

Dear St. Sampson's voter,

I am seeking your vote to be re-elected as a States Deputy at the election being held on Wednesday, 27th April 2016.

I hope to meet you at the election hustings or as I canvass from property-to-property in the next month. However, if you wish to arrange a time to meet (or would prefer me not to call on you at home) please contact me on **715057** or **07839 240167** or by email at **gavinstpier@gmail.com**

I cannot in this leaflet cover every area of possible interest, so please visit **www.gavinstpier.gg** or contact me to discuss any matter of concern to you.

I wrote in my 2012 manifesto: *"I do not have all the answers to the issues that Guernsey is facing ...As there is no party politics in Guernsey, candidates can make all sorts of promises and then – once elected – fail to deliver on any of them whilst they are in the States. I am going to avoid empty promises which I may be unable to honour."* That remains as true now as it was then. Instead, I want to share with you my experience, my aspirations for Guernsey and give you my views on some key current topics.

We have many challenges in the next few years and there will be a range of views on how to tackle them. But like the majority of you, I care passionately about our island home and I want it to be a place that my children can live and thrive. That is what drives me and why I remain committed to working hard in the best interests of the community as a whole. I recognise that the most difficult decisions are often also the most contentious but I have never flinched from making those decisions, however unpopular that may be at times.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this leaflet. I hope that it will enable you to make an informed choice. Thank you for your support and your vote.



Gavin St. Pier
St. Sampson's

The future
can be
different

QUICK FACTS

- Age: 49
- Lived in St. Sampson's since 1997
- Chartered accountant, chartered tax adviser, barrister
- First elected to the States as Treasury & Resources Minister in 2012

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Since the 2012 election, I have worked full-time as a Deputy and as **Minister of Treasury & Resources**. I have also been a member of the **States Review Committee**, which successfully led the reforms for the slimmed-down system of government which take effect on 1st May 2016, including the reduction in the number of Deputies from 45 to 38.

For my full CV and disclosure of interests, visit **www.gavinstpier.gg**

SUCCESSES: 2012-2016

- 3 extensions of the zero/10 corporate tax regime, raising an additional £15m each year from the corporate sector including large retailers, general insurers, trust and fund administrators
- Re-invigorating and championing the Financial Transformation Programme (which had started but stalled in the last States) to cut £28.7m each year from government spending with minimal impact on public services
- Reducing government spending by 3% in real terms
- Reducing the 'black hole' (deficit) from its peak (during the last States) of £37m to £4m in 2016
- Locking £142.5m into our long-term Core Investment Reserve – invested for future generations
- Refinancing at lower cost the island's borrowings by issue of the States of Guernsey Bond at a record low interest rate
- Leading the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review to ensure the long-term sustainability of our public finances as our population changes
- Ending costly regulation of States-owned Guernsey Electricity and Guernsey Post

THE FUTURE CAN BE DIFFERENT: A GOAL FOR GUERNSEY

The community want to know in which direction our island is headed. Government should not only provide public services; it needs also to provide aspirational leadership. My goal is that in the next 10 years Guernsey aims to become the healthiest and happiest community in the world, with a sustainable environment and a secure, successful and stable economy.

This ambitious, achievable and measurable goal is simply saying that as a community, we can and should have the same aspirations as most of us do for ourselves and our families: to be as healthy and fulfilled as we can be. Economic poverty in Guernsey is normally an indicator of other social problems, often deriving from the poverty of opportunity, aspiration and hope. If we are going to address the issues that matter most to people and if we are going to build the Guernsey that will offer the same quality of life that we have today for our children and our grandchildren, we must consider social development. Social policy is not about social problems that impact other people, but it is about all of us and what kind of community we want to live in.

A thriving private sector performing its primary role as wealth creator in the economy remains critically important, as only a successful private sector can create sufficient wealth to fund high quality public services. But economic growth should be a means to an end, not an end in itself. Having a simple, clear goal for the island will give us the framework we currently lack – one which enables us to make choices and prioritise the use of limited public finances. This is essential if we are to control government spending.

To achieve this goal will require unequivocal leadership, fast track delivery of the reform of public services which has now begun and more effective working between the government, business and non-business sectors.

TAX

In 2012, I opposed the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax (GST) as an additional tax. In 2015, I supported the recommendation of the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review that we should continue to **consider** GST, provided it enabled us to **reduce** individuals' income tax burden by diversifying our sources of income. That recommendation was resoundingly defeated in the States – and I accept that decision.

The Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review agreed to reduce tax allowances for high earners, moving us towards a **personal income tax** system where '20% means 20%' for those in our community with the highest incomes. I support this decision and if re-elected will work to implement it as quickly as practicable.

When the **'zero-ten' corporate tax regime** was introduced in 2008, the only companies taxed were banks – and then only in respect of part of their business. The previous States (2008–2012) made no changes to this regime. In three of the four budgets I have presented as Treasury and Resources Minister, I have led the extension of corporate tax to large retailers, general insurers, bank custodians, trust and fund administrators. This brings in an extra £15m a year in tax from companies.

As we see with global companies such as Google, Facebook and Starbucks almost daily in the news, corporate tax is a hot and contentious topic everywhere, not just in Guernsey. However popular it might be to promise you that there are better alternatives, it is in fact a complex and evolving area. It is essential for our economic success that Guernsey continues to offer business a stable, competitive corporate tax regime.

My track record for determinedly but quietly achieving successful corporate tax reform is unrivalled – and if re-elected, I will continue to seek opportunities for further reform.

SPENDING

In the last 4 years, this States has had success in controlling public expenditure through the delivery of the Financial Transformation Programme, which has produced savings of £28.7m each year. Government spending has fallen 3% in real terms. The public sector pension scheme has also been reformed.

But we can and must do more in order to live within our means. With ever increasing pressures as our population changes, this is much easier said than done. We will only be able to do so by relentlessly identifying and focussing on our priorities and delivering public service reform (which has now begun.) This reform must also include the transformation in the way we provide health and social services – our single largest area of spending. Following the 2015 work jointly commissioned by the Health and Social Services and Treasury and Resources Departments, this process has also started. It is critical that momentum is maintained in the next States' term.

ASSETS

The States has considerable assets under its control: £500m of financial assets in our reserves; trading assets, like Guernsey Electricity and Guernsey Post; and a very large property portfolio.

Our financial assets are well invested and managed. This was strengthened in 2014, when for the first time we placed £142.5m into the island's own sovereign wealth fund, the long-term Core Investment Reserve – invested for future generations.

We now need to apply the same rigour and discipline to our trading and property assets to ensure that islanders, as the owners, receive an appropriate return. Income from these assets will then help relieve pressure on all of us in our capacity as taxpayers. For example, Guernsey Electricity and Guernsey Water customers are common to both and this provides an opportunity to improve the efficiency of both organisations by ensuring they share their billing process.

HOUSING

The high cost of housing in Guernsey has been a persistent problem for many years. This problem has been compounded by changes in the mortgage market since the global financial crisis in 2008, and the two issues combined have made it particularly hard for first-time buyers to get onto the housing ladder. In the 2014 Budget, we tried to help by temporarily reducing document duty on lower value properties, although this, in fact, had little impact. In 2015, the States directed that a wide ranging review of the housing market should be undertaken as this will help us better understand the supply and demand for housing. However, pending this work being completed, I would like us to look urgently at two further initiatives:

- **Assisting first-time buyers with deposits by a States-backed loan scheme;**
- **Establishing a States-owned bank to offer islanders' savings and loans products appropriate for local needs.**

ACCOUNTABILITY

Most areas of public service are rightly subject to political accountability on behalf of islanders. However, the law officers at St. James' Chambers and the Ecclesiastical Court currently have little political scrutiny. I think that it is in the public interest that we now undertake a review of their management and oversight to ensure that their structures are fit for purpose in the 21st century.

ISLAND WIDE VOTING

In February 2016, I supported the introduction of Island Wide Voting for all Deputies at the next general election in 2020. I believe that in practice this will require future candidates to adopt common platforms of policies. This will make it easier for voters to have their voice heard regarding the future policy decisions they wish the island to adopt.

PARISH ISSUES

I am pleased that Leale's Yard may finally be progressing. It will be important to ensure that the parish's interests are protected and not overlooked in the new Island Development Plan due to be agreed later this year. I am aware that many parishioners made representations to the Planning Inspectors to protect the character of the parish.

PREFERRED ROLE IN THE NEXT STATES

If re-elected, I will seek to become the President of the Policy and Resources Committee. As its name suggests, this new senior committee will be responsible for coordinating policy and resource allocation across the whole of the States. As President, I believe I would be best placed to help deliver the island's goals including, if adopted by the States, the one I have set out above that in the next 10 years Guernsey aims to become the healthiest and happiest community in the world, with a sustainable environment and a secure, successful and stable economy. I want to use my experience and successes in the last four years to provide leadership and help deliver an ambitious goal for Guernsey, ensuring that the future can be different.

VOTING

If you are unable or unwilling to vote in person on Wednesday 27th April, you may obtain a Postal Vote up **until midday on Friday 22nd April 2016.**

Thank you.



Gavin St. Pier

The future can be different

www.gavinstpier.gg

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