UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Resolution adopted by the extraordinary FDP Federal Party Congress, Berlin, 8 November 2026

Let us change ourselves so that we can change the country – Let us make the FDP the most modern party

We Free Democrats are convinced: We want to change our country, and that is why we are also willing to change ourselves. Political renewal does not begin solely with demands directed at others, but with the courage to reform ourselves. We therefore want to set ourselves the ambition of becoming Germany's most modern party – open, transparent and welcoming to everyone who wants to play an active part in shaping liberal politics.

This includes consistently breaking down entrenched structures: processes that hold us back, hierarchies that obstruct participation, and procedures that make voluntary work in our party more difficult must never become ends in themselves. As a party, we want to become the kind of organisation we envision for a future-ready state: lean in its structures, efficient in its decisions, digital in its processes and uncomplicated to access.

This reform resolution is not an endpoint, but the beginning of a necessary, long-term process of change. It marks the start of a development that must be supported at every level of the party – from the leadership to local associations. If we are jointly prepared to take responsibility for this change, we can credibly stand for renewal and live up to our political ambitions. Based on a survey of our members and 92 workshops, we systematically identified challenges together with our membership. Drawing on that feedback, the Party Reform Taskforce and the Federal Executive Board identified seven central areas of reform and developed the following concrete proposals.

1. Modernise leadership and structures

Modern political work requires clear responsibilities, transparent decision-making processes and a leadership culture that encourages cooperation. Existing structures must be reviewed regularly to ensure efficiency and the ability to act. Our aim is therefore to distribute responsibility in a comprehensible manner and strengthen transparency.

Transparency in candidacies: Elections to the party leadership are to be made more transparent than before so that not only delegates but all members can gain an equally comprehensive impression of candidates. The following measures are planned to increase transparency:

1. All candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves through a candidate profile. These profiles will be published on the party website by a specified deadline.
2. All candidates will have the opportunity to participate in digital and in-person formats ("introduction rounds"). We already held such formats ahead of the Federal Executive Board elections at the 77th Ordinary Federal Party Congress. They proved valuable for information and direct exchanges with candidates and should become a regular feature. They are open to our members and allow them to put questions to candidates.

Role profiles: Clearly defined role profiles create transparency about tasks, responsibilities and expectations. Standardised role descriptions make responsibilities comprehensible and improve the

efficiency of leadership work. We are therefore establishing clearly defined role profiles for leaders and party offices, offering our volunteers voluntary guidance for their engagement. These include written guides for party offices at every level – from a treasurer in a local executive committee to a Bundestag candidate or member of the Federal Executive Board. The profiles are also to include a Federal Executive Board representative for “Best Practices” and a representative for party development, both to be appointed by the board.

Guidelines for the Federal Executive Board: We are introducing professional guidelines for the Federal Executive Board to strengthen fair, balanced work and composition.

1. Federal Executive Board members should provide a written account of their term in office at the next Federal Party Congress. Their individual accountability reports will be made available digitally to members and delegates by the federal party.
2. Our party thrives on the engagement of its volunteers. As delegates, we will therefore seek to ensure that volunteer members hold a meaningful share of positions on the Federal Executive Board, so that the perspective of the voluntary grassroots is systematically included in the work of the federal party.
3. Federal Executive Board members declare their intention to limit the number of internal party offices they hold, so as to avoid concentrating party offices in the hands of a few individuals. This limitation should help allocate responsibility clearly and distribute tasks more evenly.
4. Federal Executive Board members declare their intention, wherever possible, not to hold dual roles in the event of government participation. This applies in particular to the offices of party chair and secretary-general. Separating these roles should clarify responsibilities and priorities and structurally avoid possible conflicts of interest. In this way, we strengthen both the FDP’s independent strategic capacity and the focus on governmental work in ministerial office. A clear division of duties supports transparency, institutional reliability and a sustainable leadership culture.

2. Consolidate and focus the organisation

Internal party processes consume staff time and resources – from local associations to the Federal Executive Board. Particularly while in opposition outside parliament, we Free Democrats must set clearer priorities and use our resources more effectively. We want to review existing structures to identify opportunities to consolidate them, define responsibilities more clearly and eliminate duplication. The aim is to simplify internal procedures, deploy resources more strategically and make decision-making paths more transparent.

Central services and tools for volunteers: Digital services and tools are to be specifically improved to make voluntary work more efficient and straightforward. This includes user-friendly applications for organisation, finances, communications, documentation and task coordination. The move from Confluence to the new “Freiraum” tool marked a first step. The aim is to reduce administrative hurdles, accelerate processes and provide optimal support for volunteers. The Federal Executive Board and party headquarters will continuously review central services and improve them wherever possible.

3. Modernise communication with members

A vibrant party depends on continuous exchanges with its members. This requires modern, transparent and targeted communication channels that present information clearly and accessibly. Digital instruments offer low-threshold opportunities to make participation easier and systematically gather feedback. Another aim is to strengthen consistent communication across subdivisions and establish shared standards. Training and continuing education in internal and external communication should enable members and officeholders to apply these standards professionally and improve dialogue sustainably.

Digital exchange formats: We are introducing regular opportunities for members to exchange views with members of the Federal Executive Board. Regular exchanges between the Presidium, Federal Executive Board and our members strengthen transparency, trust and internal party participation. Digital formats make dialogue accessible regardless of location. They provide space for questions, feedback to party leadership and discussion of substantive issues. The Federal Executive Board thus becomes more directly approachable and decision-making more comprehensible.

Opinion polls in mailings: We aim to use emails from the federal party to members to raise specific issues regularly and ask for their attitudes and opinions. This will give the Federal Executive Board and Presidium a clear picture of the positions held by the membership.

Clear communication with members: Information for members must be prepared in a comprehensible way, provided in good time and communicated unambiguously. The aim is to present decisions, processes and opportunities for participation more transparently, thereby providing orientation and strengthening identification with party work. We are also examining the possibility of offering additional topic-specific newsletters based on areas of interest.

Education and training for members: We will provide members with training and professional development to facilitate engagement in campaigns and voluntary party work. We are therefore extending our Party Academy to cover voluntary party functions. This should ensure, for example, that treasurers have clear guidelines for their party work. The same applies to our Code of Conduct and ombuds system.

Consistent newsletter standards for party subdivisions: Common newsletter standards ensure that information reaches all members consistently, professionally and with clear purpose. They strengthen recognisability and communication quality at every level while making work easier for those responsible and improving the impact of messages. We will provide common standards for newsletters that every subdivision, down to local associations, can use for guidance.

4. Strengthen policy development and debate structures

We Free Democrats understand ourselves as a party driven by policy. Over time, however, our policy development has become increasingly complex and opaque. It is often unclear how to contribute ideas, and access to policy work can seem too exclusive. Even the best idea cannot have an impact if it is blocked by the structures of policy development.

Voting on the order of motions at Federal Party Congresses: All delegates to the Federal Party Congress have the opportunity to vote electronically in advance on the order in which motions will be debated. This increases efficiency at the congress and enables all delegates to prepare more effectively for debates on motions. This measure will be implemented through the corresponding motion to amend the statutes.

Reform of the federal expert committees: For many members, the party’s policy work is currently difficult to follow and, in its existing structure, often resembles a black box. The planned reform of the federal

expert committees by the Federal Executive Board is intended to increase transparency, openness, more agile ways of working and participation in policy development. Its goal is to incorporate subject-matter expertise more effectively, structure work processes more clearly and involve members meaningfully. In future:

1. The chair positions of federal expert committees will be openly advertised to all members by the FDP Federal Executive Board.
2. Following this open application process, the Federal Executive Board will appoint the new chairs.

In addition, the Federal Executive Board will appoint a liaison for the federal expert committees from among its members to connect the two structures. The federal expert committees are to operate as established, small panels of experts that develop policy positions and motions on their own initiative or at the request of the Federal Executive Board.

Introduction of specialist forums: Each federal expert committee will be complemented by a new “specialist forum” (Fachforum). These forums will serve to involve all Free Democrat members in substantive policy development. They will be organisationally linked to the federal expert committees, with the chair of each committee also chairing its corresponding forum. Their aim is to organise broader political debate within the party and enable more exchange, networking and new policy ideas. Digital formats are possible, for example through dedicated discussion spaces on the Freiraum platform. The Federal Executive Board may also set up cross-policy specialist forums to work on priority topics across disciplines.

5. Make talent management more systematic

As a party that welcomes active participation, we Free Democrats consider it essential to recognise our members as talented individuals and support their development. This applies to longstanding members as well as newcomers. Participation only reaches its full potential when it is well organised and its processes are understandable. Systematic talent management ensures that opportunities to contribute are communicated clearly, access is made easy and results are reported back transparently. This makes engagement more predictable and sustainable.

Standardised onboarding for new members: We are introducing common onboarding for all new members, giving everyone the same starting conditions to become active in our party. A standard information package on party work and structures will make joining and getting involved in the Free Democrats as straightforward as possible. We will supplement this with appropriate training through the Party Academy. Combined with local support, this will enable well-informed new members to start contributing to the Free Democrats.

Skills and talent directory for members: Our membership includes countless abilities, experiences and talents – our members are valuable resources whose potential we have so far neither systematically recorded nor fully used. Often it is unclear which knowledge, experiences and skills exist within the membership. We want to change this so that members’ expertise and talents become visible and can be more purposefully included in policy work and organisation. Our goal is to establish a voluntary skills and talent directory in which members can enter their competences, abilities and knowledge through the members’ app. Chairs of local, district, regional and state associations, as well as federal executive committees, will have access to this information. New members will also be able to provide their skills and knowledge upon joining the FDP.

Training and continuing education through the Party Academy: The digital Party Academy is to be expanded further, providing systematic and flexible access to education and training for members. It should particularly address voluntary offices, practical guides and support materials. The goal is to strengthen specific skills, empower officeholders in their work and preserve knowledge over the long term.

6. Expand opportunities to participate and a culture of engagement

Political engagement is changing and requires a range of flexible participation opportunities for the full breadth of our membership. Alongside traditional formats such as local political gatherings, policy-focused and digital opportunities to participate are gaining importance. An open culture of engagement values different forms of participation and encourages members to take an active part in shaping the party.

Recognition at Federal Party Congresses: Our members are the heart of the FDP. Without our dedicated volunteers, neither party work nor campaigns would be possible. We do not take their commitment for granted. At future Federal Party Congresses, we therefore intend to introduce awards that make the work of volunteers and party subdivisions more visible to the public. The Federal Executive Board will develop a concept for awards recognising engagement.

Introduction of supporting memberships: We want to create an option for people who sympathise with the Free Democrats and either cannot or do not wish to support them through formal party membership, but still want to support the FDP. The Federal Executive Board is instructed to develop a supporting-membership concept to make it easier for people to provide ongoing support and maintain contact with the Free Democrats.

7. Professional campaigns

Effective political campaigns are essential for visibility, mobilisation and impact – all the more so in opposition outside parliament. They require clear objectives, coordinated messages and professional planning across every party level. Campaigns must be strategically prepared, implemented on the basis of data and experience, and systematically evaluated. This will sustainably increase the party’s capacity to act effectively.

Campaign white paper: We will provide members with a campaign white paper. A central white paper creates reliability, orientation and quality in campaign work at every party level. It brings together common campaign standards, practical guidelines and established insights and experience. It thus supports full-time and voluntary activists in planning, carrying out and evaluating campaigns.

Regular days of action: To activate the grassroots and sustainably increase the FDP’s political visibility throughout the country, regular days of action are to be established. These give members and supporters an accessible way to become active, make our positions visible and engage directly with citizens locally.

Continuous analysis of “Best Practices”: Forward-looking party work requires ongoing attention to successful approaches at home and abroad. Best practices are to be systematically identified and compared. The analysis will be based on data and clear success criteria, allowing realistic assessments of transferability and impact. Proven concepts can then be adapted and the Free Democrats’ political work further developed on an evidence-based basis. The Federal Executive Board will appoint one of its members to be responsible for this task.

Establishing “Field Management”: Our goal is to establish a form of field management that strengthens the party’s local presence and the impact of local campaigns. This involves the systematic planning,

implementation and evaluation of citizen dialogues and other activities involving direct contact with the public. The aim is to professionalise local engagement, expand reach and impact, and effectively feed public feedback into political work. In this way, local initiatives are supported and members' connections with voters are strengthened.

Translator's note: This is a full, unofficial English translation of the German-language resolution dated 8 November 2026. In the event of any discrepancy, the original German document is authoritative.