

# Assembly elections 2022

Use your vote, use your voice

On Thursday, 5 May 2022 citizens of Northern Ireland will go to the ballot box to decide who will represent them at the NI Assembly. We encourage every Christian in Northern Ireland to consider using their vote because our voices matter in how our nation is governed. Instead of passively allowing other voices and worldviews to shape our values and laws, we can all be positive, active citizens by electing MLAs who respect our faith and will stand for Christian values in the corridors of power.

We appreciate knowing who to vote for can be confusing; with so many choices and opinions it can be overwhelming; and you might be tempted to abstain because “my vote won’t make a difference” or revert to the unhealthy attitudes that have shaped our past. But we want to challenge these attitudes

and remind you that your vote matters! This is your opportunity to think clearly about the issues that matter to you as a Christian and ask candidates about their party’s position on these issues, ensuring you are better informed when you get to the ballot box.

We want to equip and empower Christians in NI to make an informed decision at the polling station, so we have identified nine key areas or issues that we believe matter. For each area, we have provided sample question(s) that you could ask your candidates on the doorstep or by visiting or emailing their office. These nine areas and questions are just a starting point; no doubt there will be many more issues that you care about and plenty of questions to ask, but our goal here is to get the conversation started and support you in engaging with politics as a Christian.

Find out more  
at [eauk.org](http://eauk.org)

**evangelical alliance**  
together making Jesus known



## 1 Civil society

Churches and charities play a vital role in our society; they exist and serve in a space which the public sector cannot reach. The contribution of churches to the spiritual welfare of our country is vital and should be protected. We want to see the government support and facilitate their work.

**Q. Can you set out where you and your party see the church playing a role in civil society?**

**Q. The political landscape in NI has been very unstable in the last few months. How do you think we can restore stability at Stormont and trust in our politicians?**

## 2 Reconciliation

We live in a world which is beautiful but deeply broken: human relationships and identities, governments, society and creation itself. However we remind ourselves that we live in the big story of scripture in which Jesus has come as our rescuer and redeemer – the one who reconciles us to God and will one day judge the earth with justice and mercy, making all things new. This story of reconciliation should propel us into a broken world as peacemakers, seeking

**Q. What next specific steps will your party take to deal with the legacy of the Troubles?**

**Q. Tell me about your vision of reconciliation for the future of this place.**

to see people reconciled to God, each other and the world around them in right relationships and new identities through Christ.

## 3 Creation care

As Christians, we believe we are called to be good stewards of God's creation. As followers of Jesus, we should treat the earth with respect because God has entrusted us to take care of it. By caring for God's creation, we can witness to the world that we believe in a creator God, who in turn cares deeply about those He created.

We can share that He created the world to be enjoyed, not to be abused or made unsafe.

**Q. What key steps will your party take to protect our environment and build a sustainable future?**

## 4 Life issues

From beginning to end, human life has immeasurable value. When human life and dignity are at stake, this is about more than a private choice; it is of community and public interest. Fundamentally, we want to preserve life, protecting human dignity and what it means to be created in God's likeness.

**Q. Do you and your party support the new abortion legislation brought in by Westminster?**

**Q. Can you set out your views on assisted dying?**

## 5 Family and community

Families are the building blocks of our society. Supporting and nurturing healthy families is crucial to the health of wider society. The Bible offers a comprehensive and positive vision of marriage and family, including the integration of refugees, widows, and orphans.

**Q. How will your party address the needs of children in care and their carers?**

**Q. How does your party propose to welcome and integrate asylum seekers and refugees into our society?**

## 6 Freedom of religion and belief

We believe that religious freedom is a foundational good for everyone. We stand for a society where people are free to believe or reject religious beliefs, and where people are free to promote and to criticise. This means we stand for the freedom of Christians but also of those with whom we disagree. It is the hope for a society where people

have the maximum opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

**Q. How would your party propose to reconcile clashes between religious freedoms and competing rights?**

Make sure you've registered to vote: [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote)  
**Use your voice, use your vote on 5 May 2022**

## 7 Health and wellbeing

God bestows value on every human, and has a good purpose for every life, therefore we must take matters of health and wellbeing seriously. Health and wellbeing are crucial parts of ensuring every person is thriving, and must be protected as part of a holistic understanding of the human person as body, mind and spirit. We recognise the pressures on our health service

**Q. How will your party reform the health service, prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable?**

**Q. How will your party respond to the emerging mental health crisis?**

and key workers as we emerge from a pandemic and attempt to tackle chronic waiting lists.

## 8 Education

In Northern Ireland we want to see the best educational outcomes and equality of opportunity for every child. We want to see children educated together in ways that address the legacy of our past and prepare them to be citizens with hopes for the future. As Christians, we want to see young people flourish at school, and support

**Q. How do you propose to resolve the question of transferring to secondary school?**

**Q. How does your party propose to reconcile the different schooling systems in Northern Ireland?**

for parents as they raise their children in line with their religious beliefs.

## 9 Poverty and work

We care about issues of justice and inequality because God does; justice is at the heart of who God is. He calls us to be a voice for the vulnerable, a friend to the marginalised, and to seek out injustice and stand against it. We want to see policies and laws that will serve the poor, protect people from falling into poverty and help people lift themselves out of these situations.

**Q. As the cost of living rises and we recover from the pandemic, how will you protect the most vulnerable in our communities from poverty?**

You might want to ask about food insecurity, gambling, homelessness, and job creation.