

Marie Goldman

Deputy leader of Chelmsford City Council and Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Chelmsford



POINTS OF VIEW

Party has clear and ambitious vision to help fix the things that are broken

WE'RE now officially half-way through the General Election campaign. As a candidate, the first three weeks seem to have gone by in a bit of a whirlwind.

I've had so many interesting conversations on the doorsteps that it would be impossible to remember them all. But one thing that keeps coming up is the word 'change' - I've been doing this for a few years now and I don't ever remember it being said to me so often.

Voters are fed up with what they've been seeing over the past decade and they want it to stop. For many, that means making a different choice in the ballot box. Some voters find that a scary prospect, having voted for one particular party their entire life, but even they are considering change.

As the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Chelmsford, I'm proud that I have the opportunity to offer them genuine change in a safe pair of hands.

Having lived here for over 20 years, I know our city very well. My children were born here and went to school here. I shop in the same shops as everyone else. I eat in the same cafes and restaurants. I go to the dentist and the GP here (when I can get an appointment, of course - more on fixing that later).

And, with connections in lots of different sectors due to my five-year role as deputy leader of Chelmsford City Council, I will be able to hit the ground running if elected as Chelmsford's next MP.

But more than that, my party has a clear and ambitious vision for our country, fixing the things that are broken. Huge issues, such as primary care and getting a GP appointment or cutting waiting lists. Or adult social care where chronic underfunding has created massive problems not just in the care sector outside of hospitals, but also within them, as a backlog of patients are left in inappropriate settings.

We want to end the postcode lottery of special educational needs funding, creating a national body for SEND that can fund SEND provision, firmly closing the door on the huge injustices

I'm proud of our plan and I was proud to stand on the stage when it was announced.

CLLR Marie Goldman



CLLR Marie Goldman at the launch of the Lib Dem manifesto, with other candidates, including Lib Dem deputy leader Daisy Cooper
CLLR MARIE GOLDMAN

suffered by children and families having to fight a broken system.

We want to build genuinely affordable homes so that young people can finally have somewhere to live that they can call their own.

We want to have much closer trading relationships with Europe, working our way back to the customs union and single market, and making it easier for businesses to invest, grow and flourish in the process.

And, of course, we absolutely must tackle the climate emergency and ensure energy security for all of us. By leading the way on investment in renewable energy, insulating our homes and looking after our rivers and waterways - and holding to account those who don't - we will safeguard our precious resources for our children and grandchildren, but we will also insulate ourselves

from global energy shocks and huge price increases at the mercy of foreign powers and global events. This is the week that the political parties have been launching their manifestos so we all finally get to see, in black and white, what each party plans for our country.



Please do read them before you cast your vote. I know I'm biased, but reading through the Liberal Democrat manifesto, I find myself longing for a government that would put in place even half of the thoughtful but ambitious policies contained within its pages.

Our manifesto offers a bold and fully-costed £9 billion plan to tackle the health and care crisis.

Our daring plan to save the country's health services includes:

- Giving everyone the right to see a GP within seven days, or within 24 hours if they urgently need to, with 8,000 more GPs to deliver on it.

- Guaranteeing access to an NHS dentist for everyone needing urgent and emergency care, thereby ending DIY dentistry and 'dental deserts'.

- Boosting cancer survival rates and introducing a guarantee for 100 per cent of patients to start treatment for cancer within 62 days from urgent referral.

The Liberal Democrat manifesto also includes a plan to overhaul the water industry and tackle sewage pollution. It will put a dedicated

mental health professional in every primary and secondary school, and provide a return to community policing including a new burglary response guaranteed to tackle unsolved crimes.

I'm proud of our plan and I was proud to stand on the stage when it was announced, alongside many of our fabulous candidates from around the country, including the amazing Liberal Democrat deputy leader Daisy Cooper.

There are many polls and many predictions out there about which party will take control of the government after the polls close on July 4.

One thing is for certain: we cannot accept the status quo. As voters have been telling me over and over again, we need change. The only thing that remains to be seen is whether we will all be brave enough to vote for it in the ballot box.

You can read more about the Liberal Democrats' manifesto and our plan for a fair deal for our country on our website at libdems.org.uk/manifesto.

Marie