

Victoria Oliver



Dear South East Voter,

I am standing for election as one of your States representatives because I want to offer my experience, knowledge and want to be able to influence and protect our beautiful island over the next four years.

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 me with one of your votes on Wednesday 27 April.



ABOUT ME

- I am a qualified surveyor, a Master of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and a councillor to young surveyors entering into the profession.
- Deliver, advise and negotiate on contract leases to multi-million pound deals on time and within clients expectations.
- I live in St Martins with my husband of five years and my 15 month old little girl and enjoy every part of our island life.
- I was educated at Blanchelande Girls College and then went to Millfield. After graduating from Bristol University West of England with honours, I qualified as a surveyor at Savills Commercial Property in Bristol.
- In 2007 I became a Senior Surveyor at GVA Billfinger where I acted for major companies as their retail property contract negotiator. I have experience of managing large and small companies in both private and public sector.

What I Stand For

Taxation and Expenditure

WE NEED VALUE FOR MONEY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT WASTE THE HARD EARNED MONEY WHICH WE HAVE PAID IN TAX

Every year the States are spending more than it raises through taxation. This clearly is an unsustainable situation. Currently our deficit is circa £23m, this has to be addressed. I strongly believe that there needs to be increased scrutiny around safeguarding the public's money.

Every year the costs of public services are rising, especially our health care which on average is increasing by 7% per year. With our ageing population we need to look at ways in which we can improve our services while becoming more efficient. There will be ways to save money and improve the services at the same time.

Solutions

I am not in favour of any method which places an additional burden on the public. GST is regressive, inflationary and expensive to administer. It affects the people who can least afford it and also adds a burden onto small business owners, who effectively become tax collectors.

Amongst the residents of Guernsey there is a wealth of talent and knowledge and in particular we should endeavor to curtail the States dependency on outside consultancy. However, where a good key worker is recruited i.e. medical staff or teachers, we should look at ways in which we do not lose these people because of licensing rules.

We must not adopt policies which constrain business either through over regulation or restrictive taxation. Our prosperity and public service depend on the success of Guernsey's business output. We need to encourage new business to Guernsey whether it be finance, tourism, food industry, construction or technology. We should encourage those not working to return to work. Guernsey does have a low unemployment rate but there is always more which could be done. I would not be in favour of means testing pensions.

I am vigorously opposed to any increase in government borrowing. All this does is defer the problem to future generations. "I do not want my children suffering for our mistakes"

- Diversification of our economy is key to our success as an island
- I would vigorously oppose any increase in Government borrowing



TRANSPORT LINKS

SEA: The current boat is not suitable for our waters. Another good conventional ship under 134 meters to accommodate our harbour is what is needed for all year round travel.

AIR: We have strong links to the UK but need to make sure these are maintained. However, I believe we could strengthen links to Europe not just for holiday destinations but for onwards travel. Competition between Island links would be beneficial.

LAND: The buses are too wide for our small lanes. I understand at peak times this size might be necessary. However during quieter times look to smaller buses, which in turn would reduce vehicle emissions.

We need to ensure that the States of Guernsey is doing all it can to ensure reliable and secure transport links. It is vital for our Island.

EDUCATION

I am in favour of selection. We need to make sure a strong system is in place to allow every child to perform to the best of their ability. I am of the opinion that both written and oral examinations at the age of 11 are needed whether this be the 11 plus or something similar. Higher performers at the States schools should be allowed to retake the examination at 13 years old. Life is full of these challenges and in my opinion it is best to be prepared.

It is generally only when a child leaves education that they realise its importance. I believe there should be further incentives for business to get local children into school training programmes, to invest in the future skills and to continue to offer our school leavers the opportunity to access academic or vocational courses so that children can achieve their goals and aspirations, whilst building strong employment potential within Guernsey.

- Smaller class sizes.
- It's the ability of dedicated teachers.
- A good teacher can do more for a child than any new building
- Lets work on making nursery affordable—promoting equal opportunity and workforce participation, by promoting flexible practices.
- Guernsey depends on skills and knowledge of our people and the contribution that each of us make to the Island's economic success.

Paid Parking

I am against paid parking for our three pier town car parks as this would effect retailers. However, if multi story paid parking was to be built in the right place this could regenerate parts of our town and help business.

Island Wide Voting

I am strongly in favour of Island wide voting. I do however believe we need to look carefully at models and not to lose parish representation. With island wide voting you might initially end up with more of a party or hybrid system.

Government

We need an open and transparent Government. The people of Guernsey have a right to know how their government and public sector are performing. Individuals and States structures must be held accountable for their actions.



LET US USE OUR COMMON SENSE

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

It is vital that we get our housing market moving. We have had a sluggish environment for too long. I believe that the States of Guernsey could look to improve the process of buying and selling. I do believe that the system for purchasing is outdated.

We need to support our first time buyers, otherwise we will see our local young talent leaving the Island. I believe we all need to live within our means and encourage responsible spending. Long term solutions and initiatives such as a Guernsey savings accounts and help to buy could all be possibilities.

Elderly

We need to make sure that the elderly are looked after with dignity. Elderly independent living care homes should be looked at for the future. With our ageing population this is only going to become a bigger problem and nursing homes have limited spaces.

I am a strong believer that greater support is needed for those caring for their elderly relatives at their homes.



LET US USE OUR COMMON SENSE

I look forward to meeting you as I walk the two parishes of the South East over the next few weeks. However, if we miss each other, or you have unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please vote VICTORIA OLIVER

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Thank you to Maggie Talbot-Cull & Charles Tracy for nominating me!