
Platform for
the Coalition
Government of the
Social Democratic
Alliance, the
Reform Party and
the People's Party
2024

The new government is marching in step in this undertaking.

Its first task is to achieve economic stability and lower interest rates, with firm control of government finances. In tandem with this, the government aims to end stagnation and work to increase value creation in the economy.

Unified efforts to achieve these objectives will improve living standards in Iceland. But more is needed. The government is prioritising people's housing security, both through emergency measures and long-term systemic changes. Action will be taken to eliminate poverty and increase social security payments to lower-income pensioners.

The government intends to simplify public administration and streamline state operations. Determined steps will be taken right at the beginning of the electoral term. In parallel with this, the government will invest in infrastructure to increase value creation and reinforce health care and welfare services throughout Iceland.

Special attention will be paid to Icelandic language, culture and nature to preserve and strengthen national identity. Human rights and respect for diversity will be guiding principles, and efforts will be made to achieve a broad consensus on those issues of most significance to the nation.

The government intends to achieve its objectives through the following actions:

1 By effectively managing government finances and creating conditions for interest rate cuts, by introducing a stability rule and eliminating the budget deficit. One of the government's priorities will be to increase efficiency, simplify public administration and merge public institutions. At the same time the government intends to improve tax collection, close loopholes and reduce tax exemptions.

2 By formulating a resource policy for sustainable utilisation and fair resource rents, accruing partly to the local community. The government will take the initiative to have the Constitution amended to include a provision on nationally owned resources.

3 By boosting investment in transport and communications and initiating dynamic improvement projects throughout Iceland. The government will put an end to the stalemate prevailing in building of tunnels and reduce the deficit in the maintenance of the road system. Major improvements will be undertaken, in line with the Transportation Charter for the Capital Region, to facilitate traffic flow on main roads, promote public transport and support diverse modes of travel. Construction of the Sundabraut route will commence, with the project financed with road tolls.

4

Through emergency measures to rapidly increase the number of homes and systemic changes aimed at achieving housing market balance. The government will focus on ensuring that more apartments serve as homes, in part by amending the rules on short-term rentals, as well as facilitating the development of moveable modular homes and the conversion of commercial properties into residential housing. State land will be made available for development, building and planning regulations will be simplified, and steps taken to reduce the prevalence of mortgage indexation. Profit participation loans will be made a permanent option with efficient implementation, the position of tenants improved and non-profit housing associations supported. The government also wants to encourage pension funds to enter the house-building market and facilitate the construction of new residential areas, for instance, through comprehensive agreements with municipalities on the supply of lots and infrastructure development.

5

With an industrial policy that promotes sustainable growth of industries, high productivity and a healthy labour market. The new government intends to crack down on social dumping, including by tightening supervision of temporary employment agencies, introducing chain responsibility in larger construction projects, strengthening the authority of workplace inspections, and enacting clearer criminal provisions against human trafficking.

6

Through actions to increase energy generation, strengthen transmission systems, and improve energy efficiency, supporting energy transition and value creation throughout Iceland. The licensing process will be simplified, deadlines will be made mandatory, and projects in the utilisation category of the Master Plan for Utilisation of Renewable Energy Resources given priority in the administration of energy matters. The government will work to achieve a broad consensus on the legal framework for wind energy utilisation and ensure that a larger share of revenue from energy infrastructure goes to the local community. The Electricity Act will be amended to ensure priority for households and general users.

7 With targeted climate actions, so that Iceland will achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and remain in the forefront of the struggle against global warming; The government will promote energy transition in transport and industry, work to reduce land-based emissions, and pave the way for technological solutions and innovation in the field of climate action. Biodiversity will be supported and action taken to protect marine areas and regions of pristine wilderness.

8 By stopping immediately the growth of the pension-wage gap and taking major steps to eradicate poverty. The government will raise disability and retirement pensions each year in line with the increase in the wage index, and never by less than the price level increase. The general earnings limit for retirement pensions will be increased in steps to ISK 60,000 per month, an income threshold introduced for interest income in retirement, and the reduction to pensions due to employment income decreased. A special ombudsmen for seniors will be entrusted with safeguarding their rights. The age supplement to disability pensions will be made mandatory for life. Further actions will be taken to improve the basic living allowance for low-income pensioners in excess of index developments. In the introduction of a new disability pension system, consideration will be given to ensuring the independence and income security of disabled people.

9 By transposing into law the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons and funding the number of User-Directed Personal Assistance Service (UDPAS) contracts that have been promised. An accessibility and adaptation fund will be established to support people with disabilities in making housing modifications. The employment participation of people with disabilities will be promoted and special attention paid to their position in the education system.

10

By encouraging diversification in the economy, firm enforcement of competition rules, robust consumer protection and favourable operating conditions for enterprises. The government aims to increase efficiency in relations between enterprises and the public administration. Support for the development of the knowledge industry, innovation and technology will continue. Work will be directed at formulating a clear legal framework for artificial intelligence.

11

By promoting value creation, safety and visitor flow management in tourism. The country's most popular tourist attractions are publicly owned and the government plans to introduce a resource fee for tourist access to Iceland's natural wonders. While this development is underway, an entry fee will be collected.

12

By encouraging growth and value creation in food production. In the fisheries sector, stricter demands will be made for transparency in ownership and the definition of related parties will be tightened. The government will guarantee 48 days of summer inshore hand-line fishing. Actions will be taken to promote innovation in agriculture, facilitate recruitment and generational transition, and reduce energy costs for horticulture. The Farm Properties Act will be amended to counter consolidation and encourage the utilisation of agricultural land for farming. The government will strengthen the legal framework for aquaculture to combat negative ecosystem impacts and introduce incentives for the farming of non-fertile salmon and for farming in closed pens.

13

By providing generous support for arts and culture. Emphasis will be placed on increasing people's access to culture, regardless of their economic status or place of residence. The government will provide support for the Icelandic language and the nation's cultural heritage and endeavour to further increase exports and value creation in creative industries.

14

With investment to support the foundations of health care and geriatric care services throughout Iceland. The government will lead a nationwide campaign for the care of older people, including increasing the number of nursing home places and improving in-home nursing care, and aim at achieving the national goal of a permanent family doctor for all residents. Special emphasis will be placed on shortening waiting lists for children, increasing access to mental health services, and funding treatment options for addiction. Bureaucracy in the healthcare system will be systematically reduced through the use of technology and innovation. Different forms of health care provision will continue, although the main focus of services will be public operations.

15

By boosting efforts in education and improving the environment for students and teachers; The emphasis will be on Icelandic language teaching, literacy, and access to diverse learning materials. The school system needs to be supported to meet challenges, ensure the inclusion of children whose native language is not Icelandic, and provide early intervention for children with multiple challenges. Secondary schools and universities will receive support to improve education, innovation and accessibility throughout Iceland. In addition, special attention will be directed at vocational and practical education, continuing education and retraining, and validation of competence. The government intends to formulate a youth policy and work towards equal access for all children to sports, arts and leisure activities. An examination will be made as to whether uniform rules should be established regarding the use of smart devices and social media in schools.

16

By emphasising equal status and equal rights for all, providing support for marginalised groups and eradicating deep-rooted prejudices in society, including through education on equality and LGBTQ issues. Work will continue to correct the systematic undervaluation of women's jobs. The government is committed to combating division and suspicion and to building trust and cohesion in Icelandic society.

17

By giving immigrants the opportunity to learn Icelandic and actively participate in society. The government wants to ensure consistency with immigration regulations in neighbouring countries and strengthen administration to ensure a humane and efficient reception system for applicants for international protection. It will be possible to withdraw international protection and deport persons who commit serious crimes or threaten national security.

18

By increasing public safety and significantly raising the number of police officers during the electoral term; Strong action will be taken against organised crime, cybercrime, human trafficking and gender-based violence. In tandem with this, other aspects of the justice system will be strengthened to ensure prompt and secure handling of cases.

19

By improving relations between the state and local governments and strengthening the basis of settlement in non-urban areas. Emphasis will be placed on equal access to healthcare and other public services, regardless of residence. Work will be done to strengthen telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas and further steps taken to equalise the cost of electricity distribution.

20

By modifying the maternity/paternity leave system to strengthen families' income security. It will be ensured that lower-income parents maintain their income during maternity/paternity leave. The government will increase maternity/paternity allowances for students and persons outside the labour market and improve the situation of multiple-birth parents and those who become ill following childbirth or during pregnancy. The development of child benefits will be given a fixed framework, so that the amounts follow wage developments and the level of support remains steady.

21

By continuing to work with the Municipality of Grindavík and the Executive Committee for Grindavík towards an acceptable solution for the municipality and its residents, employers and property owners.

22

By amending the Elections Act to increase equality in the weighting of votes and distribution of parliamentary seats.

23

With a foreign policy based on human rights, peace, respect for international law and close co-operation with the European Union, other Nordic countries and NATO. A security and defence policy will be formulated. A national referendum on continuing negotiations on Iceland's membership of the European Union will be held no later than 2027. At the beginning of the electoral term, independent foreign experts will be tasked with preparing a report on the advantages and disadvantages of using the Icelandic króna and Iceland's options in currency matters.