every child deserves access to strong, future-proof education, regardless of background. The municipality plays an active role as partner and facilitator, investing in modern school buildings, equal opportunities and strong cooperation between schools, childcare organisations and local partners. By supporting schools and tackling shortages, we ensure children can grow, learn and thrive in a healthy and inclusive town.

- Invest in modern, healthy and future-proof school buildings through the timely implementation of the Integrated Housing Plan.
- **Ensure the rapid construction and relocation of the new Integrated Child Centre for St. Jan Baptist and St. Jozef schools.**
- Actively address teacher shortages by strengthening cooperation between schools, the municipality and regional partners.
- Promote equal opportunities by supporting schools through KansLokaal and targeted municipal policies.
- Guarantee access to a rich school day for every child, including sports, culture, nature and technology activities after school.
- Support collaboration between schools, sports clubs and cultural organisations via subsidies and the Wassenaar Pass.
- Provide strong language support for newcomers from an early age, including for preschool children.
- Ensure sufficient structural resources and expertise for language education.
- Support citizenship education through youth debates, guest lessons and mock elections.
- Strengthen links between schools, local businesses and organisations to offer internships and practical learning opportunities.
- **Maintain the safety net for swimming lessons so every child earns at least one swimming diploma by the end of primary school.**

Safety

Everyone in Wassenaar should feel safe at home, at school and in public space. D66 Wassenaar focuses on prevention, early recognition and a strong local approach to safety. By tackling harmful norms, strengthening professional awareness and investing where insecurity arises, we build a town where people look out for one another and feel protected. Safety is not only about enforcement, but about trust, visibility and timely support.

- Strengthen prevention by addressing harmful social norms and increasing awareness of safety issues.
- Invest in educational programmes that address healthy relationships, consent, online safety and boundary-crossing behaviour.
- Support schools with high-quality teaching materials and training to improve safety and resilience.
- Implement a strong and recognisable approach to gender-based violence, femicide and honour-related violence.
- Provide specialised training for police officers, healthcare professionals, youth workers and social services to recognise early warning signs.
- Guarantee 24/7 access to anonymous support and appropriate regional shelters for victims.
- Strengthen cooperation between the municipality, police, Veilig Thuis and neighbouring municipalities.
- Develop a local action plan focused on improving safety in streets and public spaces.
- Identify locations where residents feel unsafe and address them with targeted measures.
- Tackle violence behind closed doors through early detection, accessible support and strong prevention.
- Use the term “violence behind closed doors” explicitly to clearly define and address the problem.
- Invest in targeted education and awareness for schools, neighbourhood teams and healthcare professionals.
- Treat animal abuse as a serious warning signal and strengthen cooperation with veterinarians, police and support organisations.

Chapter 6

Reliable and robust

Governance and finances



Governance and finances

D66 Wassenaar believes that good governance is the backbone of a strong and trustworthy town. Residents should be able to rely on a municipality that listens, explains its choices clearly and acts with integrity. Decision-making must be transparent, participatory and focused on long-term value for the community. Sound financial management is essential to make ambitions achievable and to ensure that public money is spent responsibly, fairly and in the interest of current and future generations.

- Strengthen trust between residents and the municipality through openness, clarity and accessibility in decision-making.
- Place residents at the centre of municipal decision-making and actively involve them in shaping policy.
- Invest in strong citizen initiatives and participation, including citizen assemblies and an accessible right of initiative.
- Regularly evaluate and improve participation instruments to ensure they are effective and inclusive.
- Work towards a constructive political culture based on cooperation and shared responsibility.
- Seek council-wide agreements on major strategic issues to strengthen the role of the municipal council. Create space for substantive debate on details by agreeing on broad outlines together. Break down traditional divisions between coalition and opposition where possible.
- Improve the clarity and accessibility of council meetings by using understandable language and transparent procedures.
- Regularly evaluate the council's rules of procedure to keep governance effective and understandable.
- Build on existing municipal structures and streamline processes to improve service delivery.
- Strengthen cooperation between the municipal council, the executive board and civil servants.
- Ensure residents and partners receive clear, timely and reliable municipal services.
- Maintain a realistic and sustainable financial policy that supports long-term ambitions.

- Make clear political choices when allocating limited financial resources.
- Avoid passing financial burdens to future generations.
- Ensure that new policy proposals are financially sound and transparent.
- Monitor municipal finances closely and adjust where necessary to remain resilient.
- Use financial instruments strategically to achieve social and societal goals.
- **Introduce neighbourhood budgets by allocating 0.5 percent of the municipal budget, giving residents direct decision-making power over improvements in their own neighbourhood, such as landscaping,**