

Dr. James Baillie #1

Federal Policy Committee



Why am I running?

- ◆ We need a **clear liberal platform** for the coming years, based on our core values and a strong evidence base. I want to help us change the narrative and change our country, with policies that challenge the other parties and set the terms of the discussion across policy areas.
- ◆ We need to **understand the digital age** and how to tackle big tech in ways that protect our data and civil liberties. As a humanities data specialist with years of experience running online communities, I'm well placed to be that needed voice on FPC.
- ◆ We need some more radical policies that **tackle the root causes** of problems. We can't maintain credibility by approaching the biggest problems like climate change, disinformation, and inequality in a way that's too timid to be useful.

On the policies

- ◆ I've been motivated to run again because **civil liberties are under threat**, especially **online**. I want to see us tackling the business models of tech titans rather than resorting to unwieldy paternalism and the processing dangers of feeding huge quantities of personal information to "AI" data models. Labour and Tory policies like the botched Online Safety Act are putting people at risk—we need a liberal answer.
- ◆ I want us to be a **strong voice for social liberalism** in Britain. We have a duty to make policy that speaks for and amplifies the voices of people often marginalised by society, including trans people and migrants who are under particular threat right now.
- ◆ I want us to articulate **a more distinct liberal economic policy**, focusing on cooperative and social business models, rejoining European free movement and trade, strong standards and social security, and tackling rent-seeking, wage theft, and other unfair, unproductive and unequal practices.

"James is incisive, well informed and positive, and would be an ideal member of the Federal Policy Committee."

Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats



Who am I?

- ◆ I'm a **historian**, based in Vienna at the Iranian Studies institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. My specialisms are in digital data, how computers affect our understanding of history and identity, and the history of the Caucasus region.
- ◆ I've worked with **digital creative communities** making space for hobbyists and small businesses over the years, and I'm keen to ensure we properly tackle digital policy and support the innovative, economically dynamic world of small creators & artists.
- ◆ I **grew up in rural Norfolk**: rural issues and strong pro-environmental, pro-biodiversity policies matter strongly to me. That's why I successfully campaigned for Nature Recovery Networks to become Lib Dem policy, and why I'm committed to building a liberal platform that works for rural towns, not just for London suburbs.

What I've Achieved

- ◆ I co-wrote the policy motion that committed the party to back a **Universal Basic Income** in 2020, and drafted the subsequent party report on UBI implementation.
- ◆ My successful amendments to conference motions have included strengthening our commitments to **restorative justice**, keeping **LGBT+ rights** at the heart of our campaigning themes, and **supporting immigrants** by rejecting income and social security limitations for partners immigrating to join spouses in the UK.
- ◆ Outside the party, I've campaigned on a range of issues, most recently leading a parliamentary petition effort **against censorship by payment processors** where businesses use their near-monopoly power to block clients' or third party content.

How do I find out more?

You can check out my blog, <https://thoughtsofprogress.wordpress.com>: contact me there, at @JubalBarca@bsky.social, Mastodon at [@JubalBarca@Scholar.Social](https://mastodon.social/@JubalBarca@Scholar.Social), or by email to james@wavcott.org.uk.

I'm happy to answer any questions - and hope you'll support my candidacy for FPC.



"Our country, and our party, need bold new ideas to help reform our public and political institutions. I believe electing James to FPC will take us a firm step closer to doing that."

Steffan Aquarone, MP for North Norfolk