



Élections municipales - 15 et 22 mars 2026  
**VILLEURBANNE  
INSOUMISE**

avec Mathieu  
**GARABEDIAN**  
votre candidat-maire



# **PROGRAM**

## **MAKE IT BETTER FOR VILLEURBANNE**

Dear residents of Villeurbanne,

My name is Mathieu Garabédian. I'm 32 years old and I moved in Villeurbanne 15 years ago to begin my adult life and my studies on the Doua campus. Over the years, I discovered a popular, diverse and vibrant city, where workers, young people, retirees, students and families from different backgrounds come together. I've been working in Gratte-ciel for 8 years now in a cooperative which designs cultural buildings and I've decided to start a family here.

As a result of a rich history of solidarities, struggles, migrations, our city has always defended collective actions. Now, in a national context of budget cuts, a decline in public services, growing inequalities, climate change, racism on the rise and a democratic crisis, I'm deeply convinced that there is only one political choice: resistance.

When finding accommodation becomes a struggle, moving around is ever more expensive, eating healthily remains a privilege, and too many residents feel like they don't have a say in the decision process, Villeurbanne must proudly arbor an ideal of social security and of resistance against far-right ideas.

To do so, I'm taking inspiration in the thoughts of the West Indian poet Édouard Glissant and his concept of Archipelago: an ensemble of diverse places and cultures but connected by vibrant relationships. I intend to build an archipelago-city together with you, a city where each neighborhood and its inhabitants belong and are equally considered, where local life is strengthened, in which public services are available

everywhere. Being an archipelago-city means guaranteeing essential rights accessibility : accommodation, healthcare, education, culture, sport, food. It means fighting all forms of discrimination. It means sharing living spaces : opened schools, lively public squares, social centers, associations and vibrant community centers. It means giving power back to the people through genuine local democracy, with completely open neighborhood committees and a citizen-initiated referendum finally implemented. A city where no neighborhood becomes isolated or abandoned but rather where all the neighborhoods are intertwined by accessible transportation options, organized solidarity and festive events.

The program you are about to read is the result of a collective effort led with the residents of Villeurbanne during 6 workshop sessions which took place in autumn in different neighborhoods of the city. It is part of the unbowed communalism movement which intends to break with the concentration of power, real estate speculation and market-driven logic. It affirms the role of a municipality capable of acting for the common good and for shared resources, guided by transparency and social justice.

It presents our proposals for Villeurbanne, and for the Metropolitan level, where the same struggles must be fought. It does not promise everything but it commits to what matters most : making Villeurbanne a city that protects, that shares and that dares. A people's city, where the people decides.

This city belongs to you. And its future will be built with those who live here – for the dignity of all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathieu Garabedian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

## Become an archipelago city

- 1. Establish district city halls with deputy mayors**, a team of municipal officials dedicated to various municipal policies (access to rights, associations, social development, urban planning, economics and commerce, community law enforcement, education, employment, maintenance of public spaces, and public works), a physical space for receiving the public and keeping offices, with an allocated budget.
- 2. Set up district committees in the form of public meetings**, bringing together all interested parties: residents, associations, collectives, and professionals from the district. Each committee will have an independent budget for both day-to-day expenses and residents' projects. They will be open to all residents over the age of 16.
- 3. Incorporate an urban planning principle aimed at bringing housing, local public services, workplaces, recreational and cultural facilities within 15 minutes** of each other by public transport, on foot, or by bicycle.
- 4. Create a time office to develop municipal policies that free up residents' time** (commuting, public service hours, etc.).

## Give power back to the people

### Share the power of elected officials

5. **Implement a municipal citizens' initiative referendum (CIR)** whenever a petition signed by at least 1% of residents is submitted, and commit to holding local referendums on major infrastructure projects. The municipal council pledges to respect the results, provided that a minimum turnout is met.
6. **Grant the right to vote to underage residents over the age of 16**, as well as to all foreign nationals residing in the municipality during these referendums. Organising the election of 10 municipal officials of foreign nationality (outside the European Union) affiliated with the Municipal Council.
7. Have elected officials sign a binding charter in which they individually commit to **respect a recall vote if 10% of the electorate signs a verified petition requesting it**.
8. **Implement new procedures at council meetings:** allowing residents in attendance to participate in a question-and-answer session, offering a live chat system alongside access to video recordings of the sessions, and organising council meetings in all city districts.

### Promote continuous public intervention

9. **Establish an independent municipal investigation service and an appeal fund** to support and finance local citizens' and associations' fights against institutional decision-making.
10. **Set up a service for public political education, and increasing ways for citizens to participate** in municipal life: workshops on drafting municipal deliberations, participatory surveys, grievance logs, public urban planning workshops, exploratory walks, etc.
11. **Organise an annual public debate on the municipality's overall budget** to explain and discuss its structure with residents and to verify the principles of equality between districts and genders.
12. **Sign the Anticor Charter:** fighting corruption, publishing the mayor's schedule, openness about remuneration and expense reimbursement, transparency on public spending and municipal decision-making.

## Strengthen mutual assistance

### Implement a plan to fight against poverty and ensure a fair access to rights.

**13.** Reinforce and enhance community-based social services in Maisons de la Métropole to guarantee decent and accessible support to socially-disadvantaged individuals (i.e. people on income support, the elderly, people with disabilities, precarious families, the youth and isolated persons) **stand up for an increase of the number of social workers** and an extension of opening hours to allow everyone, including people who are working or have family obligations, to have access to one's rights. **Make sure that social workers are trained to tackle extreme poverty** and fight discrimination.

**14.** **Expand access to legal services especially within district city halls** by extending public services office hours (CPAM, France Travail, CARSAT, CAF, etc...), financial support to public scribes, recruiting interpreters, translating official documents and guaranteeing a discrimination-free access to public desks.

### Expand the field of the commons and improve public servant statuses.

**15.** **Promote a sensible use of digital technology by safeguarding non-digital alternatives** and accessibility to all public services. **Develop free softwares, data transparency** and implement a policy of purchasing and reusing sustainable computer hardware within the city hall.

**16.** **Establish city-level public service users committees**, which deliberate on their evolution and the choices that affect them by connecting users, public servants and elected officials. **Build projects-oriented services** to reach the objectives of the manifesto with the city employees. They are in the best position to identify the potential for improvement towards the implementation of a policy.

**17.** **Fight against the social insecurity of city workers by planning the expansion of permanent positions**, the eradication of unwanted part time jobs and one-on-one pay negotiations.

**18. Acknowledge and protect the urban commons** (buildings, brownfields, gardens, squares, etc...) as publicly managed places by local assemblies, give them a dedicated budget and guarantee the citizens' common rights for social, ecological and cultural projects.

### **Safeguard the right to decent housing.**

**19. Create a city or regional service of housing inspection** (based on labour inspection). It will be tasked to combat substandard, outrageous and unacceptable housing, to fight against vacant housing, to defend tenants' rights, to struggle against tenant evictions, to enforce rent control, to regulate vacation rentals and to work with social housing landlords for housing applications. This service will also be in charge of delivering **rental licenses** to social housing landlords and to fight against homelessness and slumlords.

**20. Support tenant unions** by giving them subsidies and access to city-owned premises.

**21. Struggle for the unrestricted and continuous accommodation** by the Métropole and the State. **Expand the emergency accommodation capacity at city and regional levels by the provisioning of public, private and vacant real estate and creating an emergency night shelter service.**

**22. Support self-building and self-renovating**, in touch with the local associations and the Castors network, to preserve urban working-class heritage and to allow inhabitants to collectively renovate their accommodations within budget in a spirit of solidarity and mutual support.

### **Defend and expand social and public housing and non-profit home ownership.**

**23. Regulate the housing market by expanding up to 50% public housing share**, with a high priority on extremely affordable social housing allotted distributed across all districts and the construction of permanent integration houses (boarding house, family-ran boarding houses etc.) following a housing first strategy.

- 24. Advocate for the continuation of rent control and for access to non-speculative homeownership** through solidarity-based land offices and cooperative housing.

## **Ease healthcare access and develop better prevention strategies.**

- 25. Fight to improve access to healthcare at the neighborhood level by establishing two multidisciplinary health centers** in the most underserved areas, as well as medical cooperatives offering full third-party payment, and by proposing a municipal mutual health insurance scheme.

- 26. Develop youth and adult listening and support centers** in every neighborhood, and support the creation of neighborhood mutual-aid networks for mental health.

- 27. Provide widespread first-aid training for the entire population, at all ages,** and promote a culture of risk awareness, caring vigilance, and mutual support. Establish a **municipal civil protection reserve** dedicated to community-based missions in coordination with existing associations.

## **Build youth independence**

- 28. Increase the Metropolitan Youth Solidarity Income** to match the level of the Active Solidarity Income (RSA).

- 29. Develop initiatives to facilitate young people's career guidance and access to employment:** internship grants, job fairs, the creation of youth service cooperatives, fighting against discrimination in hiring and training, financial support for the Villeurbanne Local Employment Mission, and coordination with schools and local businesses.

- 30. Create dedicated spaces for young people (aged 16-25), provide financial support for their civic and community projects** and open public facilities in the evening to offer them spaces for engagement, autonomy and initiative.

- 31. Create a Student Solidarity Center** on the Doua campus, providing access to food, essential supplies, housing support, mental health drop-in services, as well as guidance, administrative assistance, and social support services, in order to guarantee dignified living conditions for all students.

### Take care of our elderly and promote healthier aging.

- 32. Rethink a public autonomy service at the neighborhood level** in coordination with the Maison des Aîné·es (Seniors' Center) and the district town halls. **Develop a network of community spaces** and intergenerational housing (notably including students).

### Guarantee the right to employment

- 33. Expand the principles of the "Territoire zéro chômeur de longue durée"** (Zero Long-Term Unemployment Territory) initiative to **create a local job guarantee based on ecological and social sectors**, in coordination with the public employment service, integration through economic activity and adapted and protected employment, job-creation enterprises, local associations, and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) enterprises
- 34. Establish a service to defend precarious workers** in partnership with trade unions and associations.
- 35. Support the development of social and solidarity economy (SSE) businesses** through subsidies or public investment. The Metropole will encourage the creation of shared services (shared offices, premises, or services) and will set up an economic property fund enabling SSE businesses to acquire and rent business premises at controlled prices.

### Defend small businesses against large retail chains

- 36. Set up a business support fund** and a premises acquisition plan through the Société Villeurbannaise d'Urbanisme (Villeurbanne Urban Planning Company), discussed within trade councils, and **develop shared local logistics** (low-impact delivery circuits, shared storage, and electric vehicles made available).

## Guarantee the right to water and food

- 37. Build a local food social security** with local stakeholders: the city's central kitchen, the CCAS meal delivery service, social, solidarity, and cooperative grocery stores, food aid associations, neighborhood canteens, markets, AMAPs (community-supported agriculture groups), and Archipel associations. **Create municipal neighborhood restaurants and a food logistics platform** for associations to supply them with fresh, high-quality products.
- 38. Guarantee the right to water in conjunction with the Grand Lyon public water authority:** protect water resources, expand neighborhood fountains and public showers, provide temporary water connections for informal living sites (camps, slums, squats), open the Gratte-Ciel swimming pool to the public, reopen La Rize, develop the canal banks for swimming, and establish a Canal and Feysine Parliament made up of residents, associations, and scientists.

## Ensure the right to safety

- 39. Create a local public safety service** based primarily on prevention rather than repression, bringing together community municipal policing, social workers and psychologists, specialized educators, and school and neighborhood mediators. These professionals will be well-versed in social realities and trained in the mechanisms of pre-delinquency in order to better prevent them.
- 40. Establish neighborhood safety councils** in conjunction with neighborhood committees, bringing together residents, elected officials, municipal and national police, and neighborhood stakeholders to identify issues, transparently assess the actions taken, and calmly communicate about the issues identified.
- 41. Implement a moratorium on video surveillance** and carry out a financial audit to assess the actual effectiveness of this costly system.

## Combat drug trafficking and its impacts

- 42. Tackle trafficking at its source** by asking the government to strengthen the national judicial police force, providing it with the resources needed to target the leaders of trafficking networks.

**43. Implement a comprehensive municipal plan for addiction prevention and harm reduction**, combining awareness campaigns, health and social support, the opening of a low-risk consumption space, strengthening of CSAPA/CAARUD (addiction treatment and support centers) in the area, and coordination with associations and health services to reduce dangerous practices and their impact on public peacefulness.

## Build the new France

### Combat racism, sexism and LGBTIphobia

44. **Open a House of Equal Rights**, co-managed with associations and residents, provided with a dedicated budget. It will be equipped with a physical and telephone reception service and will support associations fighting against discrimination and all forms of religious hatred, in particular islamophobia and antisemitism. It will conduct educational and awareness campaigns and provide legal support to victims.
45. **Implement policies to combat sexism and patriarchy**, including increasing the number of emergency shelter places for women victims of violence and making the allocation of public funds conditional on actions to achieve gender equality.

### Build an accessible municipality

46. **Create public space construction site coordinator positions** to monitor accessibility during construction projects and to reorganize spaces when construction is paused in order to restore parking or easily accessible spaces (pedestrians, bicycles, cars). **Strengthen communication with local residents about upcoming and ongoing construction work** through posters and community meetings.
47. **Launch a comprehensive audit of the accessibility of public buildings, shops, and public spaces**, and allocate €1 million per year to make this accessibility a reality.

### Emancipation through culture

48. **Create a Media Center bringing together independent editorial teams** and offering information and journalism training. **Establish a Lefebvre Institute for the right to the city at the Rize**, bringing together researchers and citizens. Propose that these venues, together with the Maison de l'Égalité des Droits (House of Equal Rights) and the Maison de l'Écologie Populaire (House of Popular Ecology), **form the new Université Populaire de Villeurbanne (Villeurbanne People's University)**.

- 49. Build a cultural democracy policy: provide stable financial support to Villeurbanne's cultural institutions** and encourage them to co-create annual cultural projects with schools and city residents to guarantee diversity and equal access to cultural events. Create spaces for artists and authors combining workshops and exhibition areas, and contribute to the creation of a Maison des Pratiques Artistiques Amateurs (Amateur Arts Center) on a metropolitan scale.
- 50. Resist the announced privatization of the Astroballe and work toward establishing a metropolitan network of public cultural facilities** (Transbordeur, Halle Tony Garnier, Marché Gare, etc.) to enable the development of a coherent and popular program rather than promoting competition between cultural actors within the metropolitan area.
- 51. Fund a comedy festival, a festival of Humanity's new frontiers** (hacking camp, discovering the secrets of the sea and rivers, astronomy workshops) and **popular festivals in each neighborhood** as part of the city's cultural program.

## Promoting sports for everybody

- 52. Ease access to sports** by negotiating with sport clubs and associations social rate fees, ensuring the fair sharing of sports facilities time slots between all the city's clubs and the development of local sports facilities.
- 53. Create a yearly "Neighborhood Olympics" tournament** involving local sports clubs and associations, based on an equality charter (disability, gender, discriminations) signed by each team, with events held in the neighborhood facilities and a grand finale in the city's major sports venues.
- 54. Roll out a municipal program of outdoor sports coaches** in the city's parks, offering free supervised sessions (strength training, cardio, mobility, sport-for-health) adapted to all ages and ability levels, in coordination with local clubs, sports associations, and public health initiatives.

## Support community projects

55. **Build a support plan for the community network** by signing multi-years funding agreements, creating a dedicated fund for the purchase, renovation and provision of activity and storage spaces, and developing a shared pool of equipment and vehicles accessible to both associations and the city.
56. **Establish joint grant allocation committees**, bringing together elected officials from both the majority and the opposition, technical staff, researchers and citizens.
57. **Set up adventure playgrounds in every major park** (self-managed outdoor play areas where children can build, experiment and play freely) and **family-friendly open-air cafés** run by local popular education organizations, with a designated facilitator and the involvement of volunteer citizens to enrich activities and community life.

## A safe haven for exiles

58. **Establish the city as a “safe haven” for exiles** by refusing any cooperation with deportation and repatriation procedures and by actively supporting citizen-led and solidarity-based accommodation initiatives.
59. **Continue to roll out the local citizenship card** linking it to public services cards (museums, public transport, libraries, swimming pools, CCAS).
60. **Support regularization efforts for undocumented workers** by funding individual assistance and collective actions.

## A city committed to peace

61. **Adopt a resolution to express our solidarity with the Palestinian people** and officially break the twinning with the Israeli city of Bat Yam as long as the Israeli government refuses to respect international laws; Initiate a twinning with a city in Gaza or Palestine.

- 62. Create a Peace and Human People Festival** welcoming international delegations, in conjunction with the Francophonie, Mediterranean-country networks, and local associations promoting friendship between peoples, to celebrate world-wide cultures.
  
- 63. Launch a global network of anti-fascist cities** in response to the rise of the far right.
  
- 64. Develop remembrance policies for peace and emancipation**, notably regarding colonial crimes, decolonial struggles, victims of police and prison violence and workplace deaths. Refuse to glorify war and deny institutional racism during official commemorations.

## Act for a people-centered ecology

### Establish a framework for ecological planning

65. **Organize at the beginning of the term a citizen-led debate about ecology to implement the “green rule”, which means that we cannot take more from nature than it can replenish** and elaborate collectively a plan for ecological transformation with the inhabitants, the associations and the local companies.
66. **Establish a People’s House of Ecology Nature and Life** at La Feysine to accommodate and train associations, inhabitants, city officials and skilled workers.

### Carry out the energy transition: reduced consumption and renewable energies

67. **Boost the development of renewable energies** by supporting community energy cooperative.
68. **Establish a city-run public service of energy justice to eliminate poorly insulated buildings:** delivering energy performance certificates to combat fraud, giving support and subsidies, renovating public buildings, leading surveys and assessments, offering counsel and guaranteeing access to rights.

### Expand public transport services accessible to everyone

69. **Support the development of sustainable and accessible transportation: free public transport, expansion of the cycling network,** and a dense, well-connected network through **the introduction of minibuses** linked to major metro, tram, and bus lines, **facilitating mobility for seniors and people with reduced mobility.**
70. While waiting for the adequate implementation of these alternatives to cars, **refuse the low-emission zones and make professional and residential parking free,** lower the visitor parking rate, extend day-exemptions for the staff of local stores and businesses, bring parking under the control of the city.

## Anticipate the impact of global warming in terms of ecological risks

71. **Update the municipal emergency plan** by integrating the expected impact of global warming. It includes an impact and climate vulnerability assessment of critical networks, infrastructure, populations, nutrition, green spaces, by actively involving the regional groups of climate assessment (GREC=Groupes régionaux d'évaluation climatique).
72. **Reinforce the heat wave plan: provide adequate public facilities with air conditioning in each neighbourhood**, especially for vulnerable people to avoid the use of individual air conditioners. Expand **green spaces with a cooling effect** to fight against overnight heat and promote the presence of water in the city. **Offer free access to swimming pools** during heat wave periods on extended hours.

## Limit urban sprawl and bring nature back into the city

73. **Bolster a municipal public spaces authority** to manage within the city the arrangement of parks, streets and places. It will work on various issues like revegetation, the fight against wild urbanisation, the installation of street furnitures and playgrounds, street lighting, the promotion of a diversity of uses (markets, events) in a process of inclusion, working with citizen-involvement associations of the city.
74. **Implement a charter of sustainable construction**, restrictive for urban developers, encompassing on-site rainwater infiltration, the use of natural materials biologically and geographically traceable and the goal of net zero land artificialization.

## A city committed to animal welfare

75. **Create a commission in charge of animal welfare** and defend living in harmony with wildlife: promote cruelty-free solutions when they are available for urban wildlife (ultrasound, sterilizing, contraceptive pigeon houses), and prevent the abandonment of pets.

## Commit to cleaning up the planet

- 76. Reduce water, air, soil pollution by enforcing through the Lyon Metropolitan Authority (la métropole de Lyon) the polluter pays principle and conduct awareness campaigns about pollution with the inhabitants. Secure the creation by the Metropolitan Authority of an industrial system for destroying the PFAS (forever chemicals) in the sewage sludge and the filtration system of tap water.**

## Moving toward a zero-waste city

- 77. Support an ambition policy of waste reduction: create a rental network of shareable equipment** such as DIY tools and household electricals, develop a city-level deposit-return scheme, create a city-level network of reuse and repairs connected with repair cafés, recycling centers, turn the current composting into a **district-level vermicomposting**, encourage low-tech development (both repairable and ecological technologies) with the citizens and universities.
- 78. Secure increased staffing of road menders teams** from the Metropolitan Authority (dedicated to road maintenance and cleaning) and their assignment to each district of the city.

# Rethink the city for children and families

## Taking care of children

79. **Enforce the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and strengthen **children's role in decision-making processes** related to local educational projects, parenting plans, etc.
80. **Strengthen the local public early childhood service** by developing diverse, non-profit and small-scale childcare options (daycare centers, outdoor childcare, multi-purpose childcare centers, child-parent welcome center, childminder networks) to guarantee a place for every family, in coordination with the CAF, the Metropolitan authority, the maternal and child health services (PMI) and the Regional authority for professional training.

## Schools in which learning is enjoyable

81. **Increase the school renovation budget** and create an **extra-municipal commission** bringing together teachers, teaching assistants, parents and residents to jointly decide on construction, renovation and school use, with architectural support and participatory building projects. Reinstate **monthly parent cafés** everywhere, transform schoolyards into "oasis schoolyards" (planting vegetation and removing asphalt), and **put schools back at the heart of neighborhoods by opening them outside school hours** to children, families and associations.
82. **Introduce free school meals and free school supplies**, and organize the transition of all meals to organic and locally sourced products, with the introduction of daily vegetarian options and breakfast.
83. **Create a public municipal education and recreation service** based on popular education, minors' protection and equal access for all children to leisure activities: school trips, international exchanges, outdoor learning, local arts and cultural education, intergenerational ties.
84. **Combat the precariousness of childcare professions** by ensuring the long-term professionalization of teams, with training in supporting children with disabilities, academic support, hygiene and child health.

**85. Defend public schools:** ensure adequate levels of municipal staff (ATSEM), expand homework support, combat bullying, discrimination and school dropouts, strengthen school health services and mediation, implement a local support plan for AESH (a municipal income top-up fund, shared training, purchase of adapted equipment) to ensure a dignified inclusion of pupils with disabilities, oppose class closures and abolish all extra-legal aid to private education.