



Press Release 01/2026

Mainz, January 17, 2026

State Election Rhineland-Palatinate 2026 in Germany

Yunus Emre runs as an independent candidate in Mainz –

Citizen dialogue instead of party politics

Germany/Mainz, January 17, 2026 – For the state election in Rhineland-Palatinate on March 22, 2026, Yunus Emre officially announces his independent candidacy in electoral district 27 – Mainz I. He is the only non-party-affiliated candidate in this constituency.

Nominated by Mainz residents for Mainz

Yunus Emre's candidacy is supported by residents of Mainz: 133 supporting signatures from all neighborhoods of the constituency were collected within just a few days – significantly more than legally required. Emre sees this as a clear sign of trust and civic engagement from Mainz for Mainz.

“Together instead of against each other”

The campaign follows the political guiding principle “Together instead of against each other.” Emre focuses on dialogue, social cohesion, and a form of politics that understands societal diversity as a strength.

“In times of increasing polarization, we need a politics that listens, connects, and is oriented toward the real lives of people – regardless of origin, religion, or social status,” Emre explains.

With more than 20 years of political experience at the municipal, regional, and international levels, Emre brings a broad understanding of political processes. As an independent candidate, he aims to contribute this experience to state politics free from party constraints, in a pragmatic and solution-oriented manner.

“I am running independently because good politics does not arise from party tactics, but from responsibility, dialogue, and the willingness to find practical solutions,” Emre says.

A strong democracy needs broad representation

Emre emphasizes that a vibrant democracy can only function if all segments of society are adequately represented. Currently, women, people with a migration background, the self-employed, skilled tradespeople, and socially disadvantaged groups are significantly underrepresented in parliament. This also applies to party lists at the state level.

“When large parts of society do not see themselves represented, trust is lost. Anyone who wants to strengthen democracy must ensure that parliaments reflect the diversity of our society – anything else strengthens political fringes and extremists,” Emre states.

Key issues for Mainz

In terms of content, Emre sets clear priorities:

- improving infrastructure in Mainz, including affordable housing and reliable mobility with a well-functioning public transport system,
- strengthening healthcare, public safety, and an effective public administration within the framework of the rule of law,
- ensuring good educational opportunities from early childhood education to schools, and
- successful integration with clear rules, equal rights, and a coherent strategy.

The goal is a respectful, transparent, and solution-oriented politics that strengthens security, equal opportunities for all, social cohesion, and trust.

Dialogue instead of symbolic politics

In the coming weeks, Emre intends to intensify discussions with residents in the constituency and publicly present his key issues. Concerns, criticism, and ideas are to be taken seriously and developed further together.

“Democracy thrives on participation – not only in the streets, but also at the ballot box. Commitment to democracy and against exclusion must ultimately be reflected in votes,” Emre says.

He therefore asks for the trust of the people of Mainz with their first vote for him as an independent candidate who has been committed for over two decades to peaceful, democratic, and solidaristic coexistence. With multilingualism, political experience, and intercultural competence, he stands for citizen-oriented politics that represents all residents of Mainz and addresses the challenges of our time with courage and responsibility.

Note:

Electoral district 27 – Mainz I includes the Mainz districts of Altstadt, Oberstadt, Neustadt, and Hartenberg-Münchfeld.

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