

ELECTION 2026

JUAN MCGUINNESS

HOUSE OF KEYS
GENERAL ELECTION



THURSDAY
24TH
SEPTEMBER

ABOUT ME

STRAIGHT TALKING • HARD WORKING • FOR RAMSEY • FOR THE ISLAND

I was born and brought up in Ramsey, and it has always been home.

My mum grew up on Westbourne Road, where my grandparents lived. My parents met in the 1970s, when my Dad moved to the Island. They bought a house together on Greenlands Avenue and then spent most of their working lives in Ramsey.



I went to Auldryn Infants, Albert Road, and then Ramsey Grammar School. I left school at 18 and went straight into financial services. Today I work as a Head of Compliance, having completed professional qualifications in compliance along the way.

Outside work and politics, things are fairly simple. I enjoy spending time with my partner, walking around the town, keeping an eye on what's going on, and staying connected to the town I've grown up in.

I have also always enjoyed travelling and I have been lucky enough to travel extensively and visit some extraordinary places.

But, for all the places I have seen, there is still something wonderful about coming home. For me, driving over the Mountain Road, reaching the point where the northern plain opens up in front of you, and seeing Ramsey shining by the sea is still one of the best views in the world.



WHY I'M STANDING

After a decade as a commissioner, I believe I can do more for the town and the people of Ramsey.

I've spent the last ten years getting to know my way around politics, the way the Isle of Man Government works, and the issues that are affecting the residents of Ramsey, with an aim to make this town the best it can be.

I have developed an understanding of the different ways in which politics affects real people in their day to day situations and struggles, and I want to make a difference for local people, so they are not just surviving, but also thriving and enjoying life in Ramsey.

The House of Keys needs more scrutiny, more challenge, and a stronger focus on accountability, and I believe that I have a proven track record in keeping the authority that I work within, and myself, accountable to the people we represent.

While working as a commissioner, my aim has always been to be open and transparent in both the actions I take and the reasoning behind them, and these are core values I want to take forward and apply to the wider government.

Ramsey deserves an MHK that will stand up for the town and prioritise the people who live here.

I believe I am the person to do that.

If you believe it too, please vote for me on September 24th.

KEY PRIORITIES

One MHK cannot promise to change everything, and they cannot make significant and meaningful changes overnight.

What I **can** promise is that I will be committed to the role and that I will consistently fight for the people of Ramsey.

These are the 5 commitments that will guide my actions as your MHK.



I will make housing a priority.

I will push for more affordable homes and make existing housing schemes work.

Housing is essential to the Island's economic future.

I will fight for healthcare in the North.

I will keep pressure on government to deliver its commitments and secure a strong long term future for healthcare services in Ramsey and the North.





***I will back an economy
that gives people a future here.***

I will support sustainable growth and stronger local businesses so people can afford to live here, build careers and put down roots.

I will demand better government.

I will push for clearer priorities and better decisions with greater transparency and real accountability for delivery.



I will prioritise Ramsey.

I will be a strong independent voice for Ramsey. I will make sure its interests are properly considered and challenge government when the town and the North are overlooked.



HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Openness should not begin a few months before an election and disappear once the votes have been counted.

Anyone can promise to be accessible during an election. I think the better test is what someone has already done.

LOOKING BACK

For the past ten years as a Ramsey Town Commissioner, I have tried to make myself visible, available and answerable to the people I represent.

I proposed that we live-streamed the RTC board meetings and ensured that this was delivered and maintained.

I have used the same public Facebook page throughout my time as a commissioner, posting regularly about Ramsey, explaining my views and answering questions. For years I have also consistently held live question and answer sessions, where people can put whatever they want to me directly.

I have also brought forward ways for residents to question the commission, including public questions at board meetings and public accountability meetings.

LOOKING FORWARD

I believe accountability is something you demonstrate, not something you promise when an election comes around.

If elected as an MHK, I will continue that approach. I will hold a live question and answer session every month, continue constituency surgeries, meet people face to face and use my public page to explain the decisions I take and the votes I cast.

I will not select only the convenient questions. I will answer what is put to me, including the difficult questions.

Sometimes the honest answer will be that I do not know, need to find out more or cannot discuss something confidential. However, confidentiality should not be used as a convenient excuse to avoid explaining public decisions.

My commitment is straightforward: I will remain visible, accessible and answerable throughout the term, not only when the next election approaches.





HOUSING

I believe the Isle of Man has spent too long describing the housing problem, and not enough time delivering homes. The priority now must be getting more homes built.

Housing policy should be judged by outcomes. Are more homes being built? Are stalled sites moving? Are affordable homes genuinely affordable? Are people able to use the support that government has created? If the answer is no, then the approach needs to be changed.

THE ISSUES

- We need social and affordable housing, private development, first time buyer homes and better use of public and brownfield land.
- Too many sites are delayed without enough clarity about what is holding them up or who is responsible for moving them forward.
- Government has grants and schemes intended to support housing delivery, but these don't always result in the houses being built.

THE WAY FORWARD

Government needs a clear housing delivery pipeline. It should know which sites can provide homes, what the barriers are and who is responsible for overcoming them. Schemes should be judged by outcomes. If an approach is too slow, too complicated or simply not working, it needs to change.

HOW I WILL ACT

As an MHK, I will push for clarity and accountability throughout the housing process. I will press Government to identify stalled sites, explain the barriers and set out what action is needed to move them forward.

I will challenge schemes that are not delivering, including where affordable homes are not genuinely affordable or support is too difficult to access. I will support practical intervention where it can unlock sites and deliver more homes.

A warm, secure home is a basic foundation of a decent life. We know more are needed. I will focus on getting them built.





HEALTHCARE

I believe the North needs healthcare with a secure future, not more uncertainty. Recent commitments on Ramsey Cottage Hospital are welcome, but now they must be delivered.

Northern healthcare is bigger than two buildings. People need reasonable access to GPs, NHS dentistry and community health services.

THE ISSUES

- While recent commitments on Ramsey Cottage Hospital are welcome, the issue is not finished. Those commitments must be delivered and the hospital must retain a meaningful clinical role, helping reduce the Island's reliance on one site for major healthcare provision.
- Accessing appropriate and varied healthcare services is becoming increasingly difficult for residents across the North of the Island.
- The North needs a modern replacement for Cummal Mooar. A replacement was approved in 2018 and residents should not still be waiting. We need publicly provided residential and respite care in the North.

THE WAY FORWARD

Northern healthcare needs a clear plan that protects clinical capacity in Ramsey, delivers a replacement for Cummal Mooar and joins up healthcare, transport and community services around what patients need.

HOW I WILL ACT

As a commissioner, I kept northern healthcare on the agenda and called for the public meeting that brought Manx Care and DHSC face to face with residents. I will bring that same approach to the House of Keys.

I will hold Manx Care and DHSC to the commitments already made, press for a funded timetable for Cummal Mooar and challenge decisions that weaken access or hollow out Ramsey Cottage Hospital.

***Everybody should be able to access healthcare.
Northern healthcare cannot be allowed to slip back into
uncertainty once the immediate pressure has passed.***





EDUCATION

I want an education and skills system that gives people the best chance to succeed, whatever their needs, abilities or ambitions.

Good exam results matter, but they are only one measure of success. We also need strong vocational routes, lifelong learning and the skills to support a changing economy.

THE ISSUES

- Too much emphasis can be placed on academic routes when apprenticeships, trades and practical skills are equally valuable.
- People with additional needs, or those who do not fit a conventional academic pathway, don't always receive the support and life skills needed to fulfil their potential.
- Education and training services don't currently respond quickly enough to changing skills shortages and what employers are telling us they need.

THE WAY FORWARD

We need a more responsive system, with stronger links between education, employers and economic development. People should have credible routes into work and opportunities to retrain as industries and technology change.

Apprenticeship support should also reflect the real cost to small employers of training someone, particularly in the early stages.

HOW I WILL ACT

I will push for better engagement between education and industry, and for apprenticeship funding and entry requirements to be reviewed where they create unnecessary barriers.

I will support targeted retraining where it improves employment prospects or addresses genuine skills shortages.

Success is not keeping every young person on the Island. It is making staying a realistic choice, and making it attractive for those who leave to return with new skills and experience.





ECONOMY

I believe Ramsey has economic strengths, but we need to protect them and create opportunities to grow. I want the North to be a place where businesses can start, invest and succeed.

Ramsey has something almost unique on the island: a thriving high street filled with independent shops combined with free, accessible parking. This deserves both protection and promotion.

THE ISSUES

- Proposed government schemes often seem to misunderstand the strengths of businesses in Ramsey, such as the independent shops, hospitality businesses and accessible parking.
- There is a lack of professional, financial, digital and service businesses operating from Ramsey.
- The success of government delivered business schemes seems to be measured by the existence of the schemes, rather than take up, investment unlocked, and results.

THE WAY FORWARD

We should promote Ramsey confidently as a place to do business and support demand for smaller offices, shared meeting space and modern workspace.

Government support must also become more responsive. If a scheme is not being used, government should find out why, fix it and measure whether the changes work.

HOW I WILL ACT

I will protect Ramsey's accessibility and challenge development that unnecessarily damages one of our economic advantages.

I will champion Ramsey to businesses looking to start, expand or relocate, and support investment in commercial premises.

I will push for business support schemes to have meaningful performance measures, regular reviews and quicker changes when they are not working.

I will keep asking a simple question: is this helping businesses succeed in practice, or only on paper?





GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Government needs to make decisions faster and deliver them better. I want clearer priorities, less bureaucracy and a government that works as one.

The people of the Isle of Man deserve a government that they feel confident in, that will deliver on its promises, and maintain accountability for when it falls short of expectations.

THE ISSUES

- Decisions take too long. Good ideas become buried in process, repeated reviews and consultation instead of reaching a clear decision.
- Departments work separately without looking at the wider picture. Government priorities are often held back by individual budgets, structures and competing departmental interests.
- Government can be too risk averse. Sensible risk management should support decisions, not become a reason to avoid them.

THE WAY FORWARD

The next government should choose five or six overriding priorities for the parliamentary term and organise its people, budgets and attention around delivering them.

Major priorities should have clear political ownership, senior responsibility, milestones and resources that can move across departmental boundaries.

HOW I WILL ACT

I will push for a smaller number of government priorities, and for resources to follow them. I will challenge unnecessary delay, repeated reviews and process that adds little value. I will press ministers to make decisions when the evidence is sound, explain them properly and stand behind them.

As an independent MHK, I will scrutinise government without opposing for opposition's sake. I will challenge weak evidence, poor spending and bad delivery, but I will also support decisions I believe are right.

My test is simple: is Government making decisions faster, delivering major projects more reliably and spending less time on unnecessary bureaucracy?





PRIORITISING RAMSEY

If I am elected as one of Ramsey's MHKs, Ramsey will be my first priority. I will represent the whole Island, but I will never forget who elected me or allow Ramsey's interests to become an afterthought.

Working constructively with the government is part of the role, but nothing would prevent me from raising concerns where I believed Ramsey was being poorly served. My responsibility to represent Ramsey would come before protecting a government role.

THE ISSUES

- It can often feel that Ramsey is overlooked when Island-wide decisions are made, especially when their impact on the north is not considered early enough.
- Many issues that matter to Ramsey - including healthcare, housing, infrastructure and public services - depend on decisions and funding from central government.
- Local government can only do so much to make a difference. After ten years as a Ramsey Town Commissioner, I have seen where local concerns need action at national level.

THE WAY FORWARD

Ramsey needs strong representation where decisions are actually made. That means looking at Island-wide proposals through a Ramsey lens, raising concerns before decisions are settled and making sure the town's needs are understood.

Prioritising Ramsey does not mean demanding special treatment. It means ensuring a fair hearing and fighting our corner when necessary.

HOW I WILL ACT

I will make Ramsey's case in Tynwald and challenge government where I believe the town or the North is being poorly served. I will use my local government experience to press for action where the powers and funding sit.

Any government or departmental responsibility I take on would not change my duty to represent Ramsey independently and speak up when its interests require it.

I do not intend to disappear into Douglas after an election and reappear five years later asking for another vote. If Ramsey elects me, I will be there to represent it for the whole term.



VOTE MCGUINNESS

STRAIGHT TALKING • HARD WORKING • FOR RAMSEY • FOR THE ISLAND

VOTE ON THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

WHEN: From 8am until 8pm

WHERE: Quayle's Hall, Albert Street, Ramsey, IM8 1JQ or
The Old Courthouse, Water Street, Ramsey, IM8 1AR

HOW: You can vote at either of the polling stations. Take your polling card if you have it, though you can still vote without it. If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote by post or proxy. Call **01624 685754** or visit **www.elections.gov.im** for more information.

FOR MORE GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT

If you need guidance about the election and the voting process, have any questions, or would just like to have a chat about why I'm running for MHK, please contact me.

I'd love to hear from you.

***More detailed information on each of my
manifesto points can be found at my website:***

www.JuanMcGuinness.com

Contact:

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