

BBB Better every day

**From a crisis of trust
to a state based on
community values**



Resume

Election program

2023-2027



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BBB Key points

HOUSING

- 🏠 A home for every citizen**

IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM

- 🏠 Immigration and asylum should be fair and affordable**

POVERTY MEASURES

- 🏠 Working should pay off**
- 🏠 Unable to work? We care for you**
- 🏠 A life of honest work deserves an honest pension**

ECONOMY

- 🏠 Proud of our entrepreneurs**
- 🏠 Cash to be accepted everywhere**
- 🏠 Fair taxes for all**
- 🏠 People at the heart of a digital world**

CLIMATE

- 🏠 Going green should not get you in the red**

HEALTH CARE

- 🏠 No worries about the care you need!**

AGRICULTURE & FISHERY

- 🏠 Less dependency on overseas food supply**

DEFENSE

- 🏠 Prepared to play our role in the wider world**

SAFETY

- 🏠 Everyone, everywhere should feel safe, always**
- 🏠 Crime should never pay**

TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

- 🏠 The government is there for the people, never the other way around**

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Housing

A home for every citizen

Work, income, housing, education, health care, well-being, social cohesion and living environment all matter AT THE SAME TIME. Building and housing is a social task.

For BBB every person looking for a house is an individual. We therefore have to deal differently with the homes we have and we want to build considerably more affordable homes. Less red tape and more flexibility, but while remaining realistic. The government should not only direct but also facilitate and cooperate. Construction of homes does not only require housing corporations and municipalities, but also market players and investors.

European legislation offers the possibility to designate reasons of major public importance which allow giving permits quickly even if they are not in line with environmental regulations, for example relating to nitrogen. BBB wants to make use of this possibility to solve the shortages on the housing market. The nitrogen laws need to be completely revisited so that they are no longer about nitrogen but about protecting and restoring nature (see chapter Agriculture).

BBB wants to make building new homes attractive again and more affordable. One of the ways we envision doing this, is to freeze the regulations for house construction (e.g. the Bouwbesluit and sustainability requirements) for the coming years. That way, constructors, developers and buyers know what they are facing. We will stimulate making existing homes more sustainable with (financial) incentives but without making it compulsory.

We will focus on using empty and available spaces within cities and villages to build as many new homes as possible. In order to solve the shortage of homes, construction has to be made much more efficient. BBB therefore wants a greater focus on innovation and prefab housing.

Over the last years, most construction has been in the cities. Building in the cities remains important but is unfair not to help out those looking for homes in the countryside just as much. Many young people want to remain in their own village and the many smaller building projects in the villages together all add up as well. We support a policy for construction in both villages and cities.

Our housing market cannot handle the current pressure. We are therefore forced to also look at the demand side of the housing market. The pressure from asylum seekers who get homes assigned to them, economic migrants who are housed in the existing supply of homes and also the demand of expats and foreign students, continue to increase. As a result, other Dutch citizens who have been on a waiting list for years are pushed aside. BBB prefers to give them extra attention and restore the balance on the housing market.

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Immigration & Asylum

Immigration and asylum should be fair and affordable

Human rights are essential for BBB. People who are truly trying to escape from war, or whose life and/or that of their family is under serious threat and can demonstrate that, need our help. However, currently the asylum crisis constitutes a serious burden for our society and a quota is required to keep it under control. We want to assist permit holders who found a home in the Netherlands with a smooth integration into our society. BBB is committed to that.

For decades, attempts have been made to keep the enormous influx under control. They all failed. One after the other immigration record is broken and in the asylum shelter in Ter Apel people had to sleep outside. In several villages, inhabitants were terrorized by asylum seekers from safe countries. BBB feels that something has to be done. BBB wants to drastically limit the influx of asylum seekers, assign homes more fairly and ensure that the asylum procedures at the outside borders of the EU are properly enforced. We also aim to make this abundantly clear on an EU level.

A central European agency for asylum requests will prevent human trafficking. The EU can also set up asylum request centers locally so that the procedure can be dealt with on site, for example in Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia or Senegal. Currently, asylum seekers trek through the Sahara and the human traffickers can continue their business.

Asylum is only possible for those people who qualify on the basis of the grounds as laid down in the Geneva Convention (persecution for political and religious reasons). Not for reasons of poverty, displacement etc. because that is what relief in the region is meant for.

The demographic pressure from Africa continue to increase. The population now amounts to 1.2 billion and is expected to grow to 2.4 billion in 2050 and more than 4 billion in 2100. A dedicated Africa policy is therefore in order! The essential component is food security. This can only be achieved through more intensive agriculture and husbandry. Currently, Nigeria has a population of 200 million. This will increase to 600 million in 2100. Extensive goat keeping will not suffice. A more intensive technological approach is required. We possess the knowledge to assist African countries.

Our housing market, care system and other facilities cannot handle the pressure any longer.

We are therefore forced to also look at the demand side. The pressure from asylum seekers who get homes assigned to them, economic migrants who are housed in the existing supply of homes and also the demand of expats and foreign students continues to increase. As a result, other Dutch citizens who have been on a waiting list for years are pushed aside. BBB prefers to give them extra attention now and restore the balance on the housing market. That implies that we want to bring immigration down - whereby we realize that this will not be a simple exercise.

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Poverty measures

Working should pay off Unable to work? We care for you A life of honest work deserves an honest pension

The enormous inflation combined with the increase of the costs of living and the major increase of energy prices has resulted in more than a million citizens living below the poverty line. BBB stands for protection of purchasing power and combating poverty; we will not leave anyone behind. Currently, taxes are used by the government not only to carry out their tasks, but also to direct the behavior of citizens and society as a whole – to the extreme that subjects like meat tax and sugar tax keep popping up.

Work is one of the foundations of our society. Work gives you financial opportunities, social contacts and satisfaction. You contribute to society and the experiences you gain enable you to develop as a person. Everyone is given the same opportunities and possibilities but we do realize that not everyone is able to work or can work to the same extent. We make no difference in the appreciation for workers with practical jobs and those who do theoretical work.

During the last years, our expectations regarding work and how we go about our jobs have changed. We move between jobs more frequently, both in terms of employer and profession. Since covid, it has become quite normal in some professions to work online part of the time. The world in which we work has changed, which has led to new professions and the disappearance of old professions. Because of our aging population, the shortages on the labor market are increasing. It is very difficult in some sectors to find sufficient qualified workers – which is also caused by a shortage of trained practical workers.

It is not only paid work that matters. We consider every kind of work that contributes to our society to be important. That is why we want the appreciation of those people who actively contribute to society, e.g. as a carer, volunteer or educator of children, to be equal to that of people with paid jobs. Bad luck happens. Should your job situation change because of circumstances, you will get help. Are you unable to continue your present work? Then we will help you to find other, more suitable work. And if you are not able to work at all anymore, we will look after you.

We will retract the new Pension Law. The special pension system for people in political functions (Appa) should be abolished. They should fall under the same pension system that applies to everyone. People with a pension and those who are entitled to one should get a say in the choices that their pension funds make about their investments. If you do not want to run the risk of a lower pension, then you should be able to choose for investments with an emphasis on return rather than sustainability.

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Economy

Proud of our entrepreneurs **Cash to be accepted everywhere** **Fair taxes for all** **People at the heart of a digital world**

A robust economy is an economy that relies on its own strength. We appreciate what our country has to offer. We focus on the areas of our strength and support the sectors where we are amongst the best in the world. A strong, top quality economy is also required to stay up to date socially, culturally and technologically and to keep further development affordable. A strong economy ensures employment opportunities and income for the government.

All the above also applies to the food sector, as it does to the manufacturing industry. Places where hundreds of thousands of people work hard to earn a living, improve efficiency and innovation, import and export, and provide every day necessities. It is an area where our country's policies have been inconsistent and inadequate for far too long. We want to end rules upon rules and encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability.

Entrepreneurship takes place in businesses – from multinationals and large companies to family businesses, small and medium size businesses and self-employed freelancers. Small and medium sized businesses as well as family businesses play an important role in creating and maintaining our prosperity. These companies together make up ca. 70% of all jobs in the Netherlands. BBB wants the government to implement a policy aimed at keeping these entrepreneurs in the Netherlands.

Many people and companies make use of digital payments and digital banking. But there are still people and companies that prefer making payments in cash. Banks are important partners in fighting financial crime, like subversion. Banks have to comply with their legal obligation to help reduce crime and increase safety.

The enormous inflation combined with the increase of the costs of living and the major increase of energy prices has resulted in more than a million citizens living below the poverty line. BBB stands for protection of purchasing power and combating poverty; we will not leave anyone behind. Currently, taxes are used by the government not only to carry out their tasks, but also to direct the behavior of citizens and society as a whole – to the extreme that subjects like meat tax and sugar tax keep popping up.

A dedicated Ministry of Digitization should focus on developing a new national digital strategy and coordinate digital innovation in various sectors. This Ministry should also develop regulation and policies to guarantee the protection of citizens, companies and infrastructure. It is crucial that the government plays a proactive role in directing and shaping digital transformation while keeping people at the heart of the process and making the bridge between citizens and the government much stronger.

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Climate

Going green should not get you in the red

A continuously growing world population and increase in economic activity have led to an increasing pressure on the climate. Although the climate has been subject to autonomous change throughout the earth's existence, human activity certainly also has an impact. There is, however, no unity of opinion or even of research about the weight of this impact. From the perspective of good stewardship, BBB aims for a society in which we limit our impact on the climate where we actually are able to and for as much as we can influence it.

Our use of energy sources seems to have the biggest impact on the climate. That constitutes a challenge since our lives have developed into a situation where we have become very dependent on external energy sources.

The climate is the combination of weather conditions (like temperature, wind and precipitation) that characterize a region during a certain period. In other words: it is more than just the CO₂ concentration (0,03%) in our atmosphere. So far, the focus has been on CO₂ reduction. In order to achieve this, it is essential that there is a buy-in and also participation of the people. It is only together that we can start a change and accomplish it successfully. The required buy-in and acceptance can be achieved if the decision making process is transparent and while burden and benefits are shared equally.

All interests should be included and be part of the bigger picture. Globally, the Netherlands only contribute 0.4% to CO₂ emissions and our CO₂ footprint per inhabitant is already much lower than that of many other (Western) countries. The energy transition plays an important role in achieving the CO₂ targets.

The energy transition requires a 'Deltaplan.' New activities will have to be built up while other activities will have to be transformed or terminated. This process of change demands major investments by businesses and often the increases in prices that will be the result, will be passed on to the citizens. However, the citizens will have to be able to carry this increased burden. We therefore go for a fair distribution of the costs associated with climate measures.

A transition to sustainable energy is required as a climate measure and to end the use of fossil fuels. During this transition, we will not phase out fossil energy sources as long as there are no affordable sustainable alternatives.

The government has the responsibility to ensure a good infrastructure, such as an electricity grid that the providers and consumers of energy can use. That means that we will have to make major investments in the electricity grid as well make smarter use of the grid to limit overloading the grid at peak moments.

BBB aims for a society that can keep using affordable sustainable energy, because going green should never get you in the red.

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Health care

No worries about the care you need!

The situation in health care has reached a critical point. The whole system has more or less ground to a halt. Letting the market determine health care has resulted in treatments costing less. However, after the introduction of the market mechanism we have started to consume more care. During the last years, there has been a concentration of the health insurers. The commercialization of care institutions with the associated extra costs of tendering, protocols and other administrative requirements means that the system has reached its limits.

By now, there are more people working ON health care than there are working IN health care. Also, technically there is a lot more possible these days and there are more and more expensive medications on the market that do not always result in a cure in each case. Increasingly, a shortage of staff leads to people not receiving the care they are entitled to.

BBB stands for a health care system where everyone, regardless of income or circumstances, has access to the care and help they need. Our goal is a health care system in which we look after each other with respect for the dignity of each individual.

In our vision, it is the individual in all their uniqueness – patient as well as health care professional - that remains at the center, and not the insurer. After all, not one person is the same. We believe in the autonomy of the health care professional and have confidence in their ability to make the right choices for the best possible care. We aim for an approach that focuses on the individual whereby administrative tasks are limited to a minimum so that the patients can receive all the attention they need. Protocols play their role but should not stand in the way of a constructive discussion about good health care.

BBB therefore wants rigorous cuts in all kinds of bureaucratic systems that have resulted in nurses spending about 40% of their time filling out paperwork – which has become one of the main reasons for workers to leave the health sector. We want working IN health care to become more important than working ON health care.

Some of our measures are cost effective, but others cost more money in the short term. Yet, we will have to invest in health care and prevention over the next four years so that we can save money in the future. That is simply common sense.

BBB wants to improve health care using four pillars:

1. Basic health care nearby should be available to everyone
2. The decision making should lie with care professionals and not with policy makers or insurance companies
3. Health care should become an attractive field of work again
4. Healthy lifestyle and sports for everyone

Pandemics such as the corona crisis have a major impact on our society. BBB thinks it is important to learn from the handling of the corona crisis so we will not make the same mistakes should there be another crisis.

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Agriculture & Fisheries

Less dependency on overseas food supply

In many countries, food security is a recurring worry every day. In the Netherlands, we are lucky to have the combination of a temperate marine climate and a fertile delta. This makes our region one of the most suited for food production in the whole world. We therefore have a responsibility beyond our borders. It means that the Netherlands' international reputation is highly regarded and our agriculture and fishing sectors are of high strategic importance. BBB feels that strong agriculture and fishing sectors are of great importance – for food security and employment, but also for the quality of life in the countryside and the coastal communities.

BBB thinks that it is important that the Netherlands are self-sufficient for their food supply so that food will remain affordable and available in the future. We export a lot of expertise, innovation and products that allow us to provide an added value. At the same time, we import agricultural products and food that are not naturally grown here. As a merchant nation, we ensure food security through imports and exports – for ourselves but also for our neighboring countries – while never losing sight of animal welfare and the environment.

That is why we want food security and quality of living to be taken into account when looking at changes in spatial planning. Currently, 600,000 people in the Netherlands are employed in the agricultural sector. This means that 12 households per farmer, grower, horticulturalist are directly or indirectly economically dependent on this sector. We feel that a livable countryside is about our farmers, growers, horticulturalists and fishermen – because they are the ones looking after agricultural nature, employment and ensure social cohesion. Without these people we would not have our characteristic landscapes, flower parades, fishery days or tractor pulling events.

This also means that the landscape in the Netherlands needs to be looked after with human hands. BBB acknowledges the importance of strengthening biodiversity wherever possible. We do not want to do this by creating new nature but by ensuring that there are right amounts of flora and fauna – which may also sometimes mean that there is just no room for a certain species. We also strengthen biodiversity through education, more green in our surroundings and managing nature through hunting. Biodiversity is not only a task for managers of nature and agriculturalists but also one for everyone with a responsibility for outside space, e.g. in neighborhoods, villages and cities.

BBB wants 'fisheries' back in the name of the ministry of agriculture. It should become the ministry of Agriculture, Nature policy, Fisheries and Food Quality – all under one minister. As far as BBB is concerned there should not be a separate ministry for nitrogen and nature. This will fall under the above ministry. BBB wants a change from nitrogen policy to nature policy. The current nitrogen law has to go and be replaced with a broad view on nature policy, nature conservation and restoration of nature where necessary. The suffocating nitrogen regulations in the Netherlands act like a self-imposed lock-down for agricultural entrepreneurs, infrastructural projects (like road construction) and building projects and should be removed as quickly as possible. The above ministry is tasked with the preservation of all elements in the landscape and ensures that there will still be potatoes, vegetables, meat or fish on our plates in 50 years' time.

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Defense

Prepared to play our role in the wider world

For a number of decades, we enjoyed an unprecedented situation of peace and safety. You could say we cashed in a peace dividend at the end of the Cold War. Many of us grew up in a country without major worries where war was something out of video games and movies. Meanwhile, we have now come to acknowledge that safety and democracy are not a given. They do not come for free or automatically.

The invasion of Ukraine has made it clear how important a well-equipped army is for our safety. In the future we have to be prepared to secure and defend our Dutch and/or Western fundamental values and/or territory. We will do this together with others, first of all within the NATO and EU, but we should shy away from defending the interests of the Netherlands on our own initiative. This requires cooperation with NATO partners but also a constructive investment in the autonomy and preparedness of the defense forces.

BBB is of the opinion that the Netherlands need a robust defense organization that is of importance both on its own and as part of the NATO. This requires sufficient constructive and reliable financing for the long term. After all, a defense organization is a long-term organization. The military has to be able to attract talent on the existing labor market. We therefore think it is important to increase the visibility of the military within society.

Over the past 25 years, there has been a lot of cost cutting within the defense forces. The reduction in the size of the defense organization has led to centralization and relative invisibility. Investment will make it possible to increase regional visibility. A strong regional presence offers the military the opportunity to play a larger role in the field of disaster management and domestic security. BBB believes in a strong, professional army that can be deployed globally. In addition, there is a place for a large, extensive national reserve force: to defend the Netherlands, disaster management and as a bridge between society and the military.

Cyber space is the new battle field when it comes to defending our country. An increasing range of battle tactics are 'invisible' or take place 'in the cloud.' Increasingly, foreign hackers will try to sabotage hospitals, government services, financial organizations, schools or military installations. We have to be prepared to invest in technology and artificial intelligence to reinforce our own invisible power and face the outside invisible threats.

BBB is proud of our defense and security industry and supports the sector where possible for an optimum protection of our national safety while at the same time providing the Dutch business community with good opportunities.

Veterans deserve our collective appreciation, respect and necessary care. With the new veterans law and its legislation, the first steps towards safeguarding appreciation, respect and care have been made.

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Safety

Everyone, everywhere should feel safe, always Crime should never pay off

A livable country requires a safe state ruled by law. The rule of law has to ensure fair treatment and a well-functioning judiciary for all citizens and a government that protects citizens against vandalism, criminality and subversion. Citizens expect an effective and engaged police force as well as a careful public prosecution office that is committed to investigating and prosecuting persons and organizations that could not care less about the law.

At present, there are so many laws and regulations in the Netherlands that the country is grinding to a halt. There are not enough professionals to secure enforcement. And meanwhile there are more and more people employed to monitor the primary process, which itself lacks sufficient people to function properly. The principle that citizens are supposed to know the law has by now become a joke. Judges cannot handle the flood of cases. Rigorous cuts need to be made in the number of laws and regulations whereby the relevant minister ultimately needs to decide on the solution when an affected professional community cannot agree among themselves. Recent years have proven this to be necessary.

Under the rule of law, the security services and the police have the unique mandate to investigate and enforce. BBB is of the opinion that more can be done to bring the police and security services closer to the citizens. That requires a more regional approach. Over recent years, society has become more tough and while the uniformed services are there to protect the citizens, the legal system may well provide better protection to the uniformed services. This protection needs a legal framework but the uniformed services also deserve more personal attention and support.

The fire brigade is an important part of our safety infrastructure and is only affordable if we enable the participation of volunteers. The energy transition has led to an increase in the use of electricity, batteries and hydrogen. As a result, the role of the fire brigades is becoming more important, both in the preparation of construction plans and in managing calamities. Especially in villages and the countryside, many fire brigades also have a social function within the community in addition to ensuring safety. We want to strengthen this social involvement.

The subversion of our society by drugs related crime is continuously increasing. The insufficient measures against the use of hard drugs in the cities leads to criminal networks in the countryside. We want a tough approach to organized (drugs related) crime to make our society safer and fight criminal networks. The risk of subversion - the underworld taking over - justifies serious measures. The Netherlands will not become a narco-state.

Penalty levels are an important instrument to deter crime and protect society against individuals who do not care about the law. As far as BBB is concerned, the penalty levels can be increased here and there with the intention to safeguard the values of our society.

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Trust in government

The government is there for the people, never the other way around

The efficiency of central government depends to a large degree on the trust that citizens have in this government. Right now, this constitutes a major challenge for all of us. BBB prefers an efficient government that focuses on its core tasks and acknowledges that society is not putty in their hands. The government is there for its citizens and not the other way around.

The government belongs to all of us and trust in government is strongly influenced by the level by which we identify with it. Sharing the same identity and language is essential for the ability to understand each other. BBB finds it important that everyone can occupy a position within government so that everyone can identify with the government.

A society that is livable is not made by government alone. It is made by the people who live in it, the government is just the director. In order to perform that role properly, the people in the cities, regions, towns and villages need to be involved in the preparation and execution of policy. As far as BBB is concerned this should be done in a less central and more regional manner that is closer to the people. It should be possible to initiate or propose legislation from the region.

BBB thinks that the government has to strengthen this democracy with a wider and more intensive participation by citizens on a local level. Democracy is not only about voting, but also about contributing by sharing experience and giving advice. Democracy needs transparency of the decision making process and therefore an open government.

Good government also means balanced government and a balanced use of means. Over the last years, a lot has been invested in some regions and very little in others. BBB wants to change this policy so that every region counts again. The government should look at multi-year plans for cooperation between national and regional levels and remove obstacles in the border regions.

We live in a state ruled by laws with a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. The protection of fundamental rights forms the basis of our society and of the rule of law. BBB wants more attention for safeguarding these fundamental rights and for the functioning of the rule of law. BBB wants more respect for the separation of the legislative, executive and judiciary powers. A proper functioning of the First Chamber and Second Chamber is a precondition for a properly functioning government and reliable execution of the rule of law. BBB wants to improve the relationship between citizens and parliament and strengthen the scrutinizing role of the Second Chamber and First Chamber.

BBB is committed to society as a whole. The Netherlands is not only made up of individuals and the state, but also of communities and a lively social midfield.

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