ASK THE MINISTER



For a year and a half now, NEOS has been part of the federal government for the first time. Since then, Christoph Wiederkehr, as Minister of Education, has launched a wide range of projects and reforms. "Chancenbonus", summer school, new subjects such as media literacy and the introduction of middle management in schools, he has succeeded in turning the tide in education. How are these reforms progressing? How should schools deal with social media and AI in future? How does he assess the poor PISA results, and what might a six-year primary school look like in detail? We want to discuss all of this with him directly. On Monday, 23 November, he will be our guest at Perchtoldsdorf Castle.

Monday, 23 November
Doors open: 5.45 pm, start: 6.30 pm

Venue: Alter Festsaal, Burg Perchtoldsdorf
Welcome: Deputy Mayor Tony Platt, Martina Künsberg Sarre, Member of the Austrian Parliament
Moderator: Christoph Müller, Member of the Lower Austrian Landtag

Plan for the Future – Education for Life

NEOSletter
PERCHTOLDSDORF

2026 / ISSUE 2

NEOS

SHAPING PERCHTOLDSDORF

with responsibility and clear priorities

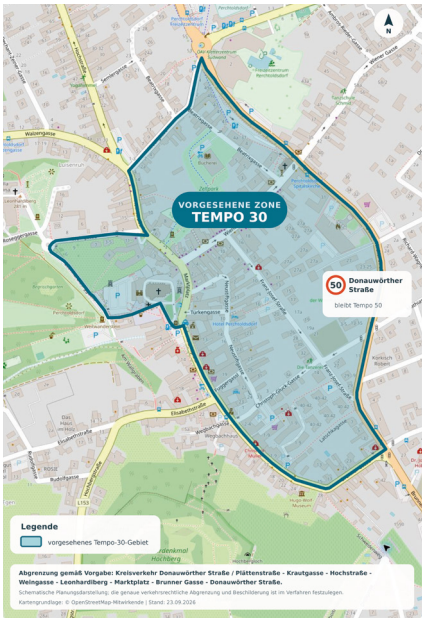
Saving and shaping – both must succeed at the same time. That is what we are working on in the coalition. Over the summer, announcements turned into concrete progress on education, mobility, road safety, municipal finances and spatial planning. Our goal: to manage our budget responsibly while investing in Perchtoldsdorf's future. How successful policymaking in education works at federal level is something we will discuss with Education Minister Christoph Wiederkehr on 23 November in our village.

An important step for families has been achieved: the all-day school at Sebastian-Kneipp-Gasse primary school has successfully started operating.

There is progress on mobility, too: with the support of the province, there are more free cycling courses for children and e-bike courses for adults. Together with NÖVOG, we secured an extension of bus route 257 into the Aspetten area. Although the discontinuation of the local bus service drew some criticism, it was largely understood as a necessary saving. Since September Taxi Neisser has been expanding its service to include important patient transport and regional journeys at a fixed price.

Next, with the municipality's support, P'e-mobil is being set up: a volunteer-run social transport service due to start in early 2027 to complement busses and taxis. It will particularly improve mobility for older people and can take children and young people to school when the „parent taxi" isn't available. Volunteer drivers are still being sought. For legal reasons, users must be members of the association; advance registration is already possible – simply scan the QR code.

For greater safety, less noise and a more pleasant environment, a 30 km/h speed limit is to be introduced in the historic village centre in the first quarter of 2027. This targeted measure makes it easier for children, older people and people with reduced mobility to cross the road safely. On all other roads the existing rules remain unchanged; residents will benefit from less traffic noise and fewer speed peaks.



proposed 30 km/h zone in the historic village centre.

The course we have set is also working for the municipal finances: the consolidation plan is taking effect. Despite extremely unfavourable external conditions, the operating balance in the financial budget has improved significantly compared with the 2026 budget as originally adopted.

This autumn, spatial planning takes centre stage. Measures for moderate development in the historic centre are being worked out in detail, without sacrificing the character of the townscape. At the same time, the building regulations are being revised: outdated and needlessly complicated rules are to be simplified. Rules for a more climate-proof Perchtoldsdorf are particularly close to our hearts.

If you would like to read more about individual topics, you will find detailed articles on our website. Simply scan the QR codes.



Kind reagards,
Tony Platt
Deputy Mayor

CLIMATE-PROOF BUILDING IN PERCHTOLDSDORF

Heatwave summers, torrential rain and long dry spells are being felt in Perchtoldsdorf too. The 13th amendment to the development plan is an opportunity to adapt new buildings and conversions effectively to climate change. The aim must be to seal as little new ground as possible, to let rainwater soak away on site and to create more greenery, shade and biodiversity.

NEOS favours a balanced package of measures rather than symbolic one-off regulations. Priority goes to unsealed, planted surfaces and trees, as they contribute particularly well to cooling and water retention. Requirements must remain understandable, affordable and proportionate, without creating new bureaucratic hurdles or the wrong incentives. For larger building projects, planning agreements can ensure that agreed targets are met on a binding basis.

At the same time, advice and incentives are needed: anyone who knows how to design a climate-friendly garden can make a real difference themselves. The municipality must lead by example and consistently implement climate protection on its own land and in its own facilities. The result is a practical, long-term strategy that protects our quality of life and makes Perchtoldsdorf more resilient.



Tony Platt
Deputy Mayor



NEOS Secretary General **Douglas Hoyos** visited the Perchtoldsdorf team for an in-depth exchange of information.

THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

What can and should the municipality provide when money is tight?

Austria's municipalities have their backs against the wall financially. Between core tasks such as childcare, water supply and road maintenance, there is hardly any room to manoeuvre. While we at local level are counting every penny, the real structural problem lies one level above the municipalities: the biggest burden on municipal budgets is the soaring compulsory levies paid to the province (for health and social services, for example).

The bitter part is that the tangible services that actually reach our residents are not getting any better. However hard we try and however much we save at municipal level – unless radical structural reforms and a genuine disentanglement of responsibilities finally happen at the provincial level, we as a municipality are merely patching up, with painful cuts for residents, a system that is being bled dry from above.

At the same time, we are weighed down by debt, made worse by the mistakes of the past. In times of plenty, prestige projects were created, and the cost of maintaining them is now catching up with us. People have grown used to having a leisure centre in the village or cultural events at the castle – amenities that today swallow up enormous sums of money.

The municipality of the future must concentrate on the essentials. But without a radical rethink at provincial level, the municipality's room to manoeuvre will very soon shrink to zero. If you would like to find out more, the QR code takes you to my podcast on this topic.



Zsolt Janos
Municipal Councillor

THE BILDUNGSKOMPASS COMPASS IS COMING

When choosing a school, parents want to make a well-informed decision. They compare what is offered, ask friends and acquaintances about their experiences and look for a school that suits their child.

In the future, there will be even better ways to find your bearings: with the new Bildungskompass (Education Compass), parents can now get an objective picture of a school. Simply scan the QR code and take a look at how Perchtoldsdorf's schools are doing.

This gives parents better insight into how things are going at a school: What subject areas does the school focus on? How competent are its pupils in math and German? And how do these results compare with schools that have similar starting conditions? This makes the strengths and development potential of different schools visible.
This is a genuine change of system: instead of relying on impressions and assumptions, we are creating a transparent basis for targeted improvement. London is a case in point: within a period of about ten years, schools there were successfully developed further through targeted support. The basis for this was data. And that is exactly what we want too: in the future, parents should receive more reliable information about schools, and schools should learn from one another. Many other countries have been doing this for a long time – now Austria is catching up.

Why does this matter so much? We want an education system that keeps on improving. Transparency should enable better decisions. In this way we are laying the foundations for every child to discover their strengths and fulfil their potential.



Martina von Künsberg Sarre
Member of the Austrian Parliament

SCHULGEMEINDE

– the unknown entity

Some of you may have heard the term „Schulgemeinde“ (school association) before, but very few people know exactly what lies behind it.

In a school association, several municipalities join together to form a municipal association in order to jointly maintain and fund a public school. Its tasks include planning and financing building works and employing the cleaning and care staff and the caretaker. Teaching staff, however, are paid by the federal government or the province.

In Perchtoldsdorf we have no fewer than three school associations:

- **The Volksschulgemeinde (Primary School Association)** covers Perchtoldsdorf and Laab im Walde.
- **The Mittelschulgemeinde (Secondary School Association)** brings together Breitenfurt bei Wien, Kaltenleutgeben, Laab im Walde and Perchtoldsdorf.
- **The Sonderschulgemeinde (Special School Association)** is made up of Perchtoldsdorf, Brunn am Gebirge, Laab im Walde, Kaltenleutgeben and Breitenfurt bei Wien.

For all this to run smoothly day to day, schools, school associations and the municipality need to work together. The chairs and members of each school association play a central role here. NEOS is actively involved in the school associations: Councillor Roman Nossal chairs the Secondary School Association. In the Primary School Association, chaired by Martin Schwab (ÖVP), we are represented by Stephanie Moser and Franz Pleterski, who serves there as deputy chair. Claudia Mundorff (ÖVP) chairs the Special School Association. In this way, we are actively helping to shape the development of our compulsory schools.



Franz Pleterski - Roman Nossal - Stephanie Moser

POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON GANZTAGSSCHULE

at Sebastian-Kneipp-Gasse

Since the start of this school year, Sebastian-Kneipp-Gasse primary school has been run as an all-day school. Among other things, this means that the afternoon study hour is now provided by the teachers. Many parents have already noticed this improvement and welcomed it. Homework is completed at school with good supervision, leaving more quality time at home.

Josef Eckert



STAY INFORMED!

niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf

perchtoldsdorf@neos.eu

facebook.com/neospdorf

WHAT DO NEOS SAY?

In our blog, we comment on current local issues. Do take a look!

niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf/perchtoldsdorf-blog

NEOS

Imprint: NEOS Gemeindevertreterverein Niederösterreich • Heßstraße 14, 2nd floor/Top 5 • 3100 St. Pölten • Editorial deadline: 6 October 2026
Printed by: druck.at Druck- und Handelsgesellschaft mbH • Aredstr. 7/EG/Top H 01 • 2544 Leobersdorf