

# VOTE

# Emilie Yerby



## Dear Voter,

**Guernsey is a wonderful place to live:** a place I am proud to call home. I respect and value my community, and believe we can secure a bright future for the island. If you choose to vote for me, I will work around the clock on your behalf – taking seriously my commitments as a States Member, and my responsibilities to you as parishioners.

I offer **experience, energy and insight.** I've worked in all three sectors: public, private and voluntary. From my experience in finance and law, I understand the role and value of Guernsey's business sector. I combine this with an in-depth knowledge of how the States

works, which will enable me to be effective from the very beginning. Postgraduate studies in law, business administration and public health have equipped me to deal with a wide range of government business.

As your representative, I will be approachable and available – by phone, email or in person. I will listen to you, respect your views, and seek to serve you with integrity. **Please consider entrusting me with one of your votes on Wednesday 27 April.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emilie Yerby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR GUERNSEY

[www.emilieyerby.com](http://www.emilieyerby.com)

## I STAND FOR ...

A bright future for our island, through education and investment in our young people; growing, nurturing and retaining tomorrow's workforce, entrepreneurs and future leaders.

A strong economy, through support for business development and stability; increased productivity; good transport links; and careful management of public spending.

A secure and dignified old age for our older population, through good health and social care; decent pensions; support for carers; and realistic forward planning.

A strong local community with **no one left behind**; through greater equality of opportunity, and action on poverty and disadvantage.

# MANIFESTO SUMMARY

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## SUSTAINABLE

### A Strong Economic Foundation

- **Sustainable economic development**, through policies which promote business confidence and stability, and stimulate innovation and diversification.
- **Respect for our low-tax status**, with careful development of our tax base to ensure sustainability, and avoidance of regressive taxes such as GST.
- **Prudent management of public spending**, through ongoing public sector efficiencies, and greater public dialogue about how tax and service provision should be balanced.

## ASPIRATIONAL

### Opportunity and Ambition for All Islanders

- **High standards in education for all**, with a system that values young people's wellbeing, and a quality of education that is internationally competitive.
- **Making Guernsey an attractive place to live and work**, through policies which promote access to the housing market and support young families.
- **Promoting equality of opportunity** and increasing workforce participation, by promoting flexible practices and challenging barriers or attitudes that limit inclusion.

## INCLUSIVE

### No One Left Behind

- **A secure and dignified older age** for islanders, through investment in long-term care and support services, and decent pensions and financial support in retirement.
- **Support for carers**, including better information, and timely access to practical and emotional support where needed.
- **Challenging disadvantage**, through a comprehensive response to poverty and hardship; and through giving every child the best possible start in life.

# SUSTAINABLE

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**Financial security and economic stability is the bedrock on which all other policy is built.** It is vital to the success of our business sector, our local sustainability, and our global competitiveness – all the more so at a time of widespread uncertainty. I will champion economic policies which:

- Promote confidence and growth in our established industries
- Encourage diversification into new sectors and sub-sectors
- Stimulate support for local businesses and traders

I believe we need an ongoing evolution of our tax base, to ensure the island's finances remain sustainable; but this must be shaped by recognition of Guernsey's low-tax status, the importance of a stable environment, and a commitment to public sector prudence. **The States must demonstrate that it is a responsible steward of public money**, by:

- An ongoing commitment to increasing efficiency in the public sector
- Careful management of public finances and avoidance of further borrowing
- Making better use of the voluntary and private sector where appropriate

I will not support regressive taxes, such as GST, which hit poor- and middle-income households hardest, and have a negative impact on local businesses.

As part of the prioritisation of government policy and spending, I believe there must be **much greater public dialogue** about the trade-offs between tax and service provision. This States will no doubt have to make some very difficult decisions, and we must find ways of creating proper, democratic involvement in that process, to ensure that we do the right thing by the people of Guernsey.

**“A strong economic foundation, so that Guernsey can flourish”**

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# ASPIRATIONAL

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I believe we must avoid prolonged uncertainty about education. I will not seek to reopen the debate about selection, and will work to ensure the future of the secondary schools is resolved **quickly and fairly**, with an open, public process for decision-making. I will push for **the inclusion of young people on the panels** that evaluate the options and make recommendations. Young people have spoken out with courage and insight on all sides of the debate – they’ve earned the right to be heard.

I want an education system which serves all our young people well, and helps us to “grow our own” talented workforce. I will advocate policies which:

- Encourage achievement of the highest standards at all the island’s schools
- Offer a quality of education which is internationally competitive
- Raise the value of technical and vocational skills alongside academic achievement
- Promote young people’s wellbeing, personal growth, and interest in the wider world

We must also make Guernsey **an attractive place to live and work** for young people – including those who aspire to get onto the housing market, or to raise a family of their own. For my generation, these opportunities often feel remote at best – for too many, this means that settling down in Guernsey is not currently an option.

Finally, we must be ambitious for our working age population, promoting **greater equality of opportunity and participation**. There is a powerful, positive social and economic impact if more people contribute to the workforce, especially at a time when the population is ageing. I will make this a priority, focusing on:

- **Parents** – making the case for affordable and accessible childcare
- **Disability** – challenging attitudes and barriers that limit access to employment and services
- **Mental health** – raising awareness, tackling stigma and providing support
- **Carers** – creating a system that supports flexible working



# INCLUSIVE

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One of the most important challenges for the new States will be to ensure a **secure and dignified older age** for islanders – given that, within five years, more than 1 in 5 islanders will be over retirement age. I will push for policies which promote:

- Investment in community care and support in people's own homes
- Affordable and accessible primary care (GPs and prescriptions)
- Improvements in services and support for people with dementia
- Decent pension rates and fair financial support for long-term care costs

Many more people will also take on caring responsibilities for a parent, partner, relative or friend (for reasons relating to age, health, or disability) – we must ensure that carers are valued and visible, and well-provided with information, practical and emotional support.

As politicians, we must be responsible to our whole community, and must not forget those who are vulnerable or marginalised. I will champion policies which tackle all forms of disadvantage in our community, including:

- **Poverty** – advocating for a comprehensive policy response to the complex social factors which cause or result from hardship: from insecure housing to hunger, and low wages to poor health outcomes.

- **Disadvantaged children** – delivering on the States' commitment to giving every child the best start in life; actively tackling the risk of deprivation, abuse or neglect; and ensuring protection, opportunity, genuine care and hope for all children.

Working in the voluntary sector, I have seen local charities support people who are homeless; people who can't afford to buy food; older or unwell people struggling in unheated homes; families torn apart by imprisonment, substance misuse or domestic violence. These issues often go unseen, but they are persistent and long-term, and require a response from the States.

**“A caring and fair community, where no one is left behind”**

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# ABOUT ME

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I was born and grew up in Guernsey, going to school at Hautes Capelles and Ladies' College. We moved to St Saviour's in my early teens and, although I now live in Town, that's why I'm standing in the West: it's where my family are, and where I feel most at home.

I studied languages in Cambridge and lived abroad, coming home to Guernsey in 2010. I've worked in all three sectors here – public, private and voluntary – over the past ten years. I spent four years in financial services while an undergraduate, then joined the civil service graduate scheme: working as a policy officer in Social Security and HSSD, and developing the island's Disability and Inclusion Strategy. After completing my graduate diploma in law, I worked as a paralegal at Ogier, before joining the Guernsey Community Foundation.

I am now Research Manager for the Foundation – a philanthropic organisation funded entirely by private donations – and Executive Officer at Ageing Well in the Bailiwick. I also hold board and trustee roles with local charities, as a committee member of the Guernsey Disability Alliance and Secretary of the local Samaritans. I am, of course, not standing on behalf of any of these organisations.

Alongside these commitments, I'm pursuing a Masters in Public Health, which has a large focus on policy, ranging from economics to the environment. If elected, I will apply the same kind of research skills, evaluation of evidence and critical analysis to my work in the States.

**If you choose to trust me with your vote, I will be a full-time Deputy**, dedicating myself to States' business and to representing you as parishioners. I will bring a reasonable and grounded approach to decision-making; researching issues carefully and listening to your views. I'll engage equally strongly with social and economic issues, seeking to build a society that is sustainable, aspirational and inclusive. Although we are perhaps too small to make a dent in any global matters, I believe we should nevertheless play fair in response to the issues – environmental, economic or humanitarian – that shape our connected world.

I look forward to meeting you as I walk the four parishes of the West over the next few weeks. If we miss each other, or you have unanswered questions, please get in touch. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

## CONTACT

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