

Dr. James Baillie #1

For Federal Council



Why am I running?

- ◆ First and foremost, because **strong scrutiny makes for great leadership**. Federal Council needs to be there to hold our leaders accountable, and in doing so to ensure we have the most effective possible leadership for our liberal movement.
- ◆ I want a Federal Council that is **effective and unafraid to speak up**. We need a Council that is careful and judicious about when to call in Federal Board decisions, but is able to speak firmly when it does so. I'd support constitutional amendments to strengthen the Council's role and improve its connectivity with the wider membership.
- ◆ Assessing evidence across a wide array of skill areas and fields is critical to my work, and I can put those skills to use to help our party flourish.

What sort of party do we want?

- ◆ I want to make sure the party is **open to everyone**: we have an increasing climate of fear for friends and colleagues with immigrant backgrounds or who are transgender and non-binary, and we have a long way to go with building our community-focused politics in a way that includes working class folk as well as it could do. We should redouble efforts to make the Lib Dems a party for everyone who calls our country home, whatever their background, certifications, or passport.
- ◆ We need to **improve internal communication** in the party. That doesn't always mean carpeting people with more emails: a lot of the time it means passing the microphone to a wider range of people, for example letting specified associated organisations communicate more easily with the wider membership.
- ◆ We need to **look after our campaigners and staff** better. One of my priorities when assessing any Board decision would be to ask who needs to put those ideas into action, ask whether it's overloading them, and ask where we can build capacity instead of burning our hard-working activists out which happens all too often.

Who am I?

- ◆ I'm a **professional historian**, living and working in Austria. I'm outside the bubble of Westminster politics but engaged with what needs doing: that's the right perspective from which to be the good critical friend our party leaders need to get things right.
- ◆ I'm **from a rural community in Norfolk**, and whilst I now live abroad I've kept my membership with the Breckland & South West Norfolk Liberal Democrats. I want to make sure Federal Council properly represents the rural communities that make up so much of our voting base across the country.
- ◆ I've **helped run digital communities** for over half my life, chairing the Exilian creative society and being co-convenor of the Medieval Caucasus Network among other roles. Building spaces, working with constitutions and volunteers, and designing the right social rules and tools for the job is something I've spent my life doing. That gives me a wealth of experience that I can apply to party governance as well.

How do I find out more?

More details are on my blog, <https://thoughtsofprogress.wordpress.com>: contact me there, on Bluesky at [@jubilbarca.bsky.social](https://jubilbarca.bsky.social), Mastodon at [@JubilBarca@Scholar.Social](https://jubilbarca@scholar.social), or by email to james@wavcott.org.uk.

I'm happy to answer any questions - and hope you'll support me for our Federal Council.



"James understands the detail of governance and scrutiny and has the skills needed to be effective. But it's not just that: it's also that he cares about looking after the people doing the work across the party. We need his voice on Federal Council."

Alison Rouse, Former Chair of the Liberal Democrats in England

"I worked with James on improving safeguarding measures in the party: he's someone who can get the things done that matter, and listen to people from a wide range of backgrounds to make sure those things are done well."

April Preston, Member of Federal Board 2019-2022

