

Local Elections 2024 and Rempartstraße

For more than two years, we advocate, together with the alliance „Space for People“ for a car-free Rempartstraße. This June, Freiburg’s local elections are taking place.

Of course, a car-free Rempartstraße ist only an intermediate step towards a car-free inner city, which we as an alliance are wishing for. But their positioning on the Rempartstraße and our demands shine a light on the parties’ and lists’ positions, which is why we compiled a small overview for you.

We asked all parties and parliamentary group represented in Freiburg’s local council in October 2023 by mail about their position on Rempartstraße. They were asked to give their stance on a hypothetical proposal to be submitted during this legislative term. This proposal would aim at creating a new traffic concept for Rempartstraße, including constructional measures to reach the target of a car-free Rempartstraße in the near future and not just after district heating is established (as planned by the current administration).

Following is an overview of the answers given by the parties and parliamentary group as well as their positions on the Rempartstraße as well as a car-free inner city or car-free streets as presented in their election programs.

Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

Mail:

- Don’t express being in favour of a proposal as described above
- In favor of a compromise solution for all road users
- See potential in the Rempartstraße for pedestrians, cyclists and in terms of quality of stay and enhancement of the inner city
- Submitted a request to the specialist administration to work out several proposals

Election program:

- Demand more car-free streets
- Civil-society initiatives (such as ours) should be picked up

“JUPI” Parliamentary Group (young, urban, polarizing, inclusive)

Mail:

- Don’t express being in favour of a proposal as described above
- Welcome commitment of our initiative
- Refer to the administration: According to them, Rempartstraße will only be redesigned when district heating is established
- Want to keep bringing up this topic

Election program (the group consists of several parties and election lists, thus we present each list's individual position):

Junges Freiburg (en: Young Freiburg; JF)

- Rempartstraße should be banned for cars as a starting point for a car-free inner city

Urbanes Freiburg (en: Urban Freiburg; UF)

- Demand a car-free inner city
- Don't explicitly mention Rempartstraße

Partei für Arbeit, Rechtsstaat, Tierschutz, Elitenförderung und basisdemokratische Initiative (en: Party for Work, Rule of Law, Animal protection, Elite promotion and Grassroots Initiative; Die PARTEI)

- Don't mention Rempartstraße or a car-free inner city

Liste für Teilhabe und Inklusion (LTI)

- Don't mention Rempartstraße or a car-free inner city

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (en: Green Party; GRÜNE)

Mail:

- Don't express being in favour of a proposal as described above during this legislative term
- Rempartstraße currently on their agenda
- Share the goal of a car-free Rempartstraße and favor a constructional redesign
- Shared request to the administration with JUPI & Eine Stadt für Alle (ESfA)

Election program:

- Support the demands of our initiative as an easily applicable measure
- Demand a car-free inner city in the long run

Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)

Mail:

- Don't express being in favour of a proposal as described above
- Refer to the trial period of a one-way solution, which is painted as failed. A road closure is described as dangerous as according to them it would lead to an obstruction of public transit, problems in accessing the parking garages as well as straining the traffic situation on Kaiser-Joseph-Straße and Holzmarkt
- Claim that a bigger concept is needed to do justice to all different interests

Election program:

- Don't mention Rempartstraße or a car-free inner city

Free Democratic Party (FDP)

Mail:

- Don't express being in favour of a proposal as described above
- Talk about the – from their perspective failed - trial period of a one-way solution for motorised vehicles
- Claim there are no traffic alternatives and the Rempartstraße had too big of an importance for motorised vehicles in the Freiburg inner city
- Mention a wider sidewalk along Mensgarten as a solution for more safety

Election program:

- Don't mention Rempartstraße or a car-free inner city

One City for All (Eine Stadt für Alle; ESfA)

Mail:

- Would vote in favor of a proposal as described above

Election program (the group consists of several parties and election lists, thus we present each list's individual position):

Left List – Solidaric City (Linke Liste - Solidarische Stadt; Linke Liste)

- Demand a "traffic-reducing city planing including e.g. super blocks and a car-free Rempartstraße, general speed limit 30 km/h for the whole city" [translated from their website]

Green Alternative Freiburg (Grüne Alternative Freiburg; GAF)

- Demand expansion of the car-free inner city
- Don't mention Rempartstraße directly

Independent Women Freiburg (Unabhängige Frauen Freiburg; UFF)

- We were not able to find a local election program (as of 26.04.2024)

Freiburg Liveable (Freiburg Lebenswert; FL)

Mail:

- Would vote in favor of a proposal as described above

Wahlprogramm:

- Demand converting car lanes to bike lanes in the city
- Don't mention Rempartstraße or a car-free inner city directly