

Vote for Jennifer Merrett

Dear St Sampson voter,

Thank you for registering to vote. Simply by registering you have shown that you care about our beautiful parish which is an important part of our unique Island.

I am standing for election because I want to be able to influence and protect the future of our Island home. I believe I can represent parishioners and Islanders.

I have decades of experience in leadership and have the knowledge to help the next States secure the Island's future through sustainable economic development and rigorous control of States expenditure. I would like the opportunity to represent the majority whilst protecting the minority and encourage a more diverse States.

I have no conflict of interests, hidden agendas and I am impartial as I have no business interests to declare.



Why vote for me?

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is what it takes to sit down and listen."

I have courage. I can make a difference. I can stand up and speak but I will also sit down and listen to you. I would represent you in the States with integrity, commitment and common sense.

I am here to listen to you.

My Background

I am a mother and professional business woman who has studied for a law degree. Andrew and I decided to move to this beautiful parish when we started our family. The potential of an easily commutable cycle track into town, affordability of a family home, local shops within walking distance and Delancey Park were all key factors as to why we moved to St Sampson.

I have over 20 years' experience as a leader for multi nationals and independent businesses. I have a proven track record of delivering large and complex projects in time and within budget. This has been achieved by negotiating, analysing data and setting realistic goals; ensuring that informed and intelligent decisions are made which are based on facts, using common sense and integrity.

"I met Jennifer almost a decade ago when she volunteered to work with one of our parish youth groups.

I know her to be passionate about making a difference.

She gets things done and done brilliantly.

Jennifer is resilient, committed and consistent.

In an Island where one of our only natural resources are our people, we are lucky to have people of such high calibre who care about our community.

Jennifer believes in equality and she can, will and has made a difference.

I will be voting for Jennifer and you should too."

(Mrs Ruth Mahy; Retired Nurse)



Please give me one of your votes on Wednesday 27th April

Why am I standing?

"I strongly believe in a democratic government which is voted in by the people in which power is invested in the people for the people".

I feel that it is important that the States are reflective of our diverse society and are not represented by a small section of it.

As one of your elected deputies I would have absolute commitment to the role.

A full time salary dictates full time responsibility.

The ability to listen more than you speak and to know when to admit you are wrong, come up with ideas and solutions are all imperative.

Deputies need integrity, transparency and must be accountable.

I believe in the right to equality and freedom from discrimination. I think that a democratic society should represent the majority whilst protecting the minority.

I am standing because I am concerned about many items on the current political agenda and I would like the opportunity to be able to influence them positively and bring intelligent, informed debate and decisions into the States of Deliberation.

We need to protect our family life and our culture.

Innovation and individuals working together have ensured that Guernsey has its own unique culture and we need to protect our heritage whilst ensuring economic security, prosperity and social harmony.

I believe that all Islanders deserve to be happy, healthy and protected. We should all be able to live in a safe, sustainable and clean environment.

How will I ensure that you are effectively represented?

"The States should work for the people, with the people and be accountable to the people."

I will be available to listen to you. I will be approachable and reliable. I will explain and communicate with you clearly, concisely and effectively. I will be open and honest with you and I will act with integrity.

If elected I would enjoy engaging in the regular Saturday surgeries at the St Sampson Douzaine rooms and be readily contactable by phone or email.

I live in your parish.

I aim to propose cost effective referendums that are legally binding on the States, not ambiguous consultancies' questionnaires that can and are manipulated to fit in with politicians' agendas. We need politicians that are ambassadors for our Island.

I would minimise the use of UK consultants and rely on the wealth of knowledge that we have on our Island and try to use local firms and local people to fulfil States' contracts.

Why vote for me?

"I believe that together we can make a difference but we need actions not just words."

We have freedom of speech, strive for equality and justice but the States need to restore your faith in it.

This can only be achieved by listening to the people of Guernsey, by applying common sense and by working together in resolving some of the outstanding issues. We need deeds not just words.

We need to remember who the States represent. **You.**

We need to elect people who are committed, who have a strong work ethic and are able to be objective and apply common sense. People who appreciate how hard you have to work to support your family. People who will not squander taxpayers' money.

We need to rigorously control States expenditure ensuring that it is being spent in serving your needs within what we can afford.



"I believe Jennifer would be an excellent deputy. She has proven to me that she is honest and acts with integrity."

Jennifer has an excellent work ethic and I believe she will demonstrate this if she is given the opportunity to be a deputy"

(Mrs Claire Purdue;
Solicitor)

My Core Beliefs

Education

“It is apparent that some of our politicians know the cost of everything but the value of nothing.”

I believe that all our children should have the same opportunity. We should trust our teaching profession and try to think of **ALL** our Islands’ children.

I know that all children have different aptitudes, abilities and interests. We are all individuals, we are all unique. Our education system should be capable of allowing all of our children to achieve their full potential.

I recognise that the eleven plus as operated in Guernsey needs to be reviewed and an appropriate system of education needs to be adopted and developed which will allow all our young people to flourish whilst maintaining their happiness.

Whilst reviewing our system of education we must protect all that is best in our current system, ensuring quality educational facilities for all our children.

Children are our future. Our future prosperity depends on them.

Island Wide Voting (IWV)

“Pessimists see the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist the opportunity in every difficulty.”

I am an optimist. Difficult questions as to the benefits and difficulties regarding the potential implementation of IWV need open and honest debate. I believe that IWV is a key issue that needs to be considered in the next States.

You should have the democratic right to vote for whom you want. **It is your Island.**

A cost effective referendum could determine the preference of the whole Island but it must be binding on the States. I believe that the referendum should be a simple question. No ambiguity. No possibility of misinterpreting Islanders’ wishes. A simple question “Do you want Island wide voting? Yes / No?”

If Islanders want it, then they should be able to trust their States to implement it in a cost effective and timely manner.

Parochial matters can affect your life as much as Island wide issues. Therefore, it is imperative that we keep a parochial element within our election process.

The Economy

“Our collective failure to make hard choices in the past has left our Island vulnerable in an uncertain economic and political climate.”

We need to continue to protect and support our finance industry.

I am in favour of diversification as I believe it will help protect us from future economic instability. We need to develop a sustainable and diverse economy whilst ensuring that States expenditure is rigorously controlled.

We currently have no consumer credit protection laws which makes us vulnerable. 93% of our working population (that is 37,000 of us) currently have personal loans without any legislative protection.

We need to continue to eradicate waste and inefficiency in public spending. The savings achieved will ensure the financial transfer programme is sustained. I recognise the need to retain high quality public services that we can afford.

Our retail industry is under threat from internet sales. ‘Buy local’, but how can we if the prices are inflated? Therefore, we must continue to avoid GST as it would affect the Island’s competitiveness and is likely to affect inflation but mainly because it would put more of a tax burden onto those least able to afford it.

We have an increased rate of social security contributions from January 2017 but we still have not developed a personal tax strategy. We all pay a flat rate of 20% income tax irrespective of personal income. We all get universal benefits irrespective of need.

I believe we now need to develop a personal tax and benefit strategy to ensure those on lower incomes and those in need are adequately supported and plan for our future demographics. We need to determine what is appropriate for the needs of our economy and our Island.

These are real issues that need steady hands.



My Core Beliefs

Environment

“I believe that we should all be able to live in a safe, sustainable and clean environment.”

I am disappointed at the lack of progress with the current waste strategy and am horrified that we are still pumping raw sewage into the sea.

Our Island has huge potential in harnessing our natural resources in the form of tidal, wave and wind power. We have the potential to generate all of our energy and we could maybe even start selling our excess to France rather than the other way round.

Waste Strategy

The Public Service Department has consistently changed their plans regarding the Island's waste strategy. It is difficult to understand exactly where they are heading. In the next States the scrutiny department need to prioritise where we are now and if it is the best solution for the Island. We need a clear understanding as to why key elements have been dropped and what the long term plan is. We need deeds not words.

Transport Links

Our transport links are essential to our Island and are vulnerable. Our confidence in Condor has literally hit the rocks. We need a robust service level agreement, we need a reliable and affordable service and we need to resolve this quickly before any more damage is done to our Island's reputation. We need to stop the inconvenience and frustration to Islanders, to our visitors and the damage to our tourist industry.

My Promise to You

As a new face I promise to bring new ideas, to encourage collaboration, integrity and commitment. I do not know all of the answers, no one does, but I can promise you that what I do not know, I will find out by asking questions, insisting on clear and concise answers and by effectively summarising and communicating them to you.

If elected, my voting decisions in the States will be informed, balanced and fair. I will have fully researched, analysed and committed both time and energy to ensure that I make intelligent and effective decisions in representing you.

Thank you for reading my manifesto.

I hope that you feel that able to vote for me on 27th April.

I am walking the parish throughout this election campaign and am hoping to meet as many parishioners as possible. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any questions, thoughts and ideas about any of the political issues that you are interested in.

If I miss you, or you want to arrange a convenient time to talk; please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Email jennifermerrettstamps@gmail.com

www.jennifermerrett.wordpress.com

Parochial Issues

“We need to build sustainable homes not just cram in houses without an infrastructure that can not cope.”

Rejuvenation and regeneration of the Bridge area gives us a huge opportunity to see a large economic injection of money into the area with many benefits including new shops and facilities. These could benefit the majority of our community.

Arguably our current infrastructure will struggle to cope with the additional traffic. Parking limitations and commuting into town at peak times can already be frustrating due to the volume of traffic.

There are real concerns regarding the volume of housing on one site. We need affordable housing but we also need a quality of life and not small ghettos where we are cramming in houses rather than building sustainable homes.

The Island Development Plan (IDP) is due to be voted on early in the next political term.

This effects our parish because the IDP states that 90% of new developments should be in 'main centres' which includes St Sampson. Developments like Leales Yard will be encouraged and supported by the planning department if the IDP is approved. We must understand what the implications are for our parish and how we should respond.

Delancey Park

“The green lung of our parish.”

Delancey Park has huge potential and we have seen some good progress but how about getting rid of all of the abandoned vehicles so families using the park can park their cars? A café could deter anti-social behaviour and would be an excellent opportunity to provide an entrepreneur with a business opportunity.