



# The #1bru1Vote Manifesto

Also petition text

## Call for the right to vote in Brussels-Capital Region elections for all Brussels residents

### “One Brusseleir One Vote!”

On 26 May 2019, as the Brussels-Capital Region celebrates its 30 years of existence, citizens of Brussels-Capital will vote to elect the assembly of this city-region – the Brussels-Capital Parliament. But not all residents of Brussels, or Brusseleirs, will be able to vote!

**1 in 3 Brussels-Capital residents – or 415,000 people – are denied the right to vote, and are prevented from taking an active political role, because they are non-Belgian.** These 280,000 European Union citizens and 135,000 citizens with other nationalities are second-class citizens in this city-region, since they are excluded from the democratic process. And yet **they are Brusseleirs like everyone else—who live, love, work, study, pay taxes and contribute in so many ways to make Brussels-Capital a better home for everyone.**

These 415,000 Brusseleirs who are excluded, do not have a say on decisions that affect their day-to-day lives, such as mobility and public transport, urban planning and heritage, parks and green spaces, waste and recycling, infrastructure and public works, pollution and air quality, energy and sustainable development, family allocations and education as well as budget.

It is true that all inhabitants of Brussels-Capital, regardless of nationality, can vote in local « communal elections ». But this is an insufficient right because it is fragmented across the 19 communes. While it is at the level of the Brussels-Capital Region, one of the three federal entities in Belgium, that Brusseleirs' life is really organized, and that significant decisions - and policy-making take place.

**Brussels has one of the largest democratic deficits in the European Union.** Elsewhere in Europe, the vote of non-national European residents counts at the city-level for the election of the city assembly or council. This is the case in European cities with fewer areas of competence than the city-Region of Brussels-Capital, for example in London, the Hague, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, Rome or Prague. There, the vote of non-national residents counts at city-level for the election of the city assembly and not simply at the level of commune, borough or district.

**It is time for change! It is time for all Brusseleirs to be able to exercise full rights as citizens, perhaps subject to a minimum requisite period of residence.**

**The exclusion of 35% of Brussels-Capital residents undermines the legitimacy and accountability of its institutions as well as the social cohesion or the feeling of community in a city-Region as diverse and complex as Brussels. Political and public life in Brussels is also missing out on the dynamic human capital that those 1 in 3 Brusseleirs could**



**contribute to the creation of a truly cosmopolitan and resilient global city and capital of Europe.**

We are well aware of the existence of lively debates on reform of the Brussels-Capital Region and its 19 communes and on the good governance in its institutions. In that regard, it is essential to invite all Brussels residents to the table – in other words, not only those who currently have the right to vote, but each and every Brusseleir!

And let's start this debate with the communal elections of October 14, 2018, where we work together to get non-Belgians to register to vote, and then for the 2019 regional elections, to discuss together the future of our city-Region of 1,190,000 Brusseleirs!

**We call upon Prime Minister Charles Michel and members of the Belgian Parliamentary assemblies to submit a legislative proposal to the Parliament to grant all residents of the Brussels-Capital Region the right to vote in the 26 May 2019 regional elections.**

If you share these ambitions, whatever your nationality and your language – non-Belgian or Belgian – sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/1bru1vote> and join our non-partisan movement open to all !

Let's truly shape and build the future of Brussels-Capital together. Let's seize the opportunity and benefit from its full human capital !

The voices of all Brusseleirs must count !

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For social media use [#1bru1Vote](https://www.instagram.com/1bru1Vote)

**The first 118 signatories** – The first signatories of this call are Brussels citizens of all nationalities, philosophies, political affiliations, languages, cultures or religions, some of whom are local elected representatives but who sign in their personal capacity:

*Erik Vanden Abeele (Belgian, Woluwe-St-Lambert)*

*Leila Agic (Belgian, Molenbeek-St-Jean)*

*Dimitri Angelis (Greek, Woluwe-St-Lambert)*

*Mathieu De Backer (Belgian, Forest)*

*Jennifer Baker (Irish, Schaerbeek)*

*Antonia Battaglia (Italian, Etterbeek)*

*François Baudart (Belgian, Louvain-la-Neuve)*  
*Thibault Becquaert (Belgian, Brussels-City)*  
*Nora Bednarski (Polish-Canadian, Ixelles)*  
*Sylvaine Bergeret (French, Brussels-City)*  
*Anita Bernacchia (Italian-Romanian, Ixelles)*  
*Marianne Blaesi (German, Ixelles)*  
*Alain Bloëdt (French, Etterbeek)*  
*Jonas van Bockhaven (Belgian, Brussels-City)*  
*Martin du Bois (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
*Antonio Buscardini (Portuguese-Italian, St-Gilles)*  
*Igor Caldiera (Portuguese, Brussels-City)*  
*Guilherme Castel Branco de Guimarães Serodio (Portuguese, Brussels-City)*  
*Annika Cayrol (Canadian-French, Ixelles)*  
*Léa Charlet (French, St-Josse-ten-Noode)*  
*Prerna Chaudhary (Dutch, Jette)*  
*Pauline Constant (French, Etterbeek)*  
*Harry Cooper (British, St-Gilles)*  
*Alfredo Corbalan (French, Brussels-City)*  
*Eric Corijn (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
*Florence Daury (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
*Françoise Debard (French, Forest)*  
*Hélène Decottigny (French, Ixelles)*  
*Florence Delmotte (Belgian, St-Gilles)*  
*Pascal Delwit (Belgian, Forest)*  
*Bertrand Deprez (French, Uccle)*  
*Michel Devuyt (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
*Cosmin Stefan Diga (Romanian, Laeken)*  
*Anna Dimitrova (Bulgarian, Watermael-Boitsfort)*  
*Ewa Dolinska (Polish, Schaerbeek)*  
*Denis Duez (Belgian, Brussels-City)*  
*Guillaume Durand (French, Ixelles)*  
*Raul Fdez Reguera (Spanish, St-Josse-ten-Noode)*  
*Claire Fernandez (French, Ixelles)*  
*Valentina Fortunato (Italian, St-Gilles)*  
*Pascaline Gaborit (French, Jette)*  
*François Gemenne (Belgian, Liège)*  
*Estelle Goeger (French, Ixelles)*  
*Henri Goldman (Belgian, Uccle)*  
*Florent Griffon (French, Uccle)*  
*Hélisène Habart (French, Beersel)*  
*Sihame Haddioui (Belgian, Schaerbeek)*  
*Emilie van Haute (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
*Jonas Helseth (Norwegian, Brussels-City)*

Ania Helseth (Polish, Brussels-City)  
Viktor Hristov (Macedonian, Watermael-Boitsfort)  
Thomas Huddleston (American, Etterbeek)  
Ignazio Iacono (Belgian, Waterloo)  
Isabel Jaramillo Edwards (Chilean, Ixelles)  
Joanna Kaminska (Polish, Etterbeek)  
Anna Kiejna (Polish, Forest)  
Marketta Lahde (Finnish, Woluwe-St-Lambert)  
Andreas Larsson (Swedish, Forest)  
Pascal Le Grand (French, Auderghem)  
Florent Leduc (French, Beersel)  
Ivica Lekic (Dutch-Croatian, Ixelles)  
Margot Levitt (Dutch, Forest)  
Samuel Maenhout (Belgian, Ixelles)  
Rajae Maouane (Belgian, Molenbeek-St-Jean)  
Gabriela Mara (Romanian, St-Josse-ten-Noode)  
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Olivier Michalski (Polish, Ixelles)  
Frederick van Mierlo (British-Dutch, St-Gilles)  
Larry Moffett (American, Uccle)  
Laure Mortiaux (Belgian, Forest)  
Adam Mouchtar (German, Uccle)  
Xavier Le Mounier (French, Watermael-Boitsfort)  
Jens Muller (German, Ixelles)  
Dagmar Ottevangens (Dutch, Schaerbeek)  
Andriy Ovcharuk (Ukrainian, Evere)  
Jesse Pappers (Dutch, Etterbeek)  
Dimitar Parvanov Dimitrov (Bulgarian, Ixelles)  
Alexandra-Maria Penișoară (Romanian, Evere)  
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Stefania Perrini (Italian-Luxembourgish, St-Gilles)  
Julia Peshkova (Russian, Ixelles)  
Martin Pigeon (Belgian, St-Gilles)  
Stefano Pironio (Belgian, Ixelles)  
Radostina Primova (Bulgarian, Ixelles)  
Mirena Radic (Croatian, Brussels-City)  
Manuel von Rahden (German, Brussels-City)  
Piotr Rapacz (Polish, Ixelles)  
Zrinka Reisinger (Croatian, Uccle)  
Ferran Rosa Gaspar (Spanish, St-Gilles)  
Sahar Salehi (Iranian, Anderlecht)  
Magdalena Sapala (Polish, Ixelles)

*Ildiko Sasvari (Belgian, Ixelles)*  
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*Kim Slama (French, Ixelles)*  
*Dan Sobovitz (Israeli-Hungarian-Swiss, Molenbeek-St-Jean)*  
*Kalvin Soiresse Njall (Belgian, Ganshoren)*  
*Jean-Paul Soyer (French, Woluwe-St-Lambert)*  
*Flora Stavropoulou (Greek, Schaerbeek)*  
*Eva Stefanovic (Czech, Uccle)*  
*Isabelle Stengers (Belgian, Linkebeek)*  
*Emre Sumlu (Belgian, Molenbeek-St-Jean)*  
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*Marie-Anne Swartenbroekx (Belgian, Brussels-City)*  
*Steve Tuson (British, Etterbeek)*  
*Anna Trzop (Polish, Schaerbeek)*  
*Łukasz Wardyn (Polish, Koekelberg)*  
*Philip Weiss (British-German, Rhode St-Genèse)*  
*Bertrand Wert (French, Ixelles)*  
*Keith Whiskey (Irish, Brussels-City)*  
*Carlo Wolny (Belgian, Brussels-City)*  
*Ursula Woodburn (Belgian, St-Gilles)*  
*Alessandro Zunino (Italian, Ixelles)*