

Perchtolds-NEOS-LETTER PERCHTOLDSDORF

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Despite tight financial constraints, we have set ourselves the goal of being proactive and forward-thinking. The pressure to reduce costs is not only a challenge, but also an opportunity: an opportunity to boldly tackle long overdue reforms and scrutinise old structures in order to further develop the town in a sustainable and future-oriented manner.

Many people want quick results - we understand that. But sustainable change requires stamina. We NEOS are persistently working towards these goals in the coalition.

Financial consolidation and transparency

The coalition is committed to financial consolidation. In view of rising costs and limited room to manoeuvre, it is not just a question of simply cutting back, but of making structural changes that will also enable a solid municipal budget in the future. In the future, we will have to judge investments even more strictly according to whether they bring tangible improvements for citizens. This principle of responsible innovation will be pursued in all policy areas. One building block that is very important to us has already been implemented: the additional local allowances (often referred to as 'party funding', more than €100,000 per year) for the political groups represented on the municipal council have already been completely abolished.

Local and economic development

The coalition has pledged to ensure moderate development of the village while preserving the appearance of the town. This requires a revision of the zoning plan and parts of the development plan, which had to be tackled quickly. The legal deadlines must be met and the new regulations must be finalised in good time before the building restrictions expire. A lot of time and energy was therefore channelled into this project in the first 100 days.

Equally as important to us is the strengthening of Perchtoldsdorf as a business location. Without additional personnel costs, we were able to establish a town centre management team that actively supports and promotes the revitalisation of the town centre as a service for local businesses and those looking for a location in Perchtoldsdorf.

Promoting sustainable mobility

Another focus is on promoting sustainable mobility. This primarily involves improvements for pedestrians and cyclists that make it easier and safer to get around the town on foot and by bike with little financial expense. We are currently in the process of drawing up the action plan for this and will of course keep you informed. Better connections to public transport in Vienna and the creation of mobility services for the 'last mile' are on the agenda. This will not happen overnight and the financing also needs to be carefully considered in times of tight budgets. We are working on this issue together with committed citizens as part of the environmental mission statement.

In the first 100 days, we have already taken important steps towards a forward-looking municipality. We will continue on this course in the coming months. We are excited to see how the population perceives the upcoming changes.

Especially in times of tight resources, it takes courage, creativity and a firm will to change. But change does not happen from the top down - it needs the support and participation of everyone. That is why we invite all citizens to play an active role in this process. Their ideas, their commitment and their criticism are essential in order to make Perchtoldsdorf an even better place to live.

Tony Platt

Deputy Mayor

MORE RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION - FOCUS ON PROMOTING GERMAN

This federal government is starting a real race to catch up in education. Because we believe that every child can accomplish something and should and must have a place in society! Because we know that investment in education brings the best return! This pays off in terms of integration, the labour market and the competitiveness of our country!

Despite the necessary restructuring of the budget, it has been possible to keep the doors open for important future investments. In 2025, the budget for the education sector will be higher than ever before at almost 12 billion euros.

For example, we will

- invest in easing the workload of school headmasters and teachers.
- launch the opportunity bonus for schools with special challenges. Additional resources totalling 65 million euros will be available to schools autonomously.
- Digital teaching materials will also be used more in the future - 20 million euros have already been earmarked for this from the coming school year.

Language is key to education and integration!

The number of pupils who are unable to follow lessons or can only follow them to a limited extent has risen in recent years. This is why the government programme for the coming years includes a comprehensive German support package for kindergartens and schools: We are bringing focussed support to where it is most urgently needed - in the future, an additional 62 million euros will be available for this every year. There are plans to significantly expand the training and further education programmes in the area of German as a foreign and second language. The number of posts for German language support will be almost tripled. Orien-

tation classes will also be introduced nationwide. This is not just about language acquisition, but also about learning values such as respect, equality, tolerance, responsibility and self-determination together.

The goal is clear: to promote language learning as a means of achieving education and integration. This package is a central component of a major educational initiative — and it's only the beginning. The race to catch up in education has begun.

We make kindergarten the first educational institution!

As the "education party" in Austria, we began catching up in the education sector when we joined the federal government, which includes kindergartens as the first educational institutions. Despite the urgent need to make savings across the board, the government programme provides for a significant expansion and improvement in quality. This includes a legally binding, step-by-step plan to reduce group sizes; the introduction of an additional compulsory year of kindergarten; and early language support. There will also be a training initiative to gradually overcome the shortage of skilled labour in this area.

The Future Coalition of ÖVP and NEOS is also focusing on improving childcare conditions at a municipal level. Our shared objective is to establish Perchtoldsdorf as a model municipality for primary education. The range of childcare services for the youngest children will be expanded in line with demand, and the possibility of extending opening hours will be explored. At the same time, the quality of childcare will be improved further through staff education and training programmes.

Martina von Künsberg Sarre, Abg. z. NR

REVIEW EUROPE DAY

On 9 May 2025, we celebrated Europe Day in Perchtoldsdorf and sent out a clear message. Europe is not just an idea in Brussels; it starts right here, with us in the community.

Our aim was to bring EU issues into everyday life and personal dialogue, and to show how they directly affect many people in our community. The response was positive: many visitors were very enthusiastic. There was a clear sense of approval for the idea of making Europe more visible and tangible.

However, it was also clear that, although many were interested, they initially had no specific questions — too little had happened for too long, and the topic seemed too distant. The central question was therefore often: Was this a one-off event, or is Europe really getting closer now?

Our answer: We want to keep at it! Europe Day was just the beginning. We are considering showcasing EU-relevant topics every three to four months to regularly inform and inspire citizens, and encourage them to join the discussion.

Closer cooperation with the Europa-Haus in Vienna will ensure that we can bring the most current and relevant topics, as well as a diverse range of viewpoints, to Perchtoldsdorf. After all, only those who understand how Europe works can get involved, and only those who can get involved will feel heard



It was particularly pleasing to see how well the organisation worked together, with people from different parties coming together to support the idea and the cause. This commitment was evident: When motivated individuals collaborate towards a shared objective, significant progress can be made in a short period.

We would like to thank everyone involved, and we look forward to taking the next steps — because Europe thrives on participation. This is also true in Perchtoldsdorf.

Zsolt Janos

SAVINGS POTENTIAL AT THE LEISURE CENTRE

The sparrows are singing it from the rooftops. Due to the tight municipal finances, we must look for savings opportunities in all areas.

> If we divide €5,500 by the number of visitors, we find that Perchtoldsdorf is subsidis-

ing each visitor to the tune of almost €13 on average. This is despite the fact that not even half of the visitors are citizens of Perchtoldsdorf.

In our view, this challenge must be addressed in terms of both income and expenditure. The municipal council has already taken the first step in terms of revenue, having moderately increased admission prices, as reported. However, this alone is not enough.

Firstly, we need to find ways to fairly distribute the budgetary burden of the deficit among all the municipalities whose

citizens use the leisure centre. Secondly, we will endeavour to obtain state funding. The Perchtoldsdorf Leisure Centre is one of only two public indoor swimming pools in the district, alongside Mödling, and plays an important role in serving the population of the entire district, particularly the schools. Perchtoldsdorf and Mödling alone cannot be expected to shoulder the responsibility for this vital district infrastructure.

Although our main focus must be on improving the revenue situation, we are also responsible for critically reviewing costs and reducing them where possible. This requires careful analysis before jumping to conclusions and making sweeping changes. For the sake of a serious discussion, we should avoid going into detail before this analysis is available.

Roman Nossal & Claudia Buchanan



On Sunday 31 August 2025, we will meet at Heuriger Zechmeister (Hochstrasse 64) from 5:30 pm. As always, our local councillors will be on hand to answer questions and provide the latest information in a relaxed setting. Just drop by!

OUR TEAM ON THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



Tony Platt Deputy Mayor, Faction Chairman Local development, sustainability mobility digitalisation and culture



Sabine Schober Local development, climate and



Martina von Künsberg Sarre Abg. z. NR Generations and Social Affairs. Municipal Civil Engineering and Education Councillor



Claudia **Buchanan** Sports facilities and children's playgrounds, agriculture and forestry, communal depot, real estate advisory board



Zsolt Janos Economy and infrastructure, Finance, European Council

What do the NEOS have to say?

In our blog, we discuss current topics in the town.

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NEOS Perchtoldsdorf BLOG HAVE A LOOK!



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