



*WE CAN'T
WAIT*

*To make Sweden the best country in
the world to live in*

BUILDING A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER

We want Sweden to be a land of opportunities where everyone, whatever their background, can grow and take their share of responsibility. This will make Sweden strong.

This is not what is happening today. More and more people are facing closed doors and the inequalities in society are widening. Unemployment is dangerously high – particularly among the young. People working in the welfare sector are losing their jobs. At the same time companies are having trouble finding people with the skills they need. Who pays when taxes are lowered at any cost?

We can choose to take a different path, giving more people the opportunity to live richer lives. That will take targeted investment. More educational opportunities, building more housing, support for companies that employ young unemployed people, more and faster railways. More jobs mean a better economy. This will enable us to get more people into work, improve the quality of our schools and our health system and reduce the growing inequalities in society. This in turn creates new jobs and boosts the economy. It makes more sense to solve problems together rather than setting young against old, the healthy against the sick, men against women and the unemployed against those who do have a job. Sweden will benefit from narrowing the inequalities in society and increasing equality.

On 19 September it's up to you. Will Sweden become a country in work, with welfare for all and faith in the future – or will we have another four years of ever-increasing inequality? We are convinced that Sweden will be stronger when more people have jobs and can turn their dreams into reality. What do you think?



Mona Sahlin

WE CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SWEDEN

Is Sweden heading in the wrong direction? With one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Europe, we won't be able to meet the challenges of the future. This is an irresponsible economic policy. In 2006 we left the country with a budget surplus of 70 billion kronor. In just a few years the government has turned this into a huge budget deficit.

Taxes have been cut on borrowed money, mainly for those with the highest incomes. At the same time there has been no investment in jobs, education or welfare. The fallout from these priorities can be seen in high unemployment, fewer teachers in our schools and more time in the waiting room at the hospital.

We've taken Sweden out of an economic crisis before. We know that a responsible economic policy means tackling unemployment. It's jobs that will get the Swedish economy moving again. That's why we want to lower taxes for small businesses and invest in innovation, research and development.

And not least, we want to invest in education that leads to jobs. In total we are proposing 100,000 new jobs, work experience placements and education places. We know that if people are given opportunities, the number of jobs increases. This will mean we can afford to increase the quality of our education system, health system and care system. A responsible economic policy encourages growth and fosters welfare and justice.

- A responsible economic policy.
- Jobs first.
- Schools, health and care take precedence over cutting taxes.

MORE JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Sweden's youth unemployment rate is one of the highest in Europe. Despite this, young people are forced to wait three months at the Employment Service before they are eligible for work experience or training. Often it takes even longer. This period of forced inactivity takes its toll.

The government has cut the number of adult education places at Komvux. The proportion of young people going to university has fallen. When we need more places in education, these are being cut. This is a waste of economic and human resources.

We want to reward the initiative and richness of ideas of young people. The activity ban where jobseekers have to have been unemployed for three months before becoming eligible for special measures must be abolished. Young people who need work experience or training shouldn't have to wait for no good reason. We want to make it cheaper to employ young people by abolishing employer's contributions for companies that employ young people and by investing in 20,000 more work experience and education places.

Sweden's young people are our future. This is why we have to make sure they have a future of their own to dream of.

- Active initiatives for young people are needed from the first day of unemployment.
- 20,000 new education and work experience places for young people.
- Abolish the employer's contribution for companies employing unemployed young people.

MORE PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING MEANS FEWER PEOPLE ON BENEFITS

Sweden is a fantastic country but there are clouds on the horizon. Today unemployment is deeply embedded in our society and welfare payments are increasing in over 80 percent of the country's municipalities. The wealthiest one percent have received as much in tax cuts as a quarter of the Swedish population put together. Unemployment insurance has become so expensive that many people can't afford it. At the same time, sickness insurance has been cut back so that the seriously ill, people with cancer, have no insurance.

Social exclusion has increased by over 70,000 people since the 2006 election. The longer this goes on, the harder it will be for people to get themselves out of this situation and turn their lives around. Yet still the government continues along the same path.

For us, it's obvious that jobs must come first. We are convinced that Sweden will be stronger when more people have jobs and can turn their dreams into reality. We need targeted investment now. We want to cut taxes for small businesses by 6 billion, extend the ROT tax deduction for home improvements, build more homes and invest in new infrastructure. This will give more people jobs. We want to invest in 100,000 new jobs, work experience and education places.

We want to strengthen cohesion in Sweden. Sickness insurance should not be withdrawn from the long-term sick so that people suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses don't run the risk of being left without insurance. This must go hand in hand with rehabilitation tailored to the individual to a greater extent. We want to introduce a "security swap" so that the cost of joining an unemployment insurance fund is reduced. No-one should pay more than 80 kronor to join an a-kassa unemployment fund. We will also raise the ceiling for insurance so that more people are properly protected against loss of income.

- Lower taxes for small businesses.
- 100,000 new jobs, work experience and education places.
- Reliable sickness and unemployment insurance for all.

HIGH QUALITY WELFARE FOR ALL

In the past year approximately 25,000 jobs have been lost in education, health and the care sector. This leads to more people becoming unemployed and poorer quality welfare. Every pupil receives less attention at school and patients have to suffer longer waiting lists. At the same time the government is cutting taxes for high earners.

We have a different idea. Investing in more staff in schools and pre-schools will give children a better start. Class sizes will be smaller with more teachers. And more staff in the health sector will reduce waiting lists and improve quality. The new jobs we create will mean more people can become involved and start taking responsibility. This will give us an even better welfare system and even more jobs, setting in motion a positive spiral giving more people the chance to live richer lives.

Preschools stimulate children's learning through play and friendship. Children whose parents are on parental leave or unemployed are only entitled to 15 hours a week of preschool. This limited time results in an endless juggling act for parents and disappointment for many children who are unable to share in the experiences enjoyed by their friends. We want to give all children the right to 30 hours a week of preschool.

But a good welfare system is also about choice. We want people to be able to choose their own carers and for children and parents to be able to choose their school. But it is not acceptable for private care companies to exclude unprofitable patients, or for schools to choose not to take pupils who need extra support.

- More teachers and smaller class sizes.
- Shorter waiting lists and higher quality health care.
- 30 hours of preschool for children whose parents are unemployed or on parental leave.

FEWER INEQUALITIES

Child poverty is growing. Youth unemployment has hit record levels. Pensioners pay more tax than wage earners. Property tax is unfair. The government's measures have given the most well off one percent of the population as much as a quarter of the Swedish population put together. Inequalities between people are growing.

We know that equal opportunities and less inequality in society is a recipe for success. Therefore pensioners and wage earners should be treated the same way. A pension is a salary postponed – not a benefit. We also want to increase support for single parents and reward companies for employing young people. For this reason the ceiling for temporary parental benefit will be increased for those caring for ill children.

And property tax must be fair. The one percent of houses with a taxation value above 4.5 million kronor will be charged at a higher rate than today. For the other 99 percent the property tax will remain unchanged or will fall when we extend the ceiling for tax in relation to income.

When more people are able to be involved and contribute towards society, we will be able to invest in better welfare. And when schools and care become better, more and more people will be able to join in and do their bit. This will set in motion a positive spiral that will benefit everyone.

- Abolish the extra tax on pensioners.
- Increase maintenance support and housing allowance for single parents.
- Increase the ceiling for temporary parental benefit.

RED

More jobs

We want to invest in 100,000 new jobs, work experience placements and education places. We want to cut the employer's contribution for small businesses. We want to modernise homes and infrastructure and employ more people in the welfare sector.

More jobs for young people

Introduce active measures for unemployed young people who need them right from day one – abolish the Employment Service's 3-month waiting period! Introduce 20,000 new work experience and education places geared towards young unemployed people.

Pensions and salaries should be taxed equally

Pensions are not government benefits, they are postponed salary payments. Pensions and salaries should be taxed equally. Working and having worked in the past should be rewarded.

Better care and education takes precedence over tax cuts

We want to invest in welfare jobs and increase quality in the health, care and education sectors.

Freedom of choice for patients

Quality assurance for health care. Ban queue jumping in the care sector – private insurance and money shouldn't take precedence over need. Everyone must have the right to choose their care provider but care companies must not be allowed to exclude patients.

Quality assurance for health care

Ban queue jumping in the care sector – private insurance and money shouldn't take precedence over need. Everyone must have the right to choose their care provider but care companies must not be allowed to exclude patients.

BLUE

Increasing inequality in society

The government promised more jobs – we got 100,000 fewer. The government promised fewer people excluded from society – we got 70,000 more. Housing construction and investment have ground to a halt and the number of training and education places has been reduced.

More people are starting their adult lives on benefits

Sweden's youth unemployment rate is one of the highest in Europe. Despite this, young people who need help have to wait at least 3 months before they can get a work experience or education place. 40 percent of people on benefits are now under 30.

Pensioners pay higher taxes than wage earners

The government has said that pensioners will pay higher taxes than wage earners.

Welfare is undermined when taxes are lowered for the rich

25,000 jobs have disappeared from the welfare sector. The government has prioritised lowering taxes by almost 100 billion kronor – mainly to the well off.

Queue jumping in the care system

The government has introduced an act that allows care companies to set up wherever they find it most profitable. Not where there is a need. Patients with health insurance can buy their way ahead in the queue.

Tens of thousands of people are without insurance

The government has withdrawn sickness insurance from tens of thousands of people and their message is that this tough line on sickness insurance will remain in place. Ill people shouldn't need to apply for benefits. How will making them poorer make people healthier?

THE ENVIRONMENT – AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS FOR ITSELF

Turning society around and heading in a more sustainable direction is a challenge but it also paves the way for a better environment and more jobs. We want Sweden to take a leading role in renewable energy, research and constructing climate-smart homes. Today's ROT tax deductions for home improvements should be extended with an additional climate bonus for terraced houses, detached homes, owner-occupied flats and housing cooperatives who carry out energy efficiency measures. We want to introduce a new ROT benefit for blocks of flats with a climate profile.

It must be easier for people and companies to make climate-smart transport choices and that's why we need a historic investment in railways and public transport. This will boost Sweden's competitiveness.

Correctly used taxes effectively contribute towards adapting to climate change. We need to introduce instruments to help Sweden adapt more quickly. Therefore we are sending a clear message ahead of the next mandate period. We are saying openly and honestly that we will need to increase the carbon tax. With us in power, fuel prices would increase during the next mandate period by a total of 49 öre, which would be fully paid for those who need a car for work. In total the travel deduction will be increased by 1.50 kronor per ten km for the next four years.

The government doesn't dare to say how much they intend to raise the fuel tax. Will it be by 70 öre as proposed by the non-socialist government's Commission on Climate? Or will it be by 105 öre as proposed by the Centre Party?

Taxation of vehicles needs to be designed in a way that has a greater effect in terms of the environment. We want to lower vehicle tax for buses by 100 million kronor. We want to make it easier to convert heavy vehicles by providing temporary grants. We also propose grants for converting cars so that more people can drive environmentally friendly vehicles.

- Expand today's ROT deduction with an extra climate bonus and introduce ROT for blocks of flats.
- Historically powerful investments in railways and public transport.
- Make it easier for heavy vehicles and cars to be environmentally friendly.

EDUCATION LEADS TO MORE JOBS

Far too many people in Sweden don't have a job to go to. At the same time there are companies looking to recruit but who can't find the skills they need. Despite this, the government has chosen to cut adult education and labour market training and halted the expansion of the universities. Measures which could have solved the problem.

Knowledge and education open up opportunities for development and personal liberation, and also choice. Sweden needs an expert and flexible workforce. This is why we want to invest broadly in work experience and training. Making it easier for people to change track means more people will be able to match the skills demanded by the job market. This is a necessity not only for tackling unemployment but also to secure Sweden's future competitiveness.

When companies are shut down and production moves abroad, it's important that people have an opportunity to undergo further training or to retrain. Sweden must be able to compete on expertise – not on low pay. We want to introduce a skills insurance system to enable people to adapt in the world of work.

- More places at universities, vocational colleges, adult education and labour market training.
- Introduce a skills insurance system.
- Sweden must be able to compete on expertise, not on low pay.

EQUALITY IS FUNDAMENTAL

We are going backwards. Since the 2006 election alone, taxes have fallen by 30 percent more for men than they have for women. The deterioration in the social insurance system, particularly sickness insurance, has hit many women hard. More women than men work part time, with poorer finances and lower pensions as a result. Many women have been made redundant in the care and education sectors and even more redundancies are anticipated with reduced benefits into the bargain. Despite this, the government has introduced a care allowance that impedes equality and takes money away from preschools.

Women and men must have the same power to shape their own lives and society. Sweden must continue to be an international role model for equality. Therefore men and women must have the same opportunities to work and forge a career.

Many women want to work full time but aren't able to. Strengthening the right to full-time work is vital to increasing equality. A large amount of welfare work is organised around part-time posts. The public sector should lead the way and show that full-time working is possible. We want to invest a billion kronor in stimulating more full-time jobs in municipalities and county councils.

A functioning work-oriented approach requires that both women and men are able to work – whether they are living together or are single parents. This means that childcare is needed at evenings and weekends too. We want to make it possible to combine parenthood and work by expanding the opportunities for childcare even in unsociable working hours.

Good quality preschools, where children are happy and which parents trust are fundamental to an equal society. Unfortunately the trend is now moving in the opposite direction; class sizes are growing as the number of staff falls. We want to guarantee quality preschool education by investing in more staff in the welfare sector.

- 1 billion kronor for more full-time jobs in municipalities and county councils.
- Childcare in unsociable working hours.
- Invest in quality in preschools.

DO YOUR BIT

You don't need to be a party member or a political expert to get involved. What matters is that you do something, big or small. Phone, deliver leaflets at your workplace, change your Facebook status, write to the papers, talk to voters or knock on doors.

JOIN US NOW!

TEXT your Personal ID number to 72105 (S yymmddxxxx),
cost SEK 100.



mojligheternasland.se