

Electoral Program Non-Exec Board Elections 2026

By Jeffrey Ludwig

Why I'm Running

The next few years will be decisive. Not just for Volt, but for the future of the European project itself. With eurosceptical forces growing stronger across the continent, Volt's role as a genuine pan-European progressive movement has never been more urgent. But a movement can only be as strong as its foundations.

I have been part of Volt since 2019, building a local team from scratch, co-founding a regional chapter, leading the European Governance Commission for over two years, and serving as Deputy Chairperson of Volt Germany. I have seen Volt from every angle: the energy of a city team, the complexity of national coordination, and the ambition of the European level.

That experience has given me one clear conviction: Volt Europa must become a truly effective backbone for its national and local chapters. That is what I want to work on as a Non-Executive Board Member.

My Three Priorities

1. Strengthen Governance — from Local to European

Strong organisations are built on strong structures. Volt has grown rapidly, but that growth has sometimes outpaced our ability to support it. Local chapters often struggle with governance, decision-making, and internal communication challenges that should not be theirs to solve alone.

As a Board member, I will push for:

- Clear, accessible governance frameworks and toolkits that local and national chapters can actually use
- Better channels for chapters to raise issues and receive support from the European level
- A Board that listens before it decides: involving chapter representatives early in strategic discussions

- Regular improvement cycles for Volt Europa's own internal governance

2. Empower National Chapters to Grow Organically

Volt's chapters are at very different stages of development. Some are established parties with elected officials, others are small teams working hard to get off the ground. A one-size-fits-all approach does not serve them.

I want to see Volt Europa develop a more differentiated support model:

- Tailored support packages based on a chapter's stage of development and local context
- A structured peer-learning network so chapters can share what works
- Reduced administrative burden, freeing up volunteer energy for what matters: building the movement
- Clear, realistic pathways for new chapters to grow and gain confidence

3. Make Volt the Pioneer of Progressive European Politics

Volt was founded as a movement, not just a party. That spirit - the willingness to go onto the streets, to engage citizens, to be genuinely pan-European in action and not just in name - is what sets us apart. I want to push Volt's policy work to the forefront.

- Positioning Volt as the leading progressive voice on European integration, digital policy, and social justice
- Coordinating policy positions across national chapters to speak with a unified European voice
- Reconnecting with civil society and building coalitions beyond the ballot box
- Ensuring our progressive values translate into concrete, credible proposals that speak to people across the continent

What I Bring to the Board

I have held leadership positions at every level of the organisation: as a City Lead building a team from zero, as a regional Co-President managing day-to-day operations and volunteers, as Co-Lead of the EUR Governance Commission shaping Volt Europa's organisational development, and as Deputy Chairperson of the German national association.

Professionally, I work as a Senior Policy Advisor at the German Association of Local Public Utilities, advising on energy grid policy, smart metering, and digitalisation. My academic background is in Political Science (M.A., University of Trier). I have spent years translating complex policy questions into actionable outcomes.

Key skills I bring to this role:

- Governance design and organisational development - I have done this for Volt Europa itself
- Bridging different levels of the organisation - I understand what local, regional and national chapters actually need
- Building consensus in diverse, volunteer-driven environments
- Strategic communication and stakeholder engagement
- Evidence-based policy work and analytical thinking

My Long-Term Vision for Volt

I want Volt to become the prototype of what true transnational democracy can look like. A party that wins elections and a movement that changes the conversation. These are not opposites. They reinforce each other.

That means an organisation where a volunteer in Lisbon, a councillor in Berlin, and a campaigner in Warsaw all feel they are part of the same project, supported by the same structures, working toward the same vision. It means a Volt Europa that is not a distant administration but an active partner.

It also means being honest about where we are. Volt is not yet where it needs to be. But I have seen what we are capable of when we work together, communicate openly, and put the organisation's long-term health above short-term convenience. I am ready to help lead that work.

I would be honoured to serve Volt Europa as a Non-Executive Board Member.

Questions? Reach me at jeffrey.ludwig@volteuropa.org