



Ortsverband
Kaarst

**Election Program for the
2025 Local Elections**

1. For Social Justice – Against Poverty and Exclusion

No one in Kaarst should have to sit in the dark, go hungry, or be pushed out of life.

We want to make poverty visible and fight it effectively – with a social pass, affordable housing, free education, and secure incomes.

Exclusion often starts quietly and ends in social coldness. We ensure that everyone belongs – no matter their income, background, or life situation.

What we demand:

- **Social Pass** for people with low incomes – for free access to swimming pools, cultural events, and education.
- **Ban on electricity and gas shut-offs** – they must not just be reduced, but abolished.
- **Energy supply is a human right** – it is non-negotiable and must never be cut off.
- **Reject the prepaid card for refugees!** It is discriminatory because it restricts human rights, stigmatizes refugees, and denies them the right to participate freely in society.

2. Education is a Right – Not a Commodity

Every child in Kaarst has the right to free, accessible, and local education.

Education begins in early childhood and doesn't end with graduation.

We invest in renovation, staff, and proper equipment – not in prestige projects.

We want children and young people not just to learn, but to grow.

What we demand:

- **Free daycare and after-school care (OGS)** – immediately, for everyone.
- **School construction and renovation** based on modern teaching and inclusive standards.
- **Digital equipment and support everywhere** – independent of specific manufacturers.
- **Expand after-school programs (OGS)** for all school types – faster.
- **Improve staff-to-child ratios** in daycare and after-school care.
→ Better care for children and better working conditions for staff.
- **Improve staffing levels in schools** and push state politics to act.
→ Municipalities help with implementation.

- **Abolish homework** – learning should happen in school, not at the kitchen table.
→ We call on the state to abolish homework and provide full-day schools with meaningful learning time.
- **Free, healthy school lunches for all.**
- **Free public transport for all pupils.**
- **Environmental education in schools**
→ Children and young people should learn about climate protection, biodiversity, and sustainability not just from books.
→ We connect schools with local nature groups, environmental centers, and farms – for hands-on learning and real environmental awareness.

3. A City for People – Not for Profit

Kaarst belongs to its residents, not to investors or corporations.

Public services like energy, housing, care, and mobility must serve everyone – not make a profit.

We stand for local ownership, fair wages, and democratic control instead of outsourcing and privatization.

The city has a responsibility to provide social security and quality of life – not to serve the market.

What we demand:

- **Stop privatization, strengthen public ownership, enforce fair wages!**
→ All city contracts should go only to companies that pay fair, union-agreed wages.
- **Bring energy supply fully back into public hands** – because electricity, heat, and water are basic needs, not products for sale.
- We demand the **complete re-municipalization of Kaarst's energy supply.**
→ The public utilities (Stadtwerke) must once again be 100% publicly owned and democratically managed.

4. Housing is a Human Right – Not a Speculative Asset

In Kaarst, housing is becoming a luxury. We want to change that.

Social housing must remain in public hands and must not expire or be sold.

We demand affordable housing for people – not for profit.

No one should be forced to leave their home just because rent goes up.

What we demand:

- **Social housing must belong to the city or housing cooperatives** – not to private investors aiming for profit.
- **Track down and penalize vacant apartments**, and stop the misuse of living space.
- **No more selling public land** – city property must remain in public hands.

5. Save the Climate – But Do It Socially Fair

Climate protection starts right at our doorstep – with green cities, clean air, and fair energy.

We support a local energy transition, removing pavement where possible, expanding public transport, and protecting against heat.

But: environmental protection must not become a luxury.

That's why we make sure climate action includes everyone.

What we demand:

- **Put energy supply in the hands of the people** and support local energy cooperatives.
- **Protect people from heat**, especially seniors.
→ More green areas, drinking water fountains, and shaded zones in all neighborhoods.
- **Reverse land sealing**: unseal paved areas and stop paving new ones.
→ Because the climate crisis is also local.
- **Create an “edible city”** – use nature instead of pushing it away.
→ The city should provide land where people can grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs together.
→ This supports environmental education, food sovereignty, and neighborly cooperation.

6. Anti-Fascism as a Core Duty of the Municipality

Exclusion, violence, and far-right hate speech have no place in Kaarst – not on the streets and not in the city council.

We support civil society initiatives, remembrance work, and democratic education.

Anti-fascism is not just an opinion – it is a responsibility.

Anyone who attacks human rights is attacking our city.
We will fight back.

What we demand:

- **Kaarst stays anti-fascist!**
→ No cooperation with far-right groups – not in the council, not in committees.
- **International solidarity!**
→ Refugees deserve a dignified and humane integration into society.
- **Zero tolerance for hate and incitement!**
→ We support alliances against racism, queerphobia, discrimination, and right-wing violence.
- **Strengthen public remembrance and education**
→ We demand a memorial for the victims of National Socialism in public space.

7. Health is Not a Business – Fighting Poverty Is the Best Prevention

A fair city protects its people from illness, stress, and loneliness.
We focus on local health services, municipal care plans, and good working conditions in nursing and care.
Health must never depend on income.
Because prevention is the best protection – against social hardship, mental stress, and poverty in old age.

What we demand:

- **Care must not be a business:**
→ We demand a municipal care strategy that focuses on people, not profits.
- **Provide pregnancy counseling without religious influence**
→ Until paragraph §218 is finally abolished, there must be secular support in Kaarst.
- **Secure local healthcare**
→ We want to keep and support doctor's offices and local health services in our city.

8. Culture, Community, and Participation – For Everyone

Culture is not a luxury – it is food for the mind and soul.

Everyone should have free access to libraries, youth centers, theaters, music schools, and community spaces.

Participation means having spaces, opportunities, and a say.

A city becomes alive where people come together.

What we demand:

- **Stop budget cuts** – Free access to culture and sports for children, young people, and low-income residents.
- **Strengthen community** – Create meeting places for all age groups.
- **Expand and secure youth centers and recreational activities**
 - We want Kaarst to be a great place to live for teenagers and young adults.
 - Young people should have real opportunities in a society built on solidarity, diversity, and shared responsibility.
- **Make volunteering attractive**
 - Volunteering needs recognition, support, and good conditions.
 - We demand free spaces, material grants, and simple, low-bureaucracy funding for associations, initiatives, and self-help groups.
- **Volunteering is an expression of solidarity**, not a substitute for failing public services.

9. Feminist. Queer. Barrier-Free. Kaarst Stays Open.

We want a city where no one has to live in fear – no matter how they live, love, or look.

Equality, visibility, and safe spaces are not extras – they are basic rights.

We support queer youth programs, barrier-free public places, and

counseling services for people affected by discrimination and violence.

Our city belongs to everyone – not just to those who shout the loudest.

What we demand:

- **Create safe spaces for people affected by violence**
 - We demand the opening of a women's shelter in Kaarst.
- **Strengthen prevention for perpetrators**
 - Violence prevention must not stop with the victims.
 - We support municipally funded programs to work with offenders, especially in youth and family contexts.

- **Expand feminist and queer youth work**
→ We strengthen inclusive youth programs that are gender-equal, sensitive to discrimination, and empowering.
→ This includes queer youth centers, safe spaces, and educational work in schools.
- **Make infrastructure fully accessible**
→ Public buildings, paths, bus stops, and recreational areas must be completely barrier-free.
→ This requires clear standards, regular checks, and involvement of those affected.

10. Mobility for All – Safe, Climate-Friendly, and Socially Just

The streets don't belong to cars alone.

We want safe bike paths, reliable public transport, and more space for people instead of traffic jams.

Mobility must be eco-friendly, accessible, and affordable.

The traffic transition starts on every street and at every bus stop.

We want a city that is livable and safe for people of all ages – a city where children can play and everyone can move around safely.

What we demand:

- **Speed limit 30** wherever possible – to make residential areas lively again and protect places like daycare centers, schools, and senior homes.
- **Traffic calming with real infrastructure changes**, not just painted lines.
- **Make public transport accessible** – with short distances and fair access.
- **Dedicated bike streets** with clear right of way and real protection.
- **Safe crossings for young and old** – barrier-free, visible, and easy to reach.
- **Secure the “last mile”** – introduce sharing models
→ Safe parking spots for shared bikes and e-scooters, and widespread access to sharing systems.
- **Safe drop-off zones at schools and daycare centers**
→ Protected zones and reduced traffic during busy hours to keep children safe.

- **Expand car-sharing to all parts of the city**
→ We support publicly backed car-sharing, especially for people without their own car.
- **Expand charging stations – fairly!**
→ We demand public EV chargers in front of apartment buildings and rental areas.
→ Electric mobility must not be a luxury.