

FITTING FOR THE FINNS – THE TRUE FINNS’ ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION 2011 / SUMMARY

Principles of the True Finns

- Humans are social beings.
- Material goods are not a goal but a means for achieving a life with dignity.
- The existence of a people is a precondition for democracy, or rule by the people.
- The True Finns defend a populist decision-making mechanism, or one based on popularity.
- The True Finns stand against rule by bureaucracy.
- We must hold on to the right of the Finnish people to make independent decisions.
- The State of Finland was established to safeguard the interests of the Finnish people.

For Finnish culture

- Finnishness is Finland’s gift to the world and the key to success for our society, also in the 21st century.
- We defend multiculturalism through defending our national identity.
- For True Finns, patriotism means selflessness.
- We must treasure the Finnish language.
- Cultural appropriations must be targeted to reinforcing the Finnish identity. Pseudo-artistic postmodernists can find their funding in the free market.
- The Finnish Broadcasting Company must be Finnish and deliver high quality.
- The Swedish programme offer of the Finnish Broadcasting Company must be cut back.
- The monopoly of Veikkaus (Finnish lottery) in gaming must be maintained, and the revenue from the operations must be entirely spent on supporting culture, sports, science and youth work, also in the future.
- The vitality of local culture must be supported by creating a framework for active participation.

For the Nordic welfare state

- Health and wellbeing are values in themselves and a precondition for the nation’s success.
- Each citizen’s personal responsibility for his or her wellbeing must be emphasized, while basic security should be improved.
- As a rule, basic services must be produced by the public sector, and outsourcing them should be considered an exception.
- The funding basis of services can be bolstered through administrative measures, but the result should not be a centralisation of services.
- In addition to structural reforms, a renewal of values is needed – and the responsibility for initiating this rests with politicians.
- We should focus attention on developing the public service system, not the operating preconditions for health business.
- Care for the elderly must be organised appropriately, and we must call for halt to ideological policies emphasising commercial principles.
- Family care must be administrated by the Social Insurance Institution.
- Appropriations for rehabilitating war veterans must be increased without delay, and the degree of disability limits must be abolished.

- War orphans must be registered.
- The way we treat the disabled is the measure of real tolerance in our society.
- The disabled must receive customer-oriented services.
- Severe and costly illnesses should be prevented by means of health checks.
- Responsibility for funding specialist medical care must be taken over by the state.
- Tax incentives must be used to guide citizens towards a healthier lifestyle. Otherwise we will run out of money.
- Alcohol taxation must be increased and the advertising of alcohol must be restricted. Healthy foodstuffs should be made less expensive, and taxes on unhealthy ones should be increased.
- We must combat all types of narcotics.
- The citizens must be involved in the reformation as fully authorised participants, not left in the position of passive subjects.
- Children are the future of our nation.
- Poverty in families with young children must be combated by amending the unjust Act on Social Assistance.
- The position of medium-income families with young children must be improved by reintroducing child deductions in taxation.
- Child benefits of high-income families can be reduced.
- There must be a choice in day-care services.
- The True Finns support a traditional concept of family.
- The general trends of income levels should carry more weight in the pension index.
- Youth employment must be supported by increasing the pension accrual rate.

Educational policy of the True Finns

- Class sizes must not be expanded. A Decree on maximum group sizes and ear-marked appropriations are needed.
- A maximum quota of immigrant pupils should be set for each school to prevent differentiation of schools.
- The number of arts and crafts classes must be increased.
- More physical education, numeric grades to be abolished.
- Numeric grades for conduct must be given at an earlier stage, and should also be included in school leaving certificates.
- Swedish should be optional: we need more versatile language skills.
- No changes in religious education.
- Village schools must be preserved.
- The trend towards centralising secondary level educational institutions must be halted.
- Financial aid for students must be index linked, and parental income should not have an effect on financial aid for a student who is of age and living on his/her own.
- A Bachelor's degree should be the main qualification in many subjects.
- The time it takes for students to graduate should be stressed when allocating funding to universities.

- The intake of universities must be reduced.
- The requirement of Swedish proficiency for public officials should be abolished.

Strong basic municipalities

- The number of municipalities must be reduced and bureaucracy cut back, but without forced mergers.
- Intermunicipal administrative structures are not appropriate for making decisions on the most important issues: basic health care and social services.
- The grass-roots level of democracy must be saved from a rule by bureaucracy.
- A provincial-level decision-making mechanism is not suitable for everywhere; in other words, the municipalities and their role must be maintained.
- Municipal referendums should be introduced, especially when making decisions on municipal mergers.
- Municipal managers should be elected by a public municipal vote, or a mayor model should be introduced.

Find the EU, find a problem

- The EU in its current form and its development do not facilitate rule by the people.
- The idea of democracy was not one of the founding principles of the EU.
- The True Finns wish to reduce the EU's say in issues that only concern the Finns, and to increase the scope for independent decision-making.
- For the EU, we would reserve the role of an economic and free trade area.
- The EU's expansion to the east and the accession of Turkey must not be allowed: the more fragmentary the cultural basis of the Union becomes, the more bureaucratic and oligarchic its administrative structure will be.
- Decisions on transfer of power to the EU should not be made without an advisory referendum.
- The EU's subsidiary principle is nothing but propaganda.
- Rather than a model pupil, Finland should become a eurosceptic partner.
- Finland's net membership fee must be reduced.
- We must reject the mutual loan guarantee arrangements and joint bonds of EMU states.
- Amendments in EU treaties that take the EU closer to a federal state must not be accepted.
- The "Euro interest rate" for the Finns is only being determined.
- Finland must prepare for the dissolution of the EMU and the EU in their current forms.

Foreign and security policy of the True Finns

- Membership in the EU must not be included in the Finnish Constitution.
- The powers of the president must be maintained or expanded.
- Organising referendums enhances representative democracy.
- Finland's NATO membership must be rejected and general conscription must be preserved.
- Finland should only be involved in peace-keeping missions approved by the UN, not as a warring party.
- The principle of mutuality is the bottom line in the question of land ownership rights of foreigners.
- The country's internal security is derived from a united nation.

- Development aid should be replaced by crisis aid, and development aid appropriations should be cut.

For better immigration

- Immigrants who make their living by legal employment and entrepreneurship are welcome in Finland.
- Integration policy should be based on "when in Rome, do as the Romans do".
- Other than work-based immigration should be controlled by minimising its financial incentives and through a more stringent family unification policy.
- Processing of asylum applications should be sped up.
- No to a joint European policy of "burden-sharing".
- The refugee quota must be adjusted to our financial situation.
- Creating ghettos must be prevented by sensible housing policy.
- Criminal immigrants should be deported to their home countries.
- Citizenship must be a reward.
- Social policy should be based on locality, not mobility.

Adjusting taxes to the ability to pay

- We say no to development towards proportional taxation.
- The so-called green taxes must be rejected, which means saying no to energy tax increases and congestion charges.
- The value added tax should not be increased.
- Conspicuous consumption should be controlled by increasing the income taxes of those with a high income.
- Taxation of capital income should be increased and made progressive.
- Company dividend taxes should be increased by reducing the tax-free amount.
- More money to the state's coffers from financially successful companies.
- No to tax competition; in other words, corporation tax must be persevered at its current levels.
- Wealth tax should be brought back.
- Community-oriented social policy should also be used to ensure willingness to pay taxes.

Putting Finnish work and entrepreneurship first

- We must not destroy our opportunities for economic growth with homespun decisions: climate policy should be rethought and replaced by a specific emission system.
- The industries are the mainstay of subcontractor companies and welfare society in Finland.
- The state and employment pension companies to secure investments in Finland.
- The public sector "productivity programme" must be shelved.
- The grey economy should be eradicated through versatile measures.
- Cutbacks in subsidies for major companies.
- Genuine jobs can be created by tax cuts for SMEs.
- Common sense and skill are needed in competitive biddings: overall economical advantageousness should be taken into account.

- An increase in the level of funding allocated to basic improvements of the road and rail network is needed, and sulphur taxes in their current form must be dismissed.

Diverse domestic energy sources

- Self-sufficiency is a key argument in energy policy solutions.
- In addition to nuclear power, energy production from renewable sources must be developed.
- Biofuels will guarantee decentralised energy production.
- Electrification is a great opportunity for our electrical industry.
- Saving energy and recycling are a natural part of the energy policy.

Justice must prevail

- Increased resources must be made available to the courts and the police.
- Punishments must be made more stringent, not lenient: electronic monitoring does not equal a prison sentence.
- Petty criminals must be brought under control.
- Investments in investigating financial crime would quickly pay themselves back.
- Legislation is needed on hate crime.
- Planning a crime must be made a punishable offence.
- Criminal immigrants should be deported and begging should be banned.
- Self-defence should not be punishable.
- The same law should apply to everyone – no to applying different practices to various cultural backgrounds.
- The Constitutional Law Committee should be replaced by a Constitutional Court.
- The Election Act must be reformed.

Rural policy of the True Finns

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment should be combined to form a Ministry of Natural Resources.
- No property tax on agricultural and forestry land.
- Subsidy levels of Articles 141 and 142 must be maintained.
- Freedom from genetic modification will be a future success factor for Finnish exports.
- Self-sufficiency in foodstuffs will ensure our preparedness for crises.
- The Decree on Treating Domestic Wastewaters in Areas Outside Sewer Networks should be repealed.
- Possibilities for hunting as a pastime must be safeguarded.
- The subsidiarity principle to be applied to game and predator policy.
- A forest owner with initiative should be granted better possibilities of managing his/her forest.
- Public access rights must be sustained and abuses intervened in.
- The aim of energy supply should be at domestic production: biofuels offer major opportunities.
- Local food, thank you!
- Fur farming must be defended.

- Organisations that are putting down Finnish industries without justification should have their subsidies withdrawn.
- The equine industry will offer jobs also in the future.
- Preconditions for building with timber must be improved and timber increasingly used in construction.
- The countryside is a resource!