

Voices of Tasmania

Charter

VERSION 1.2 April 2023



Voices of Tasmania Inc. aims to transform Tasmanian life through participatory democracy. We are a network of politically engaged individuals guided by an ethical values framework (see our Values below). This charter informs the actions and behaviours of all supporters, volunteers, leaders and founding members.

Our Core Purpose

Elevating quality of life for all Tasmanians through increasing participatory democracy.

Who We Are:

We are an independent network committed to a thriving Tasmania – across communities, cities and regions. We're working to increase participation in local democratic life; valuing the voices of the people and having them independently represented in local government, state and federal parliament. We are not a lobby group or a political party. We seek to engage and educate Tasmanian voters to actively participate in democracy. We support, mentor and educate independent candidates but we do not run election campaigns.

Our Ambitions:

To bring a non-adversarial spirit, a collaborative mind-set, mature conversations and progressive values into Tasmanian political life. We seek to inspire and support people who want a better life for all Tasmanians, including the Traditional Owners of lutruwita [Tasmania]. We aim to build integrity, honesty, and trust in the political arena, where facts and democratic norms are re-established. Our approach is grounded in respect for humanity, nature and science.

Our target outcomes include:

1. *Election of community-minded independent candidates at all levels of government*
2. *Communities and individuals who are engaged and well-informed, effectively influencing local, state and national decision-making*
3. *Respectful, truthful and constructive Tasmanian political discourse focused on the public good; including urgent action on climate change, housing & homelessness and gender equality*
4. *Greater social and economic equality across all regions of Tasmania*
5. *Implemented progressive initiatives and legislation that represents the diverse voices of the Tasmanian people*
6. *Inclusive government; honouring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
7. *Greater decentralisation of government; empowered local people effectively participating in improving the life of their region*

Our Key Activities

Engage with Tasmanian voters and independent candidates to achieve electoral success by:

- **Community Building & Volunteers:** activate, educate and network Tasmanians to participate positively and energetically in our local democracy.
- **Candidate Development:** inspire, support and develop independent candidates, aligned with Voices of Tasmania's values and principles, giving the voting community compelling reasons to vote for them; thereby securing the right for community-minded independents to influence decision-making in our governing institutions.

How we'll do this:

1. **Listen** to Tasmanians through: individual conversations; survey responses; small group "Kitchen Table Conversations"; Town Hall meetings; and via Citizen's Assemblies – and publish the findings.
2. **Develop** people, ideas, communications, fundraising and education to represent community interests.
3. **Facilitate** the emergence and development of community-minded, progressive independent candidates in local, state and federal government elections to bring your voices to fruition.

Voices of Tasmania's Core Values

Politically, we value **Accountability, Integrity and Transparency**

Behaviourally, we value **Respect, Cooperation and Fairness**

Socially, we value **Equality, Human Rights, Mutual Prosperity and Participation**

Environmentally, we value **Biodiversity, Conservation and Regeneration**